Defining the Next Decade of MSME Digital Banking

October 2022

MSME Digital Banking Opportunities in Southeast Asia

🛑 Indonesia / 👙 Malaysia / 📎 Philippines / 🥮 Singapore /

🕽 Thailand / 😒 Vietnam



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BANKINGSTACK



To future-proof their digital banking initiatives, banks need to look beyond digital access and experience of their products. They need to solve for better product fit & risk models instead.

Anish Achuthan Co-founder & CEO Open Financial Technologies



Foreword

Trends in Southeast Asia point towards an evolution in MSME digital banking solutions. Digital technologies and tools are changing the way MSMEs do business, and creating a data footprint that is transforming our understanding of their financial health. Additionally, modern tech stacks, supportive governments policies, and digital public infrastructure for payments and open data are spurring innovation in fintech-powered solutions for MSMEs.

Our study of the trends in the region highlights not only a readiness among MSMEs to adopt digital tools for their business, but a demand for fintech-powered solutions that make it easier for them to run and grow their businesses. More than half of MSMEs in Southeast Asia claim that they would switch services providers for better financial options and for improved digital services.

For banks, the landscape today addresses two key concerns:

- Digital technology is significantly reducing the cost to acquire and serve smaller businesses, unlocking important value pools for banks
- Digital technology and financial automation are transforming the way businesses are profiled for risk and revenue, driving real innovation in banking products and services

With traditional strengths in customer trust, licensing and infrastructure, we believe this is a real opportunity for banks to evolve into a complete 'financial OS' for MSMEs. Our report looks into the opportunity and need for banks to undertake this evolution across six key markets, and five key business banking areas – cards & expense management, payments, digital banking, business financing and revenue-based financing.

This is a call for banks to reboot their offerings to compete meaningfully in the MSME digital banking space. And to truly future-proof their business, banks need to look beyond digital channels and customer experience. They need to solve for better product fit & risk models instead.

Executive Summary

The State of the MSME Market



Digital decade and a new wave of growth for internet economies in Southeast Asia

In 2020, during the pandemic, Southeast Asia's internet economy showed remarkable resilience. With the rapid adoption of digital technologies, 2021-22 has been a period of recovery and resurgence for the region and the SEA internet economy is expected to grow at 20% CAGR to reach ~\$360B GMV by 2025.



MSME businesses now have a digital footprint that banks can use

MSMEs in the region raced to adopt customer-facing digital solutions that facilitate the exchange of goods and services between merchants and customers. They also adopted digital operations tools to enhance operational and back-office productivity.



Enabling policies and payment infrastructure make MSME sector ripe for digital banking services

Regulators and governments are enacting enabling policies such as open banking and digital banking, as well as infrastructure initiatives like national QR codes and real-time payment infrastructure to propel innovation in the banking sector.



MSME demand for digital and embedded banking services is expected to skyrocket

In their quest for business growth and operational efficiencies, MSMEs in the region are in great need of integrated financial and business services from banking service providers, and would be willing to pay a premium for digital banking services with built-in financial automation.



Last call for banks to reboot their digital banking and win MSMEs back from fintechs

Digital platforms and fintech scale-ups in Southeast Asia are emerging as one-stop solution providers for MSME business banking needs. While incumbent banks have traditional advantages of licensing, infrastructure & trust, they need to grow into a financial OS for MSMEs to compete effectively.

Digital Evolution of the MSME Sector

Niche Segments & Digital Operating Models



Emerging MSME Niche Segments



Exhibit 1, Source : 1-SignalFire, 2- Forbes, 3- Mastercard

The MSME sector is an incredibly diverse segment with variations in size, industry, life stage, growth ambitions, digital maturity and more.

The diversity in the MSME sector has grown even further with the rise of digital-native business models (Exhibit 1). These business models have created new niche segments in the sector, such as:

- Highly specialised freelancers
- International gig workers
- · Passion economy creators (using new digital platforms like Substack, Patreon, Teachable, or Medium)
- Direct-to-consumer e-commerce sellers
- B2C or B2B marketplaces
- · Specialised vertical software-as-a-service (SaaS) enterprises



The emergence of new digital-native sub-segments and rapid digitalisation of existing ones in the MSME landscape has opened up important value pools for banks. These niche sub-segments have witnessed skyrocketing growth rates, and their widespread digital footprints allow banks to optimise the cost to acquire and serve these businesses.

Evolving Trends in MSME Digital Banking



Digital adoption by MSMEs has fuelled innovation in the fintech sector:

- Open Finance has enabled third party providers to access granular and high-provenance data from applications used by MSMEs such as banking, accounting, ERP, invoicing, payroll, etc. to launch segment-specific digital banking products.
- Embedded finance has emerged as a key phenomenon for MSMEs worldwide, allowing them to access contextual financing options on the business platforms they use for their day-to-day business, such as B2B e-commerce platforms, procurement finance platforms, digital marketplaces, etc.
- Digital-first banks are leveraging improved cost-to-serve scenario to offer all-in-one 'business banking accounts' that integrate fully-digital current accounts with business applications.
- The widespread adoption of financial automation tools by MSMEs has unlocked new value-generating opportunities, such as fintech marketplaces integrating and automating workflows across banking, finance, and operations and new underwriting models based on alternative data points.



For banks to compete meaningfully in these emerging segments, they need to focus on digital acquisition, end-to-end digital customer journeys, and a segment-sensitive product fit. Importantly, banks need to map how newer products and services integrate traditional banking offerings with 'run-the-business' and 'grow-the-business' value adds for these customers.

MSME Digital Banking Opportunity in Southeast Asia

Indonesia / Malaysia / Philippines Singapore / Thailand / Vietnam



72M

MSMEs in 6 Countries in Southeast Asia

MSME Digital Banking Opportunity Landscape



The role of MSMEs is very important to the Southeast Asian economies owing to a massive contribution to the GDP, employment, and exports. But the MSME sector still faces critical difficulties in accessing funding and adopting digital banking services. More than half of MSMEs in Southeast Asia claim that they would switch services providers for better financial options and for improved digital services.

The time is ripe for banks to leverage the vast opportunity in the MSME sector and partner up with the local entrepreneurs and business owners to drive the growth of national economy by enabling frictionless access to modern digital banking services to the sector.

Southeast Asian Regulators Enabling Digital Banking



Regulators in Southeast Asian economies have recognized the potential of fintechs and are leveraging the growth of the sector to accelerate financial inclusion in the underbanked segments.

Regulators and governments in multiple Southeast Asian countries are enacting enabling policies such as launching digital banking licensing frameworks and initiating open banking policies.

These policy initiatives are expected to ensure a level-playing field for new entrants in the industry and result in accelerated innovation and technology modernisation in the banking industry.

Regulatory Sandboxes are live in almost all key southeast Asian economies, allowing banks to embrace digital transformation and explore partnership with local fintech innovators.

Digital Banking: Outlook & Opportunities Framework

OU<u>TLOOK</u>

Digital Consumers

Rise of digital consumers in the new normal and growing adoption of digital banking services among consumers in Southeast Asia

Digital Economy

Growth rate and expected size of internet economy and e-commerce sector in Southeast Asia

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36

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Digital Finance

Affinity and adoption of digital banking services among digital merchants in Southeast Asia

Digital Operations

Affinity and adoption of digital and financial tools among digital merchants in Southeast Asia

Digital Payments & Open Banking Payments

Offer digital payment services to MSMEs by leveraging instant payment rails, national QR, e-Wallets, and open banking directives

Products: Cards, e-Wallets, A2A payments, payment gateways, direct debits, cross-border payments, QR codes, etc.

Digital Banking & Digital Lending Services



Offer digital banking and lending services to MSMEs by leveraging e-KYC directives and data analytics

Products: Current account, supply chain finance, corporate credit cards, purchase order finance, B2B BNPL, working capital loan, line of credit, merchant cash advance, etc.

Embedded Finance & Automation Services



Partner with digital platforms to acquire MSME customers at scale and offer embedded banking and automation tools Products: Account aggregation, payroll, accounting, invoicing, expense management, expense cards, flow-based embedded lending, invoice discounting, reconciliation, etc.

MSME Banking Outlook & Opportunities: Indonesia

OUTLOOK

현유 ^ው 상대는 Digital Consumers	Ligital Economy	Digital Finance	[[@]] Digital Operations
		Propensity of merchants to increase usage of digital financial services in 1 to 2 years	Propensity of MSME businesses to increase usage of digital tools over the next 5 years
21M New digital consumers since the start of the pandemic (up to H1 2021)	52% Growth in e-commerce sector (2021)	77% Digital Payments	69% Digital Marketing
22% % of internet users aged 16-64 using a mobile payment service each month	\$14B Expected size of internet economy in 2025 (GMV)	71% Digital Remittance	49% Operation Software
80% % of internet users who have made at least one purchase online	20% Growth rate in internet economy (CAGR till 2025)	37% Digital Lending	Collaboration Software





MSME Banking Outlook & Opportunities: Malaysia

OUTLOOK

Ĩ ¢ U ¢	Digital Consumers		Digital Economy		Digital Finance		Digital Operations
				incre	nsity of merchants to ase usage of digital services in 1 to 2 years	to incr	ty of MSME businesses ease usage of digital over the next 5 years
ЗМ	New digital consumers since the start of the pandemic (up to H1 2021)	68%	Growth in e-commerce sector (2021)	73%	Digital Payments	70%	Digital Marketing
23%	% of internet users aged 16-64 using a mobile payment service each month	\$35B	Expected size of internet economy in 2025 (GMV)	35%	Digital Remittance	43%	Operation Software
81%	% of internet users who have made at least one purchase online	14%	Growth rate in internet economy (CAGR till 2025)	34%	Digital Lending	38%	Collaboration Software



MSME Banking Outlook & Opportunities: Philippines

OUTLOOK







MSME Banking Outlook & Opportunities: Singapore

OUTLOOK

변우 [®] 이내는 Digital Consumers	المعنى Digital Economy	Digital Finance	ূ Digital Operations
		Propensity of merchants to increase usage of digital financial services in 1 to 2 years	Propensity of MSME businesses to increase usage of digital tools over the next 5 years
0.5M New digital consumer since the start of the pandemic (up to H1 20	45% e-commerce sector	61% Digital Payments	43% Digital Marketing
32% % of internet users ag 16-64 using a mobile payment service each month	s27B internet economy in	23% Digital Remittance	24% Operation Software
97% % of internet users where the second sec	160/	18% Digital Lending	24% Collaboration Software



MSME Banking Outlook & Opportunities: Thailand

Ţ Ţ Ţ	Digital Consumers		Digital Economy	Digital Finance	Digital Operations
				Propensity of merchants to increase usage of digital financial services in 1 to 2 years	Propensity of MSME businesses to increase usage of digital tools over the next 5 years
9M	New digital consumers since the start of the pandemic (up to H1 2021)	68%	Growth in e-commerce sector (2021)	67% Digital Payments	58% Digital Marketing
36%	% of internet users aged 16-64 using a mobile payment service each month	\$56B	Expected size of internet economy in 2025 (GMV)	54% Digital Remittance	49% Operation Software
90%	% of internet users who have made at least one purchase online	17%	Growth rate in internet economy (CAGR till 2025)	52% Digital Lending	44% Collaboration Software



MSME Banking Outlook & Opportunities: Vietnam

OUTLOOK

변우 [®] 승규는 Digital Consume	ers 🗐	Digital Economy	Digital Finance	Digital Operations
			Propensity of merchants to increase usage of digital financial services in 1 to 2 years	Propensity of MSME businesses to increase usage of digital tools over the next 5 years
8M New digital consu since the start of t pandemic (up to F	he 53%	Growth in e-commerce sector (2021)	81% Digital Payments	72% Digital Marketing
26%) % of internet user 16-64 using a mob payment service e month	ile \$57B	Expected size of internet economy in 2025 (GMV)	41% Digital Remittance	39% Operation Software
71% % of internet user have made at leas purchase online	200/	Growth rate in internet economy (CAGR till 2025)	53% Digital Lending	Collaboration Software



Digital Banking Use Cases for MSMEs

Innovation for MSME-specific Product Fit



MSME Digital Banking Readiness in Southeast Asia

The future of MSME digital banking lies in segment-specific product innovation. The readiness heat map represents the readiness of each market for developing and adopting MSME-specific products across five key banking services.

The readiness level is derived based on several industry level parameters such as digital KYC policies, e-commerce legislations, open banking initiatives, digital payment rails, as well as fintech sector level parameters such as number of fintechs, overall fintech segment funding, bank API readiness, etc.



Cards & Expense Management

Market Readiness	Countries with highest readiness
• Singapore has the highest credit card penetration along with facilitative	Singapore ————
guidelines for securing digital payments and recurring transactions.	endonesia
 Indonesia and Thailand, while low on credit card adoption, are introducing facilitative policies for the 	🛑 Thailand 🛛 ———————————————————————————————————
use case.	

USE CASE TRENDS AND CHALLENGER CASE STUDIES



Use Case Overview

- Corporate expense management is a critical white space in the commercial cards business and currently comprises less than 1% of the \$150 trillion+ B2B payments market.
- Expense management processes are still manual in MSMEs. The function is therefore resource-intensive, costly and prone to errors, while still failing to provide visibility and control over fraudulent or out-of-policy spends.
- Challenger fintech solutions are integrating cards & expense management, allowing MSMEs to issue virtual cards to employees for specific spends, receive real-time spend approval notifications, and save effort with automated reconciliation and integration with their accounting software



Challenger Case Study

Singapore

Volopay's platform provides startups and enterprises flexibility by issuing virtual and/or physical prepaid multi-currency corporate cards in their local currency (SGD, AUD, INR, IDR, PHP, etc.) with up to 5% cash back on all card transactions. The platform also processes domestic and international bank transfers with low foreign exchange rates and transaction fees.

In addition, Volopay's users get access to multicurrency wallets, which support more than 65 major currencies in over 100 countries with zero foreign exchange charges on international payments, and expense management software that helps track and control all the expenses in real-time.



- In 2021, over \$2.3B were invested in the segment.
- 2022 started even stronger with over \$1B invested in the segment till September 2022.

Digital Payment Acceptance

Market Readiness	Countries with highest readiness
 Singapore and Indonesia lead with the highest number of digital payments fintechs and total segment funding. 	Singapore ————————————————————————————————————
 Adoption of real-time payment rails and unified 	endonesia entre indonesia entr
national QR systems is evident in the region.	Philippines

USE CASE TRENDS AND CHALLENGER CASE STUDIES



Use Case Overview

- As the world comes out of the pandemic, MSMEs are expanding their payment options to meet customer preferences for digital payments, both contactless in-store and flexible choices online.
- Displacement of cash and new payments options like request to pay, account-to-account (A2A) transfers, digital wallets and buy now, pay later (BNPL) are all creating exciting opportunities for MSMEs.
- Innovations in digital payments focus on digital payments acceptance solutions that allow MSMEs to accept contactless payments from a number of different sources, including contactless cards and mobile wallets, all over a secure and efficient network.



Challenger Case Study

United Kingdom

SumUp helps small businesses to accept card payments at the point-of-sale or on the go in a simple, secure, and cost-effective way. SumUp gives small businesses a toolkit to run their entire operations while also offering them SDKs and APIs to use their card payment integration easily on mobiles. The extensive product suite includes proprietary terminal hardware, SumUp Business Account and Card, e-commerce, remote payments, invoicing, and point-of-sale registers.

SumUp currently processes more than 100,000 card transactions every day while more than 2,000 businesses join SumUp every single day.



MSME Digital Banking



USE CASE TRENDS AND CHALLENGER CASE STUDIES



Use Case Overview

- Challenger fintechs offer financial automation and value added services that allow MSMEs to significantly reduce their 'run-the-business' effort.
- Neobanks offer all-in-one 'business banking accounts' that integrate fully-digital current accounts with bookkeeping, payments, collections, expense management, automated reconciliation, and more.



Challenger Case Study

OPEN India

Open is a neo-banking platform that provides business banking services to MSMEs. Open's business banking offering contains features such as business current account, integrated payments gateway, automated accounting, account aggregation, spend cards, and developer APIs that allow MSMEs to integrate their banking and payments with their business applications and accounting systems.

Open serves over 2.7 million MSMEs in India, manages deposits worth \$2 billion and processes \$30 billion in transactions annually. The platform onboards ~100,000 new SMEs and startups every month and is targeting to disburse \$1 billion in lending by next year.



• In 2021, over \$2.7B have been invested in the segment in 52 funding rounds.

• In 2022 over \$1.1 B have been invested in the segment in 25 funding rounds.

B2B Buy Now Pay Later



USE CASE TRENDS AND CHALLENGER CASE STUDIES



Use Case Overview

- B2B Buy Now, Pay Later is a form of short-term lending offered to business buyers at the point of sale (POS). While it
 is a relatively new concept, it is gaining traction due to rapid growth of B2B marketplaces and adoption of alternate
 payment methods on these marketplaces.
- According to Digital Commerce 360 2022 report, sales on B2B marketplaces increased 131% to \$56.5 billion in 2021, and are expected to grow to \$130 billion in 2022, making them the fastest-growing e-commerce channel.
- B2B BNPL sector in Asia pacific has a lucrative market potential upwards of \$160 billion in 2021 and is expected to grow to \$300 billion by 2024.

Jane

Germany



Challenger Case Study

Billie is a fintech startup with a mission to provide working capital management solutions for MSMEs by offering innovative lending products.

It is solving the order-to-cash problem through a fully automated invoice financing solution tailored to small businesses. In addition to its factoring services, Billie helps SMEs secure better payment terms by offering a pay-after-delivery product for B2B online merchants. In Feburary 2021, Billie achieved the milestone of catering around 100,000+ businesses regularly.



 Several B2B fintech players in the developed markets such as Uplift, Mondu, Ritmo, Playter, Billie have collectively raised over \$1B in funding rounds.

Revenue-based Financing

Market Readiness	Countries with highest readiness
 Singapore is a key market for RBF given its lion's share of international factoring volumes and presence of a large number of SaaS and D2C platforms. Thailand also has significant adoption of receivables-financing and is slated to launch National Digital Trade Platform which will help RBF adoption. 	Singapore

USE CASE TRENDS AND CHALLENGER CASE STUDIES



Use Case Overview

- Revenue-based financing (RBF) is a means to obtain credit by leveraging future earnings. RBF offers an
 alternative to venture funding or debt financing, allowing startups and MSMEs to get financing without
 giving up equity or the burden of inflexible debt repayments.
- Through live data connections, RBF evaluates firms' recurring revenue streams to determine their risk level, which is used by Investors/lenders to bid on the borrowers' future revenue streams for financing.
- According to Allied Market Research, the global revenue-based financing market is expected to reach a value of \$42.4B by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 61.8%. The rapid revival of factoring business in Southeast Asian markets which grew to \$41.5B in 2021, is expected to be a tailwind for RBF sector.

7

USA



Challenger Case Study

Pipe was founded in 2019, its vision was to provide SaaS companies a funding alternative outside of equity or venture debt.

In 2021, the company broadened the scope of its platform beyond strictly SaaS companies to "any company with a recurring revenue stream such as D2C subscription companies, ISP, streaming services or telecom firms.

In 2021, Pipe raised \$250 million funding round at a \$2 billion valuation within a year of launching. In 2021, it acquired over 8,000 firms on the Pipe trading platform with over 50% of the trading volume coming from non-SaaS verticals including direct-to-consumer subscription, property management, streaming services and service-based firms such as gyms and pest control.



• Cumulatively the sector has raised over **\$3.9B** in the last 3-4 years.

Accelerated Digital Banking Adoption for Banks

BANKINGSTACK Proposition



A Framework for MSMEfocused Product Innovation



BANKINGSTACK: Accelerating Digital Banking Innovation for Banks & Financial Institutions



While banks acknowledge the significant disruption in MSME-focused digital banking, they also recognise that capex-intensive, multi-year projects to build fintech solutions in-house will not deliver the agility they need to launch, test and enhance modern digital banking solutions.

BANKINGSTACK is a cloud-native fintech operating system that delivers innovative, targeted and market-ready digital banking solutions. With a best-in-class neobanking engine, segment-specific solutions, and value adding ecosystem partnerships, the **BANKING**STACK OS helps banks and financial institutions launch modern digital banking solutions in a matter of weeks.

As a 'stackable' solution, **BANKING**STACK complements and enhances existing digital banking infrastructure with new workflows and underwriting capabilities, reducing capex, disruption, and adoption time significantly.

ABOUT

BANKINGSTACK is a part of Open Financial Technologies, the world's fastest growing digital banking enterprise. We power 2.7 million businesses through our suite of digital banking products.

BANKINGSTACK is a cloud-native fintech OS that enables banks and financial institutions to launch fintech-powered digital banking solutions in a matter of weeks. We help banks future-proof their business with cost-effective customer acquisition, segment-sensitive product fit, and alternate risk assessment models.

ABOUT

Ŵ WhiteSight

WhiteSight is a FinTech research firm with a design-oriented and data intensive approach to research. WhiteSight brings unique and actionable intelligence to drive strategic growth and innovation agenda for its clients.

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