MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SINGAPORE

Global Innovation Alliance
全球创新联盟

What is it?

The Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) was launched last year to strengthen Singapore's connections to major innovation hubs around the world. This will create more opportunities for Singaporeans, students, entrepreneurs and businesses to gain overseas experience, connect, and collaborate with their overseas counterparts.

2   The GIA comprises three pillars:

   i.   Innovators Academy: Expanding the pool of Autonomous University (AU) students with exposure to entrepreneurship and innovation activities, with the view of developing future entrepreneurs, business leaders and innovators in Singapore.

   ii.   Innovation Launchpads: Establishing launchpads for Singapore entities (startups, SMEs and large local enterprises (LLEs)) to connect with the business and innovation community. This will give them access to talent, capital, customers and partners, in major innovation hubs.

   iii. Partnership Forums: Establishing links between overseas technology companies, and Singapore companies and government agencies to strengthen our technological capabilities and enhance the Singapore innovation eco-system.

How does it work?

3   Economic Development Board (EDB) has set up the GIA Programme Office (GIA PO) to coordinate the overall initiative and work closely with Enterprise Singapore (ESG). Our economic agencies will partner various Singapore and in-market Operating Partners (OPs), such as universities, accelerators/ incubators, and co-working space providers, to set up GIA networks overseas which our students and companies can participate in.

Progress of GIA

4   We have made early progress:

   o   Our universities have, since Feb 2017, piloted new overseas internships programmes in eight locations, including ASEAN.

o GIA Beijing was officially launched in Nov 2017, and over the past few months it has helped more than 30 Singapore startups pitch their products to access the China market.

o The past year also saw the establishment of two BLOCK71 in Jakarta and Suzhou. These provide physical hubs for startups to receive mentoring support and access new markets, network and funding opportunities. Across its three overseas locations in Jakarta, San Francisco and Suzhou, BLOCK71's network currently supports 78 startups, of which 32 are Singaporean companies.

5   GIA PO will focus on ramping up GIA activities across four cities – San Francisco, Beijing, Jakarta and Bangkok, while at the same time, continue working with partners and agencies to expand our network and subsequent extension of the GIA programme in other cities.

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