

For Immediate Release

Germany and Singapore reaffirm collaboration on startups amid COVID-19

1. The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic can be felt worldwide across countries, businesses, and communities. Now more than ever, governments are not only managing a health crisis, but also working on cushioning the economic impact of this pandemic. It is important that countries reinforce trade and economic cooperation amid current global travel restrictions and border closures.
2. The Governments of Germany and Singapore have introduced measures to support businesses in riding out the COVID-19 crisis. Both countries also reaffirm their continued cooperation in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, through the partnership under the Global Innovation Alliance. Through the landing pad established in Singapore, the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy has established the German Accelerator in Asia (GASEA), which facilitates the expansion of German startups to Asia via Singapore, while Singapore has established Scaler8, which supports the expansion of Singaporean startups to Germany.
3. To support startups and maintain the flourishing interactions between the startup ecosystems of Singapore and Germany amid the current safe distancing measures, both countries have developed new ways of safe collaboration. For example, GASEA and Scaler8 are now offering startups online versions of their programmes. These include webinars, workshops, and tailored mentorship sessions.
4. Germany and Singapore will continue to provide support on the ground as well as virtually to German and Singaporean startups. “True friendship is proven in hard times. Germany and Singapore are determined to keep things going and to be prepared for the time when we have collectively beaten the virus,” said Dr. Ulrich Nussbaum, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). “Germany and Singapore have a track record of strong bilateral cooperation and during these unprecedented times, it is even more crucial for us to maintain our collaborative efforts. We look forward to strengthening our bilateral relationship with Germany as we emerge together from the COVID-19 crisis,” said Gabriel Lim, Permanent Secretary for Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry.

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY, GERMANY

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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For more information, please contact:

Hafiz Adnan
Corporate Communications Officer
Corporate Communications Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore
T: +65 6332 7922
E: Muhammad_Hafiz_adnan@mti.gov.sg

Lydia Koh
Head of Marketing Communications & Events
German Entrepreneurship Asia
T: +65 9093 3591
E: lydia.koh@german-entrepreneurship.asia