



## Taiwan's Startup Expansion: Connecting Innovation from Tokyo and Silicon Valley

Startup Island TAIWAN Brand Office

In a world where innovation drives economic growth, Taiwan is actively assisting startups in expanding into international markets by promoting the Bridge Program. As part of this initiative, overseas startup hubs were established in Tokyo in September 2024 and in Silicon Valley in January 2025, strengthening Taiwan's connections with the international community.

Through these initiatives, Taiwan aims to further integrate into the global innovation landscape while fostering connections between entrepreneurs, investors, and technology leaders.

### The Strategic Importance of Overseas Startup Hubs

Taiwan has built a strong reputation in technology-driven industries, particularly in semiconductors, ICT, and AI. To enhance global competitiveness, startups need access to international markets, investment, and expertise.

The establishment of these hubs provides a structured way for Taiwanese startups to connect with global ecosystems and develop partnerships that drive long-term success.

By creating dedicated spaces for Taiwanese startups abroad, these hubs offer mentorship, networking opportunities, collaborative environments, and business development support. They serve as key entry points for entrepreneurs seeking to expand internationally while also acting as points of engagement for global investors and partners interested in Taiwan's industries.

These efforts align with Taiwan's broader strategy to promote an innovative and globally connected economy. Through international collaboration, the hubs contribute to strengthening Taiwan's role in global entrepreneurship and technological advancement.



## Tokyo Hub: Strengthening Taiwan-Japan Collaboration

The Tokyo startup hub held its opening ceremony in September 2024 and was established in Minato City, Tokyo, one of Japan's most concentrated startup districts. It serves as a crucial gateway for Taiwanese startups entering the Japanese market. This hub facilitates connections with local investors, enterprises, and the startup ecosystem while acting as a key platform for fostering innovation and investment exchanges between Taiwan and Japan.

Taiwan and Japan have maintained a long-standing economic, technological, and semiconductor industry partnership, with mutual trust and understanding in business and cultural practices. This strong foundation allows Taiwanese startups to adapt more easily to the Japanese market. Over the decades, Taiwan and Japan have collaborated closely in the semiconductor supply chain, with Japanese companies contributing to Taiwan's wafer manufacturing and material supply, while Taiwanese firms have provided advanced technology support to the Japanese market.

In recent years, the success of Appier, the first Taiwanese AI startup to list on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, has encouraged more Taiwanese startups to expand into Japan. Japan's open innovation policies and cross-border investment trends have further driven the integration of Taiwan and Japan's innovation ecosystems. Recognizing these trends and the growth potential for Taiwanese businesses in Japan, the NDC established the Tokyo Hub to strengthen technological collaboration and market access between Taiwan and Japan.

The Tokyo hub provides workspace, industry networking opportunities, and market advisory services to help startups navigate Japan's regulatory landscape, business culture, and investment environment. Through close collaboration with Japanese enterprises and innovation institutions, the hub will continue to promote technology and market cooperation, building a solid foundation for Taiwanese startups looking to enter the Japanese market.

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SIT Tokyo Hub

## Silicon Valley Hub: Expanding Opportunities in the U.S. Market

The Silicon Valley hub, located in Palo Alto, provides a platform for Taiwanese startups to engage with one of the most dynamic technology and investment ecosystems. By offering access to investors, accelerators, and business networks, the hub enables startups to explore opportunities in the U.S. market while benefiting from resources that support global scaling.

NDC Minister Liu Chin-ching personally led a delegation to preside over the opening ceremony in January 2025, emphasizing the significance of establishing a presence in Palo Alto, the core of Silicon Valley, the global hub for startups. He highlighted that this initiative serves as a bridge between Taiwan and Silicon Valley's innovation ecosystem, creating new opportunities for Taiwanese startups to integrate into one of the world's most dynamic technology environments. Beyond helping high-quality startups expand to the region, the hub also aims to introduce Silicon Valley's resources, expertise, and capital to Taiwan, fostering deeper innovation exchanges and collaboration between Taiwan and the U.S.

Moving forward, Taiwan's startup hub in Silicon Valley will actively strengthen its role as a platform for connection and growth. By facilitating these connections, the hub will serve as a key entry point for Taiwanese entrepreneurs seeking to navigate the U.S. market while reinforcing Taiwan's presence in the global startup ecosystem.

The hub offers workspace, networking events, and advisory services that help startups understand the U.S. business environment, including regulations, legal frameworks, and market dynamics. It also fosters collaboration between Taiwanese and global entrepreneurs, creating opportunities for joint projects, knowledge exchange, and industry partnerships.

By fostering direct connections within Silicon Valley, the hub equips Taiwanese startups with essential tools and networks for global expansion while keeping strong ties to Taiwan's innovation landscape.

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## Expected Impact: Building a Stronger Global Startup Community

The establishment of these two overseas hubs enables Taiwan to expand its global startup network, providing entrepreneurs with greater opportunities to enter international markets. Each hub operates independently, offering tailored support based on local market conditions and business cultures to ensure startups receive the most suitable resources for their development.

As AI accelerates global competition and industrial transformation, Taiwanese startups must establish a broader international presence. The overseas startup hubs in Silicon Valley and Tokyo will continue to connect resources, host international exchange events, and attract more foreign investments, empowering Taiwanese startups to expand into global markets.

Through strategic initiatives such as the Bridge Program, Taiwan not only strengthens its ties with global markets but also solidifies its key position in the innovation economy. As Taiwan deepens its engagement in the global startup ecosystem, these overseas hubs will serve as pivotal centers for technological collaboration and market expansion, driving Taiwanese startups to shine on the international stage.

◆ For further information about the Startup Island TAIWAN Hub in Tokyo/Silicon Valley, please visit: <https://startupisland.tw/>. 