Starting Up in Taiwan 2026

Who's who in Taiwan's startup ecosystem, what support exists and how far startups reach from Taiwan

NOVEMBER 2026

This guide is for founders, Taiwanese or from abroad, deciding whether to build a startup in Taiwan. Part 1 explains who does what in Taiwan's startup ecosystem. Part 2 answers three questions founders ask.

- **Is Taiwan right for my startup?**
- **What benefits could I access by starting or expanding in Taiwan?**
- **Can I go global from Taiwan?**

Each program is described in enough detail to judge whether it fits. Program terms in Taiwan change often, and current terms are on each agency's own site. Figures come from the agency or organization that published them, or from press coverage of their release. Amounts are in the currency each source reports, NT$ for government programs and US$ for funding data. Sources are named at the end of each section and linked in full at the back.

At a glance

10,552
startups in Taiwan at the end of 2025

US$2.774B
raised across 555 deals in 2025

68%
of 2025 deals included a corporation or its venture arm

US$569M
raised by AI startups in 2025, a record

US$2.25M
median deal size in 2025, a record

6 years
median age of a startup that raised money in 2025

64.7%
of startups in the NTPU survey operate overseas

20th
Taiwan's rank in StartupBlink's 2026 Global Startup Ecosystem Index

Sources: MOEA White Paper on Startups 2025; FINDIT 2026 Annual Report; NTPU 2026 survey; StartupBlink 2026.

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PART 1

How Taiwan's startup ecosystem is organized

Support for startups in Taiwan comes from national agencies, city governments, corporations and private firms. This part groups them by what each one does for a founder. Each organization appears by its English name first, with its acronym once. The glossary at the back lists each acronym with its full English and Chinese names.

- Startups in Taiwan
- Who invests in startups
- Startup hubs and accelerators
- Government agencies and what they run
- How startups exit
- Research institutes and events

Startups in Taiwan

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) counted 10,552 startups at the end of 2025, employing about 105,000 people. MOEA counts innovative companies less than eight years old. Startups sold NT$642.5 billion worth of goods and services in 2024. 278 of them trade on one of Taiwan's public markets, from the main boards to the emerging stock market.

4,253 startups, about 42% of the total, are in Taipei. Hsinchu has 678.

10,552

startups in Taiwan at the end of 2025

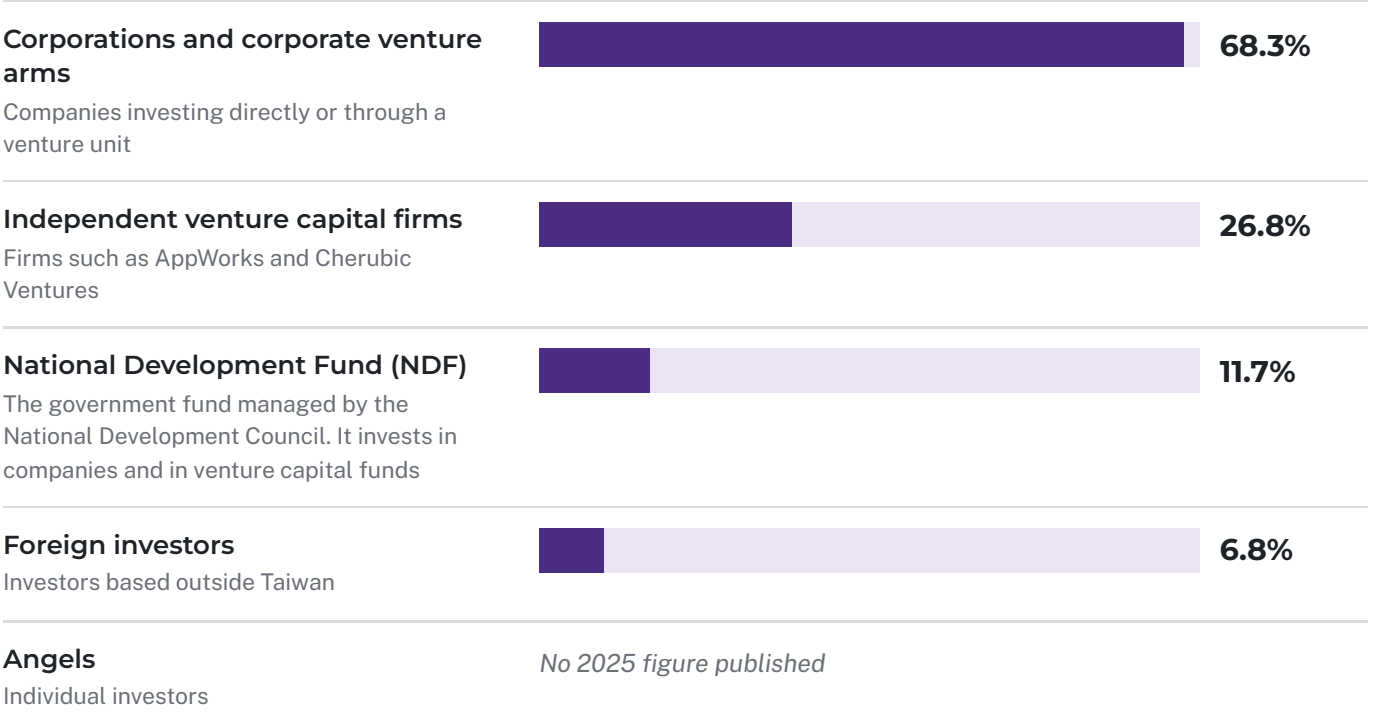
4,253

startups, about 42% of the total, are in Taipei.

Sources: MOEA White Paper on Startups 2025 via Taiwan Today; FINDIT city report on Taipei.

Who invests in startups

SHARE OF 2025 DEALS



FINDIT counts a deal under each type of investor in it, so the shares add to more than 100%. Startups raised US$2.774 billion across 555 deals in 2025, against US$3.343 billion across 605 deals in 2024.

Sources: FINDIT 2026 Annual Report; NDF rules.

Startup hubs and accelerators

Public hubs

NSTC

Taiwan Tech Arena

Taiwan Tech Arena (TTA), run by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). It opened at the Taipei Arena in 2018 and added a southern base in Shalun, Tainan, in 2021.

SMESA

Startup Terrace

Startup Terrace, run by MOEA's Small and Medium Enterprise and Startup Administration (SMESA). It has campuses in Linkou, New Taipei, and in the Yawan area of Kaohsiung.

TAIPEI CITY

InnoPad Taipei

InnoPad Taipei, run by the Taipei City Government's Department of Economic Development. It opened in Nangang in 2026 as the city's base for Taiwanese and international startups.

Private accelerators. Examples include AppWorks, SparkLabs Taiwan and Garage+, the incubator of the Epoch Foundation.

Sources: NSTC via NOWnews; MOE iTaiwan; Business Next; UDN; MIT ILP.

Government agencies and what they run

National Development Council (NDC)

The Executive Yuan's planning agency. Manages the National Development Fund, which funds the Business Angel Investment Program and the AI startup investment program. Runs the Startup Island TAIWAN brand and its overseas hubs, and the International Talent Taiwan Office

Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)

Through SMESA, runs Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants, the Youth Startup Loan and Startup Terrace, and commissions the FINDIT startup data platform. MOEA's Department of Investment Review approves foreign investment and reviews Entrepreneur Visa applications

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

Taiwan Tech Arena, the science parks and the IC Taiwan Grand Challenge

Ministry of Digital Affairs (MODA)

The NT$10 billion AI startup investment program, with National Development Fund money, and a shared GPU pool for AI startups

Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC)

The financial regulator. Runs the fintech regulatory sandbox, where companies test financial services that normally need a license

Taipei City Government

Runs InnoPad Taipei

Sources: NDF rules; Talent Taiwan via NTU; MOEA law database; MODA via CNA; Financial Technology Development and Innovative Experimentation Act.

How startups exit

Listing. The Taiwan Innovation Board (TIB) is a board of the Taiwan Stock Exchange (TWSE), opened in 2021, that lists companies on market value without a profit requirement.

Acquisition. No public dataset counts Taiwan startup acquisitions.

THREE-YEAR OUTCOMES



89.6% still running

8.1% closed

2.3% exited

0.9% by IPO · 1.4% by acquisition

Three-year outcomes. Of 222 startups that National Taipei University (NTPU) followed from 2023 to 2026, 89.6% were still running, 8.1% had closed and 2.3% had exited, 0.9% by IPO and 1.4% by acquisition.

Sources: TWSE; NTPU 2026 survey via CNA.

Research institutes and events

Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)

A not-for-profit applied research institute headquartered in Hsinchu. It transfers technology to companies and spins off startups, and its venture arm, the Industrial Technology Investment Corporation, invests in them.

Meet Taipei Startup Festival

A yearly startup festival in Taipei, organized by Business Next and its Meet startup community.

InnoVEX

The startup exhibition held alongside COMPUTEX in Taipei, organized by the Taipei Computer Association and the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA).

Sources: Asian Growth Research Institute; Business Next; InnoVEX.

PART 2

Three questions founders ask

01

Is Taiwan right for my startup?

02

What benefits could I access by starting or expanding in Taiwan?

03

Can I go global from Taiwan?

01 Is Taiwan right for my startup?

Sectors funded in 2025. Total funding across all sectors fell 17% in 2025, while AI and semiconductor startups both raised record amounts. Corporations and their venture arms joined 68.3% of 2025 deals and invested most often in health and biotech, energy, hardware and industrial manufacturing.

All 2025 deals by sector

SECTOR	2025 MONEY	CHANGE IN MONEY FROM 2024
Health and biotech 117 deals	US$743M	Down 17%
Energy 75 deals	US$580M	Down 46%
Hardware 101 deals	US$465M	Up 7%
Industrial manufacturing 45 deals	US$314M	Up 38%
AI 110 deals	US$569M	Up 79%, a record
Semiconductors 63 deals	US$442M	Up 73%, a record



FINDIT's AI and semiconductor categories overlap with the sector categories above.

Other indicators

About 70%

About 70% of the AI startups in the 2025 Taiwan Startup Ecosystem Survey build for a specific industry rather than general tools.

7th

StartupBlink ranks Taiwan's hardware and IoT startups 7th in the world.

Semiconductors, hardware, engineering talent

The investors NTPU interviewed placed Taiwan's edge in semiconductors, hardware and engineering talent rather than software.

More than 80%

More than 80% of the investors NTPU interviewed ranked the founding team as the most important factor in an investment.

Deal sizes and stages in 2025

STAGE	SHARE OF DEALS	SHARE OF MONEY	MEDIAN DEAL
Seed (pre-seed, seed and angel)	**34.8%**	**17.0%**	**US$1.01M**
Early (pre-A to Series B)	**55.3%**	**66.4%**	**US$3.31M**
Late (Series C and later, private equity and pre-IPO)	*Not published*	**7.5%**	**US$8.08M**

The rest of the deals and money had no disclosed stage. The median deal across all stages was a record US$2.25 million. The median funded company was six years old, up from three in 2020. Rounds above US$50 million fell from eight in 2024 to three in 2025.

Operating in Taiwan

- Taiwan's population was 23.3 million at the end of 2025.
- The average regular monthly wage across all employees was NT$47,884 in 2025, and the median was NT$38,406. In publishing, audiovisual and information and communications, the average was NT$69,595.
- Employers also pay at least 6% of each employee's monthly wage into a labor pension account, plus their share of insurance premiums.

Sources: FINDIT 2026 Annual Report; 2025 Taiwan Startup Ecosystem Survey; StartupBlink 2026; NTPU 2026 survey; Ministry of the Interior via Taiwan News; DGBAS via 104; Ministry of Labor.

02 What benefits could I access by starting or expanding in Taiwan?

Find the row that matches your startup, then read about each program in the two sections that follow.

Which programs fit your startup

IF YOU ARE	PROGRAMS TO LOOK AT
A founder from abroad who needs to live and work in Taiwan	Taiwan Employment Gold Card, Entrepreneur Visa
A small or medium enterprise doing R&D	SBIR, R&D tax credit
A company under eight years old with a representative aged 18 to 45	Youth Startup Loan
Raising from an angel investor	Business Angel Investment Program, angel investor tax deduction
An AI or digital economy company raising venture capital	AI startup investment program, shared GPU pool
Designing chips or chip applications	IC Taiwan Grand Challenge
Looking for space, an accelerator or setup help	Taiwan Tech Arena, Startup Terrace, InnoPad Taipei
Testing a financial service that needs a license	Fintech regulatory sandbox
Hiring from abroad	Talent Taiwan
Expanding overseas	Startup Island TAIWAN hubs, TAITRA trade shows and missions
Planning a stock listing	Taiwan Innovation Board

Funding and tax

Six programs put money into startups or lower the taxes of startups and their investors.

PROGRAM	WHAT YOU GET	WHO IT'S FOR	RUNS IT
GRANTS AND LOANS			
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)	R&D grants of up to NT$1.5M for feasibility research, NT$12M for research and development and NT$6M for value-added application	Small and medium enterprises	**SMESA**
Youth Startup Loan	Bank loan of up to NT$6M for working capital and NT$12M for capital spending	Companies under eight years old with a representative aged 18 to 45. Founders without Taiwan household registration need an Entrepreneur Visa, Gold Card or residence permit	**SMESA**
CO-INVESTMENT			
Business Angel Investment Program	The government invests alongside a private angel investor	Startups under eight years old with NT$100M or less in capital or funds raised, including overseas companies whose main operations are in Taiwan	**NDF, managed by NDC**
AI startup investment program	A NT$10 billion program that invests alongside approved partner investors	AI and digital economy companies raising from a partner investor, including overseas companies whose main operations are in Taiwan	**MODA, with NDF money**
TAX			
Angel investor tax deduction	Individual investors deduct 50% of their investment from taxable income, up to NT$3M a year, or NT$5M in national key industries	Individuals investing NT$500,000 or more in new shares of a qualifying startup under five years old, held for three years	**MOEA**
R&D tax credit	A credit of 15% of R&D spending against that year's corporate income tax, or 10% spread over three years, up to 30% of the tax owed	Companies with R&D spending that owe corporate income tax	**MOEA**

Sources: SMESA via China Times; SMESA Startup site; NDC via Liberty Times; MODA via CNA; Statute for Industrial Innovation via TIPO and CIO Taiwan.

Residency, space and resources

Eight programs help founders live and work in Taiwan, find space and support, and use specialized resources.

PROGRAM	WHAT YOU GET	WHO IT'S FOR	RUNS IT
RESIDENCY			
Taiwan Employment Gold Card	Open work permit, resident visa, residence certificate and re-entry permit in one, valid up to three years. No employer needed	Foreign professionals who qualify under one of the listed professional fields. In some fields, a recent monthly salary of at least NT$160,000 qualifies	**NDC and the National Immigration Agency**
Entrepreneur Visa	Residence to start and run a company in Taiwan	Founders with venture capital investment, a place in a recognized incubator, a patent or a startup award, among other criteria	**MOEA Department of Investment Review**
SPACE AND SUPPORT			
Taiwan Tech Arena	Startup hub with international accelerators at the Taipei Arena and in Shalun, Tainan	Taiwanese and international tech startups	**NSTC**
Startup Terrace	Offices, co-working space and housing in Linkou, New Taipei, and Yawan, Kaohsiung, with accelerators on site	Taiwanese and international startups	**SMESA**
InnoPad Taipei	Offices, co-working space, setup help and accelerator programs in Nangang, and use of its address for company registration	Taiwanese and international startups under eight years old	**Taipei City Department of Economic Development**
SPECIALIZED RESOURCES			
IC Taiwan Grand Challenge	About US$30,000 and chip resources such as mask and wafer shuttles, EDA tools and packaging and testing, valued up to US$3M	Teams worldwide working on IC design and chip applications	**NSTC**
Shared GPU pool	Free GPU computing to test and prove ideas	Taiwanese AI startups	**MODA**
Fintech regulatory sandbox	Permission to test a financial service that normally needs a license, under FSC supervision	Companies testing new financial technology or business models	**FSC**

Sources: Gold Card Office; MOEA law database; NSTC via NOWnews; MOE iTaiwan; Business Next; UDN; MODA via iThome; Financial Technology Development and Innovative Experimentation Act.

Setting up a company in Taiwan

Steps every founder takes

STEP		WHERE	TIME	FEE
1	Check and reserve the company name. The registered name must be in Chinese	MOEA	3 days online	**NT$150 online, NT$300 in person**
1a	FOREIGN SHAREHOLDER Get Foreign Investment Approval	MOEA Department of Investment Review	At least 14 days	**Free**
2	Open a temporary bank account and deposit the starting capital. Most companies have no minimum capital	Bank	1 day	**Free**
2a	FOREIGN SHAREHOLDER Get approval of the deposited capital	MOEA Department of Investment Review	At least 14 days	**Free**
3	Get a CPA's capital verification report	Certified public accountant	1 to 2 days	**NT$3,000 to NT$5,000**
4	Register the company	City or county government	30 minutes	**1/4,000 of capital, minimum NT$1,000**
5	Register for business tax	Local National Taxation Bureau	Varies	**Free**

Steps 1a and 2a apply to companies with a foreign shareholder. Investors without a Taiwan residence certificate file them through an appointed agent, such as a lawyer or CPA. For a foreign company's Taiwan subsidiary, the Gold Card Office puts the whole process at about two to three months.

Getting set up as a founder from abroad

Residency

A Taiwan Employment Gold Card or an Entrepreneur Visa.

Banking

A one-stop program at selected branches of six banks opens personal accounts for foreign professionals. It does not cover company accounts.

Funding open to founders from abroad

The Youth Startup Loan, with an Entrepreneur Visa, Gold Card or residence permit. The Business Angel Investment Program and the AI startup investment program, for overseas companies whose main operations are in Taiwan.

Help on the ground

The International Talent Taiwan Office (Talent Taiwan), set up by NDC, gives one-stop consultation to foreign professionals, entrepreneurs and employers on visas, residence, tax, company setup and daily life. InnoPad Taipei offers setup help for startups landing in Taiwan. The Startup Global Program, run by Garage+, brings international B2B startups to Taiwan for meetings with Taiwanese companies.

Hiring in Taiwan

Insurance and pension

From an employee's first day, employers enroll them in employment insurance and occupational accident insurance, and in labor insurance once the company has five or more employees. Employers pay at least 6% of each employee's monthly wage into a labor pension account and cannot deduct it from wages.

Hiring from abroad

The employer applies to the Ministry of Labor for a work permit. The general requirements are a monthly salary of at least NT$47,971 and a master's degree, or a bachelor's degree with two years of related experience. Gold Card holders already have an open work permit.

Help

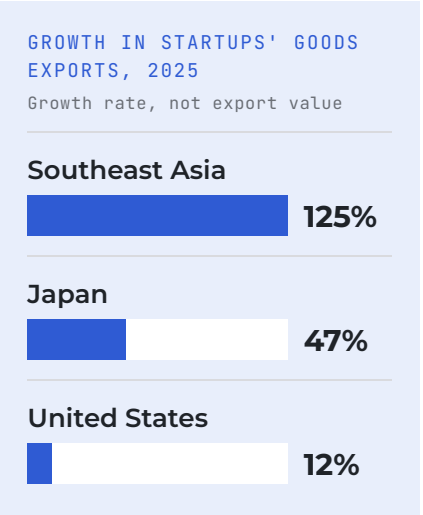
Talent Taiwan assists employers with work permits and visas for international hires.

Sources: New Taipei City Government company setup flow; Legis-pedia; MOEA Department of Investment Review; Gold Card Office; UDN; SMESA Startup site; CNA; Talent Taiwan via NTU; MIT ILP; Ministry of Labor.

03 Can I go global from Taiwan?

Overseas markets

- 64.7% of the startups NTPU tracked operate overseas, up nearly 10 points in three years.
- 98.4% of the startups in the 2025 Taiwan Startup Ecosystem Survey plan to keep or expand their overseas presence.
- Overseas revenue averaged 18.5% of total revenue in the NTPU survey.
- Japan was the top target market in both surveys and the top source of overseas revenue in the NTPU survey. The United States was second.
- China fell from a top-three market to seventh in three years.
- Startups' goods exports to Southeast Asia grew 125% in 2025, to Japan 47% and to the United States 12%.



Examples from the NTPU investor interviews

Investors cited FunNow's entry into Japan and MetAI's work with TSMC and NVIDIA.

Government hubs abroad

NDC's Startup Island TAIWAN brand runs hubs in Tokyo and Silicon Valley (Palo Alto) and a base in Korea.

Taiwanese investors abroad

90% of the venture capital firms NTPU interviewed invest or plan to invest in overseas startups, mostly in the United States (82%), then Southeast Asia (47%) and Japan (41%).

Taiwan-born founders

Dealroom counts 43 Taiwan-born founders behind 38 unicorns worldwide, 63% of them built in the United States.

Sources: NTPU 2026 survey via CNA; 2025 Taiwan Startup Ecosystem Survey; MOEA via Taiwan Today; NDC; Startup Island TAIWAN via PR Newswire; Dealroom.

Glossary

SHORT NAME	FULL ENGLISH NAME	CHINESE NAME
FINDIT	FINDIT, the Taiwan Startup Information Platform	臺灣新創資訊平台
FSC	Financial Supervisory Commission	金融監督管理委員會
ITRI	Industrial Technology Research Institute	工業技術研究院
MODA	Ministry of Digital Affairs	數位發展部
MOEA	Ministry of Economic Affairs	經濟部
NDC	National Development Council	國家發展委員會
NDF	National Development Fund, Executive Yuan	行政院國家發展基金
NSTC	National Science and Technology Council	國家科學及技術委員會
NTPU	National Taipei University	國立臺北大學
SBIR	Small Business Innovation Research	小型企業創新研發計畫
SMESA	Small and Medium Enterprise and Startup Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs	經濟部中小及新創企業署
TAITRA	Taiwan External Trade Development Council	中華民國對外貿易發展協會
Talent Taiwan	International Talent Taiwan Office	國發會國際人才服務及延攬中心
TIB	Taiwan Innovation Board	臺灣創新板
TIER	Taiwan Institute of Economic Research	台灣經濟研究院
TTA	Taiwan Tech Arena	臺灣科技新創基地
TWSE	Taiwan Stock Exchange	臺灣證券交易所

Programs named in this guide, with their Chinese names: Business Angel Investment Program (創業天使投資方案), Youth Startup Loan* (青年創業貸款), AI startup investment program* (加強投資AI新創實施方案), Taiwan Employment Gold Card (就業金卡), Startup Terrace (林口新創園 and 亞灣新創園), InnoPad Taipei (臺北新創旗艦基地).

*No official English name was found for these two programs. The English names here are translations.

Where this guide's data comes from

- **FINDIT, the Taiwan Startup Information Platform.** Built and run since 2015 by the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER) for SMESA. It tracks disclosed startup funding and publishes an annual report each September.
- **The MOEA White Paper on Startups.** The government's yearly count of startups, their jobs, sales and exports, published each February.
- **Surveys.** The 2026 Taiwan Startups Going Global Survey by Professor Yina Wu's team at NTPU. The 2025 Taiwan Startup Ecosystem Survey by TIER, PwC Taiwan and DIGITIMES.

Related reports

- **Mapping the Taiwan AI Ecosystem.** AI policy, compute, models, AI startups, capital and talent.
- **Taiwan's Government Support for Startups.** Every agency, program and partner in detail.

Sources

Market data and surveys

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R&D tax credit, TIPO

Angel investor tax deduction, CIO Taiwan

Residency and setup

Taiwan Employment Gold Card

Gold Card salary route

Gold Card Office, setting up a foreign company

Entrepreneur Visa rules, MOEA

Foreign investment checklist, MOEA

Company setup steps, New Taipei City Government

Company names in Chinese, Legis-pedia

Banking for foreign professionals, UDN

Talent Taiwan services, NTU

Hubs, resources, research and events

Taiwan Tech Arena, NOWnews

Startup Terrace Linkou, MOE iTaiwan

Startup Terrace Yawan, Business Next

InnoPad Taipei, UDN

Garage+ Startup Global Program, MIT ILP

Shared GPU pool, iThome

IC Taiwan Grand Challenge, Business Next

Fintech sandbox act

ITRI and its venture arm, Asian Growth Research Institute

Meet Taipei organizers, Business Next

InnoVEX

Exits and going global

Taiwan Innovation Board FAQ, TWSE

Startup Island TAIWAN Silicon Valley hub, NDC

Startup Island TAIWAN Tokyo and Korea, PR Newswire

About the Publisher

TribeROI measures how community grows a business. It connects the community tools where members take part, such as Discord, Discourse, GitHub and Luma, to the CRM and other business systems, and matches each member to their record across all of them. It then tests whether member activity is linked to outcomes such as retention, referrals, pipeline, support costs, product feedback and hiring, and reports what the community contributed. AI writes the report and explains the numbers. The numbers come from fixed, versioned math, so every result can be reproduced.

TribeROI also publishes research reports on Taiwan's startup and AI ecosystems. This guide follows Mapping the Taiwan AI Ecosystem and Taiwan's Government Support for Startups.

triberoi.com

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Organizations

- Meet Taipei Startup Festival (Meet Taipei 創新創業嘉年華), organized by Business Next Media (巨思文化) through its publication Business Next (數位時代) and its Meet startup community (Meet 創業小聚).
- International Talent Taiwan Office (國發會國際人才服務及延攬中心), National Development Council.
- Startup Island TAIWAN, the National Development Council's national startup brand (國發會國家新創品牌).
- Industrial Technology Research Institute (工業技術研究院).
- InnoPad Taipei (臺北新創旗艦基地), Taipei City Government.