



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ACE strengthens Connected Ecosystem in the region with Indonesia partners

Singapore, 7 September 2018 – The **Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE)** has inked Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with **EV Hive** and **Skystar Ventures**, witnessed by Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Chan Chun Sing and Indonesia’s Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr Darmin Nasution, at the 6WG Ministerial Meeting today. The partnership is another step towards a stronger connected ecosystem between Singapore and Indonesia, with the aim to grow the startup ecosystems in the Southeast Asia region.

Through the MOUs, ACE, EV Hive and Skystar Ventures will be working together to strengthen the connectedness of Singapore and Indonesia startup ecosystems and drive regional innovation through joint initiatives, such as structured market access programmes, knowledge programmes and workshops, and access to in-market networks. The partnerships have been brought together by Enterprise Singapore, and are an expansion of the activities of the Global Innovation Alliance<sup>1</sup> (GIA) in Jakarta.

With each party acting as an innovation connection point in its country of operation, this collaboration will open doors to our startups and make market expansion into the Indonesia market easier and faster with direct access to in-market networks and expertise. Likewise, Indonesian startups interested in setting up their business in Singapore can also do so easily through the ACE International Centre.

The partnerships also mark the commitment from EV Hive and Skystar Ventures to drive regional innovation through the ACE Connected Ecosystem, a network of regional and global partners committed to support startups with two-way market access and assist them in scaling beyond the local market.

With the support of Enterprise Singapore and under the ambit of Startup SG, the ACE Connected Ecosystem partners will be at the Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology (SWITCH) in the week of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, leading the conversation on International Connections in the Global Startup Space and exhibiting at the ACE Connected Ecosystem Pavilion.

**James Tan, Deputy Chairman of ACE** said, “ACE is heartened to have EV Hive and Skystar Ventures join the ACE Connected Ecosystem partner network. We are excited about the collaboration between ACE, EV Hive and Skystar Ventures to support startups in their internationalisation journey through various market access assistance.”

**Carlson Lau, CEO & Co-founder of EV Hive** said, “Southeast Asia hosts one of the world’s most vibrant startup ecosystem, supported by new enabling technologies and driven by a wave of young,

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<sup>1</sup> A key recommendation in the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) 2016 report, the GIA was launched in 2017 to strengthen Singapore’s connection to major innovation hubs around the world. As part of the GIA Jakarta effort, EV Hive had collaborated with SGInnovate BASH to launch an accelerator programme in Jakarta in April 2017. Since then, EV Hive has helped facilitate the development of 36 startups.

talented startup entrepreneurs. We are excited to partner with ACE in building this startup ecosystem by promoting the cross-fertilisation of ideas and talent between Singapore and Indonesia.”

**Yovita Surianto, Incubator Manager of Skystar Ventures** said, “We’re very excited to collaborate with ACE programmes for entrepreneurship development especially for digital businesses through Singapore and vice versa, and we hope that this collaboration would be beneficial and impactful for both parties”.

**Chan Ih Ming, Director, Global Innovation Alliance Programme Office** said, “We are pleased to strengthen the GIA Jakarta network with the new MOU signed between ACE, EV Hive and Skystar Ventures today. This partnership will further enhance linkages between Singapore and Jakarta and enable the startup ecosystems in both countries to grow.”

Said **Khairul Anwar, Regional Group Director for Indonesia, Enterprise Singapore**, “Indonesia’s startup ecosystem is one of the fastest growing in Southeast Asia, with good potential for our companies and startups particularly in e-commerce, logistics, fintech and healthcare. ACE’s partnerships with EV Hive and Skystar Ventures open doors for startups and industry players from both countries to interact and exchange ideas, catalysing partnerships at a quicker pace.”

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### **About ACE**

The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) is a national private sector-led organisation to drive entrepreneurship and innovation in Singapore.

Launched in 2003 by the Ministry of Trade & Industry and restructured as a private entity in 2014, ACE is supported by the government, under the patronage of Senior Minister of State (Trade & Industry), Dr Koh Poh Koon.

ACE's Board of Directors also comprises of experienced entrepreneurs and professionals immersed in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Today, ACE plays a key role in building a dynamic and sustainable startup ecosystem in Singapore. ACE supports startups across all stages and focuses on three strategic areas:

- (i) driving co-innovation between startups and enterprises;
- (ii) helping startups to scale and internationalise;
- (iii) building an access hub of connected ecosystems across countries.

For more information on ACE, please visit [www.ace.org.sg](http://www.ace.org.sg).

### **About EV Hive**

EV Hive is an ecosystem that provides access to shared workspaces, services & the community connections to enable individuals & companies to start and grow their businesses.

We are the largest coworking space in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, operates over 31,000 sqm of spaces across more than 20 locations across Jakarta and Medan, with 3,000 members, 70% being startups.

Our mission is to provide individuals and companies with:

**Spaces:** access to beautifully designed workspaces to meet and collaborate with others

**Services:** access to relevant business, educational & lifestyle products and services

**Community:** access to a nurturing environment of people that support & collaborate with each other

### **About Skystar Ventures**

Skystar Ventures is a Tech Incubator and community driven space for internet and mobile based startups supported by Universitas Multimedia Nusantara (UMN) and Kompas Gramedia Group (KGG). Skystar Ventures is awarded as the best incubator program by The Ministry of Research, Technology and High Education of the Republic of Indonesia in 2016.

Skystar Ventures has 3 main focuses, which are the Incubation Program, Coworking Space, and venture capital arm named Skystar Capital. Now, after almost 5 years running, Skystar Ventures affiliated with PHI Integration are start forming DQLab.id, an online learning platform for Data that combines interactive, immersive, and practical base.

Through experiential education, the incubator's mission is to guide participants in maturing their ideas and developing their products efficiently. Skystar Ventures aims to strengthen entrepreneurship capabilities and facilitate the development of commercially viable online businesses in Indonesia.

**About Startup SG**

Startup SG represents the shared interests of the startup community and positions Singapore as a leading startup hub. It provides entrepreneurs with a launch pad and a platform to connect them to the global stage and access to local support initiatives.

**Global Innovation Alliance (GIA)**

The Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) is a network of Singapore and overseas partners in major innovation hubs and key demand markets, with a focus on technology and innovation.