

## **SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA LAUNCH TECH:X PROGRAMME PILOT AND STRENGTHEN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

1 Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Indonesian President Joko Widodo jointly announced the pilot launch of the Tech:X Programme at the Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat held today in Bogor, Indonesia.

### **TECH:X PROGRAMME PILOT**

2 Singapore and Indonesia first announced the intention to develop the bilateral Tech:X Programme on 16 March 2023, via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong and Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto at the 2023 Singapore-Indonesia Leaders' Retreat.

3 The Tech:X Programme will facilitate young tech professionals from Singapore and Indonesia to work in each other's countries. This will deepen linkages between Singapore's and Indonesia's tech ecosystems and allow our young tech professionals to gain overseas work experience and pursue growing opportunities in the digital economy. It will also enable businesses to access a wider pool of young tech professionals and facilitate the rotation or transfer of high-potential employees between their Singapore and Indonesia offices.

4 The launch of the Tech:X Programme pilot will enable a number of young graduates from Singapore and Indonesia to pursue short-term, tech-related job opportunities in each other's countries for up to one year. More than 10 companies and organisations are participating in the pilot (see [Annex A](#)), including GovTech's Open Government Products team, data analytics consultancy Handshakes, biotech company MiRXES, AI start-up Aicadium, and real estate developer Pontiac Land Group. The pilot will pave the way for a full roll-out from 1Q 2025, for participation by up to 1,000 young graduates from each country. More companies across Singapore and Indonesia are expected to come on board subsequently.

### **SINGAPORE-INDONESIA ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

5 Singapore and Indonesia share strong trade and investment ties. Indonesia is Singapore's 6<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner, with bilateral trade amounting to S\$69.0 billion in 2023. Singapore has also consistently been Indonesia's top source of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) since 2014, with Singapore's investments in Indonesia amounting to US\$15.4 billion in 2023.

6 Singapore and Indonesian organisations and businesses are strengthening partnerships to jointly unlock opportunities in new areas of growth such as the renewable energy and healthcare sectors. Two examples are:

- a. Renewable energy: Sembcorp Industries' wholly owned subsidiary, PT Sembcorp Renewables Indonesia, has formed a joint venture with PT PLN

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Nusantara Renewables, a 99%-owned subsidiary of PT PLN Nusantara Power. The joint venture will build and develop a large-scale integrated project comprising 50MW of solar and 14MWh of battery energy storage system in Indonesia's new capital city, Nusantara.

- b. **Healthcare:** Singapore's National University Hospital (NUH) and Indonesian Company PT Murni Sadar (PTMS), which owns the Murni Teguh hospitals, signed a MOU on 23 January 2024 on the exchange of medical, operational, and technical know-how, as well as skillsets in the specialty of Oncology. The areas of collaboration under this MOU include: (i) continuous learning for clinicians, nurses, and healthcare professionals; (ii) advisory on residency, clinical service guidance, hospital management and others; and (iii) a visiting consultant programme for NUH consultants to provide advice on complex cases.

7 The strong economic collaboration between Singapore and Indonesia is underpinned by regular exchanges and close cooperation at all levels, including this Leaders' Retreat. On the economic front, the Singapore-Indonesia Six Bilateral Economic Working Groups (6WG), co-chaired by Minister Gan and Coordinating Minister Airlangga, serves as a key Government-to-Government platform for annual dialogues between both countries. The 6WG platform covers economic collaboration in the areas of (i) Batam, Bintan, Karimun and other Special Economic Zones; (ii) Investments; (iii) Manpower; (iv) Agribusiness; (v) Transport; and (vi) Tourism.

**Annex A: List Of Companies and Organisations Participating in the Tech:X Programme Pilot**

**Annex B: Quotes on the Singapore-Indonesia Tech:X Programme**

**Annex C: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

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**Annex A**

**LIST OF COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE TECH:X  
PROGRAMME PILOT**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	Aicadium
2	Avepoint
3	Glints
4	Handshakes
5	ION Mobility
6	Minden.AI
7	MiRXES
8	Open Government Products
9	Pontiac Land Group
10	PSA Singapore
11	Shermay's Singapore Fine Food
12	Temus

**QUOTES ON THE SINGAPORE-INDONESIA TECH:X PROGRAMME**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Quote &amp; Spokesperson</b>
Singapore Business Federation	<p>“Indonesia has a vibrant tech sector as well as a good pipeline of young tech talent. The Singapore-Indonesia TechX pilot programme will accelerate the sharing of tech expertise and innovative tech solutions between our countries. SBF encourages Singapore companies to tap on this programme to better understand the Indonesian tech market so that they can better seize business opportunities and leverage the wide pool of tech talents in Indonesia.”</p> <p>Kok Ping Soon CEO, Singapore Business Federation</p>
SGTech	<p>"Through the Tech:X pilot programme, SGTech is pleased to facilitate the exchange of tech talent between Singapore and Indonesia, bolstering the capacity-building of both countries' digital economies. This initiative offers young tech professionals invaluable cross-cultural exposure, insights into local tech ecosystems, and exposure to regional work environments for diverse perspectives. It also fosters professional development, equipping participants with skills and knowledge to seize new career opportunities. The burgeoning Indonesian startup scene, driven by the country's strong entrepreneurial culture and robust economy, presents vast collaboration opportunities. Nurturing the next generation of tech talents is essential for driving innovation, creativity, and growth in tech."</p> <p>Benjamin Mah Co-Chair, Talent Steering Committee, SGTech</p>
Singapore Institute of Technology	<p>“The Tech:X Programme will nurture our graduates by exposing them to a vibrant tech environment as well as exclusive mentorship by industry experts. More than just offering regional employment opportunities for SIT graduates, Tech:X is also about igniting collaboration and growth in the tech sector between Singapore and Indonesia. We hope to cultivate exceptional partnerships with organisations in Indonesia through Tech:X.”</p> <p>Professor Chua Kee Chaing President, Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)</p>

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<p>Angsana Council</p>	<p>“While on its own the countries within ASEAN are not able to match the critical mass for tech talent of other regions such as India and the US, we give ourselves a fighting chance by acting regionally. This effort between Indonesia and Singapore is much needed to reduce some of the operational challenges in hiring talent across borders and to address some of the existing tech talent shortages. It can also promote a much needed upskilling of junior to mid-level tech talent. For ASEAN businesses to compete on the world stage, they should be supported in building the best possible team for them from within the region.”</p> <p>Peng T. Ong Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Monk’s Hill Ventures &amp; Angsana Council Trustee</p>
<p>Aicadium</p>	<p>“I foresee the Singapore-Indonesia Tech:X Programme as a pivotal platform for talent discovery. Engaging with Indonesia's burgeoning tech communities will unveil a treasure trove of data science prowess. Collaborating across borders will enrich our projects and empower us to harness diverse skill sets and perspectives. This program will serve as a beacon for talent scouting beyond Singapore, fostering a culture of inclusion and innovation.”</p> <p>Veronica Loh Senior Director of People Operations, Aicadium</p>
<p>Handshakes</p>	<p>“Tapping into the Tech:X programme gives us access to a vibrant pool of regional talent. Such collaboration not only amplifies our regional footprint but also unfolds new avenues for business growth.”</p> <p>Daryl Neo Founder, Handshakes</p>
<p>ION Mobility</p>	<p>“Indonesia is a key market for us at ION Mobility. We are honoured to be among the inaugural batch of companies to participate in the Tech:X Programme. We expect the programme to accelerate our work in developing Singaporeans and Indonesians to gain experience whilst contributing to our growth and scaling, following the opening of our Jakarta office amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-2020. In fact, we have already sent our first Singaporean fresh graduate - who started as an intern in our Singapore office for 2 years - to join our technical team in our Karawang Timur factory. We are also proactively identifying high-</p>

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	<p>potential Indonesians in our team for possible future roles in our Singapore headquarters in time to come.” James Chan Founder, Chairman &amp; CEO, ION Mobility</p>
Minden.AI	<p>"At Minden.AI, we invest in hiring a team of talented individuals who believe in the vision of enhancing customer experience through an AI-powered product."  Zhao Chuxin Vice-President, Engineering, minden.ai</p>
MiRXES	<p>“MiRXES is excited to be part of this pivotal tech talent exchange programme. Indonesia, boasting the largest population within ASEAN, presents a crucial market for MiRXES’ cancer early detection endeavours. The talented individuals joining us will provide invaluable insights to enhance our market understanding and offerings. On the other hand, MiRXES is committed to fostering the professional growth of these talents, empowering them to become future leaders in Indonesia's growing biotech sector.”  Dr. Zhou Lihan Co-Founder and CEO, MiRXES</p>
Temus	<p>“We are delighted to participate in the Tech:X pilot project. As a fast-growing digital technology company, talent is our most valuable asset. It is essential for us to continuously expand our networks and broaden our horizons through programmes such as TECH:X to strengthen our team with a diverse range and source of talents.”  Yeoh Keat Chuan CEO, Temus</p>
Pontiac Land Group	<p>"We are excited to announce our participation in the Singapore-Indonesia Tech:X Programme, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at driving innovation and collaboration between Singapore and Indonesia. As a company dedicated to innovation and embracing new challenges, we recognise the significant value in partnering with our counterparts across borders. This partnership not only amplifies our reach but also fosters a rich exchange of ideas, talent, and resources. We look forward to the developmental opportunities this program offers, enabling us to further innovate and increase productivity in an increasingly interconnected region."</p>

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	David Tsang CEO, Pontiac Land Group
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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

**General**

**1. Who is eligible for the Tech:X Programme?**

The Tech:X Programme will allow companies to hire or rotate eligible applicants (i.e., prospective hires) across both countries. Both the participating company and applicant would need to meet the respective eligible criteria below.

**1.1 *Recruiting Companies***

Singapore- or Indonesia-registered companies that are looking to:

- a. Hire young graduates from the other country for tech-related roles, or;
- b. Facilitate movement of young hires to their regional offices or other affiliated organisations based in the other country. For example, to rotate a Singaporean applicant (i.e., existing, or new employee) from their Singapore-based entity to their Indonesia-based entity.

Examples of “tech-related roles” include, but are not limited to:

- Data Science and Analytics
- Cyber Security and Risk
- Cloud Computing
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Augmented Reality (AR)
- Virtual Reality (VR)
- Machine Learning
- Application/Systems Programming
- Digital Innovation
- Software, Web, Mobile and Applications Development
- Systems Design (User Experience/User Interface)

**1.2 *Individual applicants***

Young graduates from Singapore and Indonesia who fulfil all the following requirements:

- a. Are citizens of Singapore or Indonesia;
- b. Are below the age of thirty (30) years;
- c. Have graduated with a Bachelor or Masters’ or Doctorate degree from one of the Universities listed below;



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- d. Have graduated for a period of less than and up to 5 years at the point of application, and
- e. Are taking up employment in a tech-related role with a registered enterprise described above.

**List of Universities (For Applicants from Singapore):**

- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- Singapore Management University (SMU)
- Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
- Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
- Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)

**List of Universities (For Applicants from Indonesia):**

- Universitas Indonesia
- Universitas Gadjah Mada
- Institut Pertanian Bogor
- Institut Teknologi Bandung
- Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember
- Universitas Airlangga
- Universitas Padjadjaran
- Universitas Brawijaya
- Universitas Diponegoro
- Universitas Bina Nusantara
- Universitas Telkom

**2. What are the benefits of the Tech:X Programme?**

The Tech:X Programme is a visa-facilitation scheme that provides young tech professionals from Singapore and Indonesia the opportunity to work and gain exposure in each other's countries.

Successful applicants from Singapore will be able to enter Indonesia and undertake a job stint in an eligible Indonesia-based company for 1 year.

Successful applicants from Indonesia will be able to enter Singapore on the Training Employment Pass (TEP) and undertake a job stint in an eligible Singapore-based company for 1 year.

**3. Who can I reach out to for more information?**

For further details on the Singapore-Indonesia MoU on the Tech:X Programme, please contact: [techx@mti.gov.sg](mailto:techx@mti.gov.sg)

**For Participating Companies from Singapore Looking to Hire Indonesian Applicants**

**4. How can I apply to be a participating company under the Tech:X Programme?**

The pilot has just been launched and is still ongoing. Companies interested to take part in the full-scale launch of the Tech:X Programme may register their interest by writing in to [techx@mti.gov.sg](mailto:techx@mti.gov.sg). Updates on the full-scale launch and onboarding details will be provided in due course.

**5. What procedures should participating companies should take note of when hiring professionals under the Tech:X Programme?**

Companies participating in the pilot can start submitting applications under the Tech:X programme for confirmed Tech:X applicants. They should first source for and finalise the employment arrangement with prospective Tech:X applicants (i.e., job candidates). Thereafter, companies should submit an application for a Tech:X Training Employment Pass on behalf of the Tech:X applicant before the latter's movement to Singapore. Companies will be required to sponsor the applicant's Tech:X Training Employment Pass application in accordance with Singapore's prevailing laws and regulations, as well as underlying pass requirements in Singapore.

**6. Is there any obligation for the company to hire applicants in both countries, or can they just hire Indonesians/Singaporeans where it meets their hiring needs?**

There is no obligation for companies to hire Tech:X applicants in both countries. Companies can determine their hiring needs at their own discretion.

**7. Will there be any funding support for companies looking to hire Tech:X applicants?**

There is currently no dedicated funding support provided, as the Tech:X Programme is primarily a visa-facilitation scheme.

**8. Will the Tech:X applicant be able to continue employment with their companies upon their completion of the Tech:X Programme?**

The work pass issued for the applicant's work attachment in Singapore under the Tech:X Programme will be valid for a maximum of one (1) year. Their eligibility status under the Tech:X Programme will lapse thereafter. Subsequent employment will be subject to companies' and the applicants' discretion. Companies will be required to apply for a fresh work pass for the applicant if they wish to continue their employment in Singapore.

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**9. How many times can a company hire the same applicant under the Tech:X Programme?**

Each applicant is eligible to participate only once in the Tech:X Programme.

**For Individual Applicants from Singapore Looking for Job Opportunities in Indonesia**

**10. How can applicants apply for a job under the Tech:X Programme?**

Applicants will have to ensure that they meet the individual eligibility criteria and secure their own employment with a registered and valid enterprise in Indonesia. Applicants can thereafter submit an application under the Tech:X via the Indonesia-based company that is hiring them. Their job application will be subject to the respective jurisdiction's approval.

**11. Will there be any onboarding support for applicants who are moving overseas under the Tech:X Programme?**

Applicants should ensure that they reach a mutual agreement with their Indonesia-based company on their employment contract, as well as their remuneration/allowances and all financial costs that may be incurred during the programme.

If applicants are interested to be connected to related communities as they prepare for their relocation to Indonesia, they may wish to refer to online resources on the Singapore Global Network's website, <https://singaporeglobalnetwork.gov.sg>.

**12. Will applicants be able to continue their employment with their selected company upon completion of the Tech:X Programme?**

The work pass and/or visas issued for their work attachment under the Tech:X Programme will be valid for a maximum of one (1) year. Their eligibility status under the Tech:X Programme will lapse thereafter. Subsequent employment will be subject to companies' and individuals' discretion. They will also be required to apply for a fresh work pass and/or visa if they wish to continue any form of employment in that country.

**13. How many times can an applicant participate in the Tech:X Programme?**

Each applicant is eligible to participate only once in the Tech:X Programme.