



NEWS RELEASE

Cisco and Monk's Hill Ventures Commit to Accelerate Innovation in ASEAN

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Funding Focused on Early Stage Technology Start-Ups That Drive the Internet of Everything and Digital Transformation in ASEAN

SINGAPORE -- (Marketwired) -- 09/09/15 -- Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) -- Cisco Investments today announced a US \$10 million investment into Monk's Hill Ventures' innovation fund for [start-up companies](#). This fund aims to drive innovation and technology disruptions across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) by supporting early stage start-ups in companies that have solutions focused on Cloud, the Internet of Everything (IoE), Big Data and Analytics, Mobility and Enterprise applications.

Monk's Hill Ventures has two primary areas of focus for investing in high-growth technology companies: first, on early stage, Series A and B, technology start-ups operating across Southeast Asia and second, on technology companies from around the world that want to expand into Southeast Asia.

Cisco, in addition to providing funding, will also explore ways of sharing technology and go-to-market expertise with invested companies in the region. This investment is aligned to Cisco Investments' strategy to fuel innovation, by investing in venture capital funds that support the transformation of local economies and industries.

"Cisco has a long history of working with governments and organisations in ASEAN to promote innovation and economic development, and we know that the Internet is the platform that enables the delivery of new applications and solutions," said Saleh M. Haji Munshi, President, ASEAN at Cisco.

"Our investment with Monk's Hill Ventures reinforces Cisco's strategy for supporting disruptive innovation, and I'm excited by the opportunities it creates for connecting communities, people, processes, data and things in ASEAN. [ASEAN continues to be one of the most diverse, fast-moving, and competitive regions in the world](#) with countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. In addition to attracting multinationals, ASEAN has become a launching pad for new companies; the region now accounts for 38 percent of Asia's market for initial public offerings," he

added.

The partners of Monk's Hill Ventures have built numerous Silicon Valley and Asian VC-backed companies over the past two decades, with operating experience in all of the major countries across Asia -- from China and Japan to India and Indonesia. They also bring strong networks across Asia and the US, to help entrepreneurs with further fundraising, landing key enterprise customers, recruiting top talent, and expanding internationally. The firm has offices in both Singapore and Jakarta, and the investment team travels widely within the Southeast Asia region to meet promising companies.

"The concept of the fund is simple: entrepreneurs backing entrepreneurs. We are bringing an incredible wealth of experience and best practices to ASEAN, and our goal is not to just invest in companies but build the overall start-up ecosystem to help accelerate growth across the region. We're committed to driving this in ASEAN with Cisco and our other partners, as we promote innovation and economic development together," said Kuo-Yi Lim, Managing Director of Monk's Hill Ventures.

Cisco Investments is an active investor with more than 40 investment professionals with deep market and technology expertise located in major geographies, including US, Canada, China, India, Israel, and Europe. Over the last 20 years, Cisco Investments has invested in hundreds of companies across different segments and helped them to build successful IPOs or acquisitions. Cisco Investments currently has an active portfolio of \$2 billion with nearly 100 direct investments around the world, and also holds Limited Partner positions in over 35 funds globally.

"The ASEAN region is transforming rapidly through digitalization along with a growing community of local entrepreneurs developing new technologies and applications for the region and the world. Cisco Investments' first investment in ASEAN focuses on helping the country and regional community grow, by nurturing the local ecosystem of start-ups. With this investment in Monk's Hill Ventures, I'm excited by the opportunities this new breed of companies in ASEAN have, to engage with Cisco, exposing them to our partners, brand and customers, and therefore helping to expand their reach across the region," shares Pratik Bose, director, Corporate Development at Cisco in Asia Pacific and Japan.

About Cisco

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