



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MYSTARTUP NXT SABAH STOP WRAPS UP SUCCESSFULLY WITH OVER 250 IN ATTENDANCE

KOTA KINABALU, 24 November 2023 – MYStartup NXT, a series of micro-conferences by MYStartup has successfully completed its fourth stop in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The micro-conference initiative by MYStartup comes to an end in 2023 after a series of engagement with startups in Cyberjaya, Kuching, Penang and Kota Kinabalu.

Cradle Fund Sdn. Bhd. (Cradle), Malaysia's focal point agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) for local startups, has been the driving force in MYStartup NXT, which aimed at cultivating an inclusive, impactful and sustainable ecosystem for the country.

The recent stop in Kota Kinabalu which collaborated with Sabah Creative Economy and Innovation Centre (SCENIC) attracted over 250 attendees, with insightful sessions on funding, business validation, ways to nurture the next generation of tech talents and what it takes to go global.

In addition to insights from local ecosystem players from the likes of SCENIC, Synxsoft, CoreHalal and AgriData, the engagement in Sabah also offered networking opportunities and the special 'What's Up Grant' session to share and advice founders on Cradle's Investment Programme namely CIP SPARK and CIP SPRINT.

MYStartup NXT also continued its focus on elevating startups with sessions on storytelling and how to turn ideas into reality with insights from founders and experts, offering tips and quips from both ends.

"MYStartup will continue to support and empower Sabahan startups to overcome challenges such as capital, talents and infrastructure constraints. I'm confident that the startup scene in Sabah will continue to flourish and become a driving force behind our economic growth and social progress. At MOSTI, our dedicated efforts are focused on ensuring that Malaysia achieves its full potential as a nation aspiring to be an innovation hub, aligned with the aspiration of Malaysia MADANI," said YB Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.

“We are delighted to culminate MYStartup NXT in Sabah, recognising the vast potential it holds for our local startup ecosystem. Our initiative aims to extend its benefits across the entire region, spanning from the dynamic Klang Valley to the Northern and Southern region and the East Malaysia. Through ongoing engagement, we aspire to foster growth and innovation that transcends geographical boundaries,” said Norman Matthieu Vanhaecke, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Cradle.

“This is the first time I have witnessed such a remarkable event, filled with founders, corporate professionals, and aspiring entrepreneurs. As a founder, guidance, momentum and opportunities from experts in the ecosystem is vital in order to elevate and grow our business to the next stage. With insightful sessions from MYStartup NXT, we learn about grants provided to support startups’ growth, success tips and also potential partnerships out there beyond the shores of Sabah,” said Mazrie Mahat, CEO of SynxSoft Sdn Bhd and CoreHalal.

As a recap, MYStartup NXT, in collaboration with local chapter partners, corporate allies, and event sponsors, successfully drew over 800 attendees, encompassing diverse roles within the ecosystem. Through Venture Connect, the flagship initiative dedicated to connect funding entities with founders, MYStartup has facilitated connections for over 100 founders with local and regional investors, including Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (MAVCAP), Vertex, Malaysian Business Angel Network (MBAN), and Khazanah Nasional, among others.

Beyond MYStartup NXT, a total of 3,828 startups have been benefitted through the capacity-building programmes such as accelerators, pre-accelerators, and hackathons under Cradle. Notably, this year, the top four (4) accelerator programme graduates not only gained exclusive access to MYStartup’s Market Access Programme but also secured a total funding of RM675,000. The numbers of registered startups in Sabah have also increased, climbing up by more than 40% compared to last year which signifies the achievement of the MYStartup initiative here in Sabah.

MYStartup NXT will return in 2024 with new location stops, dates and partnerships. To register, visit [here](#) and for more information on MYStartup NXT, visit www.mystartup.gov.my.

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