

500

Connecting Malaysian Startups to Global Networks

500 Global helps Malaysian founders build for global while strengthening the country's startup and venture capital ecosystem.

Early-stage startups in Malaysia often face limited access to risk capital, specialised expertise, mentors and international networks.

This is where venture capital partners such as 500 Global play an important role. By connecting Malaysian founders to capital, portfolio support and international networks, 500 Global translates local innovation into scalable, market-ready solutions that can strengthen Malaysia's economic competitiveness and national resilience.



Catalysing Growth and Building Capital, Networks and Emerging Technology Communities

500 Global invests across multiple stages of growth, from pre-seed to pre-IPO. Beyond providing capital, 500 Global acts as a bridge between Malaysian founders and global networks, combining access to Silicon Valley's venture and technology ecosystem with a grounded understanding of local market dynamics.

As part of its broader support platform for founders, 500 Global has also developed AI-focused initiatives in Malaysia including events, talks and community meetups designed to accelerate peer learning and ecosystem connectivity among founders, developers and builders. One example is the 500 AI Residency, a collaborative environment where technical founders, developers and everyday

builders can co-work, learn and showcase their projects weekly. This residency operates in close partnership with local grassroots AI communities such as AI Tinkerers KL, Build with AI, Build Club Malaysia, and AI Builder, alongside global technology leaders like OpenAI, Databricks, and Lovable.

Through these 500 Global-led initiatives, the Residency has broadened engagement across Malaysia's founder, developer and builder communities, hosting 70 events and engaging over 4,000 attendees in 2025 alone. Separately, the firm's flagship AI Takeover programme connects selected portfolio companies with Silicon Valley, immersing Malaysian founders in frontier technologies through practical, hands-on building experiences and global mentorship.

Bridging Malaysia and Silicon Valley

500 AI Residency

Driven by a culture of "shipping" - building and deploying under pressure - the programme hosts weekly public "Show & Tell" demo sessions to highlight new projects and practical AI implementation. The Residency is cultivating technical talent for Malaysia, with residents winning first place at the OpenAI-backed Voice of AGI hackathon in the United States. It has also supported major local initiatives, including an AI healthcare hackathon with the Ministry of Health and a "Build for Good" event where 200 participants shipped 83 projects in three hours.

AI Takeover

This flagship programme immerses local founders in frontier technologies, most recently taking key 500 Southeast Asia Fund III portfolio companies to Silicon Valley in September 2025 for two weeks of intensive workshops and hackathons. The programme helps bridge Malaysian startups with international networks, giving founders access to closed-door insights and direct mentorship from global innovators at organisations such as Meta, Stripe and Stanford University.

Key Impact Metrics

24

Malaysian companies supported



428

skilled talent in Malaysia supported



576

total talent in Malaysia supported



Khazanah Mobilising Venture Capital for Malaysian Startups

Khazanah, through Dana Impak, mobilised investment into the 500 Southeast Asia III Fund (500 SEA III) to support Malaysian startups with the ambition to scale beyond Malaysia. Through 500 SEA III, catalytic capital is paired with 500 Global's international founder network, Silicon Valley connectivity and AI ecosystem-building platform - helping Malaysian startups sharpen their products, access global perspectives and build with regional markets in mind. To date, 500 SEA III has supported over 20 local portfolio companies, including:



QARBOTECH

Qarbotech, where 500 provided growth capital to scale its manufacturing capabilities and expand regionally into Indonesia, Thailand, and China.



iMotorbike, which operates a transparent and secure online marketplace for pre-owned motorcycle.



Halogen Capital, which provides regulated, Shariah-compliant digital asset investing.



Vircle, which promotes early financial literacy and responsible money management for children.



MHub, which delivers an integrated real estate sales and management solution.

Ultimately, Khazanah's capital is mobilised through a venture partner that helps Malaysian startups build stronger business fundamentals, connect to global networks and develop the capability to compete beyond Malaysia.

Driving Enterprise AI Adoption

Moving forward, 500 Global envisions a collaborative ecosystem where homegrown AI companies scale internationally and contribute meaningfully to Malaysia's digital ecosystem. In moving from AI awareness towards implementation, 500 Global plans to support Malaysian companies identify enterprise problems that can be translated into prototype-driven AI solutions. In doing so, 500 Global aims to provide organisations with a practical path to value-generating AI implementation, while cultivating the enterprise demand necessary for local AI builders to thrive and scale globally.



For more information, visit
www.500.co/sea