




# SETTING UP YOUR TECH STARTUP IN ASIA

Which is the **best jurisdiction to set up  
and grow your startup** in Southeast Asia?

**Prepared by:**  
MYBUSINESS IN ASIA

 [www.mybusiness-asia.com](http://www.mybusiness-asia.com)

 [hello@mybusiness-asia.com](mailto:hello@mybusiness-asia.com)

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# INCORPORATION AND SET UP REQUIREMENTS

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- A. RESTRICTIONS ON SHAREHOLDERS
- B. MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS
- C. REGISTERED LOCAL OFFICE
- D. DIRECTOR REQUIREMENTS
- E. CORPORATE SECRETARY REQUIREMENTS

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## SELECTED COUNTRIES TO WATCH

ASEAN is one of the fastest growing regions in the world with a growing population that is also increasingly educated and connected. Despite challenging economic trends, Southeast Asian markets like Indonesia and Vietnam are among the top 30 digitized economies, more than 460 million internet users are present in the region and, according to the latest data, SEA tech startups raised \$10.4B in 2022. Thousands of startups are created each year in the region, this report is designed to help and navigate the regulatory requirements for tech-oriented and general startups to get started.

We have shortlisted 7 countries where dynamism and startup environment are the most promising.



Hong Kong



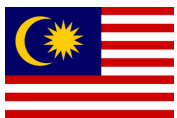
Indonesia



Singapore



Thailand



Malaysia



Philippines



Vietnam

## General Requirements

Tech startups, like most private businesses, are commonly incorporated as private limited companies due to the limited liability of shareholders - limited to their contribution in the company - and the relative ease of raising capital as well as ownership transferability. In Asia, Private Limited companies can be incorporated by foreigner individuals or entities and operate in a multitude of sectors subject to some national restrictions.



## Shareholder Requirements

Most industries and business lines are open to foreign investment and foreign shareholders. However certain countries may have imposed maximum foreign shareholding ceiling on key restricted business lines. Most countries do not restrict foreign shareholding of tech startups. Although, being properly advised and conducting a thorough due diligence is recommended.

With varying minimum shareholder requirements, all identified countries allow up to 50 shareholders for Private Limited companies (except Thailand which imposes no maximum restriction).

### Shareholder Requirements by Country

Country	Allows 100% Foreign Ownership in All Industries	Minimum No. of Shareholders
Hong Kong		1
Singapore		1
Malaysia		1
Vietnam		1
Indonesia		2
Thailand		3
Philippines		1

**Legend** Yes  No 

### Other Country Specific Requirements for IT and Tech

- **Vietnam:** 100% foreign owned companies in IT sector are subject to conditions
- **Thailand:** 100% foreign owned tech companies are possible with the Board of Investment (BOI) of Thailand
- **Philippines:** Foreign ownership in domestic companies can be limited if the paid-up capital is less than USD 100,000 or if the activity falls in advanced technology (List B)
- **Malaysia:** 100% foreign owned companies in technology sectors are possible subject to eligibility and license requirements

## Minimum Capital Requirements

In Asia, many countries impose a minimum share capital requirement for the incorporation of companies with foreign share ownership. Share capital, commonly refers to the amount invested in the business by the investors in order to carry out its undertakings. The exact amount differs across countries and may depend on the amount of foreign ownership involved.



### Minimum capital Requirement by Country

Country	Min. Capital Requirement for Foreign-Owned Companies
Hong Kong	HKD 1
Singapore	SGD 1
Malaysia	RM 1
Vietnam	VND 1
Indonesia	IDR 10 Billion
Thailand	THB 2 Million
Philippines	USD 200,000

## Other Country Specific Requirements

- **Vietnam:** There is no minimum capital requirement but a capital of USD 10,000+ is suggested to be accepted by The Department of Planning and Investment.
- **Indonesia:** There is no minimum capital requirement but an investment of at least IDR 10 billion is at least required and can be fully conducted at a later stage.
- **Thailand:** Companies not subject to license to operate must have a capital (paid up before the company commences business) of THB 2 million.
- **Philippines:** 100% foreign ownership companies can have lowered minimum capital requirement of USD 100,000 if classified under advanced technology sector.

## Registered Local Office

All the selected countries require a registered office address for incorporation. The registered office will have to fulfill a set of country-specific requirements. The registered office needs to be a physical location while all the countries recognize virtual offices with some local distinctions/requirements. Most identified countries allow third-party service providers to provide companies with a registered address. In a few countries Post Office (PO) are allowed.



### Alternative Office Arrangements by Country

Country	Allows PO Box	Allows Virtual Office	Allows Provision of Registered Office
Hong Kong	✔	✔	✔
Singapore	✔	✔	✔
Malaysia	✔	✔	✔
Vietnam	✔	✔	✔
Indonesia	✔	✔	✔
Thailand	✔	✔	✔
Philippines	✔	✔	✔

Legend Yes ✔ No ☐

## Virtual Office

A virtual office is a service that includes a business address, a location to receive mail, and access to meeting rooms and physical office space without having to commit to renting a full-time office.

The Asia-Pacific region (APAC) has stood out in the coworking market and it is currently, the largest in the world of that sector. Co-working giants the likes of WeWork, Regus, JustCo saw an increase in demand for their services in the region due to greater receptivity for flexible workspace solutions among workers.

## Director Requirements

All identified countries do not impose any restrictions on the number of directors composing the Board of the company. A company director is responsible for managing the affairs of the company and has the legal duty to advance the interests of the company, act honestly and in good faith in exercising the given powers. **Directors can also be of any nationality.** However, some countries have a resident director requirement where at least 1 of the directors must be locally resident in that country.

In some jurisdictions, third-party service providers assist corporations to fulfill local director statutory compliance requirement appointing a local non-executive director in the Board of Directors of clients' companies. This service is usually offered for statutory compliance only and the appointed local director thus does not involve the Nominee Director taking any other forms of direct involvement and risks in the operation aspects of the business.



### Resident Director Requirement by Country

Country	Resident Director Requirement	Allows Provision of Resident Director
Hong Kong	☑	⊖
Singapore	☑	☑
Malaysia	☑	☑
Vietnam	☑	⊖
Indonesia	☑	⊖
Thailand	☑	⊖
Philippines	☑	☑

**Legend** Yes ☑ No ☑ NIL ⊖

### Other Country Specific Requirements

- **Philippines:** The minimum number of directors is 5 and depending on the shareholding and sector, a percentage of resident directors might be required.



## Local Corporate Secretary Requirements

In most common law systems, a company secretary (CS) requirement is imposed on companies. A CS is responsible for the administration of the company, ensuring that all the directors and shareholders are informed of their statutory obligations such as the filing of annual returns. Some countries have a local corporate secretary requirement where a local company secretary is appointed and tasked to fulfill a set of country-specific duties. The majority of startups decide to outsource this company function to leverage on the knowledge of advisor minimizing compliance risks. In this case, the appointed local corporate secretary fulfills all associated duties of the role.



### Local Corporate Secretary Requirement by Country

Country	Local Secretary Requirement	Allows Provision of Local Secretary
Hong Kong	✓	✓
Singapore	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓
Vietnam	✓	⊖
Indonesia	✓	⊖
Thailand	✓	⊖
Philippines	✓	✓

**Legend** Yes ✓ No ✓ NIL ⊖

## Other Country Specific Requirements

- **Vietnam:** Required to have at least 1 legal representative residing in Vietnam who is part of the company management and represent the company with the government.
- **Indonesia:** A commissioner must be appointed. Their responsibilities involve reviewing the financial statements and the next budget. A Shareholder can be appointed.
- **Philippines:** A Treasurer who is a local resident must be appointed. A President who is a Director must also be appointed. The President cannot be the Treasurer or the secretary at the same time.



# TAX RULES

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- A. CORPORATE INCOME TAX
- B. TAX INCENTIVES AVAILABILITIES
- C. PERSONAL INCOME TAX
- D. CONSUMPTION TAX

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## Corporate Income Tax (CIT)

The **Corporate Income Tax** is a direct **tax levied on the net income of a company** (as a percentage of it). At a high level, the tax systems of the 6 ASEAN states are similar in the sense that all of them have adopted systems which:

1. Distinguish between corporate and individual taxation;
2. Impose taxes on profits (such as the corporate income tax), on transactions (such as the value-added tax or sales tax); and on personal incomes (such as the salary tax); and
3. Distinguish between resident taxpayers which are usually taxed on net income and non-resident taxpayers which are usually taxed on gross payments through a withholding mechanism.

Beyond these basic similarities are very significant differences in tax system, tax rates and tax coverage.



### Corporate Taxation and Preferential Tax Rates

Country	Standard Rate	Preferential Rate	Eligibility of the Preferential Rate
Hong Kong	16.5%	8.25%	Applicable to first HKD 2 million, with one benefiting entity for groups
Singapore	17%	4.25% – 8.5%	Applicable on first SGD 200,000 of taxable income, with further lower rates for tax resident companies and with less than individual 20 shareholders
Malaysia	24%	15 – 17%	Applicable to first MYR 600,000, for companies with paid-up capital of less than MYR 2.5 million and gross income of less than MYR 50 million
Vietnam	20%	10 – 17%	Applicable to firms in encouraged sectors (healthcare, high technology, scientific R&D, infrastructure development, software, etc.) or locations and depending on the size of the corporate investments
Indonesia	22%	0.5 – 11%	Applicable on first IDR 4.8 billion of taxable revenues to firms with revenues below IDR 50 billion. Companies with revenues below IDR 4.8 billion are eligible to an effective turnover tax rate of 0.5%
Thailand	20%	0 – 15%	0% rate applicable to the first THB 300,000 of taxable profit and 15% from THB 300,000 to THB 3 million and for firm with income paid-in capital below THB 5 million and sale of good/services below THB 30 million
Philippines	25%	20%	Applicable to firms with net assets below PHP 100 million and taxable corporate income below PHP 5 million

## Other Country Specific Corporate Tax Rates Rules

- **Hong Kong:** Tax system is territorial and is applicable to profits arising or derived locally.
- **Singapore:** Tax system is quasi territorial, and applies to profits arising, derived locally or remitted to Singapore
- **Vietnam:** Certain sectors like oil and gas, natural resources and mining are subject to a Corporate Tax rate ranging from 32% to 50%
- **Indonesia:** Oil and gas, mining, shipping and airlines sectors are subject to different taxes
- **Philippines:** After the 4th year of business commencement, Minimum CIT of 2% on gross income applies if higher than the 25% Corporate Tax on net incomes. Non-profit educational and hospitals can be exempted from corporate tax or benefit from a 10% tax rate

## Tax incentives availabilities

Various tax incentives and schemes are available depending on activities, sectors and investments

- **ALL COUNTRIES:** Foreign tax credits - Corporate tax from profitable overseas investments can be locally credited but cannot exceed the local Corporate Tax.
- **Hong Kong:** Foreign investment incentives - Qualifying offshore funds can be exempted from corporate taxes.
- **Singapore:** Enterprise Innovation Scheme (EIS) - Up to 400% tax deduction on qualifying R&D, IP, innovative joint projects, etc. Intellectual Property Development Incentive (IDI) - Reduced tax rate of 5 to 10% for qualifying income derived from commercialization of IPs. Other schemes and incentives available
- **Malaysia:** Pioneer status (PS) and investment tax allowance (ITA) - Up to a full exemption on Corporate Tax of promoted sectors and projects. Special economic regions and other incentives and schemes are available
- **Vietnam:** Tax holidays - Early full exemption on corporate tax and then 50% exemption on first reported period of profit by young companies.
- **Indonesia:** Tax holidays - Eligible sectors and investments can benefit from up to 100% tax exemption and then 25% to 50% exemption on first reported period of profit by young companies. Other free trade and special economic zones incentives are available
- **Thailand:** Board of Investment provides numerous incentives including up to 50% Corporate Tax reduction. Other incentives available for R&D activities and special economic zones
- **Philippines:** Incentives under CREATE - Various incentives and tax deductions (e.g., tax holidays) for export related companies and domestic companies in qualified strategic sectors

## Personal Income Tax

The **Personal Income Tax** is a tax mainly levied on the salaries and also **revenues of individuals**. Personal Income tax is often progressive where individuals with higher salaries are subject to higher tax rates. Within most selected countries, Personal Income Tax rates differ for residents and non-residents. If aspiring entrepreneurs decide to earn a salary from their startup, they will be subjected to Personal Income tax. Please note that in some countries the income tax and employment tax differ (e.g., Vietnam).

Moreover, being tax resident often implies being taxed from foreign derived revenues, although many exceptions exist based on specific Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs)



### Personal Income Tax for Residents and Non-Residents

Country	Personal Income Tax		Taxation base & Residency Criteria
	Resident	Non-Resident	
Hong Kong	2 – 17%	N.A.	<b>Territorial system:</b> All individuals are subject to HK-sourced taxable incomes regardless of their residency
Singapore	0 – 24%	15%	All individuals are taxed on Singapore derived or accrued incomes. <b>Residency:</b> Worked or stayed more than 182 days in previous calendar year
Malaysia	1 – 30%	30%	All individuals are taxed on Malaysia derived and accrued incomes. <b>Residency:</b> Stayed 182 days or more in previous calendar year
Vietnam	5 – 35%	20%	Tax residents are taxed on their world-wide taxable incomes. <b>Residency:</b> Stayed 182 days or more in previous year or having a permanent residence in VN
Indonesia	5 – 35%	20%	Tax residents are taxed on their world-wide taxable incomes with exceptions. <b>Residency:</b> Resides in IN or present more than 182 days for 12-month period
Thailand	5 – 35%	5 – 35%	All individuals are taxed on Thai derived incomes and for remitted incomes (within 1 year of reception). <b>Residency:</b> Residing more than 179 days over tax year
Philippines	5 – 35%	5 – 35%	Foreign tax residents are taxed on locally sourced incomes. <b>Residency (foreigners):</b> Working with indefinite contract period and indefinite length of stay

## Other Country Specific Requirements

- **Singapore:** For non-tax residents, flat 15% non-resident tax rate applies only if the total chargeable PIT is higher than the progressive tax residency rates

## Consumption Tax

The **Consumption Tax** is a type of indirect tax that is levied on the consumption of goods and services, which is often a **flat percentage of its price**. Consumption tax can take a variety of forms including Value-Added Tax (VAT), Goods and Services Tax (GST), Service Tax and Sales Tax (tax on goods sold). Consumption tax laws vary widely from country to country. Taxes such as GST/VAT often have thresholds where companies with annual turnover below the specified threshold are exempted.

The **Consumption Taxes are collected by registered companies** and can also be compulsory for sales of digital services by foreign-based online providers to consumers (e.g., companies offering SaaS solutions from Singapore to Vietnamese clients must register to the Vietnamese VAT system).

Most APAC countries (e.g., Singapore and Hong Kong) follow the OECD recommendations and limit the compliance obligations of foreign sellers to what is strictly necessary for effective tax collection, some other jurisdictions (e.g., Indonesia) implement heavier compliance obligations that significantly increase the cost of doing business targeted at the local market.



### Consumption Tax and Threshold for Company Registration and Collection

Country	Tax regime	Tax rate	VAT / GST Threshold
Hong Kong	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Singapore	GST	8%	SGD 1 million in a year
Malaysia	Sales Tax Service Tax	5 - 10% 6%	RM 500,000 in a year
Vietnam	VAT	10%	No threshold – Registration from first sale
Indonesia	VAT	11%	IDR 4.8 billion in a year
Thailand	VAT	7%	THB 1.8 million in a year or TBH 300,000 in a month
Philippines	VAT	12%	PHP 3 million in a year



## Other Country Specific Requirements

- **Hong Kong:** There is no consumption tax in Hong Kong.
- **Singapore:** GST will increase from 8% for calendar year 2023 to 9% from 1st January 2024 onwards
- **Vietnam:** The standard rate is 10% and some goods have lowered VAT from 0% to 5% while luxury goods have a 15% VAT rate.
- **Thailand:** VAT rate is currently lowered to 7% and should increase to 10% on 30th September 2023 if not extended by the government
- **Philippines:** Company falling below VAT registration threshold must collect instead the Percentage Tax that is generally corresponding to 3% of goods and services sold

# IMMIGRATION AND VISA

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- A. WORK VISA & DEPENDANT'S VISA
- B. PERMANENT RESIDENCY

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### Work Visa

For startups willing to hire foreign talents, applying **visas and work permits** for their employees is a required step. Although, as in most countries, foreigners are subject to requirements and restrictions, this to ensure that companies fairly considered local hires. Hence hiring foreigner can be challenging with several requirements and heavy bureaucracy ahead for employers.

Within the selected countries, it is possible to hire foreign talents subject to requirements and conditions and then **sponsor a dependant visa** for their family if they wish to bring them to Southeast Asia.

**Permanent residency** can also be considered although takes longer to obtain and is often subject to renewals.

### Dependant's Visa

All the above-mentioned work visas allow individuals to bring over certain family members via dependant's visas. For all identified countries, the family members applicable are the individual's spouse and dependent children under the legal age (subject to jurisdiction).

Aside from Singapore that requires individuals to have a minimum salary of SGD 6,000, no additional requirements need to be met to apply for dependent's visa for eligible family members.

## Immigration Requirements

All the work visas mentioned require individuals to have already accepted a job offer in that country at the time of application. Some work visas require applicants to earn a minimum salary, while others require them to come hold certain educational or technical background (usually a relevant degree or professional qualifications in the field) and/or sufficient working experience.



### Immigration Requirements by Country

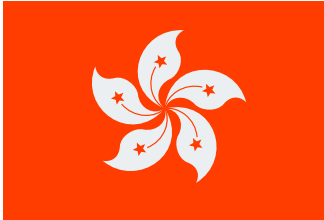
Country	Visa/Permit Name	Minimum Salary	Minimum Diploma	Minimum Pro. Experience	Restriction on Job Types
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Employment for Professionals	Market Rate	✓	✓	✓
<b>Singapore</b>	Employment Pass	SGD 4,500	✓	✓	✓
<b>Malaysia</b>	Employment Pass	RM 5,000	✓	✓	✓
<b>Vietnam</b>	Work permit for foreign employee	N.A.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Indonesia</b>	IMTA – Work Visa	N.A.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Thailand</b>	Non-immigrant B visa/ Work Permit	N.A.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Philippines</b>	Alien Employment Permit/9(g) work visa	N.A.	✓	✓	✓

**Legend** Yes ✓ No ☐

## Other immigration requirements

- **ALL COUNTRIES:** Preference for local hires is materialized in all selected countries in the form of **quota** (of foreigners per local hires), advertising job position locally, benchmarking of salaries, qualifications in regards of qualifications or pool of local candidates
- **Hong Kong:** Minimum salary is required and depending on the sector and job position
- **Singapore:** Starting Sept. 1st 2023, the minimum salary will be SGD 5,000

## Permanent Residency



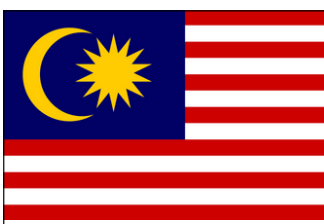
Hong Kong

Individuals will need to obtain the right of "adobe" if they wish to become a permanent resident of Hong Kong. To apply for adobe an individual must have ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of at least 7 years and taken Hong Kong as their place of permanent residence.



Singapore

Individuals who have an employment pass for a period of more than 6 months or are considered to be a foreign investor are eligible for permanent residency. Subject to renewal after max. 5 years.



Malaysia

Individuals will need to reside in Malaysia for a continuous period of at least 5 years and have a good-standing Malaysian as their sponsor. Individuals will also either need to be considered a foreign investor, expert or professional to be eligible for permanent residency. Alternatively, there is also a unique points-based system that individuals can use to obtain permanent residency.





**Vietnam**

Individuals who are considered scientist or experts by the relevant authorities from the Vietnam government are eligible for permanent residency. Foreigners must demonstrate their long-term residency in Vietnam and stable income as well as working for the development of Vietnam.



**Indonesia**

Individuals will need to obtain the Permanent Stay Permit ("ITAP") to permanently reside in Indonesia. ITAP needs to be renewed every 5 years. ITAP can be obtained through a transfer of status from a Limited Stay Permit ("ITAS") if the individual has resided in Indonesia for a period longer than three consecutive years.



**Thailand**

Individuals will need to have a non-immigrant visa for a period of at least 3 years. Individuals will also either need to be considered a foreign investor, expert, or professional to be eligible for permanent residency.



**Philippines**

Individuals will need an Immigrant Quota Visa for permanent residency in Philippines. Immigrant Quota Visa are given to up to only **fifty citizens per country** annually for selected countries. Other Permanent Residency visa requires marriage to a Filipino citizen.

# ASSOCIATED COSTS AND EXPENSES

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- A. COST OF LIVING
- B. AVERAGE WAGE
- C. OFFICE RENTAL PRICES

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## Cost of Living

Starting a business in a foreign country would also often necessitate moving and residing in the country as well. As such, understanding the relative cost of living is crucial for aspiring entrepreneurs when calculating the effective profitability of starting a business.

The Cost Index is the adjusted average cost of living inside the USA (based on 2021 and 2022) to an index of 100. All identified countries are related to this index. Therefore with an index of 75, the usual expenses in Singapore is 25% lesser than in the United States.

Country	Cost of Living	
	Cost Index	Global Rank <i>(Higher is Better)</i>
Hong Kong	78	30
Singapore	75	32
Malaysia	39	70
Vietnam	34	84
Indonesia	35	81
Thailand	38	73
Philippines	41	47

## Average Wage

While labour costs vary widely based on skill-level and experience, average income gives a general sensing of the relative labour costs across countries.

## Office Rental Prices in Capital cities

Office rent can be a significantly large expense for a new startup and should be taken into consideration.

Country	Average Wage		Office Rental Prices in Capital Cities (USD/sq ft/year)
	USD	Global Rank (Higher is better)	
Hong Kong	\$ 4,538	15	\$ 174.3
Singapore	\$ 5,334	9	\$ 109.8
Malaysia	\$ 893	43	\$ 18.8
Vietnam	\$ 299	56	\$ 70.7
Indonesia	\$ 348	52	\$ 27.8
Thailand	\$ 591	48	\$ 47.4
Philippines	\$ 296	57	\$ 32.6

*Data for capital cities, respectively: Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City\*, Jakarta, Bangkok, Manila*

\*The rental prices for Ho Chi Minh City was chosen over Hanoi due to its robust ecosystem for tech Startups

# ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

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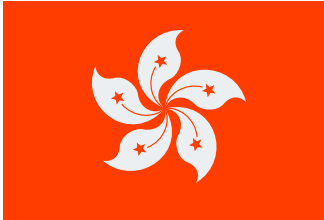
- A. POLITICAL OVERVIEW
- B. CRIME RATE
- C. CORRUPTION PERCEPTION
- D. INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY RIGHT
- E. NATURAL DISASTER RISK

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## Political Overview



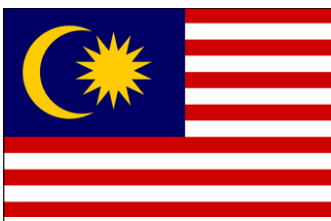
Hong Kong

Hong Kong represents an international gateway to mainland China and benefit from a sound banking system and proven monetary policy framework. Although, it is also subject to a long-term competition with Chinese cities and to the political developments of US - China tensions.



Singapore

Singapore has a strong business environment and stable political system which comes with effective policy making, while being at the heart of South-East Asia. Still, the city state is very dependent on exports and increased old age dependency ratio.



Malaysia

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy with low inflation and a resilient banking sector but is dependent to exports towards China, Singapore and the US, that increase cyclical risks.



**Vietnam**

Vietnam is one-party Communist state that is a competitive manufacturing hub due to low wages and an open economy. However, the country lacks transparency and has underdeveloped infrastructures.



**Indonesia**

Indonesia is an emerging economy with abundant natural resources and favourable demographics. Although, it has a weak legal system, informal economy and infrastructure gap with comparable countries in the region.



**Thailand**

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy and diversified economy and regional trade hub. In the past 2 decades it has suffered chronic political instability and it relies heavily on tourism.



**Philippines**

The Philippines is a republic that is highly integrated in the global value chain with low external debt, a strong banking system and foreign exchange reserves. But its high-risk security environment makes for a risky business destination.

## Crime Rate

Crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of all reported crimes (through surveys) by the total population and multiplying by 1000.

## Corruption Perception

Corruption is measured using the Corruption Perception Index (CPI). CPI uses expert assessments and opinion surveys to rank countries based upon their perceived level of corruption. CPI has a scale from 0 to 100, with lower scores indicating higher perceived corruption in that country. Countries with higher global ranking are less corrupt.



### Risks from Crime and Corruption per Country

Country	Crime Rates		Corruption Perception Index	
	Crime Rate	Global Rank (Higher is Better)	Score	Global Rank (Lower is Better)
Hong Kong	22	130	76	12
Singapore	28	113	83	5
Malaysia	57.3	29	47	61
Vietnam	46.2	63	42	77
Indonesia	45.9	65	34	110
Thailand	39.4	89	36	101
Philippines	42.8	83	33	116

## International Property Right

The International Property Rights can be measured using the International Property Rights Index (IPRI) which assess countries on three broad components: Legal and Political Environment, Physical Property Rights, and Intellectual Property Rights. The IPRI scale ranges from 0 to 10, where 10 is the highest value for a country's property rights system and 0 is the lowest value.

Country	International Property Rights	
	Index	Global Rank <i>(Lower is better)</i>
Hong Kong	7.4	16
Singapore	8.0	2
Malaysia	6.3	29
Vietnam	4.5	82
Indonesia	4.8	67
Thailand	4.7	69
Philippines	4.5	83

## Natural Disaster Risk

The natural disaster risk can be measured using the World Risk Index (WRI). WRI measures countries on two broad components: Exposure and Vulnerability. Exposure is the extent to which populations in hazard-prone areas are exposed to and burdened by the impacts of natural disasters. Vulnerability is made up of three components: susceptibility, lack of coping capacities and lack of adaptive capabilities. The WRI scale ranges from 0 to 100 where higher values indicated higher natural hazard risks in countries.

Country	World Natural Risk	
	Index	Global Rank <i>(Higher is better)</i>
Hong Kong	28.7*	8*
Singapore	0.81	187
Malaysia	14.4	35
Vietnam	25.8	12
Indonesia	41.4	3
Thailand	20.9	23
Philippines	46.8	1

\*Hong Kong data is not available, China has been selected instead.

# CONCLUSION, CONTACT & SOURCES

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- A. CONCLUSION
- B. CONTACT
- C. SOURCES

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## CONCLUSION

There are many factors aspiring entrepreneurs have to consider before choosing a jurisdiction to incorporate their tech startup in South East Asia. This report covers the main legal processes, cost and risk involved in setting up a business in the selected countries. Taking these factors into careful consideration are crucial for making an informed decision on the ideal jurisdiction for a tech startup.

The two most relevant legal processes for foreign entrepreneurs are incorporation and immigration. This report covers all the key requirements for both processes in the selected countries. Failure to abide by these requirements would greatly hinder individuals from setting up their business. As such, aspiring entrepreneurs should ensure that they meet all relevant requirements for incorporation and immigration in the jurisdiction they wish to do business in.

This reports also compares the major associated costs and risks across the selected countries. These include major business expenses like tax, rent and labour cost that directly impact the profitability of a business. Environmental risks such as crime and natural disasters are also important factors to consider when determining the risk involved with starting a tech startup.





## WHO WE ARE

MyBusiness in Asia (MBiA) is a digital multi-disciplinary advisory firm providing accounting, tax, structuring and corporate secretarial services to entrepreneurs, startups & scale ups, for the structuring and administration of their affairs.

MBiA services are fully integrated and digitalized to provide high-quality and swift response to our clients' needs.

MBiA is part of RBA Group, an award winning group with offices in Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

## WHAT WE DO

MBiA offers a fully integrated suite of digital solutions designed to help handling Incorporation, Coporate Secretarial, Tax, HR, Immigration, Finance and Accounting matters for startups and scaleups. Our services are rendered by an experienced team of professionals specialized in South East Asia markets.

We take away the burden and complexities of regulatory, financial and tax compliance obligations allowing clients to focus entirely on scaling up their business.

All features needed to incorporate and manage entities Singapore & Hong Kong are conducted 100% digitally, powered by our Secretarial software and complemented by recognized know-how from our talented professionals. Our experts include Lawyers, Tax Advisors and Certified Accountants.



## CONTACT

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[www.mybusiness-asia.com](http://www.mybusiness-asia.com)



[hello@mybusiness-asia.com](mailto:hello@mybusiness-asia.com)



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**Maxime JOHANET**

Business Development Manager

[@MJohanet](#)



[Maxime@mybusiness-asia.com](mailto:Maxime@mybusiness-asia.com)



## OUR OFFICES



**SINGAPORE**

96 Robinson Road  
#11-04 SIF Building  
Singapore 068899  
Singapore



**HONGKONG**

Unit 1904 - 5,135  
Bonham Strand  
Trade Center,  
135 Bonham Strand  
Sheung Wan, Hongkong



**THAILAND**

UBC2 Building, 20th  
Floor, 591 Sukhumvit  
Road, Wattana  
Bangkok 10110,  
Thailand



**VIETNAM**

TMS Building, 8th  
Floor, Hai Ba Trung,  
DaKao, District 1, Ho  
Chi Minh City, Vietnam

## SOURCES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This document gathers country intelligence by **MBiA**, the **RBA Group** and is supported by additional sources\*.

\*DLA Piper, ASEAN Briefing (Dezan Shira & Associates), Acclime, Luther, HG.org, Arceo & Tandoc, PwC, Duran & Duran-Schulze Law, WorldData.info, Knight Frank, World Risk Report, Transparency International, Property Rights Alliance, Numbeo, Allianz Trade



# SETTING UP YOUR TECH STARTUP IN ASIA

**Prepared by:**  
MYBUSINESS IN ASIA

 [www.mybusiness-asia.com](http://www.mybusiness-asia.com)

 [hello@mybusiness-asia.com](mailto:hello@mybusiness-asia.com)