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27 July 2019 - True Digital Park, Bangkok: Five days. Nine locations. 200 speakers. 500 startups. Startup Thailand 2019: Startup Nation was declared a major success by Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Dr. Suwit Maesincee.

Dr. Suwit began his remarks by celebrating Thailand's rise in the just released Global Innovation Index, with Thailand ranking number 43 in the world and 4 in Asia. Coupled with the kingdom's Ease of Doing Business world ranking of 27, Thailand is truly the startup hub of Southeast Asia. Nowhere is this more apparent than the capital, showcased by the event's Bangkok Innovation Corridor. Nine sites were chosen around the city to illustrate Bangkok's high-tech status, from the sprawling True Digital Park to the Siam Innovation District, all accessible by BTS or MRT. Highlights of the event included the memorandum of understanding signed by 13 ASEAN plus nations. The Southeast Asia Startup Assembly pledged to pool knowledge, resources and political backing to develop the region's startup ecosystem. Four bilateral MOUs were also signed with Cambodia, Poland, Portugal and The Netherlands.

One of the event's most popular speakers was Taizo Son, Japanese serial entrepreneur and startup investor. Son pledged to invest some of his reportedly billion dollar fortune in Thai startups, as well as build the nation's next generation of thinkers with his Vivita creative accelerator for kids. Startup Thailand saw 60,000 visitors in its fourth year, with 200 speakers from 20 countries taking 15 stages. The participation of universities and students from around the country is expected to result in 1,000 new startups. Venture capital funds available at the event were estimated at THB 15 billion.

Startup Thailand's impact was felt in over 40 countries. Check out all the highlights on the Startup Thailand Facebook and YouTube pages.

Startup Thailand 2019: Startup Nation takes place 23 - 27 July 2019 across the Bangkok Innovation Corridor's nine locations. For more

information, visit startupthailand.org/st2019 or the StartupThailand Facebook page.

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