# Southeast Asia's tech sector eyeing growth and innovation in 2025



As 2024 draws to a close, key figures in Southeast Asia's technology sector have shared reflections on their successes, challenges, and strategic aspirations for the upcoming year. The insights gathered reveal a robust outlook for the region, particularly in industries such as fintech and healthtech, where innovation and automation are driving significant change.

Bikesh Lakhmichand, Founding Partner and CEO of 1337 Ventures, a venture capital firm based in Malaysia, discussed the firm’s fruitful year and future plans during an interview with TechNode Global. Lakhmichand noted that 2024 has been a landmark year for 1337 Ventures, which launched its new 1337 Capital 1 Fund, resulting in investments in seven promising startups across Southeast Asia. This move highlights the firm’s commitment to nurturing the region’s dynamic startup ecosystem, a strategy centred around rapidly evolving sectors like fintech and healthtech.

A highlight for 1337 Ventures this year was its accolade as Best Venture Capital at the ASEAN Ricebowl Awards. Lakhmichand described this recognition as a significant affirmation of the firm's commitment to empowering founders and promoting innovation within the tech sphere. He elaborated on the firm’s initiatives throughout the year, which included impactful accelerator programs such as the Alliance Bank BizSmart Challenge and the Digital Tourism Innovation Lab in collaboration with MDEC. These programs have underscored the firm's mission to catalyse entrepreneurial growth and foster transformative start-up ventures.

Looking ahead to 2025, Lakhmichand articulated ambitious aspirations that centre on innovation and growth, particularly in transformative industries such as fintech, personalised healthtech, and the wider application of AI and automation. His foresight also includes a strong focus on sustainability, anticipating a surge in ESG-driven startups in the green technology and clean energy sectors. He noted that Southeast Asia’s rapidly digitalising landscape positions it for notable growth, with investments expected to flourish in niche sectors like HealthTech, TourismTech, and AgriTech through targeted accelerator initiatives.

For the forthcoming year, 1337 Ventures is set to launch several innovative programmes designed to empower the startup ecosystem. Among the key initiatives is the GX Bank Texnovasi Accelerator, which aims to stimulate fintech innovation and will commence in January 2025. Additionally, the firm plans to introduce the Alpha Startups Inno4Her, focusing on FemTech to support female-centric health and technology solutions, and the Leet Launchpad, which will serve as a platform for Malaysian startups to present their ideas to potential investors and corporate partners.

Lakhmichand expressed optimism about the tech ecosystem in Malaysia for 2025, citing a trend of increasing collaboration among startups, corporates, and accelerators. This collaborative environment is expected to enhance innovation and growth, positioning Malaysia as a competitive player on the global tech stage. The bolster of investment and support for emerging technologies provides a conducive environment for disruptive startups, signalling a pivotal moment for Malaysia’s technological future.

This comprehensive overview highlights the evolving landscape of Southeast Asia’s tech ecosystem, where strategic foresight and innovative implementation of AI and automation are anticipated to play central roles in upcoming developments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://technode.global/2024/08/30/tracxn-healthtech-edtech-and-blockchain-lead-the-pack-with-5-year-funding-contributions-in-southeast-asia/> - Provides details on the significant funding in HealthTech, EdTech, and blockchain sectors in Southeast Asia, highlighting the growth and investment trends.
* <https://techcollectivesea.com/2024/11/20/whats-next-for-southeast-asia-top-5-tech-trends-for-2025/> - Outlines the top tech trends for 2025 in Southeast Asia, including the growth of e-commerce, digital payments, and the role of AI and automation.
* <https://fintechnews.sg/103539/fintech/digital-financial-services-southeast-asia/> - Reports on the growth of digital financial services in Southeast Asia, focusing on fintech, digital payments, and wealthtech, and their projected revenues.
* <https://www.sourceofasia.com/southeast-asia-key-takeaways-from-2024-and-whats-next-for-2025/> - Mentions the importance of sustainability and ESG-driven startups in the green technology and clean energy sectors, aligning with Lakhmichand's foresight.
* <https://technode.global/2024/08/30/tracxn-healthtech-edtech-and-blockchain-lead-the-pack-with-5-year-funding-contributions-in-southeast-asia/> - Supports the notion of increasing investments in niche sectors like HealthTech and TourismTech through targeted accelerator initiatives.
* <https://techcollectivesea.com/2024/11/20/whats-next-for-southeast-asia-top-5-tech-trends-for-2025/> - Highlights the collaborative environment among startups, corporates, and accelerators in Malaysia, enhancing innovation and growth.
* <https://fintechnews.sg/103539/fintech/digital-financial-services-southeast-asia/> - Details the growth of fintech innovation, including digital payments and lending, which aligns with 1337 Ventures' focus on fintech.
* <https://www.sourceofasia.com/southeast-asia-key-takeaways-from-2024-and-whats-next-for-2025/> - Discusses the role of AI and automation in driving significant change in industries such as fintech and healthtech in Southeast Asia.