

INDIA - THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING TECH HUB

India might have been known as a low-cost software developing nation, but this image is in urgent need of an update: The world's fastest-growing large economy is a place where visions of the technological future are already being turned into reality, where a rising start-up generation is leapfrogging for international market lead, and where passion and abundant talent are strong enough to overcome any barriers. Being home to an array of fast-growing million cities, India is tackling urbanization challenges with a comprehensive smart city initiative. And the global business community is responding by moving innovation development to India strengthening tech hubs such as Bangalore or Pune (read about Bosch India on page 6).

In these same cities, the Focus India delegation was able to witness large-scale innovation management at the innovation hub of Accenture (page 7), learned how technological innovations can help overcome social challenges (page 8), and understood how India can make the difference in the success of global companies. As Laszlo Posset, Managing Director of T-Systems ICT India Pvt. Ltd., stated: Companies initially came to India for low-cost labour – but they stay because of the high quality. NK



Focus India delegates visiting a Sulzer plant in Pune.
Photo: NK



The Focus India delegation experiencing innovation at Accenture.
Photo: NK

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Technological advancement in South East Asia is moving faster and progressing further than many would believe. While many commentators have in the past focused on deficits in technology, education or living standards, exploreASEAN 2018, focusing on Technopreneurship, saw numerous examples of innovative companies leveraging technology to create new businesses.



Michael Schnyder, Stefan Sarbach with exploreASEAN Project Team, PR Team and Lecturers. Photo: exploreASEAN delegate

Go-Jek, an Indonesia company, focusing on providing various services including online payment processing, all available through a mobile application, has made this point clear. The company hires freelancers, who are willing to pick up for example food deliveries or buying groceries for the customer. Go-Jek enables many people to increase their income and raise the general standard of living. An example of an entrepreneur having a great idea and using technology to its advantage.

Swiss organizations can benefit from the technological advancement in Asia as much as local companies. As Stefan Sarbach, Director Business Development & Partner of Zühlke Singapore, said: "More and more innovations come and go to the ASEAN region and if you want to be global, you need a location within South East Asia." Furthermore, he mentioned that Zühlke's added value is the Swiss quality. Summing up, combining Swiss quality with ASEAN's technological advancement results in great innovations. VA



Stefan Sarbach, Director Business Development & Partner Zühlke Singapore. Photo: JT