

Private Markets

The Malaysian private markets have shown steady growth with total committed funds of registered venture capital (VC) and private equity (PE) firms amounting to more than RM16.08 billion as at end 2022.

Given its importance to the engines of economic growth, efforts are required to build a more facilitative landscape for private market investments. With several master plans and initiatives introduced by various agencies, aligning these efforts through collaboration is key. To this end, the SC worked closely with key stakeholders including Penjana Kapital, MDEC, Cradle, Khazanah, Bursa Malaysia and supported by EY Malaysia, to carry out engagements to better understand the challenges faced by the industry, explore possible solutions to address these gaps, as well as work collectively to build a stronger start-up ecosystem in Malaysia.

Since November 2021, five engagement sessions were held to create opportunities for networking and strengthen the private market community in Malaysia, which included more than 200 participants from start-up founders, government representatives, institutional investors and VC/PE professionals.

16 November 2021

Ideation Workshop on Startups and Unicorns

The inaugural workshop organised by the SC identified broad challenges faced in the ecosystem such as listing issues, incentives and talent gaps.

1 April 2022

IPO Roundtable with Potential Unicorns

The session focused on understanding issues and gaps of listing avenues in Malaysia.

18 July 2022

Catalysing Malaysian High Growth Opportunities

The session focused on how the Malaysian investor community could be strengthened, as well as how the scale-up of homegrown unicorns and soonicorns could be accelerated.

11 August 2022

Ad-Venture Capital: Macro & Market

The session was organised by Penjana Kapital and held in the SC. Several local and Singapore-based private wealth managers and family offices were invited to discuss Malaysia as an investment destination, as well as to understand needs and considerations to encourage more inbound investment into Malaysian start-ups.

24 August 2022

Bursa IPO Briefing: From Idea to IPO

Organised by Bursa Malaysia to guide and encourage prospective pre-IPO start-ups on listing on the exchange.


Throughout the engagement process, several key gaps were highlighted, including issues on valuations relative to overseas markets, the need to deepen and increase vibrancy of the investor base in Malaysia, challenges in securing talent, as well as co-ordinating policies and support programmes across different agencies.

These sessions have provided valuable feedback to the SC and partnering organisations in identifying efforts that should be prioritised. This includes providing regulatory clarity on start-up fundraising and establishment of VC/PE fund management firms in Malaysia, capacity-building programmes to enhance talent pipeline, efforts to promote corporate venturing and increase investor vibrancy, explore possible tax and non-tax incentives, as well as promotional efforts to build a stronger start-up ecosystem in Malaysia.

In this regard, the SC has taken on board recommendations on needed reforms with the review of the VC/PE registration framework in November 2022. Amendments include the introduction of an additional investment test for investors to be eligible to invest in VC/PE funds, as well as simplifying registration requirements and process. These changes are aimed at strengthening capital formation in the VC/PE asset class, widening the investor base and enabling more investments to be channeled to the economy, particularly early-stage startups.

The SC, together with a growing list of partnering organisations, plan to continue these engagements in the near term, ensuring regular conversations with stakeholders towards strengthening the start-up ecosystem in Malaysia.

Read more on media release 'SC Revises Venture Capital and Private Equity Framework'.

 <https://www.sc.com.my/resources/media/media-release/sc-revises-venture-capital-and-private-equity-framework>

THE JOURNEY STARTED IN OCTOBER 2021 – FIVE EVENTS SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED

Ideation Workshop on Startups and Unicorns:
~30 participants from 19 organisations

NOV
2021

1



IPO Roundtable with Potential Unicorns:
~50 participants – startups, GLICs, investment banks

APR
2022

2



Catalysing High Growth Opportunities Roundtable: ~30 participants – startups, VCs, GLICs, agencies

JULY
2022

3



Ad-Venture Capital: Macro & Market:
~60 participants – local and foreign family offices and VCs

AUG
2022

4



IPO Briefing: From Idea to IPO at Bursa Malaysia
~50 participants – startups, investment banks, agencies

AUG
2022

5

