

Central Asia's Tech Rise: From Local Ecosystems to Global Markets

When we talk about Asia's innovation landscape, we often mean Singapore, Korea, or India. But there's another region rising fast - Central Asia. With 80 million people, \$550 billion GDP, and one of the fastest-growing tech sectors in the world, it's becoming an exciting frontier for investors.

Central Asia is represented at the **Singapore FinTech Festival** with a dedicated *Central Asia Pavilion*, operated by **MOST Holding** in partnership with **Astana Hub**, **IT Park Uzbekistan**, and **AIFC**. The pavilion highlights one of the world's most dynamic emerging regions.

The region's economies, particularly Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, are experiencing steady **annual GDP growth of 5–6%**, driven by digital transformation, a young population, and increasing private capital flows. The region has already produced several notable unicorns, including **Kaspi.kz**, **Uzum**, and **Higgsfield AI**.

According to Dealroom, Kazakhstan's tech ecosystem alone is valued at **USD 26 billion**, marking an **18-fold increase since 2019**, with startup success rates exceeding those of the US, Israel, and China. Uzbekistan recently launched a **USD 40 million venture fund** backed by seven state-owned banks. Across the region, venture funding has surpassed **USD 95 million**, while total foreign direct investment has reached **USD 50 billion**.

Beyond numbers, Central Asia stands out for its strategic location, connecting China, Europe, and the Middle East, and its growing role as a bridge between Eastern innovation and Western capital. The region's strengths include **rich natural resources, high internet penetration, and rapidly scaling "super-app" models** that mirror Southeast Asia's own fintech trajectory.

For the first time, **four leading innovation ecosystems of Central Asia** are joining forces on the global stage at Singapore FinTech Festival 2025. The **Central Asia Pavilion** brings together:

- **MOST Holding** — an investment holding company that brings together venture and private equity funds, a digital neobank, innovation hubs, and educational programs. We create investment products by supporting entrepreneurs and developing ecosystem projects.
- **Astana Hub** — the largest International Innovation Cluster of Central Eurasia, focused on building and developing tech ecosystem, training tech specialists, and supporting startups at every stage of their journey.
- **IT Park Uzbekistan** — the national Technopark, that serves as the driving force behind Uzbekistan's rapidly growing digital ecosystem, which now includes over 3,000 member companies, 600 active startups, and a vibrant network of incubators, accelerators, and venture funds that benefit from zero tax rates.

- **AIFC (Astana International Financial Centre)** — a unique jurisdiction within Central Asian region, integrating advanced capabilities and best practices of modern financial centres. AIFC is the first in the region that provides a complete legal regime for attracting, safeguarding, and making investments, founded on business-friendly laws of AIFC based on the principles, norms, and precedents of the law of England and Wales.

Together, they represent the collective strength of a region that is **becoming one of the most promising innovation and investment destinations in Asia.**

Visitors of the Singapore FinTech Festival 2025 are invited to visit the Central Asia Pavilion, located in Hall X, to explore investment and partnership opportunities with the region's leading innovation ecosystems - <https://sgfintechfestival2025.expofp.com/?most-holding>