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Editorial office
35 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia St., Dist. 1,
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
Tel: (84 28) 38295 936
Fax: (84 28) 38212 043
E-mail: daily@thesaigontimes.vn

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Weather

Hanoi		24/30 °C
Hue		26/33 °C
HCMC		24/26 °C

RMIT and SIHUB join hands to boost innovation ecosystem

RMIT University Vietnam and the Saigon Innovation Hub (SIHUB) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in boosting the startup and innovation ecosystem in HCMC and neighboring areas.

Through the MOU, RMIT Vietnam and SIHUB will co-host entrepreneurship and innovation-focused national and regional events and programs on a case-by-case basis, in addition to exchanging relevant information, expertise and respective available resources.

Huynh Kim Tuoc, managing director of SIHUB, said educational institutions play a crucial role in the development of startup and innovation ecosystems in HCMC.

"Universities can contribute to this development by designing a standard system of activities, including providing training, building startup and research spaces, and commercializing research outcomes," he said.

"However, it is a new concept to many local universities, and might not be fully developed in a short period of time."

Tuoc said that through its great potential, strengths, and staff and students, RMIT Vietnam can be a role model for other local universities to learn from.

"Based on the example of RMIT Vietnam, we can show local institutions how to provide entrepreneur and innovation programs in a university, how to organize entrepreneurial activities within a university, how to



PHOTO: COURTESY OF RMIT VIETNAM

Managing director of SIHUB Huynh Kim Tuoc and RMIT Vietnam President Professor Gael McDonald shake hands after signing the MOU on cooperation in boosting HCMC and region's startup and innovation ecosystem

form an activator space or activity... and especially how to commercialize research outcomes," he said.

RMIT Vietnam President Professor Gael McDonald was thrilled by the formal cooperation.

"We see many opportunities where we can support and also learn from SIHUB," McDonald said of the possibilities of the collaboration.

She also discussed an entrepreneurship roadmap for RMIT Vietnam students, as well as the university's just-launched Activator space, where they can nurture their enterprising spirit and practices.

"We have created a physical presence whereby our students can get

themselves into a group or get support for ideas that they have," she said.

"We have also developed the Graduate Certificate in Business Startups which consists of four courses that can be undertaken either through intensive learning or over weekends, as a group or individually, and each one of those courses can be cross-created back into the Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration (Executive) or Master of International Business."

Through these and other initiatives, Professor McDonald said, the university is well-placed to enhance Vietnam's entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem.