Hana Financial, China’s Cybernaut to set up USD 100 mln fund for startups

Hana Financial Investment Co., a subsidiary of Hana Financial Group Inc., said it has agreed with a unit of China’s Cybernaut Investment Group to set up a fund worth USD 100 million for global startups.

The two firms signed an agreement to launch the venture capital fund as early as June, Hana Financial Investment said on Jan. 17.

The fund will invest in startups in the fields of health care and medical businesses.

Lee Jin-kook, chief executive of Hana Financial Investment, said in a statement that the fund would also help local startups make inroads into the Chinese market.

Established in 2005, Cybernaut has about CNY 200 billion (USD 3.1 billion) of assets, according to the Chinese company’s website.

**POSCO Indonesia plant posts profit after 4 years of operation**

On Jan. 15, South Korean steelmaker POSCO said its steel plant in Indonesia turned a profit after four years of operation, with accumulated sales exceeding 10 million tons.

PT Krakatau POSCO, an integrated steel mill jointly set up by POSCO and Indonesia’s state-run steel firm Krakatau Steel, shifted to an operating profit of USD 12 million last year after posting losses in the previous three years.

POSCO, the world's fifth-biggest steelmaker by output, invested a 70 percent stake in the joint venture, with the remaining 30 percent held by the Indonesian steelmaker.

PT Krakatau POSCO produces 3 million tons of steel per year and is the first steel mill built by POSCO outside the country. It is also the first integrated steel mill in Southeast Asia.

In the January-September period, POSCO reported a net profit of KRW 2.41 trillion (USD 2.28 billion), jumping from KRW 1.03 trillion a year earlier.

**FDI pledges to S. Korea hit record high in 2017**

New foreign direct investment (FDI) pledged to South Korea hit a record high last year on the back of interest in the advanced technology and manufacturing sectors despite military tensions with North Korea, the trade ministry said on Jan.3.

South Korea received USD 22.94 billion worth of FDI commitments in 2017, rising 7.7 percent from a year earlier. The amount surpassed the USD 20 billion mark for three consecutive years.

Foreign investors promised USD 9.36 billion in the October-December period alone which is the largest quarterly number ever, mainly in the IT and petrochemical sectors.

The amount of actual investments made by foreign investors and companies jumped 20.9 percent on-year to USD 12.82 billion over the cited period, the ministry said.

Start-up companies in the mobile platform, big data and network solutions attracted money from abroad as more investors were looking for ways to step up collaboration with innovators in the era of the fourth industrial revolution.

**Did You Know?**

Lonely Planet, the largest travel guide publisher in the world, has ranked South Korea as their no. 2 country destination for 2018. Chile ranked as the top destination in the world with Portugal, Djibouti and New Zealand rounding out the top five.