

Welcome to this first issue of the Innovation Lab Asia's newsletter, providing the latest news from the Nordic innovation ecosystem, specially curated for a Japanese audience. We cover the New Nordic region – Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Estonia – and publish twice a month.

Why the Nordics? And why now?

The Nordic startup ecosystem is one of the most dynamic in the world. We have the highest number of unicorns per capita in the world outside Silicon Valley and consistently rank top on a range of global indexes, including competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

The Nordic tech strongholds include Greentech, Healthtech, Life Science, Smart Cities, DeepTech, and Robotics, which all support the basic tenets of the Japanese government vision of Society 5.0. The Nordic countries are politically stable, economically strong, highly internationalized, and provide a great starting point for anyone looking to establish a foothold on the European continent.

Not surprisingly, Japanese investors are increasingly looking for new opportunities in the Nordic region.

Why us?


We speak Japanese, and truly believe in the value of creating partnerships of mutual benefit for both Nordic and Japanese stakeholders.


We connect with community stakeholders across the Nordics and salute the opening of the new Nordic Innovation House in Tokyo. They will provide a strong platform for Nordic startups looking to engage in Japan.


We have a strong ecosystem knowledge, both in Japan and the Nordics. Recently we published the first ever Nordic innovation ecosystem report in Japanese, which was printed and disseminated across Japan during the last two weeks of February 2020.


Feel free to contact us for further information and we hope you will enjoy the newsletter. We hope to see you soon either here in the Nordics or Japan.


SHORT NEWS FROM THE NORDICS

 NO Nursing robot maker [Halodi Robotics](#) recently raised JPY 281 million and sells first units to [Toyota Research Institute](#).


 DK [FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies](#) teams with COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator to reserve manufacturing capacity and provide technical expertise to deliver future COVID-19 therapies.


 NO [No Isolation](#), providing solutions for [fighting loneliness](#), made JPY 216 million in revenue last year.

 SE [Brightacts](#) wins EU vs Virus Hack's political and social cohesion track with app against domestic abuse.

 FI [The University of Helsinki and Reaktor](#) has made their Elements of AI online course freely available to all EU member states, thus enhancing the digital skills of Europeans.

 DK [Marubeni Corporation](#) and [Nippon Suisan Kaisha](#) invested [JPY 790 million](#) in Danish Salmon A/S, a leader within recirculating Aquaculture Systems.

 DK Fintech startup [Spiir](#) has announced the completion of a JPY 538 million [capital investment round](#).

 SE [Modvion](#) erects the first wooden wind turbine tower in Gothenburg, Sweden.

NORDIC COVID-19 UPDATE

Denmark was one of the first European countries to impose a COVID-19 lock-down, and one of the first countries to re-open. Last month Denmark reopened schools, day-care centres and smaller businesses, including hairdressers, dentists, physiotherapists and driving schools which involve some level of physical proximity.

During May Denmark has reopened most parts of society, including shopping malls, bars, restaurants, cinemas, museums, amusement parks, libraries, churches etc. Borders have also been opened for business travel.

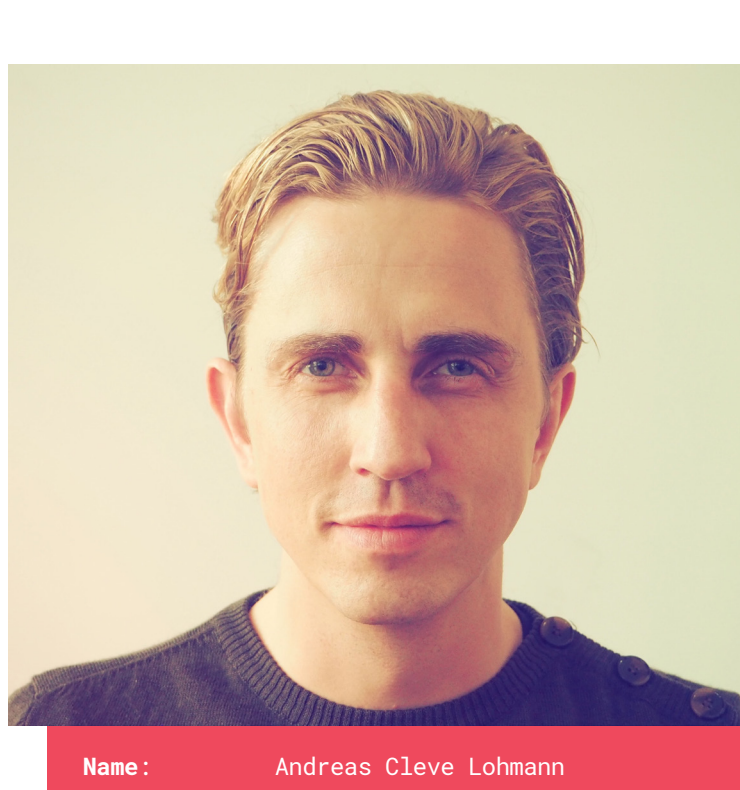
Despite the gradual re-opening of society, the number of COVID-related hospitalizations continues to decrease by the day, and the death rate per capita is less than most European countries. The population has generally been responsive to the public appeal for social distancing and good hygiene, and the results have been achieved without mass testing and contact tracing.

INTERVIEW WITH AI-STARTUP CORTI

What tech solution does your company offer? Corti is an artificial intelligence platform for patient interviews, that delivers care diagnosis and triaging of patients over video or phone. Based on the callers' voice patterns our AI is able to evaluate and diagnose the patient in real-time.

Why is the Japanese innovation ecosystem and market interesting for your company? Corti builds on the basic premise that patients increasingly will be interacting with doctors and healthcare professionals online, and that there will be a growing need for digital access to healthcare expertise. As we base our AI algorithms on patient voice patterns, we are keen to access markets, which have a large population speaking the same language. We are already active in Scandinavia, UK, US and Australia, where English is prevalent, and we see Japan as the next great potential market to enter. Also, we expect that Japan is ready to take digital strategies within telemedicine services to the next level, especially after the COVID-19 crisis.

What are the main barriers to accessing the Japanese market? Local partners. We need strong local healthcare partners to help us adapt our product to the Japanese requirements. We are especially looking for partners within the emergency management space, nursing advising lines or doctor telemedicine services. We are also looking for medical directors, who work in building medical protocols and practices.



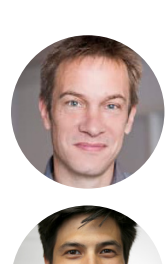
Name: Andreas Cleve Lohmann
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Company: Founded in 2016
Team size: 45
Contact: Dimitri Devillers
Head of Business Development
Mail: dd@corti.ai

NORDIC EVENTS - ONLY DIGITAL

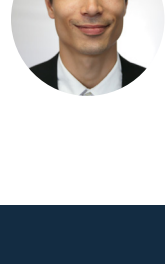
• [18.06](#) [TechBBQ](#) facilitates Startup Capital, matchmaking event to connect pre-seed, seed-stage, and series-A Nordic startups with international investors.

• [22-23.06](#) Join [StartupExtreme](#) for their new approach to online networking.

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For more information:



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