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Annex A: Background on Singapore's AI approach

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been identified as one of four emerging technologies essential to growing Singapore's Digital Economy – the other three being Cybersecurity, Immersive Media and the Internet of Things. AI Singapore was set up in May 2017 with an up to S\$150 million fund to catalyse, synergise and boost Singapore's AI capabilities. The Infocommunications Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA) believes that it is important to assist industries in reaping the benefits of AI by driving understanding and adoption of its fundamentals and possibilities across sectors.

AI as an enabler in the Digital Economy

Singapore's approach towards AI maximises the Republic's unique strengths through building a strong, trusted and collaborative regulatory environment.

IMDA, in collaboration with AI Singapore, has announced initiatives in support of its AI strategy to:

1. Drive industry adoption of AI, and promote understanding of the benefits from implementing AI;
2. Build a vibrant ecosystem of AI developers and companies, users and suppliers, and talented researchers and engineers;
3. Identify specific AI leadership areas to grow industry and R&D capabilities; and
4. Provide clarity and review relevant regulations for an AI-conducive business environment.

These include the Model AI Governance Framework¹ (Model Framework); an international and industry-led Advisory Council on the Ethical use of AI and Data; a Digital Services Laboratory to accelerate AI technologies; a National Speech Corpus which enables AI speech solutions to work with Singapore's lexicon; a Research Programme to explore ethical and legal implications of AI; and multi-pronged training courses to boost AI talent here.

¹ The Model Framework is available for download at www.pdpc.gov.sg/resources/model-ai-gov

IMDA's AI Governance and Ethics initiatives are underpinned by an approach which focuses on enhancing trust in and understanding of AI, and how to explain AI-related decisions by companies. For example, the Model Framework is the first in Asia to provide detailed² and readily implementable guidance to private sector organisations to address key ethical and governance issues when deploying AI solutions.

² Including common definitions and frames for dialogue in the implementation of AI.