

Annex B: Background on Singapore's AI and Data work

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been identified as one of four frontier technologies which is essential to growing Singapore's Digital Economy, alongside 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. 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 its unique strengths through building a strong, trusted and collaborative regulatory environment. The Model Framework complements other initiatives and programmes that Singapore had previously launched – including 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.

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.

Data protection and innovation underpinning AI

Singapore's approach towards data protection and innovation sees data as key to powering the Digital Economy and providing competitive advantage for businesses through innovation. It is important to ensure that organisations have in place adequate security measures to protect consumers' personal data that may be used to generate innovative solutions.

Singapore is reviewing its Personal Data Protection Act¹ (PDPA) to strengthen consumer trust and provide greater clarity for organisations to use data for innovation.

¹ The PDPA came into effect in Singapore in 2014 and is Singapore's approach towards the importance of personal data protection and regulation.