

EXPERT VIEWS

1. Mr Andreas Ebert

Worldwide National Technology Officer, Microsoft Corporation

With computers capable of understanding humans for the first time, the world is at an inflection point - with implications extending beyond technology into economy and national development. Already a global thought leader on AI ethics and governance, the publication of the National AI Strategy is evidence that Singapore is taking a holistic and inclusive approach on how the nation can be a fast adopter of best-in-class technology that is empowered by a focus on building national capabilities. When you underpin all of these with trust, through Singapore's Trusted Data Sharing Framework and international digital economy agreements, this geographically little island nation is excellently positioned to play a leading role in facilitating cross border data flows that will realize AI applications and services to improve people's lives and local businesses. Microsoft is committed to the success of Singapore's AI and data journey, and we look forward to contributing to the implementation of the Strategy.

2. Dr Andrew Ng

Founder and CEO, Landing AI

The world has caught on to the power of artificial intelligence, but we have still barely scratched the surface. To move the world forward, we will need millions more AI engineers. We also need to educate our leaders across government, businesses and academia so they can build AI solutions that bring positive change to their communities.

Having grown up in Singapore, I've seen firsthand its excellent educational system, which gives students a strong foundation in math and science, as well as its international connections and ability to attract ideas and talent from around the world. Singapore already has a strong foundation on top of which to build AI. The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy outlines several important, actionable steps that build on these strengths. These include:

- **Thoughtful regulations.** Singapore has an opportunity to enact thoughtful regulations that allow for innovation and experimentation while protecting citizens' safety. Sound regulations empower Singaporean AI engineers to work on cutting-edge problems that can immediately benefit their community.
- **Human-centric approach.** Singapore is simultaneously training talent to work on major technological developments and investing resources in retraining and education programs. Building social programs and technology in parallel, Singapore can prepare its citizens for changes and transitions in an AI-powered future.

- **Sectoral transformation.** Singapore's AI Strategy focuses on several use cases that can immediately benefit the nation. These use cases - spanning healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, security, education and more - will merge Singapore's engineering talent together with real companies in order to develop more impactful real-world solutions.

Silicon Valley and Beijing have been global leaders in AI research and developing AI-first startups. But Singapore's vision lies in becoming a leader in developing and deploying scalable, impactful AI solutions in key sectors by 2030. I commend Singapore for leading the way in globalizing and democratizing the next wave of artificial intelligence.

Singapore has all the pieces needed to become a regional AI hub. To everyone working on building this vision, I say: Majulah Singapura!

3. Professor Ho Teck Hua

Executive Chairman, AI Singapore

Senior Deputy President and Provost, and Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor, National University of Singapore

The Singapore government has always been deliberate in envisioning, planning, and executing its Smart Nation initiatives.

The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (NAIS) maps out a bold and concrete plan to develop and deploy digital and AI technologies across economic sectors. The NAIS identifies powerful use cases that have the potential to transform industry and improve the lives of people in Singapore. AI has the power to amplify human potential and multiply our productivity. It will create many new and exciting jobs and power the growth of our digital economy.

AI Singapore is excited to be a key implementer of the NAIS. We will champion deep research and technology translation, accelerate AI adoption by industry, and develop a strong pipeline of AI talent. We will help to build a strong and vibrant AI Ecosystem, to attract global AI talent and companies, and to make Singapore a leading hub for AI.

4. Professor Isaac Ben Israel

Chairman, Israel Space Agency

Director, Blavatnik Cyber Research Centre, Tel-Aviv University

Co-chair, Israel National Task Force for AI

The dominant technology of our century is computer technology, and its latest application is AI.

AI is impacting nearly every facet of our lives, with machine learning becoming more capable and improving efficiencies in daily life. Thus, understanding and developing AI is key for the future of our world.

Singapore has all the ingredients to be, within a decade or so, a world leader in this emerging technology.

Actually, Singapore has some relative advantages that promise an excellent start: educated people and highly developed education system, knowledge based economy and effective government.

With the right strategy, AI can transform national-level planning and significantly raise the quality of public goods like transport, education and healthcare, raise productivity, and enable the creation of valuable products and solutions for the Singapore market and beyond, and overall improving significantly the lives of Singaporeans.

Altogether, Singapore took today a huge step ahead, leading the way to a more efficient future.

5. Mr Jean Francois Gagné

Co-Founder and CEO, Element AI

The pace of change in the field of AI is dramatic and being an inspiring leader is the only way to unlock transformative value for society. Singapore is becoming a leader in AI, with its increased focus and investments across its burgeoning AI ecosystem which is supported by its sound governance and regulatory frameworks.

The National AI Strategy (NAIS) is an ideal starting point from which the public and private sectors can rally behind key national initiatives and ensure that AI initiatives improve the lives of Singaporeans. Element AI is a strong advocate of using human-centric principles that are ethical, transparent and trustworthy for the design, deployment and adoption of AI.

Element AI is strongly committed to partnering with Singapore in its mandate to develop a nation driven by innovation between government, academia and industry. Our role as a member of this ecosystem is to bring world-class research and technology to ensure the NAIS delivers sustainable growth and positive impact from AI, both at a national level and across the region.

6. Mr Jeff Zhang

Chief Technology Officer, Alibaba Group and President, Alibaba Cloud Intelligence



The launch of the National AI Strategy further affirms our decision to work closely with Singapore to build its digital economy. Singapore has consistently demonstrated its foresight and tenacity to fulfil the nation's objectives, as demonstrated in its strong talent base and world-leading research institutions. This is what first drew us to set up Alibaba Cloud's international headquarters and Alibaba Cloud's first overseas research institute in Singapore.

We have subsequently embarked on partnerships with A*STAR, the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University to expand AI ecosystems across advanced manufacturing, fintech, retail, tourism and smart city management under the Smart Nation initiative. With the launch of the National AI Strategy, Singapore is well placed to harness the transformative potential of AI and data intelligence to empower industry across sectors.

7. Dr Richard Socher

Chief Scientist, Salesforce

Singapore is a regional and global leader when it comes to AI. Singapore's National AI Strategy (NAIS) will help propel Singapore to continue to harness AI effectively and develop these skills and capabilities locally.

This is evidenced in Salesforce's Research Asia hub in Singapore, our first outside the United States to develop AI talent and the AI ecosystem. A deliberate decision, based on Singapore's AI focus and capability.

I congratulate the Government of Singapore on the NAIS, a forward-looking vision to steer Singapore to the forefront of AI.

8. Professor Tang Xiao'ou

Founder, SenseTime

Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong

The National AI Strategy (NAIS) is the turnkey to drive whole-of-nation AI innovation and adoption, and to build long-term industry trust through responsible AI governance in Singapore. It is an ambitious plan that will position Singapore as a leading AI hub in the region.

The NAIS will further empower SenseTime, an AI technology platform company, to establish our Singapore base as a living lab to test and scale innovative AI solutions for the global stage, and to facilitate international collaboration.

We are confident in further contributing to Singapore's AI ecosystem and the empowerment of Singapore's various strategic industries. The NAIS' concrete talent development plan, in particular, aligns with our commitment to harness the local talent pool to strengthen our core capabilities in Singapore and beyond.

9. V.K. Rajah, SC

Chairman, Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data

The launch of the National AI Strategy is timely. In the near future, AI is likely to pervasively affect and influence all aspects of our lives in many ways. As a society, we must be alive to its benefits and potential pitfalls. Trust is crucial to the adoption of AI, and building trust is a multi-stakeholder effort involving public, private and people sectors.

Singapore has shown thought leadership in developing a human-centric approach to AI governance that balances the need for innovation and consumer protection. Our voluntary Model AI Governance Framework was the first national framework in Asia that provides practical guidance to organisations on how to implement AI responsibly. This is just the start of a never ending journey. We need to continue to identify and address the ethical concerns that AI brings. The Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data fully supports this national effort to create an enabling environment for our businesses and citizens.

10. Dr Yan Shuicheng

Chief Technology Officer, Yitu Tech

In the past decade, Singapore's AI researchers have made fruitful contributions to fundamental AI research. Their accomplishments have been recognised by the international AI research community, with frequent awards in flagship AI competitions and many high-impact AI publications. Now, it is time for us to take a step forward and consider how to transform these AI research capabilities into actual impact and value for our society and economy. To realise such a transformation, building an AI ecosystem is very crucial, as is identifying the proper business scenarios that would benefit from AI. The 5 national AI projects and 5 ecosystem enablers proposed in the National AI Strategy (NAIS) will generate great momentum for the transformation process.

Beyond nurturing AI talents, how to attract and anchor these AI talents is an even bigger challenge. It is believed that the best way to do so is to incubate more fast-growing local startups. When more Singapore-based startups are internationally recognised, even more AI talents would be willing to join them and relocate to work in Singapore, thus gradually forming a strong and healthy talent community. The NAIS provides great opportunities for incubating fast-growing local



startups through offering help in building the different key AI ecosystem enablers, including talents, data, business scenarios, and global collaborations. I am excited by the opportunities ahead and am confident that Singapore will be a leading player in AI.