LAUNCH OF
GRAB-NUS
AI LAB

NUS AND GRAB INVEST
S$6M IN ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY
FOR SOLVING URBAN
ISSUES
The National University of Singapore (NUS) and Grab, one of the most frequently used online-to-offline (O2O) mobile platforms in Southeast Asia, recently launched the $6-million Grab-NUS Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab laboratory to develop solutions to transform urban transportation and pave the way for smarter cities in Southeast Asia.

For a start, the Grab-NUS AI Lab will focus on improving the efficiency and reliability of transportation on the Grab platform, and will expand to research on the larger challenges facing cities in the region, such as congestion and liveability of cities.

In recent years, there have been extensive studies on using AI and big data technology for intelligent traffic management. For example, in China, more than 1,200 traffic lights in 20 Chinese cities have been updated to guarantee the best traffic flow.

The lights now calculate the best timing so that cars passing through the first green light will meet another green light at the second crossroad.

In the US, taxi data have also been proven to be valuable; traffic speed and direction information have been derived from taxi data, which helped to deal with the sparsity of speed sensors which cover only a limited number of road segments in Manhattan.

And now, here in Singapore, by harnessing the resources and expertise of NUS and Grab, researchers at the new collaborative Lab are able not only to create unique AI solutions that improve convenience, safety and reliability of on-demand transport services, benefiting both drivers and passengers; researchers can also can map out traffic patterns and identify ways to directly impact mobility and liveability of cities across Southeast Asia.

In accelerating AI and data science innovations to solve transportation problems, the Grab-NUS AI Lab is also advancing Singapore's Smart Nation agenda.

The Grab-NUS AI Lab is located in the innovation 4.0 building – home to NUS' Smart Nation Research Cluster, one of the eight research clusters of the University. The co-location of the various entities within NUS’ Smart Nation Research Cluster means that the Grab-NUS AI Lab is in an optimal ecosystem for collaboration and synergy with other researchers and solution providers.