# GovTech, NUS team up to train public servants in data science

*Programme aims to improve tech abilities of 10,000 public officers over the next five years*

**SINGAPORE** — Over the next five years, 10,000 public servants will be trained in data science under a new tie-up between the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) and National University of Singapore (NUS).

The training aims to improve the officers' knowledge and understanding of data science to address challenges faced by the public sector. Both parties will also identify a data science project to collaborate on.

The tie-up is among the ways GovTech and NUS will work together under a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) they signed yesterday.

The MOI will see them collaborate in the areas of technological innovation, namely manpower and capability development, for the benefit of public sector agencies.

Ms Jacqueline Poh, GovTech's chief executive, noted that increased adoption of data science in the public sector will transform the way that the Government delivers services to the public. "We are glad to partner NUS, which will help us put this tool into the hands of 10,000 public officers over the next five years, and educate them to use it effectively. This will help us improve and quicken our efforts in building Singapore into a Smart Nation," she said.

Professor Tan Eng Chye, NUS' Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost, said the collaboration with GovTech will train Singapore's public officers "in the meaningful interpretation and use of Big Data, and enable a broad and deep exchange of ideas and talent".

"This new partnership will deepen the technological capabilities of public sector agencies, and be the springboard for co-created innovative solutions to pressing issues of national concern," he added.

Other aspects of the MOI will see GovTech and NUS engage in knowledge sharing to co-create solutions, and work together to develop solutions to challenges faced by the public sector such as in cyber security and artificial intelligence.

The two sides will also explore ways to train NUS students via various platforms, such as internships, final-year projects and hackathons.

These initiatives aim to complement the recommendations, made by the Committee on the Future Economy recently, for public officers to pick up skills and innovative thinking to help build a public service that is well-coordinated, technology-enabled and ready for the future.

The strategic partnership with NUS is the latest of many collaborations that GovTech has formed. In February, GovTech signed agreements with eight institutes of higher learning (IHLs) to develop the technology ecosystem by enhancing the capabilities of the students, IHLs and commercial entities through opportunities offered by the public sector to work on smart technologies.

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