10,000 public servants to get data science training

ABOUT 10,000 public servants will receive data science training to quicken Smart Nation efforts.

This will take place under a five-year Memorandum of Intent (MOI) signed by Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) on March 29.

Announcing the tie-up at the The Internet of Things Asia Conference 2017 keynote address, Minister-in-Charge of the Smart Nation Initiative Vivian Balakrishnan said that one of the priorities of the Government is for the public sector to use data and digital tools effectively.

Ms Jacqueline Poh, GovTech chief executive officer, said: "Increased adoption of data science in the public sector will transform the way the Government delivers services to the public."

It will also quicken efforts to turn Singapore into a Smart Nation, she added.

Under the MOI, there will be knowledge sharing and collaboration between GovTech and NUS on tech and data science projects to address challenges faced by the public sector. Areas include artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

NUS will also provide data science training to at least 10,000 public officers over the next five years to deepen their knowledge.

A GovTech-NUS Exchange Programme will be developed for personnel to be attached to each other's organisation. For instance, internships and hackathons may be developed to equip NUS students with the right skills to succeed in the workforce.