Singapore shows the way

It is one of the most impressive examples of a smarter city that IBM has seen to-date

BY TIZESA LIM

WHAT are the elements of a successful city? Isn’t a better city one that has a better infrastructure, a better economic climate, and a more efficient government? But today, there is a new paradigm emerging: a smarter city.

In Singapore, the vision is to transform the city into a model of sustainable development, one that leverages technology to improve the quality of life for its residents. This is achieved through a comprehensive approach that includes transportation, healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability.

Smart transport: In Sweden, cities are exploring smarter transport systems to address traffic congestion and pollution. Stockholm has introduced a dynamic toll system that has reduced traffic by 20 per cent, decreased wait times by 25 per cent and cut emissions by 12 per cent.

Smart healthcare: Technology alone will not solve all the problems in healthcare, but it can help in making the system more efficient. For instance, In Singapore, the Republic has achieved incredible results in healthcare by leveraging technology to predict patient outcomes, reduce medical errors, and improve patient care.

Smart education: Singapore has become a model for education, with a focus on developing 21st-century skills and preparing students for the workforce of the future. The government has invested heavily in education technology, with initiatives such as the "Bring Your Own Device" program, which allows students to bring their own devices to school.

Smart environmental sustainability: Singapore is committed to being a sustainable city, with initiatives such as the Green Building Index, which requires all new buildings to meet certain environmental standards.

Conclusion: Singapore’s approach to becoming a smarter city is a testament to the power of technology. By leveraging its strengths in education, innovation, and technology, Singapore is setting a global example for what a smarter city can look like.


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Six worldwide locations to hold IBM’s Global Innovation Acceleration (GIA), specifically on oceans and water management. We brought together private and public sector, academic and commercial participants from 32 countries last October, to brainstorm on removing the world’s water systems. Another G20 will be held in Singapore this July, focusing on Smarter Cities – building intelligence into systems and processes that enable people to work, recreate and govern sustainably.

Smart people: Today’s global economy is a giant service system, comprising billions of people, millions of businesses, and trillions of technology products. In Singapore, the services economy accounted for 75 per cent of GDP, and continues to grow. Singapore is at the nexus of these emerging nations are struggling to make its people more competitive, more efficient, safer, more productive, and more responsible to opportunity.

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