

## Data and Innovation in Singapore and India

*First presentation of findings from the study "Data and Innovation in Asia-Pacific"*

23 November 2020 16:00 hrs Singapore / 9:00 hrs Berlin  
Zoom

---

Data fuels digital change. The ability to collect and process ever-increasing amounts of data is a key to innovation and growth. This event is the first in a series surveying seven different Asian territories to deepen understandings of innovation and data policies, and contribute to debates about data governance and data protection.

We will discuss key trends and organisations in data regulation, analyse the factors and players which drive innovation, and look ahead to how discourses around data might evolve in the future. For Singapore, we will focus on digital public services, especially the Government Technology Agency (GovTech) and innovations introduced during the COVID-19 period, as well as mobility and online ride-hailing services. For India, we will focus on the two domains of finance and health.

### Agenda

15:55-16:00 hrs	Log-in
16:00-16:05 hrs	<b>Opening remarks</b> <a href="#">Dr Peter Hefe</a> Director Asia and the Pacific, European and International Cooperation (EIC), KAS
16:05 hrs	<b>E-government and transport in a "Smart Nation" – Presentation of findings from Singapore</b> <a href="#">Dr Natalie Pang</a> Senior Lecturer, Dept of Communications and New Media & Principal Investigator Centre for Trusted Internet and Community, National University of Singapore (NUS)
16:20 hrs	<b>Health, fintech and data governance – Presentation of findings from India</b> <a href="#">Dr Karthik Nachiappan</a> Research Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS)
16:35 hrs	<b>Discussion with participants</b> <a href="#">Moderation: Christian Echle</a> Director KAS Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia
17:15 pm	End of session

## About the study

Konrad Adenauer Foundation's regional programme "Political Dialogue" based in Singapore started a large-scale study on the subject of "Data and Innovation in Asia". We want to investigate the ambiguous and not-at-all-clear connection between the use of digital data and the innovative capacity of economic and social systems.

The study is carried out in collaboration with the National University of Singapore (NUS). We selected Hong Kong SAR, India, the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Japan as the countries to be examined. Examining the areas of transport, finance, administration, health, and Industry 4.0, we want to understand how added value for society and the economy can be created through modern data use. The aim is to derive suggestions to supplement the discussion on how to balance data usage and data protection in order to promote innovation in this digital age.

The following questions guided us in this study:

### 1. Narratives

How do companies, state actors, and civil society understand the handling of data – especially personal data – and the ethical assessment of such use? What are the prevailing narratives in each country?

### 2. Legal bases

What are the laws and regulations that apply to the collection, use, storage, provision, disclosure, retention, and disposal of personal and non-personal data? What is the status of the development of legislation for these matters and how do different stakeholders deal with the issues of data protection and data portability between different (private and public) systems?

### 3. Ecosystem

Data is part of a larger "innovation ecosystem". Its potential can only be realised through interaction with other innovation-promoting elements. What specific legal, technological, infrastructural, cultural, and economic aspects of a country shape the respective ecosystems and determine performance?

The first report begins with a case study on the Southeast Asian city-state of Singapore and centers on the fields of transport and public administration. The report shows how the ride-hailing service "Grab" became an integral part of the city's transportation system and how it has now expanded its services to include food delivery and financial services. The report also focuses on how the state agency known as GovTech is promoting digital innovation in public service administration under the strategic vision of a Smart Nation. The report will be available for download on [www.kas.de/singapore](http://www.kas.de/singapore)