

维文：要实现智慧国愿景 官方与私企须改变心态分享数据

领导智慧国咨询与行政办公室的维文医生表示，政府鼓励各部门及机构尽量分享更多可使用的数据，但也“仔细考虑”立法及制定政策，以建立一个数据更公开的社会。

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要实现我国的智慧国愿景，政府机构和企业就必须改变心态，分享更多数据及分析。领导智慧国咨询与行政办公室的维文医生也敦促民间组织及国人，善用公开数据，与政府及企业紧密合作，共同研发新的科技产品。

维文也是环境及水源部长，他昨早参加新加坡科技设计大学李光耀创新城市中心举办的首届城市创新思想领袖圆桌会议时，作出上述呼吁。他也表示，政府鼓励各部门及机构尽量分享更多可使用的数据，但也“仔细考虑”立法及制定政策，以建立一个数据更公开的社会。

维文说：“以前，掌握越多信息的人，就越具垄断权力，但现在的情况很不同了。我们正迅速转移到以分享为基础的经济模式，越多人共享数据并贡献新的观点，越多人合作研发新产品，大数据就越有价值。”

他说，李显龙总理因此呼吁政府机构公开数据库，以及确保数据是即时且可通过电脑软件轻易辨读的；公众可在这个基

础上，创建更多有用的应用软件等，丰富我国的科技生态。

李总理去年11月也宣布成立智慧国办公室，负责统筹及推动各部门、研究机构和民间研发智慧型器材及应用程序，全面通过科技来改善生活。

考虑立法强制政府部门开放数据

维文表示，政府的立场是鼓励各部门开放更多数据，被问及是否考虑立法强制政府部门开放数据库时，他说，当局“仔细考虑”立法及制定政策，但他认为现阶段应先尝试让政府机构自愿分享数据。

维文也指出，政府开放数据后，民间组织及国人应积极利用这些资料进行分析及研发。

要做到这点，国人必须不断提升技能，跟上科技步伐。他表示，政府将与包括大专学府在内的学术机构合作，为本地学生提供培训。

不过，维文提醒，开放数据及打造一个数据更公开的社会固然重要，但在关键时刻，政府还是必须发挥领导作用，负起决策的责任。

他说：“在一个数据开放的社会里，



领导智慧国咨询与行政办公室的维文医生，昨早在首届城市创新思想领袖圆桌会议上发表主题演说。（蔡婉婷摄）

大家都可以参与寻找解决方案，但也不能毫无管制，大数据不能代替判断及领导能力。到最后，还是要有人做决定，带领大家到正确的方向，并承担一切后果。”

须探讨大数据对个人隐私及国家安全威胁

维文举例说，在全速推进智慧国愿景的同时，当局也必须仔细探讨大数据对国

人的隐私及国家安全所构成的威胁，“一些最聪明的人，有时也可能是罪犯”。

他表示，我国政府负起了这个责任，成立隶属总理公署的智慧国办公室，以便推进“全政府”（whole-of-government）策略，促进各部门之间的协调及合作。

维文强调，新加坡是个人口稠密的小岛国，政府能轻易地在全岛铺设基础设施并实行政策，这是我国独有的优势，有助

实现智慧国的愿景。

维文昨天在首届城市创新思想领袖圆桌会议上发表主题演说。为期两天的圆桌会议，主题是“数据、社会行为、政策”，邀请国内外专家学者、政府机构决策人及商界代表等，一同探讨智慧城市可能面临的挑战及契机、如何将科技与社会科学结合，以及如何制定有利的政策，推动智慧国的发展。

Translation of article:

Vivian Balakrishnan: Smart Nation vision requires a change in mindset in govt and private sectors

By Lim Zi Heng

To fulfill Singapore's Smart Nation vision, there needs to be a change in the mindsets of government agencies and the private sector towards a more open sharing of data. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, who heads the Smart Nation Programme Office, also urged Singaporeans to take full advantage of the opening of data, and work with the government to co-create new products.

Dr Balakrishnan, who is also the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, made this call in his keynote speech yesterday at the inaugural Roundtable of Thought Leaders on Innovation in Cities, organised by SUTD's Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities (LKYCIC). He added that while the government encourages the public sector to share more data, it is also "carefully considering" legislation and policy, in order to further nurture a more open-source society.

"We traditionally associate information with power and monopoly, but we're now moving to an economy based on sharing. The value of data is enhanced by sharing and co-creation," he said.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Dr Balakrishnan pointed out in his speech, is already "the biggest proponent" of open, machine-readable, and timely data, upon which local developers can build useful apps. He has also announced the setting up of a Smart Nation office last November, to coordinate the efforts of government agencies, research institutes and the public in developing "smart" devices and applications.

When asked if it will consider making it mandatory for ministries and agencies to share data, Dr Balakrishnan said that the government is "carefully considering legislation and policy," but added that it is already sharing more data "as a matter of default", and that there is "still a lot more we can do even within our current frameworks."

But while the government is doing its part in opening up ever more databases, the people and private sector needs also to take full advantage and co-create with the government. To achieve this, Dr Balakrishnan suggested the teaching of new skills in academic institutions, including universities, that prepares students for the ever-changing technological landscape.

However, he also cautioned that while it is important for more data to be shared, "there's still a need for leadership."

"It's well and fine to commit to open data ... but it doesn't mean we're living in a free for all where everyone makes their own choices," Dr Balakrishnan said. "Big data cannot be a substitute for judgment and leadership. At the end of the day, certain decisions need to be made."

He gave the example of the impact of open data on citizen privacy and national security, pointing out that "some of the smartest people will also be criminals."

In that vein, the government has taken the lead in setting up the Smart Nation Programme Office, which comes under the Prime Minister's Office, in order to push through a "whole of government approach," and coordinating efforts across agencies.

Dr Balakrishnan also said that Singapore enjoys certain "unique attributes" in our push towards a Smart Nation: as a dense and compact island state, it is "easier to put a national system and architecture in place than any other place in the world."

Dr Balakrishnan was speaking at the opening of the inaugural Roundtable of Thought Leaders on Innovation in Cities. Held over two days, the theme of this Roundtable is "Data. Social Behaviour. Policy." Organisers have invited local and international academics, decision-makers from relevant agencies, and representatives from the business community, to talk about the challenges and opportunities facing smart cities, the way to marry technology with social science, and the policies necessary to bring about a Smart Nation.