

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

"To transform Singapore into a knowledge-intensive economy, we have to build up our capabilities, enhance our competencies in existing technologies, and seek out promising new areas ... and raise Singapore's profile as a vibrant centre for R&D and technological applications."

*Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong,
at the 2nd RIEC meeting, 16th March 2007.*

The National Research Foundation was set up in January 2006 within the Prime Minister's Office. It manages a S\$5 billion National Research Fund to support research, innovation and enterprise.



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (right) with NRF Chairman Dr Tony Tan (left) at the 2nd RIEC meeting.

Our Vision

Singapore as a vibrant Science & Technology hub, with research and development (R&D) contributing significantly to a knowledge-intensive, innovative and entrepreneurial economy.

Our Mission

- The National Research Foundation (NRF) sets the national direction for R&D by:
 - Developing policies, plans and strategies for research, innovation and enterprise;
 - Funding strategic initiatives;
 - Building up R&D capability and capacity; and
 - Coordinating research across different agencies in Singapore.
- NRF provides secretariat support to the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC), chaired by the Prime Minister.

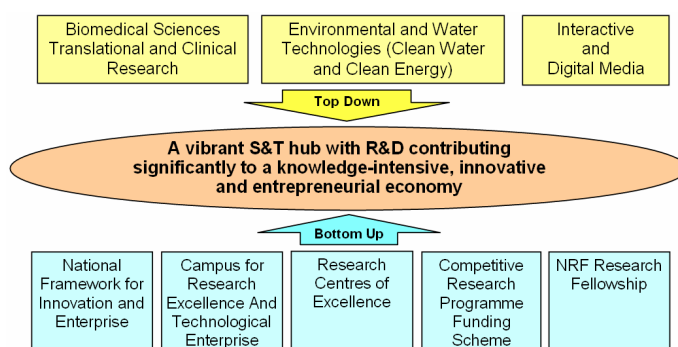
Our Strategy

The National R&D Agenda for Singapore outlines 5 strategic thrusts:

- Intensify national R&D spending to achieve 3% of GDP by 2010;
- Identify and invest in strategic areas of R&D;
- Fund a balance of basic and applied research within strategic areas;
- Provide resources and support to encourage private sector R&D; and
- Strengthen linkages between public and private sector R&D.

Promoting R&D

The NRF adopts both a "top-down" and a "bottom-up" approach in promoting R&D.



Top-down Approach

In the top-down approach, we identified three strategic areas of research to build up core R&D capabilities. These are areas in which Singapore has a unique competitive edge to seek a leadership position.

NRF will explore other emerging areas beyond these three, as well as pursue opportunities for synergy and cross-disciplinary research at the interfaces of the three research areas.

Bottom-up Approach

To complement the directed top-down approach for strategic research programmes, NRF also implements various programmes to attract and nurture research talent to create a sustainable critical mass of research activity via a broad-based bottom-up approach.

These programmes allow the best ideas to surface from the ground and provide a mechanism for Singapore to identify new strategic areas of research.



Strategic Research Programmes

Biomedical Sciences – Translational and Clinical Research

The Biomedical Sciences Translational and Clinical Research programme focuses on efforts to translate basic science into better medicines and treatments to improve patient care. The programme leverages on Singapore's basic research and drug discovery capabilities built up over the years, the strong biomedical industry cluster and our foundation in healthcare services delivery, to position Singapore as a globally competitive location for bench to bedside research.

Environmental and Water Technologies

Clean Water and Clean Energy



The **Clean Water** programme builds upon Singapore's strong foundation in water technologies and management established over several decades. With considerable expertise in water recycling and water resource management, Singapore is well-placed to offer new technological solutions for managing the water life cycle in the global market.

Riding on Singapore's clean and green image, the **Clean Energy** initiative will focus primarily on solar energy, for which Singapore, with its strong high-precision manufacturing industry, has a significant competitive advantage.

Being a compact city state, Singapore is also an ideal test-bed for new technologies in both these areas.

Interactive and Digital Media

The Interactive and Digital Media programme aims to exploit Singapore's unique multi-cultural environment and our strong information and communication infrastructure to create innovative products and services in this vast and rapidly changing sector. Research areas include animation, games and effects, education and edutainment, "on-the-move" media services and media intermediary services.

Other Initiatives and Programmes

The National Framework for Innovation and Enterprise (NFIE)

The NFIE sets out a comprehensive series of programmes and support schemes to facilitate the flow of knowledge created through R&D in the labs to the marketplace. These programmes promote academic entrepreneurship in the institutes of higher learning and strengthen their links with industry.

Campus for Research Excellence And Technological Enterprise (CREATE)

CREATE is a "campus in the gardens", which aims to bring together some of the world's top research universities to Singapore to work on major global challenges in collaboration with Singapore's universities and research institutions. Embracing the latest in sustainable development best practices, the new campus will be home to top research institutions, corporate research labs and innovative high-tech start-ups.

Research Centres of Excellence (RCEs)

Several RCEs will be set up at the campus of Singapore universities. These RCEs represent peaks of excellence in research in their respective areas of specialisation. Led by world-renowned scientists, the RCEs are expected to have a global reputation within a decade of their establishment.

Competitive Research Programme (CRP) Funding Scheme

The CRP Funding Scheme provides substantial research grants to support one large project or multiple smaller projects with a unifying theme. Open to public and private organisations, it seeks to support cutting-edge, high-impact research. Proposals are evaluated on scientific merit, potential impact to the economy and society. Inter-disciplinary research is encouraged.

NRF Research Fellowship Scheme

The NRF Research Fellowship provides an opportunity for brilliant young researchers to lead a research team to undertake independent research. The globally competitive programme grants Fellows full freedom in the choice of research topic and his host organisation. Fellows will also hold an academic appointment at their host institutions.



Inaugural NRF Research Fellowship Awardees, 31st January 2008

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