

2. Snapshot of Singapore S&T in 2002

A) Singapore R&D Budget for 2002

B) S&T Structure in Singapore in 2002

C) S&T Organizations Singapore in 2002

The rapid pace of innovation reform in Singapore started approximately fifteen years ago when four major research institutes were formed within a span of two years (1986 to 1987). Since that time, the network of Research Institutes and Centres (RICs) in the public sector has expanded considerably, today hosting approximately 2000 research scientists and engineers. As well, R&D in the private sector is progressing considerably, with the number of research scientists growing by 4 times in the past 10 years, to a total of 18,300 in the year 2000.

Gross Expenditures in Research & Development (GERD) have grown from 0.86% in 1990 to 1.89% of GDP in 2000, with the private sector accounting for approximately 62% of that amount.

Together with a new S&T infrastructure, these signs, among others, offer encouraging evidence that more companies are investing in R&D and more scientists and engineers are engaging in scientific research and technological development in Singapore.

A) Singapore's R&D Budget for 2002

In the past decade, Singapore's research and development budget has grown significantly. With the Singapore government's push to transform the island nation into a knowledge-based economy, there has been an increased emphasis placed on R&D activities across all sectors.

Data for the year 2000 show that the total number of research personnel had increased 22.4% over the previous year to a total of 25,220. This coincided with an increase in Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) from S\$2.66 billion to S\$3.01 billion from 1999 to 2000, an increase of 13.3%. Of this amount, the private sector accounted for the majority of R&D spending, coming in at S\$1.87 billion, or 62%. However, with the public sector's increased focus on R&D, the year 2000 saw the public sector register the highest increase in R&D expenditures at 39% over the 1999 levels. The ratio of GERD/GDP also grew during this period, rising from 1.87% in 1999 to 1.89% in 2000.

B) S&T Structure in Singapore in 2002

While there is no dedicated science ministry in Singapore, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is the parent ministry for S&T activity. As a general rule, the work of coordinating S&T is handled in the public sphere by A*STAR, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and in the private sphere by the EDB, Singapore's Economic Development Board. Both organisations are funded in these pursuits by MTI.

A*STAR's mission is to foster world-class scientific research and talent to aid in the transformation of Singapore into a knowledge based economy and to strengthen Singapore's economic competitiveness. A*STAR is organised into four arms:

- The Biomedical Research Council (BMRC)