

BACKGROUND ...

FUTURE TRENDS ...

Because Information Technology is the thrust of the 1990s, there is a growing need for IT professionals. NTI will be offering a degree program in computer technology in 1989/1990, while the Information Communication Institute of Singapore (ICIS), a partnership between the National Computer Board (NCB) and AT&T will be operational in early 1990. It will focus on the development of telecommunication software specialists.

NTI and a Canadian telecommunication firm, Northern Telecoms are currently undertaking joint research projects in telecommunication product development. NTI laboratory facilities and academic staff will be utilized while Northern Telecoms will provide funding for the equipment required. It will also be responsible for marketing and discussing the project if it turns out to be commercially viable. The first project involves ways of linking local area networks to Northern Telecoms PABX communication system using a set of international networking standards collectively known as integrated devices digital network. Discussions have also been held with the NUS for the possibility of undertaking similar joint projects.

Demand for other IT education services related (eg : computer schools) is also expected to grow in order for the population to keep abreast with the changes in technology.

Aside from IT, other growth areas are in Engineering and in Business Administration. NTI will be offering a course in Commerce from July 1989 with specialization in Banking and Insurance.

Demand for other education services such as dance, language and music schools is also expected to grow because of the growing affluence of the population and the trend towards shorter working hours.

Plans for a third polytechnic are currently being finalized.