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PRESS RELEASE

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Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre at the NUS Institute of Systems Science collaborates with Access to Information programme Bangladesh, in partnership with Temasek Foundation International

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 25 February 2019 - Following a successful delivery of a project lifecycle based programme on Service Innovation between 2014 and 2016, Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL) at the National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS), Access to Information Programme (a2i) and Temasek Foundation International (TF Intl) are partnering again to design a programme to strengthen Public Administration by leveraging Data Analytics for decision making. This collaboration aims to support the Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021 and Bangladesh's stellar work in tracking United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The programme officially kicked off on 25 February 2019, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in presence of Mr M A Mannan, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, senior government officials, Mr William Chik Kam Weng, Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Singapore – Bangladesh, Mr Khoong Chan Meng, CEO, NUS-ISS, Mr Stanley Lee, Senior Director, TF Intl and other representatives from NUS-ISS and TF Intl.

"Digital leadership and talent are the ultimate engines propelling nations such as Singapore and Bangladesh toward unprecedented economic growth and social development. We are honoured to partner with a2i and TF Intl in this timely initiative, which we are confident will deliver highly impactful contribution to Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021.", said Mr. Khoong Chan Meng, CEO, NUS-ISS.

Deepening Collaboration with a2i

The eGL at NUS-ISS and TF Intl first collaborated with a2i in 2014 on a capability-building programme in public administration focusing on service innovation to enhance public service delivery. The programme reached out to about 100 Bangladesh leaders and officials and they shared the knowledge with another 1,100 officers.

The current programme is designed and will be delivered in Bangladesh and in Singapore by eGL, Singapore's leading centre of excellence for digital government transformation. The key feature is a carefully curated learning journey that comprises discussions, case studies, site visits and workshops that enunciate best practices and frameworks in the domain of data analytics, its management and governance.

The topics covered will include Data Storyboarding, Infographics, Data Governance, Cross Ministry Collaboration, Data Analytics Techniques, Tools and Frameworks. These concepts shall be applied to carefully crafted, well-thought-through problem statements that pertain to Bangladesh context of SDGs and other key economic and social indicators. Participants will also visit Singapore and get the opportunity to interact with practitioners in Singapore to learn and experience the impact of data analytics and application in key sectors such as education, healthcare and transportation. The programme will conclude with the delivery of impact generating data analytics outputs and an implementation roadmap.

Data as a National Asset

“Data is a precious asset and a key resource of the 21st century. We are pleased to collaborate again with a2i to contribute to the Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021. Our outcome-based design and delivery of the learning journey focuses on application of data analytics tools and techniques to priority domains, such as elimination of poverty and hunger, as well as improvements in health, education, and social welfare in the context of Bangladesh” said Mr. Ashok Kumar, Centre Director, eGL.

The programme will cover over 200 officers in the public sector from various Ministries and agencies of the Bangladesh Government, with deep dive sessions for a core team of 50, who will further share their knowledge with their fellow officers.

Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive of TF Intl said, “From the experience of many countries, we know that effective policy-making and efficient public administration are key pillars of economic and social development. Thus, it is important that communities in the region leverage on technology for better policy decisions and implementation. We hope this programme can provide a platform for public leaders and officials from Bangladesh and Singapore to share experience and knowledge in this area of data management and analytics and create new networks of cooperation and friendship between both countries.”

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 17 faculties across three campuses in Singapore, as well as 12 NUS Overseas Colleges across the world. Close to 40,000 students from 100 countries enrich our vibrant and diverse campus community.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, 29 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs focus on themes that include energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; as well as risk management and resilience of financial systems. Our latest research focus is on the use of data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

About Institute of Systems Science (ISS)

Established in 1981, the Institute of Systems Science at National University of Singapore (NUS-ISS) develops digital talent for the industry through graduate education, professional development programmes, consultancy, applied research and career services. NUS-ISS is widely recognised as a champion of the national SkillsFuture movement, enabling a digital economy that is always learning and always leading.

NUS-ISS has implemented a unique portfolio of multiple learning pathways, with a wide spectrum of programmes in critical industry disciplines, such as software development, data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, smart health, digital government and digital innovation.

To date, close to 130,000 infocomm & business professionals, 7,100 corporate customers and 5,900 post-graduate alumni members have benefitted from NUS-ISS's suite of services. Its programmes are delivered by NUS-ISS staff with an average of more than 20 years of industry experience.

For more information on ISS, visit www.iss.nus.edu.sg.

About Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL)

eGL was officially established on 1 August 2006 as a partnership between the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and NUS. The key objective was to contribute to e-Government developments in other countries by providing leadership education programmes founded on Singapore's practical implementation experience. The eGL helps leaders of government to innovate and transform through e-Government education, and consulting and research.

For more information on eGL, visit www.eql.sg

About Access to Information (a2i)

a2i, a programme under Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology (MPTIT), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, that catalyzes citizen-friendly public service innovations simplifying government and bringing it closer to people.

a2i drives the creation of a public service innovation ecosystem and delivery infrastructure working closely with the Cabinet Division and local administration.

a2i's initiatives has empowered thousands of civil servants to redesign services in a citizen-centric manner and launch 'Innovation Projects' around the country, especially at the field level. And over 400,000 civil servants and thousands of Digital Centre entrepreneurs have been trained to implement e-services centrally created by many ministries with facilitation from a2i.

Bangladesh's leadership in public service innovation is being recognized internationally. The Government of Maldives and several other southern nations have invited the a2i team to help them establish their own innovation hub based largely on a2i's knowledge, models, and methodologies. It is a great example of Bangladesh's leadership in South -South cooperation.

About Temasek Foundation International

Temasek Foundation International is a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organisation that funds and supports programmes that aim to build capabilities in communities in Asia and beyond. Designed and implemented with programme partners, these programmes build human and social capital development and contribute towards a more vibrant and connected global community, with positive networks of cooperation. The programmes also aim to enhance capabilities in the areas of health care, education, public administration, urban management and disaster-response. Temasek Foundation International is part of the Temasek Family of Foundations.

For more information, visit <https://www.temasekfoundation-international.org.sg/>.