The ONE MINUTE READ Series – Introducing Smart Cities

Week 2 - Lessons from Singapore

"The ABC of a Smart Nation"

15ᵗʰ July 2019 | Tay Kok-Chin, Chairman, Smart Cities Network

Singapore launched the Smart Nation initiative in 2014. In 2015, the CEO of the Singapore Housing and Development Board (HDB), Dr Cheong Koon Hean gave a TED Talk on how to design and build a smart city and nation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m45SshJqOP4

The video is about 16 minutes long, but it is worth listening. However, here's the ONE MINUTE READ on how Smart Cities Network (SCN) is advocating a **simple** approach to support the ecosystem of stakeholders – The "**ABC of a Smart Nation**".

1) **A is for Awareness**

   *For any movement to succeed, there must be **awareness** among the people whom we want to reach out to. Various social media platforms are now available to spread such awareness.*

   *There are two types of awareness – **External and Internal**. We need to know what's out there – the various examples of Smart Cities, and types of innovations used. We also need to know the gaps internally, ourselves, our departments and how much we don't know. SCN is now working with NUS and other training companies to include "smart technologies" into training courses.*

2) **B is about Building Capabilities**

   *Once we know how much we don't know, it's time to then build capabilities, and capacities. The Singapore government has a dedicated "**SkillsFuture**" movement. This is also why this Taskforce has been created – to held build capabilities among those who are interested.*

3) **C is for Commitment**

   Nothing works without commitment. The Singapore movement is led by the Smart Nation Digital Government Group (SNDGG) reporting directly to the Prime Minister.

   *Mayor Bernard and I are committed to make this movement in the Philippines succeed. To do so would require Commitment of all the Mayors. The first step is to have a **dedicated team** to drive this agenda.*