

Fujitsu, Singapore team up to make urban centers, ports hum

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SINGAPORE -- Fujitsu, the Japanese information technology company, on Wednesday launched a new research institute in Singapore, in collaboration with Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research, commonly known as Astar, and Singapore Management University.

The three parties will invest a combined 54 million Singapore dollars (\$43.2 million) in the Urban Computing and Engineering Center of Excellence, where the city-state hopes to learn how to improve mobility with minimal investments in roads, ports and other infrastructure.

The first area of focus is urban mobility management. Using big data and behavioral science, the institute intends to come up with a system that can see how much demand there is for space on roads and railways in real time. The idea is to better manage the flow of people in urban areas.

In the future, concert-goers and spectators at other large-scale events might be able to find the quickest route to their destination by looking at their smartphone.

A second pillar is maritime and port optimization. Arrival-planning studies will be conducted at Singapore harbors so coastal traffic might be better managed. Fujitsu and its partners will also consider how to optimize the loading and unloading of cargo as well as security screening for more efficient logistics operations. Fujitsu intends to ask companies in the marine and trading industries to collaborate with the institute in this endeavor.

Singapore is one of the world's smallest and most densely populated countries. More than 5 million people live on 700 sq. km of real estate. As it works to become the regional home of



Fujitsu is partnering with Singapore to set up a research center for urban and port management.

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more multinational corporations, a finely tuned transportation system will be crucial. For Fujitsu, technology developed at the institute will create new business opportunities in other Southeast Asian metropolises that are also growing more crowded.

The Port of Singapore is one of the busiest in the world, and revenues from its usage and cargo-processing services make up a large part of Singapore's economy. Vessel tonnage in 2013 grew more than 40% between 2008 and 2013.

As other Asian ports make large-scale investments to enhance their facilities, Singapore is trying to stay ahead of the curve by developing and adopting new technologies.