

GITEX AI Asia 2026
Singapore's Biggest AI Event

23,000 tech leaders from 110 countries
Marina Bay Sands, 9-10 April 2026

GITEX AI Asia 2026: Singapore Draws 23,000 Tech Leaders as AI Fever Grips the Region

Description

Singapore just played host to one of Asia's most important technology events of the year and if you missed it, here's everything you need to know. **GITEX AI Asia 2026** took place on 9-10 April at Marina Bay Sands, drawing over 23,000 tech decision-makers, 550+ global enterprises and startups, 250+ investors, and participants from 110 countries. It was the second edition of the event, and it broke records on virtually every metric.

Why Singapore Is Asia's AI Capital

The choice of Singapore as the host city was no accident. The Lion City has rapidly emerged as a global hub for artificial intelligence research, development, and deployment. A recent study found that **67% of Singapore businesses** are willing to take risks when investing in AI compared to just 41% of businesses globally. That risk appetite, combined with strong government support and a world-class digital infrastructure, has made Singapore the natural home for an event of this scale.

Budget 2026 reinforced this trajectory with the announcement of a **National AI Council** and **National AI Missions** across four priority sectors: advanced manufacturing, connectivity, finance, and healthcare. These aren't just aspirational goals they come with concrete funding commitments and industry partnerships designed to accelerate Singapore's AI capabilities over the next decade.

The broader numbers are equally striking. Asia's combined AI and quantum computing market is valued at approximately **US\$78 billion**, and Singapore is positioning itself at the centre of this rapidly expanding ecosystem.

What Happened at GITEX AI Asia 2026

Over two packed days, GITEX AI ASIA 2026 delivered an impressive programme of keynote sessions, enterprise case studies, startup pitches, investor matchmaking, hands-on product demonstrations, and networking events. Here are some of the standout moments.

AI-Ready Data Centres: Global data centre specialist Datalec Precision Installations unveiled its integrated AI Ready Data Centre solution. As AI workloads become more compute-intensive, the demand for specialised infrastructure – with advanced cooling, power management, and connectivity – is surging. Datalec’s solution addresses this gap, and its debut in Singapore signals the city-state’s growing importance as a data centre hub.

Workplace Safety AI: The highlight of the Supernova Challenge – GITEX’s flagship startup competition – was **Ailytics**, a Singapore-based company that was crowned Supernova Champion. Ailytics has developed a groundbreaking workplace safety platform that transforms standard CCTV cameras into intelligent monitoring tools using AI. The system can detect unsafe behaviours, near-miss incidents, and compliance violations in real time, making construction sites, warehouses, and factories significantly safer.

Ailytics walked away with **SG\$30,000** in equity-free prize money – and more importantly, significant exposure to potential investors and enterprise clients from across the region.

Quantum Computing: Several sessions focused on the intersection of AI and quantum computing, with presentations from leading researchers and companies working on quantum advantage for real-world applications. Singapore’s Centre for Quantum Technologies (CQT) was well-represented, showcasing recent advances in quantum machine learning and cryptography.

Google’s Expanded AI Investment in Singapore

In a related development that underlines Singapore’s AI credentials, **Google** recently announced expanded AI investments in the city-state as part of its “Google for Singapore 2026” initiative. The tech giant is increasing its investment in local AI research, cloud infrastructure, and digital skills training, reflecting confidence in Singapore’s potential as an AI innovation hub.

Google’s expanded presence joins a growing list of major tech companies establishing or expanding AI operations in Singapore, including Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, NVIDIA, and a host of AI-focused startups from across the region.

What This Means for Everyday Singaporeans

You might be wondering: “This is all very impressive, but what does it mean for me?” The answer is: quite a lot, actually.

Jobs: The growth of Singapore’s AI sector is creating thousands of new jobs – from AI engineers and data scientists to product managers, UX designers, and sales professionals who specialise in AI products. The Government’s SkillsFuture programme has been expanded to include more AI-related courses, making it easier for Singaporeans to reskill and tap into this growing sector.

Healthcare: AI is already being deployed in Singapore’s hospitals for tasks like medical image analysis, drug discovery, and patient triage. The National AI Mission for healthcare aims to accelerate this, potentially reducing waiting times and improving diagnostic accuracy.

Daily life: From AI-powered chatbots in customer service to smart traffic management systems and personalised recommendations on your favourite shopping apps, AI is already woven into the fabric of everyday life in Singapore. Events like GITEX help push these technologies forward, ensuring Singapore stays at the cutting edge.

Singapore's AI Powerhouses

Singapore is home to a thriving ecosystem of AI companies, ranging from funded startups to established enterprises. Some of the most notable include:

Ailytics - The GITEX Supernova Champion, specialising in workplace safety AI using CCTV infrastructure.

Grab - Southeast Asia's super-app, which uses AI extensively for ride-hailing optimisation, food delivery logistics, and financial services.

Sea Group - Parent company of Shopee, which leverages AI for personalised recommendations, fraud detection, and supply chain management.

Desay SV - Focused on AI-driven autonomous driving solutions, with a growing presence in Singapore's smart mobility ecosystem.

Looking Ahead

With the National AI Council now established and concrete AI Missions rolling out across four key sectors, Singapore's AI ambitions are not just talk. The combination of strong government backing, a vibrant startup ecosystem, world-class research institutions, and events like GITEX AI Asia is creating a powerful flywheel effect.

For tech professionals, entrepreneurs, and investors, Singapore is the place to be. And for the rest of us, the benefits of this AI revolution - in healthcare, transport, public services, and beyond - are already starting to show.

Keep an eye on this space. Singapore's AI story is only just getting started.

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