

Global Examples of Industrial Revolution 4.0

As new technologies rapidly advance, IR4.0 (Industrial Revolution 4.0) is being embraced globally, in order to keep up and continue to compete economically. One such country which has been laying foundations since the 80's is South Korea. While fibre communication systems were installed in the late 80's, the broadcast industry also flourished with over 250 television stations broadcasting in 1987.

Today, South Korea has the highest number of broadband services per capita, simultaneously moving forward as one of the leading tech countries in the world. Meanwhile the government is investing about USD \$4 billion in future technologies such as blockchain, AI, big data and the domestic economy. This announcement was followed by the Mayor of Seoul, Park Won-soon, introducing a five year plan to promote the blockchain industry in October 2018.

The South Korean government is also focused on training 10,000 computer science school teachers, ensuring the children of today are well equipped for the jobs of tomorrow, as more and more occupations are automated.

In Southeast Asia, Singapore has been named one of the 25 countries to be in the best position to benefit from IR4.0, by the World Economic Forum as of 2018. With the introduction of Smart Industry Readiness Index (SIRI), by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), technology, process, and organisation are assessed before companies can be identified as IR4 ready. It is an initiative that helps companies maximise their upgrades.

Apart from this, Singapore is also known as one of the most open and trade-friendly countries in the world.

On the other side of the world, the Swedish government has launched an initiative dubbed *Smart Industry*, in an effort to reinforce Sweden's position in embracing change and competitiveness in manufacturing and production.

Under the Smart Industry initiative, five Swedish universities are working together to establish Sweden's biggest industrial graduate school in the field of IR4.0. The effort is looking to work with enterprises to develop employees' skills and prepare their businesses for the ever evolving future and to be a part of Swedish research.

Canada on the other hand, was the first country in the world to announce a national strategy for artificial intelligence (AI) in 2017. The Canadian Federal Government invested CAN\$125 million over the next five years, for this purpose.

Named the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, it was launched to advance research and innovation in AI, while attracting and maintaining the world's top AI researchers. As a result, Canada has seen a significant number of AI-based start-ups. As of 2018, there were more than 650 AI based startups in Canada.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is driving the Industry4WRD initiative to transform the manufacturing industry in Malaysia towards Industry 4.0 adoption. To find out how you can be ready for industry 4.0, visit MITI's website at <https://www.miti.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/4832>.