Singapore’s considerable investment in research has brought many tangible benefits, with recent applications such as locally developed Covid-19 kits and new artificial intelligence programmes. The challenge now is to extract even greater value.

Terence Ho
For The Straits Times

Singapore has been a strong research and development (R&D) hub, thanks in part to investment over many years. A total of $210 billion will be poured into R&D in Singapore and the region over the next five years, according to a Ministry of Education report.

The benefits derived from R&D have also been substantial, such as job creation and new economic growth.

Singapore’s Covid-19 testing capability has been one of the most developed in the region. Singaporean innovations, from Changi Hospital’s rapid test kits to the BioNTech vaccine, have provided a model for others to follow.

But there is scope for more. The country must continue to invest in R&D and ensure that the benefits are shared across society.

The challenge now is to extract even greater value from Singapore’s considerable investment in research and development (R&D). The country should focus on areas such as biotechnology, engineering, and robotics to drive economic growth and create new jobs.

The government should also ensure that R&D investments are directed towards areas that can generate high-quality jobs and improve the quality of life for Singaporeans.

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