



Singapore Spotlight

Tom Benner

毎月第1週掲載



世界有数のIT国家として知られるシンガポール。政府は今、Smart Nation（スマート国家）構想を推進している。インターネット環境を整え、ITを活用して交通網を整備したりして、国民の生活をより便利に、安全にするのが目的だ。

8) Smart Singapore

スマート国家

■ バスでの移動にアプリを活用

Did you ever think you'd have a refrigerator that sends an order to the store when your orange juice runs low?

That's just the beginning. The Internet of Things is making for a smart future where physical objects — from your watch to your car to your home appliances — can collect and exchange data, thanks to technological connectivity.

Singapore is setting out to be the world's first Smart Nation, and from what I see, I think it will succeed.

The whole place is wired and connected. The island nation has made significant investments in digital infrastructure, by installing fiber broadband connections in every home and business, providing Singaporeans access to the fastest connectivity in the world.

The population is tech-savvy. Seemingly everyone has a smart-

phone or tablet and uses the Internet.

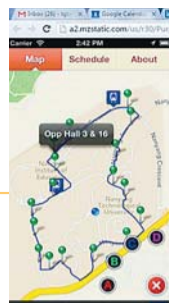
“There's an app for that,” goes the old expression. That could be Singapore's motto.

Take a ride on a bus, for example. Pull out your smartphone, and an app tells you when your bus will arrive at your stop, down to the minute. It shows a map with the real-time location of the bus as it makes its way.

The app also has color-coded seating information: Green means seats are available; yellow means you'll be standing; and red means you'll have to squeeze in. If your bus is a double decker, a digital sign tells you if seats upstairs are open, and how many — each seat has its own embedded sensor.

Apps that track public buses get rave online reviews from Singaporeans.

Bus rider Iser Lee writes, “This app lets me check which bus stop the bus is at ... I depend on this app to prevent myself from being



バスの運行状況を知らせるアプリの画面（筆者提供）



高層ビルが建ち並ぶシンガポール中心部（毎日新聞）

late to work.”

R. Theleeban calls the bus app on his smartphone “a much-needed tool for every day.”

For drivers looking to park, each space in a car park is sensed, so you can be directed to an available space. Meanwhile, driverless cars are already being tested on public roads.

To avert traffic jams, masses of data from sensors, such as tiny microchips, television cameras, mobile phones and social media, help identify traffic build-ups and offer real-time alternatives.

■ 緊急事態にもITで迅速に対応

If I need a taxi, I don't need to flag one down on the street. I just open up an app on my smartphone.

“Good afternoon, Mr. Tom,” the app says when I open it. It already knows who I am and

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where I am, and it even stores my payment info.

Taxis are monitored by GPS, so drivers can't take gullible travelers out of the way in an effort to charge them extra.

There's also an app called myResponder that saves lives. Let's say a jogger in a park suffers from cardiac arrest. Once someone calls for emergency assistance, the app alerts people within a 400-meter radius of the victim, as well as where the nearest defibrillator can be found.

In addition, public housing agencies are developing the use of emergency motion detectors to keep tabs on elderly residents and send alerts to their caregivers or relatives in the event of a fall or other mishap.

Singapore is leading the way as technology makes everyday life a little easier, and a little better.

KEYWORDS

smart (ここでは) ITを駆使した

run low (残りが) 少なくなる
Internet of Things あらゆる物がインターネットを通じてつながること

make for ～～を生み出す
home appliance 家電
connectivity つながっていること、接続サービス
wired 通信回線に接続された
fiber broadband connection 光ファイバー網のこと
tech-savvy テクノロジーに

精通した
seemingly 見たところでは
“There's... expression 「それにはこのアプリがいいよ」というよく聞くフレーズがある
down to the minute 分単位で
color-coded 色分けされた
squeeze in (ここでは) 無理やり

り乗り込む
double decker 2階建てバス
embedded sensor 埋め込まれたセンサー(後出 (be) sensedはセンサーが付いている)
rave べた褒めの
look to ～～しようとする
driverless car 自動運転車

avert 避ける
masses of ～ 多量の～
flag ～ down ～を停止させる
payment info (ここでは) 支払い情報
gullible だまされやすい
jogger ジョギング中の人
suffer from cardiac arrest

心停止を起こす
within a ～-meter radius 半径～メートル以内の
defibrillator 除細動器
motion detector 動体探知機
keep tabs on ～～を見守る
caregiver 介護者
mishap 災難、不幸な出来事

多読チャレンジ

バスの混み具合を知らせるアプリで、席が空いている状態は何色で示される？

[本文 - 536 words]

MACHIGAI!

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毎週掲載



by Tim Young

このアパートのアピールポイントは、駅までの近さです。

✗ Being close to a train station is an appeal point of this apartment.

“Appeal point” is Japanese English. You could make it understandable (and grammatically correct) by saying “appealing point.” However, the common English expression meaning 「アピールポイント」 is “selling point.”

○ Being close to a train station is a selling point of this apartment.



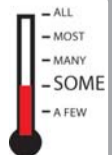
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米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガスタナ大学で英文学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをするほか、高校でのALT(外国人英語指導助手)やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter (@machigai) でもつぶやき中。



MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?



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