

DIGITAL X ADB

A NEW ERA OF DIGITAL

Envisioning a Future with Artificial Intelligence

24–26 September 2024 ADB Headquarters, Manila

Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands at the forefront of technological advancements with immense potential to transform economies and societies. Already, AI is driving significant positive changes in key sectors such as education, healthcare, and financial services. Moreover, AI offers substantial opportunities to accelerate development, enhance climate action, and transition to a knowledge economy, enabling Developing Member Countries (DMCs) to fast-track their growth and build future-ready industries and skill sets.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the necessity of digital solutions, including AI, prompting rapid adoption by public and private sector institutions. While this shift has benefited digitally advanced countries and enterprises, it has posed significant challenges for others, exposing infrastructure gaps, systemic issues, and barriers related to digital literacy, capacity for tech adoption, and affordability. Additionally, the rise of AI brings concerns around data integrity, bias, copyright issues, and misinformation.

ADB's Strategy 2030 recognizes "promoting innovative technology," including AI, as a key principle for its operations. This strategy emphasizes the importance of integrating advanced technologies, building capacity, and supporting DMCs in developing policies and improving regulatory frameworks for the digital economy, expanding internet connectivity, and investing in necessary hardware and software. Mutual learning within and beyond ADB is vital for navigating these technological advancements and ensuring effective implementation. Today, digital transformation, driven by AI, is imperative. The prosperity, inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability of Asia and the Pacific hinge on how we manage these transitions through strategic policies, investments, innovations, and partnerships.

About Digital x ADB

This year of Digital x ADB marks the fifth in a series of annual knowledge-sharing events co-organized by the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, Information Technology Department, and selected Sector Groups. The event is aimed for ADB's staff members, consultants, contractors, and partners to learn about and take part in efforts to further integrate digital into ADB's DNA.

Digital technologies are today's most powerful drivers of change. Digital x ADB aims to raise awareness and build broad consensus within ADB to continue focusing on the digital opportunities that lie ahead in a world reshaped by COVID-19. This event is designed to help ADB's people and partners learn more about the digital technologies that are being brought to the forefront of our operations, our investments, and our work.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



DAY 1

24

SEP 2024

PLENARY SESSION

Unlocking the Potential of AI for Development: Applications, Infrastructure Investment, and Ethical Governance of AI

- Harnessing AI for Good: Applications of **AI for Development**
- Fireside Chat: **The Smart Wife**
- Investments in **Infrastructure and Skills Development** for the AI-powered future
- Launch Ceremony of **ADB Responsible AI Framework**
- Navigating the **Ethical Use and Governance of AI**

DAY 2

25

SEP 2024

SECTOR-FOCUSED SESSION

Empowering Societies through AI: Education, Healthcare & Public-Private Partnerships

- **AI in Healthcare:** Innovations, Challenges, and Future Directions
- AI and the **Future of Education**
- AI for **Social Protection** and **Elderly Care**
- Driving Innovation through **Public-Private Partnerships**
- **MoU Signing Ceremony** with Netflix

DAY 3

26

SEP 2024

THEME-FOCUSED SESSION

Harnessing AI for Sustainable, Equitable Development and Institutional Innovation

- Leveraging AI to Combat **Climate Change**
- Advancing **Gender Equality** with AI
- **Corporate Use of AI:** Enhancing Efficiency and Innovation within ADB

DAY 1

24

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: PLENARY SESSION

Unlocking the Potential of AI for Development

9:30–10:00

OPENING SESSION

- **Bruno Carrasco**, Director General, CCSD, ADB – Opening Remarks
- **Antonio García Zaballos**, Director, CCDT, ADB – Why Digital x ADB
- **ByeongJo Kong**, Digital Technology Specialist, CCDT, ADB – Program Overview

10:00–10:30

SESSION 1: KEYNOTE SPEECH followed by Q&A

TBC

10:30–10:50

Coffee/Tea Break

10:50–12:10

SESSION 2: Harnessing AI for Good: Applications of AI for Development

This panel will showcase compelling examples where AI serves as a potent ally for development in the APAC region. Experts will discuss successful case studies and innovative applications that illustrate AI's transformative impact. Join us as we explore how AI-driven solutions can effectively tackle pressing challenges, offering actionable insights and strategies for sustainable development across Asia-Pacific.

Moderator: Antonio García Zaballos, Director, CCDT, ADB (TBC)

- **Adrienne Heinrich**, Head of AI Centre of Excellence, Aboitiz & AI CoE Head and Vice President of UnionBank
- **Andrew Ure**, Managing Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google
- **Pragya Misra**, Lead, Public Policy and Partnerships, OpenAI
- **Randima Fernando**, CEO, Center for Humane Technology

12:10–13:30

Lunch

13:30–14:00

SESSION 3: Fireside Chat – The Smart Wife: Why Siri, Alexa and Other Smart Home Devices Need a Feminist Robot

Join us for a fireside chat with **Jenny Kennedy**, co-author of 'The Smart Wife: Why Siri, Alexa and Other Smart Home Devices Need a Feminist Robot. This book examines the emergence of digital devices that carry out "wifework"—domestic responsibilities that have traditionally fallen to (human) wives. They show that the principal prototype for these virtual helpers—designed in male-dominated industries—is the 1950s housewife: white, middle class, heteronormative, and nurturing, with a spick-and-span home. It's time, they say, to give the Smart Wife a reboot.

Moderator: TBC, Gender Specialist, ADB

DAY 1

24

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: PLENARY SESSION

Unlocking the Potential of AI for Development

14:00–15:10

SESSION 4: Making Right Investments in Infrastructure and Skills Development for the AI-powered Future

To truly harness the transformative potential of AI-powered initiatives, countries must make significant investments in AI-focused infrastructure and prepare their populations to thrive in this new ecosystem. This panel will explore how countries can rise to these challenges, discussing strategies for developing robust AI infrastructure and equipping their workforce with the necessary skills.

Moderator: TBC

- **Vivek Vasistha**, Regional Director, GAPP APAC, Google Cloud
- **Trisha Suresh**, Head of Public Policy and Economic Graph APAC, LinkedIn
- **Peter Wu**, CEO of ASUS Cloud and TWSC Education & President of Taipei Computer Association AI Alliance (TBC)
- **Sebastian Ibañez**, Deputy Chief at the Center for AI Research, Philippines

15:10–15:30

Coffee/Tea Break

15:30-15:45

LAUNCH CEREMONY: ADB's Responsible AI Framework

- **Bruce Gosper**, Vice President for Administration and Corporate Management, ADB

15:45–17:00

SESSION 5: Navigating the Ethical Use and Governance of AI

Since the inception of artificial intelligence, concerns have been mounting regarding the ethical and societal challenges it presents. Issues such as bias in data sets can lead to skewed solutions that disadvantage certain genders or underrepresented groups. This panel will delve into the core ethical dilemmas and risks associated with AI. Expert speakers will explore actionable frameworks designed to help practitioners harness AI's transformative potential while safeguarding against its inherent risks.

Moderator: ByeongJo Kong, Digital Technology Specialist, ADB

- **Undral Ganbaatar**, Head of Social and Human Science, UNESCO
- **Ozzeir Khan**, Director of IT Department, ADB
- **Alexandra Belias**, Head of Product Policy & Partnership, Google DeepMind
- **David Leslie**, Director of Ethics and Responsible Innovation Research, The Alan Turing Institute
- **Peter Brimble**, Board Chair and Vice President, AI Asia Pacific Institute

17:00–17:15

Wrap Up & Closing Remarks

DAY 2

25

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: AI USE CASES & LESSONS LEARNED

Empowering Societies through AI: Education, Healthcare & Public-Private Partnerships

9:30–10:40

SESSION 6: AI in Healthcare: Innovations, Challenges, and Future Directions

Artificial Intelligence has great potential impact on the health industry due to AI's ability to enhance diagnostic accuracy, streamline healthcare operations, and improve patient outcomes. AI-driven technologies can provide better access to medical services in underserved areas, optimize resource allocation, and support preventive care through predictive analytics. Investing in AI for health can thus significantly boost public health infrastructure and contribute to more equitable healthcare across DMCs.

Welcome Remarks: Eduardo P. Banzon, Director, HSD, ADB

Moderator: Vasoontara Yiengprugsawan, Senior Universal Health Coverage Specialist, ADB

- Akihito Watabe, Health Specialist, HSD, ADB
- Heesung Jung, Director, International Project Division, HIRA
- Saurav Bhattarai, Component Lead, GIZ
- Divya Gupta, Chief Business Officer, Qure.ai
- Masaharu Morita, Founder/Program Director, NURA, Fujifilm Corporation

10:40–11:00

Coffee/Tea Break

11:00–12:30

SESSION 7: AI and the Future of Education

Artificial intelligence will have a strong impact on the educational industry due to its potential to bridge educational gaps, enhance learning outcomes, and promote inclusive education across diverse regions. By leveraging AI, DMCs can enhance access to quality education, tailor learning to diverse student needs, and efficiently manage educational resources. Investing in AI-driven education solutions can thus accelerate socio-economic development and reduce educational inequalities across Asia. What can we learn from government and industry practices?

Welcome Remarks: Shanti Jagannathan, Director, HSD, ADB

Moderator: Jian (Jeffrey) Xu, Senior Education Specialist, ADB

- Maria Spies, Co-CEO, HolonIQ
- Rose Sagun, Education Specialist, ADB
- Gina Gonong, Undersecretary, Department of Education, Philippines
- Thanh Hang, Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam
- TBC, India

12:30–14:00

Lunch

DAY 2

25

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: AI USE CASES & LESSONS LEARNED

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14:00–15:10

SESSION 8: AI for Social Protection and Elderly Care

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing various sectors, with significant implications for social protection and elderly care. This session brings together leading experts, policymakers, and technologists to explore how AI is enhancing the delivery of social services, particularly for the elderly. From predictive analytics to automated care solutions, this discussion will provide an in-depth examination of the current and future applications of AI in supporting vulnerable populations and improving welfare systems.

Welcome Remarks: Sofia Shakil, Director, HSD, ADB

Moderator: TBC, ADB

- **Hyun Joo Youn**, Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB
- **TBC**, SK Telecom
- **TBC**, Baidu/Tencent
- **TBC**, Philippines

15:10-15:30

Coffee/Tea Break

15:00-16:10

SESSION 9: Driving Innovation through Public-Private Partnerships

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) play a pivotal role in driving innovation by combining the strengths and resources of both the public and private sectors. These collaborations can accelerate technological advancements, foster economic growth, and address complex societal challenges. In this session, we will hear from key players in the digital and AI industries on how we can further optimize these partnerships to maximize the potential of emerging technologies, such as AI, to drive innovation in development contexts.

Moderator: Yoonee Jeong, Senior Digital Technology Specialist, ADB

- **Pragya Misra**, Lead, Public Policy and Partnerships, OpenAI
- **Netflix**
- **Microsoft**
- **Google**

16:10-17:00

MOU SIGNING CEREMONY with Netflix

9:30–10:40

SESSION 10: Leveraging AI to Combat Climate Change

This panel will consider the impact of artificial intelligence on climate change due to AI's potential to revolutionize environmental monitoring, resource management, and sustainable development strategies. AI-driven tools can analyze vast amounts of data to enhance climate modeling accuracy, optimize renewable energy deployment, and inform policy decisions for mitigating carbon emissions. Harnessing AI in climate initiatives can significantly bolster efforts to achieve climate resilience and sustainability goals in Asia and beyond.

- **Paolo Manunta**, Senior Digital Technology Specialist, CCDT, ADB
- **Yong-Sang Choi**, Professor and CEO, RainbirdGEO
- **TBC, CCSD**, ADB

10:40–11:00

Coffee/Tea Break

11:00–12:30

SESSION 11: Advancing Gender Equality with AI

Understanding AI's impact on gender can help in designing inclusive policies and programs that promote gender equity in education, employment, and social protections. Moreover, leveraging AI ethically and inclusively can empower women and marginalized groups, ensuring that technological advancements contribute positively to social development across Asia.

Moderator: Samantha Hung, Director, CCRE, ADB

- **Angela Kim**, Chief / Head of Insights & AI, Women in AI APAC
- **Jenny Kennedy**, Co-Author, *The Smart Wife*
- **Jin Ha Kim**, Gender Specialist, ADB
- **Kavindya Thennakoon**, Co-Founder and Head of Product, TILLI
- **Kris Villanueva-Libunao**, Advisor and Professor, University of the Philippines

12:30–14:00

Lunch

14:00–15:20

SESSION 12: Corporate Use of AI: Enhancing Efficiency and Innovation

The session, led by ADB's IT Department, will explore the profound impact of AI on institutional operations, decision-making processes, and service delivery. ITD will discuss how AI tools, such as Genie, AI labs, and co-pilots, can be utilized to enhance the work efficiency of ADB staff, driving innovation and improving outcomes for stakeholders.

- **Digital KM**
- **ADB Genie**
- **AI for ADB.ORG**

15:20–16:00

CLOSING SESSION

- **Stephanie KC Hung**, Director General, IT Department, ADB