

DIGITAL X ADB

A NEW ERA OF DIGITAL

Envisioning a Future with Artificial Intelligence

24-26 September 2024 Auditorium 1&2, ADB HQ, Manila

[ADB Events Calendar Link](#)

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 focused on digital transformation. The event will focus on AI as a central theme and is organized by the Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CCSD) Department in partnership with the Information Technology Department (ITD) and selected Sector Groups to showcase their AI initiatives and use cases.

Digital technologies are today's most powerful drivers of change. Digital x ADB aims to raise awareness and build broad consensus within ADB on how to effectively harness these technologies to shape resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development of DMCs. The event is designed to help ADB staff, consultants, contractors, and development partners to learn about and take part in efforts to further integrate digital into ADB's operations and initiatives.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



DAY 1

24

SEP 2024

PLENARY SESSION

Unlocking the Potential of AI for Development: Applications, Investments in Infrastructure and Skill Development, and Ethical Governance of AI

*Harnessing AI for Good: Applications of **AI for Sustainable Development***

*Fireside Chat: **The Smart Wife***

*Empowering **AI Infrastructure** and **Skills Development** for the AI-powered future*

*Navigating the **Ethical Use** and **Governance of AI***

DAY 2

25

SEP 2024

SECTOR-FOCUSED SESSION

Empowering Societies through AI: Education, Healthcare, Social Protection & Private Sector Collaboration

***AI in Healthcare:** Innovations, Challenges, and Future Directions*

*AI and the **Future of Education***

*AI for **Social Protection** and **Elder Care***

*Driving AI Innovation through **Private Sector Collaboration***

***Special Event:** Launch of ADB-Netflix “**Digital Creative Industries in Asia: A Review**” Report*

DAY 3

26

SEP 2024

THEME-FOCUSED SESSION

Harnessing AI for Sustainable, Equitable Development: Climate Change, Gender Equality, and Corporate Use of AI

***Transforming ADB's Future of Work** with AI-Driven Innovations*

*Leveraging AI to Combat **Climate Change***

*Advancing **Gender Equality** with AI*

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 Zaballós, Director, CCDT, ADB – Welcome Message
- **ByeongJo Kong**, Digital Technology Specialist, CCDT, ADB – Program Overview

10:00–10:40

SESSION 1: Keynote Speech

- **Javen Qinfeng Shi**, Professor & Director, University of Adelaide & Australian Institute for Machine Learning
- **Randima Fernando**, Co-Founder, Center for Humane Technology (Virtual)

10:40–11:00

Coffee/Tea Break

11:00–12:20

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

This panel will showcase compelling examples where AI serves as a potent ally for development in the Asia-Pacific 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: Emiliano P. Bolongaita, Principal Knowledge Specialist, CCSD, ADB

- **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**, Co-Founder, Center for Humane Technology (Virtual)

12:20–13:30

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: Jin Ha Kim, Gender Specialist, CCGE, ADB

DAY 1

24

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: PLENARY SESSION

Unlocking the Potential of AI for Development

14:00–15:10

SESSION 4: Empowering AI 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: Yoonee Jeong, Senior Digital Technology Specialist, CCDT, ADB

- **Vivek Vasistha**, Regional Director, GAPP APAC, Google Cloud
- **Trisha Suresh**, Head of Public Policy and Economic Graph APAC, LinkedIn
- **Steven Shiau**, Deputy Director General, National Center for High-performance Computing, NARLabs
- **Kelly Forbes**, President and Executive Director, AI Asia Pacific Institute
- **Atsuko Okuda**, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

15:10–15:40

Coffee/Tea Break

15:40–17:00

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.

Keynote speech: Bruce Gosper, Vice President for Administration and Corporate Management, ADB

Moderator: ByeongJo Kong, Digital Technology Specialist, CCDT, ADB

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

17:00–17:15

Wrap Up

17:15–19:00

Cocktail Reception: Staff Hub Haven (Mezzanine)

DAY 2

25

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: SECTOR-FOCUSED SESSION

Empowering Societies through AI

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 (Virtual)
- **Divya Gupta**, Chief Business Officer, Qure.ai
- **Masaharu Morita**, Founder/Program Director, NURA, Fujifilm Corporation (Virtual)

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.

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

- **Maria Spies**, Co-CEO, HolonIQ
- **Rose Sagun**, Education Specialist, ADB
- **Leila Areola**, Director, Department of Education, Philippines
- **Bui Thanh Hang**, Manager of Innovation Communication and International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Viet Nam
- **Javen Qinfeng Shi**, Professor & Director, University of Adelaide & Australian Institute for Machine Learning

12:30–14:00

Lunch

DAY 2

25

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: SECTOR-FOCUSED SESSION

Empowering Societies through AI

14:00–15:20

SESSION 8: AI for Social Protection and Elder 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: Anand Ramesh Kumar, Social Development Specialist, HSD, ADB

- Janice Chia, Founder & Managing Director, Ageing Asia (Virtual)
- Chang Hyeon Lee, Product Manager, SK Telecom
- Li Lian Ng, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Tetsuyu Healthcare (Virtual)
- Augustus Lito M. Narag, Chief of Grievance Redress Division, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines
- Hyun Joo Youn, Senior Social Development Specialist, HSD, ADB (Virtual)

15:20-15:40

Coffee/Tea Break

15:40-16:20

SESSION 9: Driving Innovation through Private Sector Collaboration

Private sector collaboration 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.

Welcome Remarks & Moderator: Tahani Iqbal, Digital Development Specialist, CCDT, ADB

- Pragya Misra, Lead, Public Policy and Partnerships, OpenAI
- Adilah Junid, Director of Legal and Government Affairs, Microsoft
- Dennis Magsajo, Head of Solutions Architecture, Amazon Web Services

16:20-17:30

Special Event: Launch of the ADB-Netflix Report: “Digital Creative Industries in Asia: A Review”

Overview of the Report : Ludovica De Santis, Disal Consulting

Moderator: Yoonee Jeong, Senior Digital Technology Specialist, ADB

- Shangari Kiruppalini, Manager, Public Policy - Southeast Asia, Netflix
- Basil Andres, Program Manager for Research Planning and Policy, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines
- Cipto Adiguno, President, Asosiasi Game Indonesia

17:30-19:00

Cocktail Reception (hosted by CCDT & Netflix)

Venue: Staff Hub Haven (Mezzanine)

DAY 3

26

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: THEME-FOCUSED SESSION

Harnessing AI for Sustainable, Equitable Development and Institutional Innovation

9:30–10:40

SESSION 10: Transforming ADB's Future of Work with AI-Driven Innovations

This engaging session by ITD and DOCK, will introduce the latest AI-driven tools reshaping the way we work at ADB. Through an interactive panel discussion, we will explore Knowledge Navigator and Co-pilot— cutting-edge tools designed to enhance efficiency, foster innovation, and improve responsiveness to clients. Discover how these AI solutions are transforming work processes, institutional operations, and outcomes for ADB community, our work for the clients and Developing Member Countries (DMCs), while aligning with ADB's mission to create a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable Asia-Pacific.

Welcome Remarks: Stephanie KC Hung, Director General, IT Department, ADB

Moderator: Susann Roth, Advisor, Department of Communication and Knowledge, ADB

- **Patrick Vermeij**, Senior IT Specialist (Program Management), ADB
- **Maribeth Cesicar-Sanvictores**, Knowledge Management Officer, ADB
- **Matt Farley**, Director, Infrastructure and Technology Division, ADB
- **Kadra Saeed**, Principal IT Specialist (Digital Products Lead), ITD, ADB
- **Agnes Molnar**, Founder and Managing Consultant, Search Explained

10:40–11:00

Coffee/Tea Break

11:00–12:20

SESSION 11: 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.

Moderator: Marc Lepage, Principal IT Specialist, IT Department, ADB

- **Paolo Manunta**, Senior Digital Technology Specialist, CCDT, ADB
- **Yong-Sang Choi**, Professor and CEO, RainbirdGEO (Virtual)
- **Belinda Hewitt**, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, CCRE, ADB
- **Yves Gonzalez**, Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google Philippines

12:20–14:00

Lunch

DAY 3

26

SEP 2024

DIGITAL X ADB: THEME-FOCUSED SESSION

Harnessing AI for Sustainable, Equitable Development and Institutional Innovation

14:00–15:20

SESSION 12: 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.

Welcome Remarks & Moderator: Samantha Hung, Director, CCGE, ADB

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

15:20–15:40

CLOSING SESSION

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