The Responsible Use and Development of AI in ASEAN
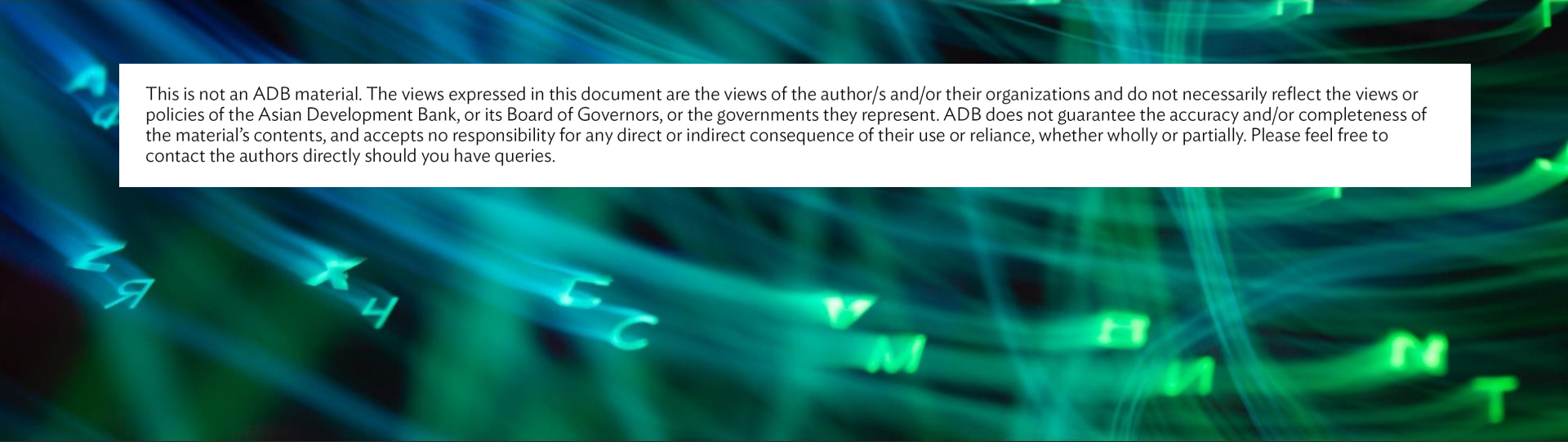
Kelly Forbes

President and Executive Director, **AI Asia Pacific Institute**

The State of AI in ASEAN

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AI Adoption

The potential and urgent need to bridge the digital and cultural divides.

Collaborative Efforts

The depth of the coordination challenges in ASEAN.

Digital Literacy

Weak awareness and understanding of AI and Gen AI.

Opportunities

Considerable opportunities along the AI life cycle.

Geopolitical Tension

The challenges of fitting into the global framework of AI digital powers.

The ASEAN region is witnessing a growing interest and adoption of AI, with emerging hubs and collaborative efforts to overcome challenges and unlock the transformative potential of this technology for economic and social development.

Building the ASEAN AI ecosystem

- **Building Institutional and Regulatory Foundations**

  A critical element of the basic ecosystem to support AI and Gen AI development and governance involves consistent and well-implemented institutional and regulatory frameworks across ASEAN.

- **Supporting Data Development And Flows**

  A need for robust data governance in the AI ecosystem and investments in data center infrastructure to support regional technological growth and address challenges in data flows across jurisdictions.

- **Enhancing Digital Literacy and Awareness**

  ASEAN's transition to an AI-equipped region relies heavily on enhancing digital literacy and AI awareness through educational reforms, workforce upskilling, and robust regional plans.

- **Strengthening Regional Cooperation**

  A need for enhanced international cooperation among ASEAN member states, aiming to facilitate secure and seamless data flows and establish a coherent data regulatory framework across regions.

- **Driving Interoperability**

  Interoperability involves the development of universal standards, fostering technical and regulatory collaborations, and implementing secure data-exchange protocols.

- **Supporting Practical Implementation through Cross-Cutting Measures**

  The importance of practical measures including regulatory sandboxes, a compendium of AI use cases and a two-step quality control process to enhance the responsible development and deployment of AI across ASEAN.

Coordinated Efforts to Harness the Benefits and Address the Risks of AI in ASEAN

Rolling out the AI-Singapore Large Language Model (LLM) called **SEA-LION**

Overall Enabling Context

ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025

ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement

ASEAN Digital Integration Index

Implementation of the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics

- AI Principles
- AI Governance Framework

Implementing the Critical Policy Recommendations to Enhance the AI Ecosystem

- AI Promotion and Ethics
- GenAI Adaptations

Janurary 2024

Endorsement of the **ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics** ASEAN ADGSOM

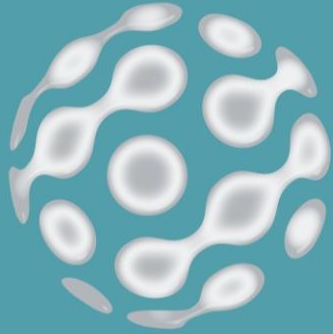Formation of the Proposed **ASEAN Working Group** on AI Governance

Adoption of the Discussion Paper on the Responsible Development and Use of Generative AI in ASEAN ASEAN COSTI

Resourcing of the Proposed **AI Technical Assistance Facility**

Preparation of the **AI Roadmap** (based on the AI Research Brief) Monitoring Tool, PROICT/DCCP

Our Mission

- The AI Asia Pacific Institute (AIAPI) is a global nonprofit organization committed to strengthening the Asia-Pacific economies by facilitating the responsible development and adoption of artificial intelligence.

- The AIAPI serves as an independent catalyst, uniting stakeholders to guide AI's responsible development through interdisciplinary research, awareness raising, international collaboration, and policy advisory activities.

Thank You

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