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ENABLING A ENVIRONMENT AND BARRIERS FOR ADB'S DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES

WHAT IS THIS SESSION ABOUT?

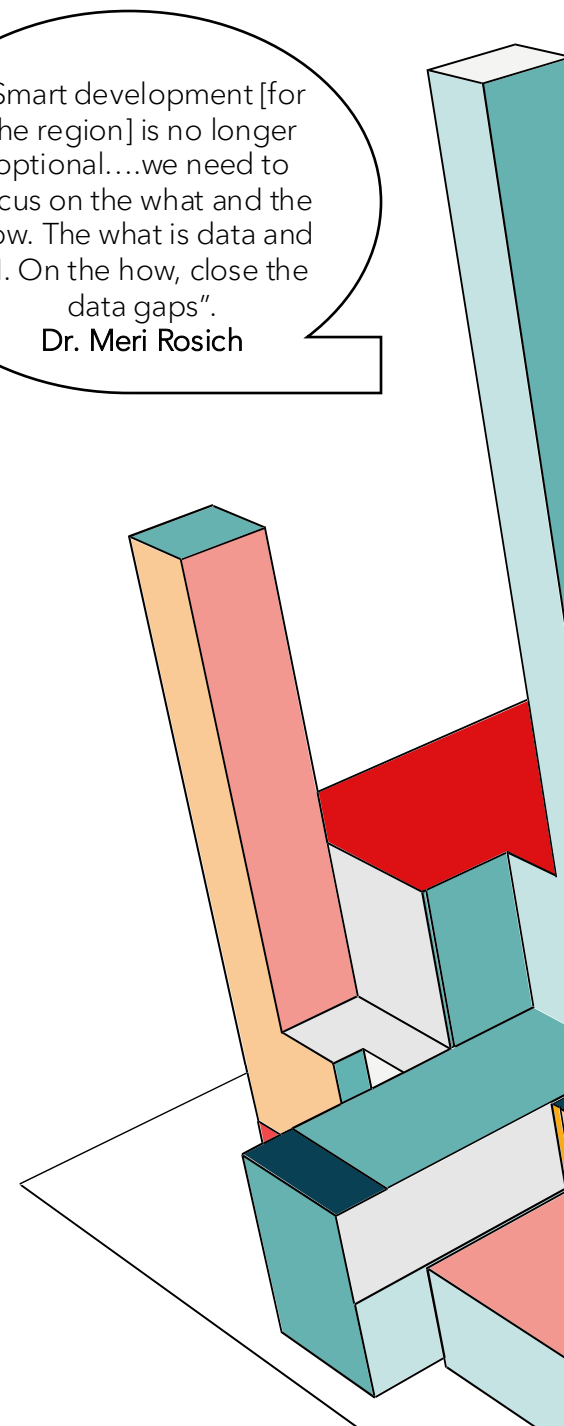
- No doubt that AI and rapid growth of AI is exciting. And possibilities and opportunities seem endless. BUT...
- Striking balance between growth vs responsible, ethical, and inclusive development and deployment.
- Main objectives of this session:
 1. Deploying AI to improve public service delivery;
 2. Main risks and challenges for developing countries; and
 3. Balancing innovation with regulatory compliance: The AI Governance Framework.

"Smart development [for the region] is no longer optional....we need to focus on the what and the how. The what is data and AI. On the how, close the data gaps".

Dr. Meri Rosich

AI adoption is about finding that sweet spot between innovation, inclusive adoption, and trust.... Digital transformation is an enabler of mass societal transformations. But it will not be realized if AI is not deployed [inclusively].

Dr. Ming Tan



MAIN SURVEY FINDINGS

Respondent Profile:

- 49 responses, mainly public sector (including state-owned enterprises) but also academia and private sector.
- Multi-regional representation: Developing countries from the Pacific, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central and West Asia.
- Majority either “slightly familiar” or “moderately familiar” with AI and potential applications.
- In terms of “superpower”, mix of generative AI and predictive AI.

What you said (“If AI were a superhero...”):

- “The *SafeSpark Guardian* would be a game-changer in electrical safety. This AI would monitor home electrical systems, detecting potential risks like overloaded outlets, faulty wiring, or appliances left on for too long.”
- “Predict crisis before they arise and automate solutions in real time, tackling the country’s biggest challenges across energy, agriculture, and governance”.
- “*The Visionary Oracle* capable of predicting natural disasters like floods and droughts through advanced data analysis. This would allow timely alerts and actionable insights, helping farmers optimize their yields, and enabling cities to adapt to environmental changes”.

MAIN SURVEY FINDINGS

1. Main Barriers:

- Lack of expertise (57%).
- Inadequate infrastructure (20%).
- Lack of funding and poor regulatory framework (23%).

3. Ensuring responsible use of AI solutions:

- Clear regulatory framework and policies (39%).
- Public-Private Partnerships (24%).
- Public awareness and ethics education (14%).

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2. Key Challenges:

- Limited awareness and understanding (25%)
- Insufficient skills and expertise (21%).
- Lack of digital infrastructure (19%).

4. Adopting AI technologies:

- Fostering enabling environment for AI solutions.
- Promoting Public-Private Partnerships.
- Deploying AI solutions responsibly.
- Balancing innovation and growth vs regulatory compliance.

THANK YOU

