Conference Program

CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AFRICA (COSAA) 2023

THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH – STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY(MAIN AUDITORIUM)

08:00 – 08:50

Arrival and Sign - In

Please sign in at the registration desk, collect your name tag and conference materials, and proceed to the main auditorium.

09:00 – 9:30

Welcome and Introductions

Opening remarks will be given by the following representatives of Strathmore University:
- *Dr. Melissa Omino, Director, CIPIT*
- *Prof. Izael Da Silva, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Research and Innovation, Strathmore University*

FORMAT OF PANELS

Each panel will be led by a moderator who will ask each panelist to comment for a maximum of 5-6 minutes on a series of questions. The roundtable discussion format will allow panelists to fully expound on the topics of interest in the 60-minute panel session. The last 10 minutes of the session will be dedicated to questions from the audience, both virtual and at the physical location.

9:30 – 10:30

Panel Session 1 - AI and Data: Privacy and surveillance concerns and mitigation measures

Data is essential in innovating AI products. It is also a product of AI utilization. Many of the privacy sensitive tools in use today - search algorithms, recommendation engines, and AdTech networks - utilize Machine Learning and decisions by AI algorithms. There is concern that AI will exacerbate privacy concerns around personal information. Along with privacy, concerns over surveillance, with increased use of AI enabled tools, are also on the rise. In this panel experts from across Africa will discuss the role data plays in AI innovation; concerns over data misuse and exploitation and possible mitigation measures, and the impact AI may have on surveillance.

Moderator:
Naima Rajab, Nubian Rights Forum

Panelists:
John Walubengo, Data Privacy and Governance Society Kenya
Mariam Jamal, Haki Na Sheria (Data Privacy and Governance Society Kenya)
Wambui Nyambura, Data Privacy and Governance Society Kenya
Diana Nyakundi, Ideate Tech Policy Africa/ Research ICT Africa

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AFRICA

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Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law

10:30 - 11:20	Tea Break

**11:30
-
12:30**

Panel Session 2 - AI and Innovation: Infrastructure, capacity, and data

Artificial Intelligence has been touted as an important tool in attaining national Sustainable Development Goals. AI applications have the capability to transform critical economic sectors and transform economies and livelihoods. However, studies show that developed countries are set to make the most gains while nations in the Global South are left behind. What then is required for Africa to emerge as an important player in the global AI ecosystem? In this panel, experts from across Africa will discuss what is needed to fuel AI innovation on the continent, i.e., infrastructure, capacity, and data issues that must be considered.

Moderator:
Arthur Gwagwa, Digital Rights and Global Security Expert, Doctoral Research, Utrecht University

Panelists:
Dr. John Olukuru, iLabAfrica
Dr. Deogratias Mzurikwao, Villgro Africa
Ernest Mwebaze, Sunbird AI
Britone Mwasaru, Mozilla

12:30 – 13:45	Lunch

**14:00
-
15:30**

Presentation session – Supporting the enabling environment for data and AI in Uganda (UN Pulse Lab, Kampala)

UN Global Pulse is the Secretary-General's Innovation Lab that supports the UN's Common Agenda for global cooperation using responsible and inclusive innovation. UNGP teams are spread worldwide, with hubs in Uganda, Indonesia, Finland and the United States. In Uganda, UNGP combines traditional data sources with new technologies to gain greater insight into how to better serve governments and the UN on the African continent.

UN Pulse Lab Kampala will give a 90-minute presentation on the ways in which the organization has leveraged AI to develop solutions that have supported its interventions and work in building an enabling environment for the use of AI and other data-driven solutions in Uganda.
The presentation will consist of 3 talks on: (i) a radio mining tool, and (ii) a pulse satellite tool developed by the organization, and (iii) how the organization is supporting the development of an enabling environment for data and AI in Uganda.

Presenters:
Morine Amutorine
Pius Mugagga
Dr. Martin Mubangizi

**15:45
–
16:45**

Session 4 - AI and Africa: Concerns, Policy Considerations, and Sustainable Strategies for AI for the African Continent Q&A from the audience

Africa offers unique opportunities and challenges in the development and utilization of AI technology. To ensure that AI benefits the continent then it must be developed with local national priorities at the forefront. Local infrastructure, capacity, and skills must be considered in AI development and adoption. AI's potential to widen existing inequalities must also be addressed and

Africa offers unique opportunities and challenges in the development and utilization of AI technology. To ensure that AI benefits the continent then it must be developed with local national priorities at the forefront. Local infrastructure, capacity, and skills must be considered in AI development and adoption. AI's potential to widen existing inequalities must also be addressed and appropriate measures against that outcome put in place. In this session, researchers from CIPIT's Artificial Intelligence for Development (AI4D) Policy Center will guide conversation around this topic and answer the audiences' burning questions on all relevant issues of AI in Africa.

Moderator:
Grace Mutungu, OSF

Panelists:
Florence Ogonjo, CIPIT
Rachel Achieng Odhiambo, CIPIT
Joshua Kitili, CIPIT
Natasha Karanja, CIPIT

16:45 - 17:00	Closing Statement

17:00 - 19:00	Networking Event

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08:00 – 08:50

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09:00 – 9:20

Welcome and Introductions

Opening remarks will be given by Kathryn Toure, PhD, IDRC Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

9:20 – 10:20

Panel session 1 - Practical AI: AI use and impact in the health, agriculture, legal, and creative fields in Africa

Artificial Intelligence technologies have the potential to solve some of Africa's most pressing problems. Policy-makers, innovative startups, global technology partners, civil society groups, and local and international global stakeholders are already mobilizing AI to tackle some of the challenges on the continent. There remains, however, challenges that hamper utilization of AI in Africa. In this panel, experts from across Africa discuss how AI can be leveraged in Africa; current applications of AI enabled technology; challenges to AI development and adoption, and possible solutions to these challenges.

Moderator:
Alfred Ongere

Panelists:
Dr. Oladipupo Sennaike, University of Lagos; Hub for Responsible AI for Education Innovation Research Network in Africa (EduAI Hub)
Mutembi Kariuki, Fastagger
Timothy Kinyanjui, ABSA Bank
Leonida Mutuku, Local Development Research Institute
Rose Delilah Gesicho, Zindi
Barbara Akello, Safaricom

10:20 - 11:00 | Tea Break

11:00 - 12.00   Research Paper Presentations

In this 60-minute session, 4 Research Scientists will give 15 - minute presentations on the exciting research they are conducting in AI. These projects will cover the development, regulation, and practical applications of AI. The following papers will be presented in the session:

1. ***Joy Wanjiku and Taria Khaoma***, *"How Can We Regulate Artificial Intelligence in Africa in the Face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution? "*
2. ***Nguvu Kamando, Edith Michael Mtweve, and Edson Stanley***,*" The Role of Data in AI Innovation and Research."*
3. ***Edgar Odongo Ochieng***, *"Towards Ethical AI: Perspectives for Kenya and Africa."*
4. ***Erick Ochieng Otieno***, *"Assessing the State of Responsible Artificial Intelligence Policies and Regulations in Africa."*

12.00 - 13.00   Panel Session 2 - Responsible AI: Policies, laws, and frameworks

AI is a double-edged sword. While it can be leveraged to improve economic outlooks and livelihoods, it can also widen existing inequalities. To prevent AI from disenfranchising groups of people, especially those from vulnerable communities, it is critical that a human - centered approach is employed in the development, adoption, and regulation of AI technologies. In this panel session, experts from across Africa will tackle questions around Responsible AI and Ethical AI contextualized to the African continent. What is Responsible AI? What is Ethical AI? Do these concepts make sense for Africa? In what ways can we modify or improve them to better reflect Africa's unique social, cultural and economic landscape? How can the principles of Responsible and Ethical AI be used to create an equitable AI ecosystem in Africa?

Moderator:
Betsy Muriithi, iLabAfrica

Panelists:
Dr Angeline Wairegi , AI Lead and Research Manager , CIPIT
Dr Scott Timcke, RIA
Karen Bett, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
Dr. Ololade Shyllon, Facebook, Head of Privacy

13:00 - 13:15   Closing Remarks

13.15 - 14:00   Lunch

The Artificial Intelligence Labour Gender Gap in Africa

The project mapped the gender composition of AI projects and companies originating in countries across Africa to capture the diversity struggles particular to AI start-ups, examine what those struggles exemplify in an African context and determine the mechanisms that can be put in place to curb them.

Read More: https://cutt.ly/a8JVFBe

Data Privacy in Africa's Ed-Tech Platforms: Children's Right to Privacy

Ed-tech is a young and somewhat 'high – risk' (in terms of data) industry, given that it primarily handles sensitive children's data and is composed primarily of small and medium-sized enterprises and a handful of large corporations. The vast majority of Africa's innovative Ed-tech businesses are in their infancy.

Read More: https://cutt.ly/v8JBhfr

The New Wave of eHealth: AI and Privacy Concerns? A Case Study of Kenya

Technological advancement in Low to Middle Income Countries (LMICs) is held to precede regulation, as the government and regulatory bodies lag behind formulating and developing standards and regulations that oversee "technological adoption , implementation usage, access, security and privacy.

Read More: https://cutt.ly/j8JBCnR

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Thank You For Participating!