

A large, intricate sculpture of a hand, composed of a dense network of thin, light-colored roots or branches. The hand is positioned centrally, with fingers slightly curled. The background is a dark, textured surface of similar root-like patterns.

# AI for Social Good: Strengthening Capabilities and Government Frameworks in Asia and the Pacific Summit

**Monday 10 July to Tuesday 11 July 2023**

Mills Room, Chancelry Building 10,  
The Australian National University

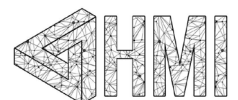


Australian  
National  
University

Coral Bell  
School of Asia  
Pacific Affairs



**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific





# Background

With artificial intelligence (AI) poised to become as widespread as the internet, its impact in Asia and the Pacific is expected to grow further. In response to this development, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and the Association for Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), with funding from Google.org, developed the 'AI for Social Good' multi-stakeholder network. The network has been supporting policy makers by developing insights on what capabilities and governance frameworks will be most supportive for leveraging AI effectively for social good.

## Vision

The '**Strengthening Capabilities and Government Frameworks in Asia and the Pacific**' project is building on these past activities to achieve transformative impact by bringing together government agencies from the Asia-Pacific region and outstanding researchers to:

- continue supporting research and cross-border connections on "AI for Social Good";
- provide active support in the development of country-specific AI governance frameworks and national capabilities; and
- empower transparent AI ecosystems and develop AI solutions that tackle socio-economic challenges.

## Purpose of Summit

This Summit serves to bring together all of the participants in this important project – research teams and government partners – to share the results of the research conducted and discuss the lessons learned from this innovative collaboration.

# Collaborative Projects

In collaboration with Bangladesh Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme of the ICT Division and Cabinet Division of Bangladesh, two teams of scholars with AI-related expertise have conducted research to support the Bangladeshi Government in the development of policies promoting and enabling AI policy frameworks and building AI capabilities for social good in the area of *pregnancy monitoring*.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Thai Office of National Higher Education, Science Research and Innovation Policy, two additional teams of scholars with AI-related expertise have conducted research to support the Thai Government in the development of policies promoting and enabling AI policy frameworks and building AI capabilities for social good in the areas of *medicine and healthcare* and *poverty alleviation*.

# Pre-Workshop Activities

Sunday 9 July 2023	
6.30-8.30 pm	AI for Social Good Summit Welcome Dinner Mosaic Room, Ovolo Nishi Hotel, 25 Edinburgh Ave, NewActon

# Program

Location details: Mills Room, Chancelry Building 10, Baldessin Precinct

DAY ONE	
Monday 10 July 2023	
9.00 am	Registration and Tea/Coffee
9.30-10.00 am	<p><b>Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome</b> <i>Professor Helen Sullivan (Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU)</i></p> <p><b>Introduction and aims of the workshop</b> <i>Professor Toni Erskine (ANU and AI for Social Good Academic Lead)</i></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>Dr Rupa Chanda (Director, UN ESCAP) and Christina Schönleber (Chief Strategy Officer, APRU)</i></p> <p><b>Self-introductions by Research Teams and Government Delegates from Thailand and Bangladesh</b></p>
10.10-10.30 am	<p><b>Presentation from 1st Thailand Research Team</b></p> <p><b>'Responsible Data Sharing, AI Innovation and Sandbox Development: Recommendations for Digital Health Governance in Thailand'</b> <i>Dr Jasper Tromp, Aprajita Kaushik, Capucine Barcellona, Nikita Kanumoory Mandyam, and Si Ying Tan</i></p>
10.30-11.30 am	<p>Comments from Dr Gregory Raymond (ANU) on significance and evolution of paper</p> <p>Comments from Dr Kommate Jitvanichphaibool (Senior Director of APEC Center for Technology) on collaboration process and possible applications of paper's findings</p> <p>General questions from government delegates, other researches, and audience</p>
11.30-11.50 am	<b>Morning tea</b>
11.50-12.10 pm	<p><b>Presentation from 2nd Thailand Research Team</b></p> <p><b>'Who's Rules? Addressing Challenges in Information Sharing in TPMAP'</b> <i>Dr Sarah Logan</i></p>
12.10-1.10 pm	<p>Comments from Dr Gregory Raymond (ANU) on significance and evolution of paper</p> <p>Comments from Dr Suttipong Thajchayapong (principal researcher with NECTEC, NSTDA) on collaboration process and possible applications of paper's findings</p> <p>General questions from government delegates, other researches, and audience</p>
1.10-2.15 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.15-3.30 pm	Guided bus tour of ANU campus

# Program

3.40-4.00 pm	<b>Presentation from 1st Bangladesh Research Team</b>  <b>'Mobilizing Artificial Intelligence for Maternal Health in Bangladesh'</b> <i>Professor Olivia Jensen, Dr Nathaniel Tan, and Dr Cornelius Kalenzi</i>
4.00-5.00 pm	Comments from Associate Professor Jenny Davis (ANU) on significance and evolution of paper  Comments from Dr Shabnam Mostari (Public Health Specialist) and Mr Anir Chowdury (Policy Advisor) from a2i ICT Division on collaboration process and possible applications of paper's findings  General questions from government delegates, other researches, and audience
5.00 pm	<b>Concluding comments and outline for Day 2</b>
6.00-8.00 pm	<b>Summit Dinner: VIP Lounge, QT Lounge, 1 London Circuit</b>

## **DAY TWO Tuesday 11 July 2023**

9.10-9.30 am	<b>Presentation from 2nd Bangladesh Research Team</b>  <b>'Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pregnancy Monitoring: Technical Challenges for Bangladesh'</b> <i>Dr Fariza Rashid and Dr M Arifur Rahman</i>
9.30-10.30 am	Comments from Professor Lexing Xie (ANU) on significance and evolution of paper  Comments from Sabina Perveen (Director at DGFP) and Mr Anir Chowdhury (Policy Advisor, a2i ICT Division) on collaboration process and possible applications of paper's findings  General questions from government delegates, other researches, and audience
10.30-11.00 am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11.00-11.45 pm	Comments on lessons for the broader Asia Pacific region <i>Dr Amanda Watson, Department of Pacific Affairs (ANU) and Professor Sujatha Raman (Australian Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, ANU)</i>
11.45-12.15 pm	Structured discussions on: i) implementation of policy recommendations and next steps; and ii) feedback on, and lessons learned from, co-design process
12.15-12.30 pm	<b>Concluding remarks: Professor Toni Erskine and Christina Schönleber</b>
12.30-2.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00-4.00 pm	Meetings for government delegates and research teams (including those listed below)  2.00-3.00 pm – Reception for research teams hosted by the ANU Humanising Machine Intelligence (HMI) Research Project Location: Seminar Room 3, Ground floor, Hedley Bull Building  2.30–4.00pm – Meeting for government delegates with ANU Department of Global Health (Drs Matthew Kelly, Haribondhu Sarma, and Kinley Wangdi) Location: Room 3.27, Level 3, Hedley Bull Building

## Summit Convenor



**Toni Erskine** is Director of the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs and Professor of International Politics at The Australian National University. She has had the privilege to serve as the Academic Lead for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)/ Association for Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) 'AI for Social Good: Strengthening Capabilities and Government Frameworks in Asia and the Pacific' Research Project. She is also Chief Investigator and a Founding Member of the ANU 'Humanising Machine Intelligence' Grand Challenge Research Project, Editor of the journal *International Theory: A Journal of International Politics, Law, and Philosophy* and Associate Fellow of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence at Cambridge University.

## ANU Welcome



**Helen Sullivan** is a public policy researcher, teacher, advisor, and senior university leader. A political sociologist, Helen was educated in the humanities and social sciences and holds degrees in Modern History and Political Science (BA Comb. Hons, University of Birmingham, UK), Women's Studies (MA, University of York, UK), and Public Policy (PhD, University of Birmingham, UK). She currently serves as Dean of the College of Asia and the Pacific at The Australian National University. Helen's research explores the nature of state-society relationships, and their interactions with public policy systems. This includes the theory and practice of governance and collaboration, the uses of public participation, the dynamics of local/urban governance, and the impact of reform on public policy systems. Her research approach is multi-disciplinary, interpretive, and informed by the critical policy analysis school.

# UNESCAP & APRU Delegates



**Rupa Chanda** is the Director of the Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division at UNESCAP. She worked as a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and as an Economist at the IMF in Washington, DC. She received her PhD from Columbia University. She has worked with international organisations, think tanks, and government and published extensively on services trade, regional integration, WTO, and migration.



**Christina Schönleber** is Chief Strategy Officer at the Association of Pacific Rim Universities with extensive expertise in translating research to impact. She holds responsibilities for developing and growing APRU's strategic impact to address pressing regional challenges through the association's key program areas working closely with leading scientists and policy makers in the Asia Pacific.

## Project Consultant



**Kal Joffres** is the CEO and co-founder of Tandemic, a strategic innovation firm based in the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. For the past decade, his work has focused on innovation for betterment of society in the development sector, government, and private sector. He has experience working across Asia, North America, and the Middle East. Most recently, Kal has worked on a number of initiatives designed to create systemic change related to the areas of technology and the digital space with partners such as the Joint SDG Fund, UNESCAP, WHO, and UNDP.



# Research Teams - Thai Projects

## Medicine and Healthcare



**Jasper Tromp** is an Assistant Professor at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and Duke-NUS Medical School, NUS. He has a strong interest in the quality of care of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in lower- and middle-income countries in Southeast Asia and the interaction of NCDs with tropical infectious diseases. He works in the policy and implementation field of digital health, with a particular interest in interventions that facilitate task shifting of NCD care to primary care or non-physician healthcare workers.



**Aprajita Kaushik** is a Research Associate at the School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, specialising in digital health. She has extensive experience in chronic disease epidemiology. Her research skills include conducting NCDs risk factor surveillance studies, quantitative and qualitative data research, as well as systematic and scoping reviews. She works on health technology assessments, policy development, and health economic evaluations in the field of digital health.



**Capucine Barcellona** is a global health researcher at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore. Her current research covers healthcare financing, health equity, migrant worker health and digital health. She is interested in how health policy can improve health access for vulnerable populations.



**Nikita Kanumoory Mandyam** is a Project Manager (Digital Health) in the Healthcare Redesign team at Alexandra Hospital, a member of the National University Health System (NUHS) in Singapore. She is also an Honorary Visiting Researcher at the Leadership Institute for Global Health Transformation in the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, NUS, where she supports research and consulting related to health systems, health equity and digital health in Southeast Asia.



**Si Ying Tan** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Alexandra Research Centre for Healthcare in the Virtual Environment (ARCHIVE) in Alexandra Hospital under the National University Health System in Singapore. She holds a joint appointment at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore. Her research interests intersect healthcare policies and technology governance in Asia.

## Poverty Alleviation



**Sarah Logan** is a lecturer at the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU. She is a Chief Investigator at the University's 'Humanising Machine Intelligence' Grand Challenge Research Project. Her research interests include the future of open source intelligence; governance of international data transfers; development of global privacy norms; and geopolitics of global technology standards.



# Research Teams - Bangladeshi Projects

## Pregnancy Monitoring I



**Olivia Jensen** is Deputy Director and Lead Scientist for Environment and Climate of the LRF Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk, National University of Singapore. She specialises in decision-making and policy-making under uncertainty, with a focus on environmental risks in Asian countries.



**Cornelius Kalenzi** is a Fellow at the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution at the World Economic Forum. He also holds the position of Postdoctoral Researcher at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. He obtained his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from KAIST, and further training from the University of Oxford University-Saïd Business School.



**Nathaniel Tan** is Senior Manager at the Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk. With a background in Communications, he has been involved in projects related to technology adoption and artificial intelligence, and has led the production of a guidebook on AI in the Healthcare setting.

## Pregnancy Monitoring II



**M Arifur Rahman** is an Assistant Professor of electrical engineering at Hawaii Pacific University. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, has co-invented five patents in microfluidics and Bio-MEMS, and published over 30 technical articles. He is also the CEO of Hawaii Innovation Laboratory and enjoys archery and marathon running.



**Fariza Rashid** is a PhD student at the University of Sydney. She completed her undergraduate degree with honours in Data Science from the University of Sydney in 2021 and has previously worked as a graduate analyst at Deloitte Australia. Her current research investigates the applications of AI in cyber threat intelligence.

## Government Delegates - Thailand



**Panchapawn Chatsuwan** is an Assistant Researcher with NECTEC, NSTDA, Thailand. She received her B.S. degree in Geography from Kasetsart University, Thailand. Her research includes Thematic Analytics, Literature Synthesis and Content Strategic Analytics.



**Kommate Jitvanichphaibool** is a Senior Director of APEC Center for Technology Foresight Division at Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO) in Thailand. Prior to joining NXPO, he was a Research Fellow at the Institute for Infocomm Research in Singapore. He received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas.



**Suttipong Thajchayapong** is a principal researcher with NECTEC, NSTDA, Thailand. He received his M.S. and B.S. degrees in electrical and computer engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, USA, and Ph.D. degree in electrical and electronic engineering from Imperial College London, U.K. His research includes data analytics, anomaly detection and machine learning.



**Soontharee Namliwal** is a Policy Specialist at the Office of National Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Policy Council of Thailand. With degrees in political science, she has a strong interest in governance and development, public policy, and international affairs. She studies and works in the public policy and development field of innovation at the National Institute of Development Administration.



**Pranpreya Sriwannawit Lundberg** is Director of International Policy Partnership Division at Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO) in Thailand. She holds a PhD in Industrial Economics and Management from KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

# Government Delegates - Bangladesh



**Anir Chowdhury** is the Policy Advisor of the a2i Programme of the ICT Division and the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh. He leads the formation of a whole-of-society innovation ecosystem in Bangladesh through massive technology deployment, extensive capacity development, integrated policy formulation, whole-of-government institutional reform. He is a member of the Prime Minister's National Digital Bangladesh Task Force.



**Shahadat Hossain** is a Director, MIS & Line Director, HIS & E-health, Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh. He is also a Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and has expertise in pain, sports, and rehabilitation medicine.



**Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir** is the Project Director of the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme of the ICT Division and the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh. He has over 25 years of experience in public administration, policy formulation, and project management. He also served in Bangladesh Parliamentary Secretariat and Prime Minister's Office as Director (Administration).



**Shabnam Mostari** is a Public Health Specialist of the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme, ICT Division, and Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh. She played a key role in developing policies and programs that expand access to Bangladesh's digital health tools and services. She advocates for collaboration, information sharing, and policy decisions to enhance healthcare access.



**Sabina Perveen** is a Director and Line Director (MIS) at the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Bangladesh. With extensive experience in project management and procurement. She is leading the Digital Informatics & eMIS to leverage Smart maternal Services adopting updated technologies to improve the delivery of person centric high-quality, accessible, and affordable care across the country.



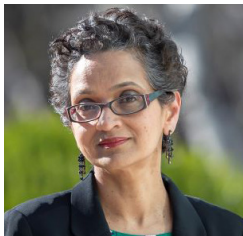
**Mohammad Raihanul Hoque** is a Digital Transformation Specialist of the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme, ICT Division, and Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh. He is responsible for managing a Health digital transformation(s) from a2i end and performing high-level data analysis and providing expert advice to management based on the results.



# ANU Discussants



**Jenny L. Davis** is an Associate Professor of Sociology, ANU. Her work intersects technology studies and social psychology, with a current focus on AI and machine learning. She is Deputy Lead of the Humanising Machine Intelligence Program at ANU, Co-Director of the ANU Role-Taking Lab, on the board for Theorizing the Web, Past Chair of the Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section of the American Sociological Association, and author of *How Artifacts Afford: The Power and Politics of Everyday Things* (MIT Press).



**Sujatha Raman** is Professor and Director of Research at the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS), ANU. She leads the UNESCO Chair in Science Communication for the Public Good. She is Associate Editor of the *Journal of Responsible Innovation and Engaging Science, Technology and Society*. Before moving to Australia in 2018, she was the Director of the Leverhulme Making Science Public Research Programme led by the University of Nottingham (UK) in collaboration with the Universities of Warwick and Sheffield. Trained in science, technology and society studies (STS) and public policy studies, Raman is interested in the forms of expertise needed to respond to planetary crises in the context of diversity in how we know, value and order things.



**Gregory V. Raymond** researches Southeast Asian defence, politics, and foreign relations, particularly in Thailand and Mekong states within the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, The Australian National University. He convenes the Global China Research Spoke for the Centre for China in the World, and the ASEAN Australia Defence Postgraduate Scholarship Program for the Australian Department of Defence.



**Amanda H A Watson** is a Research Fellow with the Department of Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University. She is a media and communication scholar with a focus on the strategic use of information and communication technologies in development efforts. She has taught at two universities in Papua New Guinea and three universities in Australia.



**Lexing Xie** is leader of the Computational Media Lab and leader of the multi-disciplinary Humanising Machine Intelligence Grand Challenge project at ANU, a \$6m investment to explore the foundations and design of democratically legitimate data and AI systems. She is the winner of the Chris Wallace award for Outstanding Research 2017-18, and has published influential work on a range of topics in machine learning, including work on ML algorithms in social media.

# Notes

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## Contact us

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