PARTNER INSTITUTION: ASSOCIATE

PARTNER:

Two Day Conference

on

"The Commonwealth: Advancing towards the future with Emerging Technologies & AI"

Host Institution: AI Policy Labs, Global Policy Insights (GPI)
Partnering Institution(s): The Ramphal Institute
Sponsoring Institution(s): AI, Data and Consulting (AIDC)

Date: 11-12 September 2020
Timings:
The AI Conclave: **11 September 2020: 12:00pm-06:00pm** BST, London
Leaders Summit: **12 September 2020: 08:30am-06:00pm** BST, London
Venue: Online
Tentative Agenda: Inaugural Session, Panel Discussions, FireSide Chats, Q&A, Closing
Session

Objectives:
At Global Policy Insights (GPI), 'The Commonwealth Project' aims to examine the role of the
modern commonwealth in the 21st Century. At the interface of a technological revolution, a
growing, young population, a global pandemic and long-standing problems of our times, this
Conference aims to map the road ahead for Commonwealth nations and networks, bringing
together leaders, diplomats, scholars, entrepreneurs, the public and private communities. While

emerging technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have permeated all aspects of human life, we examine how they can be channeled as positive forces for a progressive future of the Commonwealth, despite challenges of ethics and access that particularly AI might bring.

In addition, this conference represents a confluence between GPI's The Commonwealth Project and its AI Policy Labs. Our central feature, the AI Policy Labs is a unique platform that interlinks questions of AI, technology and policy and we hope to bring this approach to the Commonwealth and delve deeper into its future. The partnering institution, The Ramphal Institute additionally has a strong focus on young people and their development. The Commonwealth Youth Vanguards (CYV) is a new facility for the Institute and provides a platform for Commonwealth youth leaders to articulate their own fresh perspectives on Commonwealth events and policy discourse.

Proposed outcome:

The conference aspires to achieve the following outcomes:

(i) Further the vision of an advancing Commonwealth in keeping with AI and emerging technologies, while exploring opportunities for youth. Further the mission of GPI and its projects in building a stronger Commonwealth for the 21st Century and also make AI more accessible and usable for policy making and implementation.
(ii) Connecting multiple stakeholders across a multitude of backgrounds, countries and networks from across the Commonwealth on a common platform to discuss its future in the context of emerging technologies, its youth population and AI for public good.
(iii) GPI will be producing and publishing a detailed Conference report along with future recommendations and actions that emerge from the discussions.
(iv) Designing action plans and strategies between the multiple actors and networks of the Commonwealth, and also with those outside of the established network, including private firms and businesses.

Format and Participants:

The Conference will commence with an inaugural session and shall primarily feature a set of keynote speeches, fireside chats, Q&A sessions and panels with distinguished networks and individuals from the Commonwealth, including but not limited to Commonwealth bodies and affiliated organisations, academics, scholars, diplomats, parliamentarians and governmental leaders. In addition there will also be a select presence of leadership of independent technological firms, business enterprises, private institutions, individuals and young leaders.

The Conference will be recorded and made available via GPI platforms in addition to live-streaming.

Themes:

These will feature as a set of keynote speeches, addresses, fireside chats and panel discussions, to be held between inaugural and closing sessions of the Conference.

I. A Young Future: Opportunities for the Youth and Progress for the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is home to a third of global youth, with half of its citizens under 30. Optimising the opportunities presented to these future office-bearers and leaders by the various bodies and units working for the Commonwealth, this discussion aims to interrogate opportunities for investing in the Commonwealth's future. While the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted lives across the board, the youth and its future has been largely disrupted, particularly raising concerns about employment, education and entrepreneurship. In this regard, we seek to derive the Commonwealth's ability and novelty to manifest its shared legacies in building a common future for its most promising demographic.

In addition, we cover aspects of sustainable development, good governance, green economies, climate change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly, in context of creating a better future for the youth.

II. Emerging with Technology: The Commonwealth in the AI Revolution

As technology seeps into mediums of national governance, how has the Commonwealth as a world body caught up? How can it address the issues of equal access, stepping into a digital future? This discussion encapsulates the power of AI as a media for progress while also raising questions of equal access, particularly across the diverging national systems of the Commonwealth and the incongruencies of development within its system. We also look at how historical ties of culture, communities and traditions can be fostered to pave the way for shared futures through emerging technologies.

III. Narratives of the future

This aspect of the discussion seeks to bring in global narratives of the Commonwealth and what future it seeks to create. We look at aspects of structural reforms, strengthening the institutions and actors within the Commonwealth and how their potential can best be manifested to build global partnerships, in particular with their relationship with emerging technologies and AI.

As we move forwards within a digital revolution, we look at the universality and outreach of the Commonwealth and its vision. The primary focus is to understand how narratives of the Commonwealth can be shaped and reshaped to be made more in keeping with emerging technologies and the needs of the youth.

Stakeholder involvement: While leaders and thinkers from the discussed fields will be invited as speakers for the discussions, Commonwealth networks will also be invited as 'associate partners' to endorse these discussions. We are also looking at the public and private sector alike for broad-range partnerships. All conference materials will carry logos of all organisations involved.

Our previous events can be found at: https://bit.ly/2Ayf6Jx

More about our work, 'The Commonwealth Project' and 'AI Policy Labs':
http://globalpolicyinsights.org/. For any questions please write to cw@globalpolicyinsights.org

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