**Call for Participation to**

**Research and Publish on “AI for Social Good”**

**A United Nations ESCAP-APRU-Google Collaboration**

The APRU International Secretariat is calling for scholar participation to develop and publish a collection of research-based policy recommendation papers, as part of a collaboration among United Nations ESCAP, APRU and Google, to set up a regional “AI for Social Good” Research Network. *Applications for participation should be sent to the APRU Secretariat by February 22, 2019.*

**Background**

While the AI research ecosystem is growing, there is still limited research into how AI can positively transform economies and societies, supporting the achievement of the [Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, there is also limited understanding of what public policies and governance frameworks would be most conducive to achieving this transformational impact while also addressing risks and concerns, such as bias/fairness, safety and explainability / accountability. This collaboration is filling this void by bringing together regional scholars to be a voice of knowledge and innovation, informing and shaping AI governance.

**Project Overview**

Up to 8 scholars will be selected for this initial project to:

* conduct research and draft a research-based policy recommendation paper for open access distribution
* present their paper in two face-to-face meetings over a 16-month period

The research-based policy recommendation paper will primarily help inform government policymakers (and other stakeholders, including industry, NGOs and academic institutions as appropriate) on the formulation of policies and strategies that will support, encourage and maximize AI for Social Good.

This project is the first in a proposed series of collaborative activities that aims to develop a network, consisted of premier research centers and universities in Asia, to collectively develop evidence and cross-border connections on “AI for Social Good”, promote an enabling policy environment at both the domestic and international levels, while informing the overall ecosystem development for AI.

**Project Details**

The project title is **“AI for Social Good**. AI’s revolutionary ability to promote the public good has already been well-demonstrated in healthcare, for example. However, there are still many other important sectors, such as education and social inclusion, where stakeholders are not yet applying AI extensively to scale and sustain impact.

Within the title and the general motive, we call on diverse range of inputs. For your reference, the following two areas are suggested, as areas where there seems to be substantial demand for research to inform policy decisions.

1. Enabling Environment - This domain will focus on what policymakers can do to promote the growth of an “AI for Social Good” ecosystem in their countries and address questions, such as:
   1. AI inputs - how can we enable access to needed AI inputs to grow AI for social good?
      1. Data - e.g. data flows, opening up access to data
      2. Computing power
      3. AI expertise/education (both expert and for the general public)
   2. Inclusiveness - how can we make sure that the AI benefits are shared widely across society?
2. Governance frameworks - This domain will focus on what governance approaches can address risks/challenges associated with AI, while maximizing the potential of the technology to be developed and used for good. It could include dimensions like:
   1. Multi-stakeholder governance - how can we bring all stakeholders into AI governance? What institutions and processes are needed?
   2. Co-regulation - how can we build from and spread responsible development norms and codes of practice to guide those developing and utilizing AI?
   3. Accountability and consumer engagement - what are the promising approaches for ensuring AI accountability and providing those engaged with AI the information and context they need?
   4. Regulation - how can we address major concerns like autonomous lethal weapons, surveillance, liability, etc. at both the domestic and international levels?

**Academic Lead**

Academic lead is provided by [**Professor Jiro Kokuryo, (Keio University)**](https://vu.sfc.keio.ac.jp/faculty_profile/cgi/f_profile_e.cgi?id=790eb7b1255a135d)**,** who is guided and supported by a Project Steering Committee bringing together policy makers and experts from across Asia.

**Funding**

Total funding of US$ 9,000 is available to support the development of each research-based policy recommendation paper to help cover the participation cost of this project, including flights, accommodation and local transport to attend project meetings. Individual academics or a team of academics can work on the development of papers.

The project is funded by Google.org, supported by United Nations ESCAP and organized by the APRU International Secretariat.

**Participant Contribution**

* Submission of a work-in-progress paper by **early June 2019** for the attendance of the 1st face-to-face meeting in Tokyo, **June 27, 2019**.
* Submission of a first draft paper in **autumn of 2019 (**date tbc)
* Attendance of 2nd face-to-face meeting, taking place in the **winter of 2019 – 2020** (date and location tbc), alongside a multi-stakeholder dissemination event. This will be organized in collaboration with United Nations ESCAP, APRU and Google to inform government officials, policymakers and the research community about the project network, share initial findings/ insights and gain feedback from stakeholder groups to feed into the final papers and concluding project report.
* Submission of completed research-based policy recommendation by **May 1, 2020**.

The papers will be collated into a final report and submitted to United Nations ESCAP and Google before being widely disseminated to policymakers, experts and external organizations.

**Dates**

* Applications for participation to be sent to [Tina.Lin@apru.org](mailto:Tina.Lin@apru.org) by **February 22, 2019**.
* Selected research teams will be notified by **early March 2019**
* The 1st face-to-face meeting is planned in Tokyo at Keio University, Mita Campus on  **June 27, 2019.** The aim is to have an open symposium followed by a closed session.
* The 2nd face-to-face meeting, part of a multi-stakeholder event, will be held either in Bangkok, Hong Kong or Tokyo, in the **winter of 2019 – 2020.** (date tbc)

**Eligibility**

Scholars recommended by APRU member universities will be considered for participation in the project. Participants from non-APRU universities are also welcome, based on recommendations from APRU, Google, or United Nations ESCAP.

**Expression of Interest Form to**

**Research and Publish on “AI for Social Good”**

**as part of a**

**United Nations ESCAP-APRU-Google Collaboration**

To apply to take part in this project, please complete the following form. Submission deadline is February 22, 2019.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Family Name: | Given Name: | Nationality: |
| Gender: | University: | Position: |
| Provide brief overview of your research interests: | | |
| Which of the two project areas (see description of project) are you proposing to address?  Which public policy dilemmas will your proposed research-based policy recommendation paper help inform? | | |
| Please describe the academic research you are conducting (or have conducted) as the base for your policy recommendation? | | |
| Short biography: | | |
| List of key publications: | | |
| Other relevant information/ remarks: | | |
| Full work address:  E-mail:  Tel:  Fax: | | |
| I will be able to attend the 1st meeting in Tokyo at Keio University Mita Campus on June 27, 2019.    □Yes □No | | |

Please email the form by **February 22, 2019** to Tina.Lin@apru.org