Artificial Intelligence and Environment: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Development

Artificial intelligence (AI) is improving the ways we live, work and solve problems. It can also help us fight climate change and protect the environment.

The technology has the potential to accelerate global efforts to protect the environment and conserve resources by, for example, reducing energy emissions, CO2 removal, helping develop greener transportation networks, monitoring deforestation, managing natural hazards and predicting extreme weather conditions.

With more than two-thirds of the world's population predicted to live in urban spaces, AI could play a key role in improving spatial use, greening cities and managing energy in the near future.

But it also comes at a cost to the planet, as AI is highly energy-consuming. To truly benefit from the technology's potential to find solutions to environmental challenges, we also need a better understanding of AI's growing carbon footprint.

Keynote speaker

Mr David ERAY – Minister of the Environment of the Republic and Canton of Jura, Switzerland and Spokesperson on Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Moderator

Mr Patrick PENNINCKX – Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe

Panel

Mr Peter CLUTTON-BROCK - Executive Director and co-founder of the Centre for AI and Climate, UK

Professor Yoshiki YAMAGATA – Keio University, Japan

Director Jerry SHEEHAN – Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), OECD

Dr Carlos SOUZA JR – Associate Researcher, Amazon Institute of People and the Environment (Imazon)

2023 Kyoto IGF - Session Proposal

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