NATIONAL AI GOVERNMENT SUMMIT
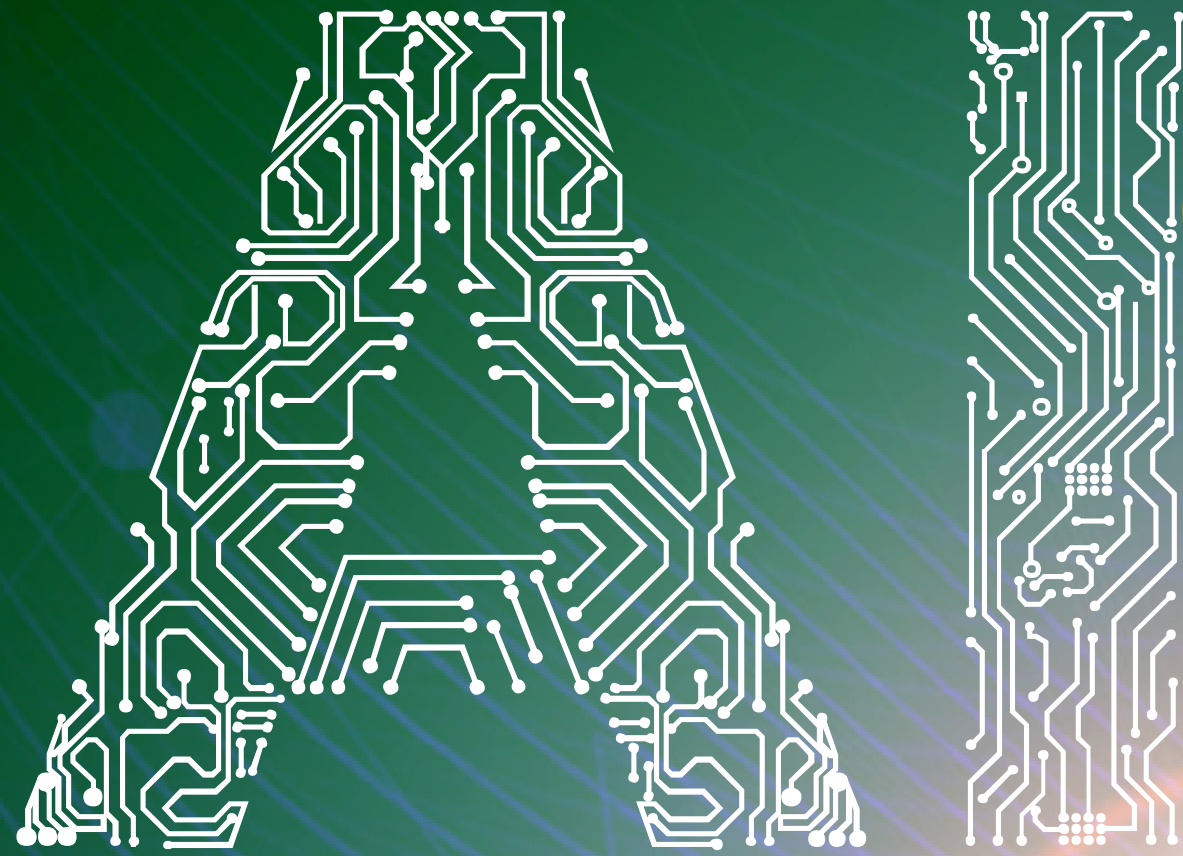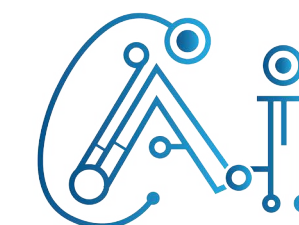
communications & digital technologies

Department:
Communications & Digital Technologies
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM

Ai Artificial Intelligence Institute of South Africa

Microsoft

BACKGROUND

The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) has undertaken the task of drafting the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Plan. The draft National AI Plan has been in development and is now ready for public discussion. The DCDT Minister, Honourable Minister Gungubele is convening a National AI Summit to share the contents of draft National AI Plan with key stakeholders with intention to collate the inputs and incorporate them in the further draft before being taken through the Cabinet System for release for public comments. This is a pre-policy process to shape the elements of the National AI Plan and attendants will be provided with ample opportunity to input on the draft plan on the day through break-away sessions and there will also be provincial summits that will follow.

WHEN

05 April 2024 (08h00 – 15h30)

WHERE

The Johannesburg Business School

AUDIENCE

It is anticipated that this event will attract more than 400 people ranging from policy makers, civil servants, industry, experts, academia, and media (250 in person).

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: MS HELLEN MOGASHOA, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, MICROSOFT SA

08:00 - 08:45   **ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION**

09:30 - 09:40   **OPENING AND WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER**
Chairperson of University of Johannesburg Council, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

09:40 - 10:00   **KEYNOTE**
Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr. Mondli Gungubele

10:00 - 10:20   **MICROSOFT TRUSTED AI PARTNER**
Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft, Mr Kalane Rampai

10:20 - 10:45   **OVERVIEW OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICA (AIISA) & AI HUBS UPDATES AND CHALLENGES**
Facilitator: Mr Nick Bradshaw, Chairperson of the South African Artificial Intelligence Association

Purpose of the Panel:
Outline the AI initiative as prescribed by PC4IR on establishment of AI Institute to date and what are the progress and challenges experienced?

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY AND ASSOCIATION PANEL

Facilitator: Ms Machaka Mosehana, Director Innovation and SMME development, JBS

Purpose of the Panel:

Global progress on AI has been through sustained investment and planning at the business executive, technocratic and bureaucratic levels to ensure success in the elements related to the draft AI plan – Governance, Laws and Ethics, Global Discourse, National Approach, Priority sectors. The panel will outline some of the investment plans in place to assist in driving the elements of AI.

Guiding Questions:

1. What is witnessed is the based-on State and government investments of AI technology by leading countries. What is the view of the Fiscus on addressing the need for investment on AI.
1. Government IT spend must be channeled towards AI products, what is the plan around such applications, software, and goods to ensure localisation?
1. One of the key elements for Digital Economy is the need for cooperative ICT industry, what are the key activities taking place to ensure achievement of such measures?
1. The AI Regulation are called upon at various quarters, there is also the aspects on hard or soft AI regulation. How is the ICT regulator navigating on the need for these measures?
1. The Digital Transformation has featured prominently at the global level especially at UN, how is the Department is configured to manage the AI need for agile structural formation? Is the DCDT configured to address all elements of AI that need proper coordination, collaboration, and management?

Panellists:

- Executive Director Corporate and Legal Affairs Microsoft, Mr Siya Madyibi
- Director-General of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Ms Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani
- CEO of Association of Communications and Technologies, Ms Nomvuyiso Batyi
- Acting Chairperson of ICASA, Ms Yolisa Kedama
- Chairperson of State Information Technology Agency, Mr Kiruben Pillay
- Chief Executive Officer of Vodacom, Mr Shameel Joosub
- Chief Executive Officer of Digital Council Africa, Ms Juanita Clark

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Guiding Questions:

1. What was the DCDT approach on establishing the AIISA and what informed that?
2. The UJ Hub was established on November 2022 as the first AI centre of excellence related mainly to the location in the Manufacturing hub, what has been the experience ate what should be done as outline in the discussion document shared?
3. The TUT AI hub was motivated to drive the Automotive assembly belt, please explain your launch since 24 March 2023, and what are your progress to date and challenges?
4. The CUT AI hub was the latest addition on the AIISA as the AI Hub focussing on Agriculture and Farming with the launch on 29 February 2024, what are your expectations and the key prospects on the role you will play as the bread basket of the future through AI?
5. Can you outline the main and key components of the Discussion Document that would guide the breakaways groups sessions?

Panellists:

- Coordinator of AIISA, Acting DDG: ICT International Affairs and Trade, Mr Alfred Mashishi
- Head of TUT AI Hub, Prof Anish Kurien
- Head of UJ AI Hub, Prof Randall Carolissen
- Head of CUT AI Hub, Prof Elisha Markus

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BREAK

and Ministerial walk-about on exhibitions by AI hubs and Microsoft

11:45 - 13:30

BREAK-AWAYS

4 hub representatives manage the 4 breakaways

GROUP 1

AI Governance and Ethics:
UJ AI Hub

- Which governance AI Model is conducive for South Africa to adopt?
- What are ethical concerns and pitfalls that the South Africa AI Plan should address?

GROUP 2

AI Strategy and Priority Sectors:
TUT AI Hub

- A list of priorities and focus areas are outlined in the discussion document and timelines, are they sufficient and sufficient to make SA competitive?

GROUP 3

AI Data and Large language Models- Prof Vukosi Marivate (UP)

- The area of data architecture and algorithmics coding systems that are conducive for developing countries. How South Africa must navigate the LLM and Computational data?

GROUP 4

AI Investments and Start-up:
CUT AI Hub

- Digital revolution has ushered a plethora of new industries and business models that are replacing traditional industries. What can SA do to be accommodative to these changes?
- How much investments on AI are conducive for SA situation and where are they located?
- The AI maturity models should be used to track the development of AI start-ups and should be developed. What are the elements of such model?

13:30 - 14:30

LUNCH

14:30 - 15:10

BREAK-AWAYS REPORT BACK

AI Hub Representatives

GROUP 1	10 Minutes
GROUP 2	10 Minutes
GROUP 3	10 Minutes
GROUP 4	10 Minutes

15:10 - 15:20

WAY FORWARD

and Introduction of the Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr. Philly Mapulane
- Public Comment Gazette
- Provincial Seminars
- Next Steps
Director-General of the DCDT, Ms. Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani

15:20 - 15:30

VOTE OF THANKS

Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr. Philly Mapulane