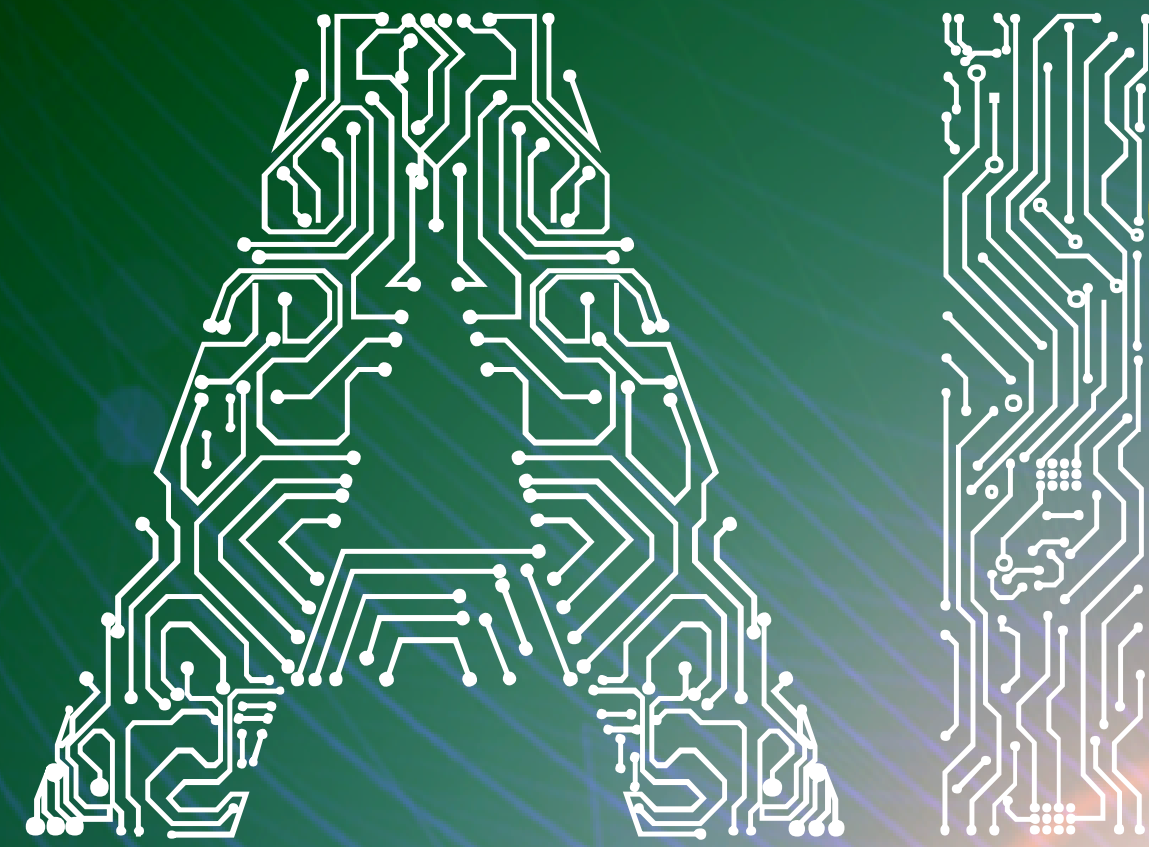


NATIONAL



GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

A DIALOGUE ON THE PROPOSED
NATIONAL AI PLAN

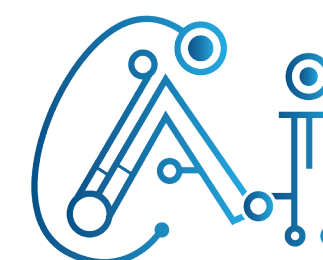
5 APRIL 2024

JOHANNESBURG BUSINESS SCHOOL



**communications &
digital technologies**

Department:
Communications & Digital Technologies
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Artificial Intelligence
Institute of South Africa



Microsoft

NATIONAL AI SUMMIT CONCEPT DOCUMENT

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 for months and is now ready public consumption. 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 OF THE DAY

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

08:00 - 08:45

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

09:00 - 09:05

OPENING - NATIONAL ANTHEM

Programme Director

09:05 - 09:10

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

Premier of Gauteng Province, Hon. Panyaza Lesufi

09:10 - 09:30

KEYNOTE

on How South Africa will Navigate AI to deliver Economic Growth and Social Wellbeing. Minister will further announce the establihsment of AI Task Force that will assist in establishing the AI Expert Advisory Council process.

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr. Mondli Gungubele

09:30 - 09:50

SHARING OF THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT NATIONAL AI PLAN

and areas that require greater input and readiness.

Discussion document on AI National Plan will guide the presentation and outline areas related to Global discourse, Regional and National Approaches, South Africa AI conceptual approach, SA AI Landscape, Opportunities, and Pitfalls, SA Aspirations, AI Governance Structure and Areas of Focus. Acting Deputy-Director General: ICT International Affairs and Trade, Mr Alfred Mashishi

09:50 - 10:05

MICROSOFT TRUSTED PARTNER IN AI

Microsoft will outline their key AI activities in South Africa and African continent in terms of product development, skills development, and partnership agreements. Microsoft CEO, Mr Kalane Rampai

10:05 - 10:40

MINISTERIAL AND EXECUTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

Facilitator: Mr Nick Bradshaw, Chairperson of the South African Artificial Intelligence Association

Purpose of the Panel:

AI is remarked as the game-changer in the advancement of national challenges such as climate change and innovation capabilities. It also requires a lot of electricity generation and highly skilled workforce. What is also important is that advances in mobile technologies such as 5G and data management requires are key enablers Partnership with the industry, academia, society and government are encouraged as tools for development.

The panel will outline aspects that are key drivers to make AI a success.

Guiding Questions:

1. Noting that countries are using AI to solve their national challenges, for example, Japan addressing the national question of an aging society. What is South Africa’s national question or challenge that need to have AI potential to solve?
2. The key enablers of AI success are amongst others energy and power supply, informed research, smart gadgets, data and computational power, information management and access to high speed 5G connectivity as remarked. What are the measures that your area of mandate is enabling the AI adoption and success?
3. The United Nations (UN) process for the Summit of the Future in September 2024 is focused in the area of Climate Change and Digital Transformation. What is your understanding of how AI will assist in Climate Change proposal?

Panellists:

- Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr Mondli Gungubele, MP
- Minister of Electricity, Mr Ramokgopa
- Minister Science, Innovation, and Higher Education, Dr Blade Nzimande
- Chief Executive Officer Universities SA, Dr Phethiwe Matutu
- Microsoft CEO, Mr Kalane Rampai
- Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Forestry, Ms Barbara Creecy
- Chairperson of Information Regulator, Advocate Ms Pansy Tlakula

10:40 - 11:10

BREAK

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

11:10 - 11:45

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 channelled 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:

- Director-General of Treasury/ DSI/DTIC, Mr Siya Madyibi of Microsoft
- Director-General of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Ms Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani
- CEO of Association of Communications and Technologies, Ms Novuyiswa Batji
- Acting Chairperson of ICASA, Ms Yolisa Kedama
- Chairperson of State Information Technology Agency, Mr Kiruben Pillay

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. Nonkubela Jordan-Dyani

15:20 - 15:30

VOTE OF THANKS

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