

Webinar

Towards Digital Transformation: Ensuring an Equitable and Inclusive Society

Speakers and Panelists



Mr. Calvin Chan

Programme Administrator
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Mr. Calvin Chan is the Programme Administrator for the ITU's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok. He serves as the Pakistan Country Manager from the ITU Regional Office and is also the regional focal point for cybersecurity, statistics, standardization, membership, and partnerships. He holds a MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics.



Dr. La-Or Kovavisaruch

Senior Researcher, Location & Automatic Identification Systems Research
National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) of
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Dr. La Or Kovavisaruch is a Senior Researcher at NECTEC under NSTDA, Thailand. Her expertise includes signal processing, indoor positioning, and Bluetooth/Wi Fi/UWB-based localization systems. She led the development of UNAI, a real-time indoor location system used in logistics and the MICE industry. With a Ph.D. focused on sensor network calibration, she has authored multiple technical papers on UWB localization, node calibration, and antenna delay compensation.



Mr. Ajmal Anwar Awan

Director General, Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP)
National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Pakistan
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Internationally experienced professional, Ajmal Anwar Awan is co-founder of tech startups and has worked in public and private sectors. He has an extensive experience working in senior management positions with global technology companies from Australia, United

States, United Kingdom, Pakistan as well as Middle East.

He served as Member of International Coordination at Pakistan's Ministry of IT & Telecom (MoITT), and was the focal point for many global organizations and worked closely with United Nations, World Bank, UNDP, GSMA, ITU, USAID, ADB, dealing with many Ambassadors, High Commissioners and senior diplomats. He is now working as Project Director at one of Pakistan's Government Departments, NADRA.

He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration, a bachelor's degree in Engineering and Project Management, Professional certification from the PMI United States of America.



Engr. Sophia Hasnain

Founder & CEO, Linked Things, Pakistan

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Sophia founded an IoT company 9 years ago and since then has been exploring opportunities and delivering innovative IoT use cases in the smart climate, smart cities and smart manufacturing sectors. She has presented her work on Metaverse of Things and Digital Twins at the IOTSWC held in Barcelona in 2022 and 2023.

She brings 25 years of experience working on innovative solutions in IT Systems, Mobile Financial Services and Telecom services. She was the technical lead at a European investment that has set up a secure online retail payment system in Pakistan. She developed the Strategy for Mobile Financial Service in Pakistan with Telenor that became one of the most leading financial service for the unbanked by the name of EasyPaisa. She was part of the Products and Innovation team at Deutsche Telekom based in Bonn that rolled out the secure mobile apps for Telekom customers. And at GSMA, she was leading the Mobile Money team in Asia working with operators to improve their business and operating models.

Sophia has MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.



Dr. Taner Dursun

Head, Blockchain Technologies Laboratory

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Dr. Taner Dursun has a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from Istanbul Technical University, with over 30 years of comprehensive experience in IT. Currently, he is serving as the Director of the Blockchain Lab at TÜBİTAK BİLGEM (Informatics and Information Security Research Center), also holding the position of Senior Chief Researcher.

He has expertise in parallel and distributed computing systems, blockchain technologies, information security, cryptography, and software engineering. His research interests and active projects include digital identity, central bank digital currencies (CBDC), crypto asset regulation, and RegTech infrastructures.

**Dr. Baber Majid Bhatti**

Sr. Management Advisor, Digital Transformation & Strategist, and
CEO Smart And Living Technologies (SALT), Australia

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Dr. Babar Bhatti is a seasoned cybersecurity and IT governance expert with a PhD in Information Security Risk Management. His leadership spans public and private sectors, including high-impact digital transformation roles at Accenture and National Information Technology Board (NITB), Pakistan. He specializes in national cyber resilience, AI-integrated security frameworks, and information systems architecture, contributing to policy reforms and next-gen IT infrastructures across Asia-Pacific.

**Engr. Ester Lazaro**

Head, Electronics & Instrumentation Technology Division

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Engr. Lazaro is a Computer engineer, Head of Electronics and Instrumentation division at TIRDO, Innovation Coordinator and researcher with experience in applied research for solution-oriented projects. Making use of innovation to unveil potentials that breaks barriers to technology development. Driving industrial digitalization through R&D in automation and smart systems, she leads prototype development and technical integration across manufacturing, agro-processing, and energy sectors. Her work bridges applied research with industry needs, promoting ICT-enabled productivity and supporting national innovation through engineering solutions.

**Prof. Dr. Khalil Ajami**

Professor

Arab International University (AIU), Syria

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Prof. Dr. Khalil Ajami is currently affiliated with Arab International University as Senior IT Consultant and University Professor. Earlier he had been the President of Syrian Virtual University. Dr. Ajami's area of expertise includes learning development, learning quality, and digital transformation. His recent engagements focus on exploring the challenges and opportunities of using new technologies in governance in general, and for higher education as a key sector of sustainable development in developing countries, in particular.

**Ms. Sajida Bandukwala**

Head, Marketing & Innovation

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Sajida Bandukwala is a seasoned professional with a unique blend of experience across technology, telecom, and social development sector. With a career spanning the UK and Pakistan, she has held strategic roles at global organizations—including Sky, Intel, The British Council, and NICE—where she contributed to transformative initiatives in digital innovation, marketing, customer success, and operational strategy.

Currently leading Marketing and Innovation at Jaffer Business Systems (JBS), Sajida drives

brand growth, digital modernization, and customer-centric innovation across diverse business verticals. Her work is grounded in a commitment to leveraging technology for both commercial impact and social value. She is known for her ability to align business vision with technology-driven execution, particularly in high-growth and evolving markets.

With a track record of success in launching new platforms, optimizing CX, and enabling digital transformation, Sajida brings a global perspective, deep sectoral insight, and a passion for purposeful innovation.



Ms. Onica N. Makwakwa

Executive Director

Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP), South Africa

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Onica is an experienced digital development professional, working at the intersection of technology and policy to advance access to affordable and meaningful connectivity.

She has managed and pioneered various national and international campaigns, policy change processes for women's rights, civil rights, consumer rights, as well as media and digital transformation initiatives. She brings a strong sensitivity and unique perspective to the dynamics affecting women, and other disadvantaged populations.

She is also a doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she's studying Global Education with research interests in digital inclusion.



Dr. İpek Baz

Coordinator, Competence Center, Artificial Intelligence Institute

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Dr. İpek Baz is Coordinator of the Competence Center at the Artificial Intelligence Institute, TÜBİTAK BİLGEM, Türkiye. She oversees initiatives in computer vision, AI system development, and edge computing. Earlier, she has served as Assistant Professor at Yeditepe University.

Dr. Baz has collaborated extensively on AI projects bridging academia and industry. She holds a PhD and BSc from Sabancı University and an MSc from EPFL. Her research includes fine-grained product recognition and adaptive AI algorithms for edge systems.