

Sustainability in the Digital Age: The Potential of AI in Pakistan

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionised the way the world operates due to increased digital technology adoption. AI offers benefits like enhancing sustainability through waste reduction, better resource management, and increased productivity. However, it also presents challenges, including widening inequalities and potential environmental issues. To keep up with other countries, Pakistan has also been adopting digital technology at an increasing rate. As the impact of digital technologies and AI grows within Pakistan, there is a dire need for understanding how it can help promote sustainability within the country, while at the same time inspecting the potential risks associated with the use of the technology.

As the country's population grows, reaching more than [241 million](#), the need for sustainability is becoming more and more important. To address environmental issues such as water and sanitation, air pollution, and deforestation, a swift transition to digitalisation is essential for both social and environmental solutions.

The field of AI is vast, and it can help in addressing some of the major sustainability challenges within Pakistan. For example, they can enable enhanced transportation routes to save emissions as well as help Pakistan in becoming more energy efficient. AI can also be used to monitor and manage natural resources such as water and forests that can help conservation efforts.

There are many risks associated with using AI as it can increase unemployment within the country and may only be accessible to those who can afford it. This can increase economic disparity within the country and be used for spreading misinformation and for other nefarious purposes.

Adopting an overarching and sustainable approach towards AI and its deployment within Pakistan can help mitigate the effects of the challenges faced while maximising its benefits. These involve making sure that it is applied responsibly to support the nation's sustainability objectives and it is spent on capacity development of the country so it can help develop capacities that are required to develop and apply AI responsibly. This panel will specifically focus on the following questions:

1. What are the most promising applications of AI for promoting sustainability in Pakistan, and how can these be scaled up and replicated across the country?
2. How can Pakistan's traditional industries, such as agriculture and manufacturing, benefit from the use of AI to improve sustainability and resource management?
3. What ethical considerations should be taken into account when developing and deploying AI solutions for sustainability in Pakistan, and how can these be addressed?
4. What are the potential risks and challenges associated with the use of AI in promoting sustainability in Pakistan, and how can these be mitigated?

5. What role can Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local communities play in promoting sustainable AI development and deployment in Pakistan?
6. How can Pakistan's government and private sector work together to ensure that AI-driven sustainable solutions are accessible and affordable to all segments of society?

Panel Organisers

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