



AI4PEP (ASIA) News Bulletin 1 - July 23 to August 6, 2023



Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief. In this issue, we're excited to launch our bi-weekly meetings with teams and support them as they progress through their amazing projects. Here, We delve into global initiatives addressing healthcare disparities, featuring innovative projects in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) aimed at strengthening pandemic and epidemic preparedness.



During the meeting, Chaitali Sinha, Senior Program Specialist at IDRC, highlighted the disproportionate vulnerability of Lower- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) due to limited resources and inequities in accessing quality health services. IDRC reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening health systems in LMICs with a gender-transformative and intersectional approach.

AI4PEP, led by Dr. Jude Kong of York University, selected 16 projects out of 221 proposals, emphasizing a decolonial framework, community participation, gender-transformative perspectives, and ethical use of locally relevant data. The network aims to foster collaboration and inclusivity.

In the first of the bi-weekly meetings, several initiatives were discussed, including fundraising efforts, committee invitations, standardized communication plans, collaboration with WHO, and capacity-building programs. Updates from country teams included progress in community engagement, ethics clearances, technology reviews, and partnerships with local organizations.

These efforts collectively signify a concerted global attempt to enhance Pandemic and Epidemic Preparedness, focusing on empowering vulnerable regions and promoting collaborative research and development. We are excited to follow the team's progress in the following years.

