

Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief.

This week we bring you some exciting updates from **Team Asia: India, Indonesia, Malaysia & the Philippines.**

Resource Mobilization

The team spent a great deal of time and energy exploring opportunities for fundraising. Prof. Kong reiterated his initial commitment to double the funding by the second year. He shared with the team that there was an open call for proposal from the Grants Challenge, which includes a call by the Gates Foundation, as well as another one from the Wellcome Trust. Team Philippines volunteered to take a lead in investigating Asia's eligibility and prospects of partners with the Sub-Saharan Africa cohort. Considering the tight deadline, which was within 5 days, the team reached a consensus that they would need to work on the grant over the weekend and observe the sensitive timelines of the intermittent feedback.

<https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/strengthening-health-and-disease-modeling-public-health-decision-making-africa>

Forging Sustainable Partnerships

- Prof. Kong reported that he had met with Dr. Alvin Marcelo from AEHN, and he was exploring a potential partnership with the organization. AEHN was notable as a great entity to partner with because they were also beneficiaries of IDRC seed funding & a great model of what AI4PEP may evolve to.

India- The Foundation for Medical Research FMRI Dr. Kayzad

- The team reported the project was currently on hold while they waited for a country's approval.
- Meanwhile, the team reportedly held a successful strategic communication workshop.
- Prof. Kong registered his concerns and hoped that the politics between Canada and India should not impair the research and developmental work. In the event things got complicated because of the politics, he pledged his support in case the pending political issues between Canada and India escalated to a position where they impaired the development agenda at hand.



Indonesia

- Congratulations to Team Indonesia on successfully securing their ethical clearance.
- The team's media outreach was ongoing, including their podcast show, which was scheduled to launch at the beginning of October.
- In other news, the team reportedly attended the 2nd PHASE ASEAN Mitigation of Biological Threat Coordination Meeting as Implementing Agency for ABVC Indonesia (partners).

MALAYSIA

- Team Malaysia reported they were still awaiting their clearance approval from the Finance Ministry. Notwithstanding that the team had not yet received its funding, the members proved to be quite innovative and strategic by focusing on strategic events that did not require financial resources.
- The team was also reportedly organizing an online seminar, entitled EI Powered Higher Education Transformative Teaching and Learning. The seminar was scheduled for the 23rd of November, and they were recruiting panelists to be featured on the seminar.
- The team invited volunteers who were interested in gracing the event as panelists at the event on AI in higher education, students, and lecturer's perspective's- cohort members encouraged to apply. Event was scheduled for November 23, 2023, at 10am to 12:30pm EST.

Philippines

- The team submitted that they had planned to lead a Colloquium series on behalf of the Asia cohort. This space will see different speakers across the region convene to discuss their research and provide some thought leadership on topical issues.
- Team Philippines submitted that they had organized a community engagement event in partnership with one of their beneficiary communities, the Atie People (Indigenous People of Philippines). The workshop was scheduled for the 27th October, 2023. Coincidentally, the date fell on a month that is known for observance of Indigenous People's rights in the country.



- Team Philippines submitted that they had just finished writing a manuscript about Telehealth and Universal Healthcare and it was under review. The team was hoping to present the manuscript at the upcoming conference (in a couple weeks).