AI4PEP (Africa) Bulletin – October 17th to November 1st, 2023

Welcome to the AI4PEP Bi-weekly News Brief.
This week we bring you some exciting updates from Team MENA: **Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, and Palestine & Jordan.**

Solidarity with Palestine

Prof. Kong reiterated his sentiments of solidarity with the people of Palestine and the entire MENA region. He relayed that York University, and its Leadership had the people of Palestine and the entire MENA region in their thoughts and prayers. He further encouraged the team in Palestine, who were directly affected by the political violence to reach out to him and communicate the kind of accommodations they needed.

Congratulations are in Order!

- We extend our warmest wishes to Dr. Yahya Tayalati, Morocco Principal investigator who has just been elected as a Member of the World Academy of Science, UNESCO.

Resource Mobilization

Prof. Kong shared the following grants with the cohort and encouraged them to continue mobilizing funds to support their programs as individual projects, and as a collective cohort.

Available Grants:

1. https://www.samrc.ac.za/funding/catalyzing-equitable-artificial-intelligence-ai-use-improve-global-health
2. https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/career-development-awards
3. https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/collaborative-research-grants/for-applicants

Lebanon

- Team Lebanon has been hard at work for the past fortnight. They were reportedly done with their literature review and were reviewing their first article: **"Review of Pathogens Considered to be Associated with High Pandemic Risk Presently and in the Near Future."** After a thorough internal review process, the article will be submitted as a manuscript.

Morocco

The team reported that they had finished a couple research papers, which were undergoing a review process:

- i) **"Survey on AI for TB Propagation Modeling."**
- ii) **"AI 4 Aided Detection for TB Diagnosis: A Survey."**
- iii) **"Meta-survey on AI for Tuberculosis Mycobacterium Detection, Propagation and Modeling and Resistance Prediction."**
- Leaders have been assigned to the different papers, and the data collection process was underway.

Palestine

Team Palestine was also hard at work, forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders and government ministries. The following two papers were in the pipeline, and currently being reviewed.

- i) **"Literature Review of Infectious Diseases in MENA: Diagnostic Techniques, Pathogens, Severity, and Regional Impacts."**

- ii) **"Evaluating Artificial Intelligence Performance in the Diagnostic of Infectious Disease Outbreaks in the MENA Region: A Systematic Review."**

Conference Opportunities

- **Prof. Kong also shared information about the Data for Policy Conference that was scheduled for the 9 to the 11ᵗʰ July, 2024.**
- He suggested that the cohort may want to brainstorm and put together a paper that they could present at the Data for Conference.
- https://dataforpolicy.org/data-for-policy-2024/