AI4PEP (Africa) Bulletin – November 14th to November 29th, 2023

Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief.
This week we bring you some exciting updates from **Team Asia: India, Indonesia, Malaysia & the Philippines.**
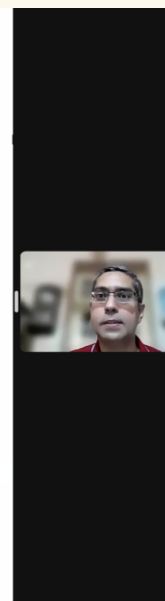
AI4PEP-Asia Cohort Led Colloquium Series

- The region. Continues to provide exceptional thought leadership through its ongoing Speaker series on AI Health. The second episode of the colloquium series coincided with the Global Awareness week on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Dr. Kayzid Nilgiriwala delivered a very informative presentation on AMR which he termed a "silent pandemic" because people were not aware of the causes and ramifications of AMR.

Special Issue

- Prof. Kong told the cohort that he had received an invitation from AI4PEP's partners in Berlin to present some submissions for their Special Issue. The editors were keen on collaborating with AI4PEP. Prof. Kong suggested that each team submit an individual policy paper. To make this happen, each team would have to turn its proposal into a policy paper, highlighting its unique approach to Pandemic Preparedness and Response without revealing intimate details about the projects.
  https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/59669/innovation-in-pandemic-and-epidemic-intelligence

Philippines

- We're pleased to announce the launch of AI4PEP-TDP4 project titled, "Telehealth data, predictions, pandemic prevention and preparation." This initiative is a product of the collaboration of researchers from the University of Alberta, University of the Philippines Diliman, National Center for Mental Health, World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, and the University of San Agustin. It aims to develop and implement a disease surveillance system in underserved and low-resource communities in Western Visayas, Philippines.

- The team also reported that they had resubmitted their Manuscript on Lessons in the Implementation of the Atipan Project (Telehealth) for Universal Health Care (UHC) and it was under review.

India

- The team reported that they had followed up with the local municipality for their ethics approval. The team reported that they were anticipating their clearance within the next two weeks so that at least they

could go ahead and collect the wastewater samples within the municipality.

Indonesia

- The team mentioned that their government was in the process of developing their AI in Healthcare Governance Policy Brief for National Context and they were looking forward to contributing their views.
- The team reported that they had met with the alumni network and introduced the project, and they received some great feedback and interest in collaborating with them.
- The team was reportedly attending the 2ⁿᵈ Phase Mitigation of Biological Threat Coordination Meeting as Implementing Agency for ABVC Indonesia (Partners).
- The team also mentioned attending Asia e-Healthcare Governance Policy Brief national context.

Malaysia

- Prof. Angela Lee Siew Hoong submitted that they were still going through the ethics clearance process, and they anticipated a response sometime between mid-December and January 2024 because of the Christmas holidays.
- Team Malaysia proposed a small symposium in the new year (2024). Prof. Kong welcomed the idea & encouraged Prof. Angela Lee Siew Hoong to reach out to the Activities Committee so that they could start the planning process. He mentioned that they could even consider doing a global one because he was due to convene a meeting for the Global Network. Additionally, some members have already started collaborating and forming synergies with partners at the global level, & some of the projects had some coming themes across regions. Without a doubt, the symposium would create a ripe environment for cross-fertilization of ideas across regions.