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MDEC's AI & Data Week Anchor Event Highlights Need For Ethical AI & Implementation In Education

- The AI & Data Week 2019 organised by MDEC highlights the development of AI and data analytics for the industry.
- The anchor event of the week—Next Big Tech Asia 2019—saw AI ethics and education adoption as key topics on the first day.

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 SEPTEMBER 2019 – The first day of Next Big Tech Asia 2019—the anchor event for the MDEC-organised AI & Data Week 2019—saw plenty of discussion surrounding the moral inclinations of AI users today, as well as its use for the advancement of society.

One of the key themes put forward during the day was the ethical considerations of using AI in the Industry 4.0 era. Addressing this topic, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific Natalie Black spoke about the urgency of creating safe environments for current and future users of AI technology to allow for a healthier and fairer global economy.

During her speech, Natalie called for stakeholders in the development of AI, namely corporates and policy-makers, to strive for fair and conducive AI practices. Here she quoted a statistic from a Microsoft-led research that revealed heightened AI adoption could see productivity rates increase by 60 percent.

A later panel session in the afternoon moderated by MDEC CEO Surina Shukri also touched upon the subject of AI ethics, with one of the main ideas put forward being the role of regulators in levelling out the AI playing field.

“The role of the government is very important because if we leave it to the manufacturers of things like self-driving cars or robots, they will try to develop systems that optimise profits—this is where government regulation and law comes in,” said Dr. Avik Sakar, the former Head of Data Analytics at NITI Aayog, India.



From left: Nini Marini – a Malaysian artist, Dr. Avik Sarkar – Former Head of Data Analytics at NITI Aayog, India, Surina Shukri – CEO of MDEC, Dr. Vijay Gandapodi – Global IT Head for Data Science & Marketing Analytics at The Coca Cola Company, US, Jacob Isaac – Managing Director of New Technologies at Fusionex International, and David Rajoo – Chief Cybersecurity Architect at Symantec ASEAN, Malaysia.

Another key takeaway from the first day is the urge to integrate AI into education systems, with Priya Lakhani, founder and CEO of CENTURY Tech speaking on the upshot of machine-assisted learning. Priya provided insights into how her own AI education platform is used by schools to ascertain best learning methods for individual students, incorporating data analytics to craft optimal learning pathways as opposed to a one-size-fits-all approach.

Following her session, Priya urged for Malaysians to avoid thinking about the limitations in adopting platforms such as hers, but rather explore the opportunities that are already available.



Priya Lakhani, founder and CEO of CENTURY Tech speaking on the upshot of machine-assisted learning.

“The problem arises when we try to come up with limitations before even attempting implementation. Prime Minister Mahathir has talked about putting the best teachers in front of all children, so once we move past the obvious barriers such as hardware, the question becomes how we can embed this technology in education. The time is now, the time is not after everyone else has already done it,” Priya said in an interview on the sidelines on AI & Data Week 2019.

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About AI & Data Week 2019

AI & Data Week 2019 is a week-long event with activities such as conferences, workshops, satellite events, and exhibitions surrounding the main topics of AI and Big Data. AI and Big Data evangelists and experts are brought together to this week-long event to deliver and share their knowledge and experience on AI, Big Data, data science, and analytics. Industry leaders from countries such as the USA, UK, Australia, and all around Asia are converging right here in Kuala Lumpur to discuss, deliberate, share, and debate about



the game-changing AI and Big Data strategies. Over the week, the events will bring together 1,000 attendees from various backgrounds such as C-Levels, Generals, Directors, Presidents, and many others. The AI & Data Week 2019 takes place from 9 to 15 September all around Malaysia.

To know more about AI & Data Week 2019, visit mdec.my/aidw

About Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is the government agency under the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia entrusted to lead the nation's digital economy forward.

MDEC's mandate includes driving digital adoption, development of industry ready tech talents, digital economy policies and global champions.

To future proof Malaysia for the digital age, MDEC will leverage its proven track record, industry credibility and experienced leadership to connect, catalyse and commercialise digital initiatives to advance a thriving and sustainable digital economy placing diversity and inclusivity at its core.

#LetsBuildTogether #DigitalMalaysiaForward

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