AI Ethics and Governance in a Fractured World ; Asia Pacific's Path Forward

Side event of the 3rd UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
24th June 2025, 9:00-17:30Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok Declaration on the Social, Legal and Ethical Issues of Artificial Intelligence

Miwako Hosoda, Professor , Seisa University; Director, Inclusive Action For All (IAFA), Japan

Surichai Wun Gaeo, National Chair for Thailand, Vice President of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Committee, Asia and the Pacific
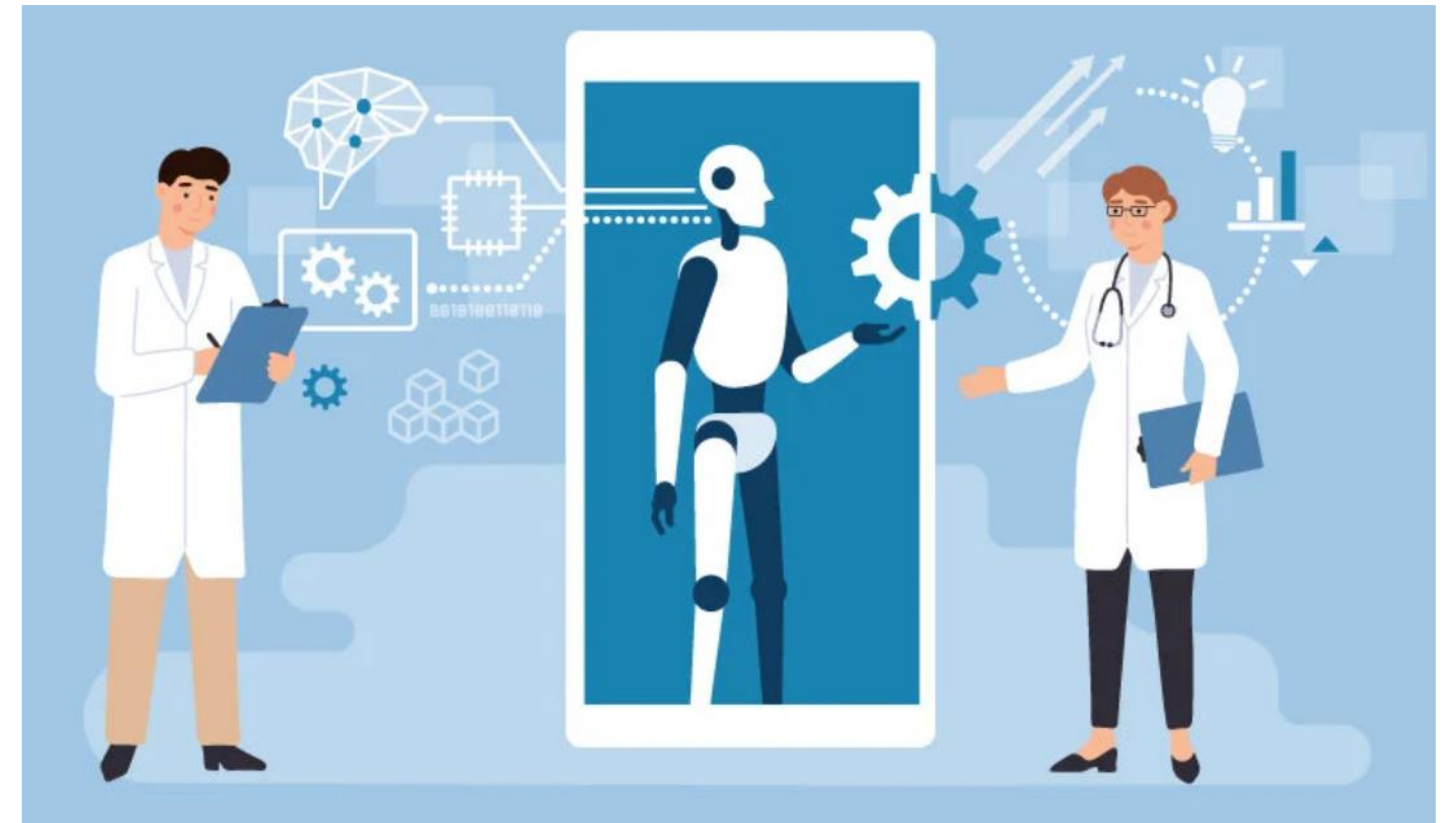
Soraj Hongladarom, Professor, International Buddhist Studies College, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University; Founding Director, Center for Science, Technology, and Society, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Osama Rajkhan, Professor of Bioethics and Integrative Health; American University of Sovereign Nations; Saudi Arabia

Darryl Macer, President, American University of Sovereign Nations, USA; Director, Eubios Ethics Institute, New Zealand

Introduction

- Current era marked by global insecurity:

  - Geopolitical conflict

  - Climate crises

  - Global health disparities

- AI as both opportunity and risk in global health

- Central question: Can AI be made ethical *and* equitable?

The Problem

- AI development dominated by Global North

- Biased datasets & techno-centric values

- Lack of context-specific design in global health applications

- Risk of reinforcing inequalities

Technological Justice

- What is technological justice?

  - Fair, inclusive, and responsible innovation

- Key ethical questions:

  - Who designs AI?

  - Who benefits?

  - Who is left out or harmed?

- Urges rethinking of global power asymmetries in tech

Ethical AI in Times of Insecurity

- Crises increase vulnerability to unethical tech use

- Examples:

  - Surveillance without consent

  - Experimental interventions in low-resource settings

- Urgency of anticipatory and inclusive ethics

Toward a Global Ethical Framework

- Move beyond algorithmic fairness

- Co-create ethical standards:

  - Involve Global South stakeholders

  - Interdisciplinary collaboration

- Ethics as part of global governance

Key Recommendations

- **Democratize AI development**

  - Prioritize inclusive, participatory design

- **Institutionalize equity audits**

  - Measure social impact systematically

- **Embed AI ethics into international relations**

  - Recognize AI as a matter of global justice

Final Thought

- AI reflects human values and power structures

- Ethical AI requires more than regulation—it requires **solidarity, justice, and accountability**

Bangkok Declaration on the Social,

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The Declaration was adopted at the 23rd Asian Bioethics Conference: Social, Legal and Ethical Issues of Artificial Intelligence, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25-29 March 2025, by 70 persons from over 20 countries, and is open to further signature.
https://eubios.info/ai-ethics.html

The 85 paragraphs address the Context; Opportunities offered by AI to Ethics; Priorities for Inclusive AI governance; Guiding Ethical Principles; Freedom of dialogue; Moral responsibility; Benefits and Risks to Different Agents; Discrimination; Inclusion; Respect for Human Rights; Equity; Applications of AI; Control; Environment; Academic Integrity; Authorship and Creativity; Research benefits and knowledge coproduction; Human rights based Business and Development; Health; Education; Personhood; Creativity; AI and Peace, Violence and Conflict; Benefit sharing; Practical ethics; Public discussion; Governance; and Diplomacy.

This brief presentation is to relay some of these reflections to the participants here at this conference.

The Guiding Ethical Principles

(A) Freedom of dialogue

16. Freedom of dialogue is necessary for ethical reflection and an essential feature of democratic life. We uphold the value of free, open and reasoned discussion, so that any position is worthy of consideration. In public discourse, no individual or group can claim to have exclusive knowledge of the right ethical solution.

(B) Moral responsibility

18. Every person has a lifelong responsibility to develop their own ethical maturity and values. Bioethical maturity has been defined as the ability to balance the benefits and risks of ethical choices, considering the parties involved and the consequences.
All persons who develop and apply technology have moral responsibility for their choices.
All AI persons, or AI beings that may develop into persons, should be instilled with values of moral responsibility and respect for rights of other beings.

(C) Reflection of benefits and risks to different agents

19. A long established method of technology assessment is reflection on the benefits and risks of an action to others, and AI is no exception.

20. All agencies, organizations and governments who develop and apply AI technology bear legal responsibility for violations of human rights, and harm caused to humans, environment, infrastructures, and/or property.

(D) Avoid Discrimination

22. Biases in AI systems are a growing concern, as these systems often reflect and perpetuate existing societal inequalities. The origins of such biases can be traced in part to the data used to train algorithms.

Bias can also stem from design of algorithm analysis which may contain historical prejudices, under-representation, or skewed distributions.

These biases can manifest in areas such as employment, law enforcement, research, education and healthcare, governance, policy development, treatment of persons living with disabilities, and so on, where AI systems have significant real-world consequences.

(E) Inclusion

24. We should promote inclusive AI goal-alignment to document and celebrate diverse cultural perspectives, including Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS). We should promote inclusive AI goal-alignment to document and revive languages on the verge of distinction to facilitate research on language global structuralism and cultural kinship. The creators, developers and designers should prioritize recognized human ethical frameworks in AI development, ensuring that diverse ethical values are respectfully represented in both design and adoption of AI.

(F) Respect for Human Rights

26. Ensure that AI development remains noble and does not enable the instrumentalization of individuals for abuse, including nefarious political purposes, as such actions that violate Human Rights and related law, such as the Geneva Conventions.
Also, prevent the exploitation of AI to manipulate public opinion or spread disinformation that undermines democratic processes and societal trust.

(G) Equity

27. Currently some of the advanced AI tools are sold at a premium rate, as are some of the best "humanizer" apps to hide AI signatures on creative works, so persons who lack access to these tools, will find it more difficult to compete for scholastic achievement and in all areas of competitive works where generative AI can assist people. This deepens existing digital and educational inequalities, and risks creating a two-tiered society divided by AI access, literacy, and privilege.

You are all invited to the <u>Joint AUSN-SHRG-Youth's UNESCO Club Conference on AI, Ethics and Diversity,</u> Norwood Hall, London, England to be held on 6-7 September 2025

This will be an in-person hands on workshop on the broad theme of AI, Ethics and Diversity. The workshop will provide an opportunity for reflection and exploration of all questions that you may have about our future with AI, with a multicultural and trans-disciplinary group of experts.

Among topics that will be discussed: The co-evolution of AI and humankind; AI and disability; The moral status of AI; Does AI increase or reduce respect for diversity?; Does AI increase or reduce creativity?; AI and Human Rights; AI, privacy and electronic health records; AI and human security (short term and long-term); AI and gaps between communities and nations; AI and diplomacy?; Equity or inequity; AI and Education; AI and Youth Empowerment; AI and civil society; Applications of AI in health care, environment, energy and Management of Social Transformations.

This conference is also part of the global implementation and development of the Bangkok Declaration on the Social, Legal and Ethical Issues of Artificial Intelligence...

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Please return your comments, and inform us of your interest in further conferences and working groups on particular themes, by Email to:

Dr. Darryl Macer,
Director, Eubios Ethics Institute,
Japan, New Zealand and Thailand
(Email darryl@eubios.info)