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ITU AI FOR GOOD GLOBAL SUMMIT
POPOV ROOM
PLENARY 11
"BREAKTHROUGH" PROPOSALS ON INVESTMENTS, ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND
DESIGNING THE FUTURE

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>> ANDY CHEN: Okay. Let's start the session now. Can you
please sit down?

Let's do the report out for the breakout sessions. We've
got the Lynne Parker, who is doing the approach by the
governmental stakeholders. We have Rigas Hadzilacos, and Paul
Bunje, is doing the collaborations and Sean McGregor who is
doing success.

Can we tee up the first slides and see which group that we
have? For the guidelines report back.

While they are getting it up, do you guys want to give quick
feedback on how your session goes? Any comment on your
sessions?

>> I heard that the three of theirs is among the very best
ever and I should be disappointed I missed them.

>> ANDY CHEN: Is that right? The highlight?

>> The highlight of the conference.

>> ANDY CHEN: Moving to the slides. Was there any disagreement? Any heated discussions? Nobody punched anybody?

>> I heard somebody got punched.

>> LYNNE PARKER: We had great collaboration, partnership.

>> ANDY CHEN: Okay, here we go. Who has Investing for Impact with AI?

>> RIGAS HADZILACOS: That's us. We had a lot of different, we tried from the beginning to get to some concrete recommendations. One that came up that we thought we would share with you but it's not on the slide, a lot of the breakouts came, that whenever we use an algorithm that is used for resource allocation and therefore is going to have some bias, it should be open and observable and decomposable to be sure it can be deployed. We thought a lot of breakout groups came up with this conclusion so we don't put it as a concrete recommendation.

We came up with three concrete ideas we want to share with you. One, we should create a platform and we thought maybe the U.N. could be a good place to create that platform, that would allow regional governments and nonprofits to submit problems with the associate data sets on which machine learning practitioners can work on and offer solutions, even though a lot of the solution providers are in the developed world and a lot of the problems that we are trying to solve are in the developing world. But with an associate problem that we don't have enough data to put our solutions to work on them. This was number one.

Number two is to create a search fund that identifies existing AI solutions that also have been developed for the developed world but that can be easily and cheaply adapted for problems of the developing world. This will need also the know how of the local ecosystem that can help with adapting the existing solution. And the data set again that can train the system to be adapted to this particular problem.

And the third proposal which was one of the proposals that we have, how do we actually collect the data set in regions that do not have data sets, but they would profit a lot from AI solutions, is to create a funding that could be something that the ITU takes on that offers grants to private companies that operate locally in these areas to select sociographic survey data and share that data. The idea is to the rest of the world and invest in developed solutions.

>> ANDY CHEN: Okay. I will ask one quick question. You talk about criteria where or the recommendation two that you think you want private sectors to help invest on cheap and easy solutions. Do you think that's a challenge?

>> RIGAS HADZILACOS: It was one of the main challenges. There were maybe, I don't want to misrepresent all of the rich

discussion we had, but two of the problems identified was the lack of data and the lack of incentives for private sector to invest in this region. We thought what is a solution that can help bridge and give some incentive to private companies to develop things. We thought one was to minimize the cost. Find something that already has been developed and had a big cost but needs a small added cost to adapt it to a local solution and to identify a good way to have data.

>> ANDY CHEN: That's how you get them incented to have small cost but big impact. All right.

Those of you who had access to the app that you can do the surveys on those three, if you can rate those three and to see if you want to participate in some of these efforts as we go on.

I'll move on to the next one. KPI For Success.

>> SEAN MCGREGOR: This was my breakthrough session. The panel was initially a little confused on what constituted a KPI in AI. We spent a bit of final exploring what that meant and part of that discussion really showed that we needed to have additional investment in the space of measuring or looking at the broader impacts of the artificial intelligence systems.

A lot of AI systems naturally have a performance indicator as the thing you optimize to, but the problem is that doesn't actually capture the whole impact and possibly the negative things that could come about as a result. In terms of investment, there is a field or a sub, sub, subfield in computer science called fairness, accountability, and transparency that because it is not directly related to any profit motive is very under invested and it we decided that a good food for thought for our panel thus was to encourage the investment in this and related research areas.

>> ANDY CHEN: Do you have only one?

>> SEAN MCGREGOR: Here is two. Separate slides.

>> ANDY CHEN: Go ahead.

>> SEAN MCGREGOR: The second one here is kind of a little bit of background is I'm here with the XPRIZE Foundation and doing technical management for the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE, and there's about 150 teams working to solve problems and one thing that is quickly obvious is that there is no global ethical framework or system that we can apply to each of these teams. Figuring out how we can work with the teams to maximize the beneficial impacts and minimize the likelihood of anyone being harmed by what the teams are working on is actually quite challenging. And more broadly, outside of grand challenge science and engineering, this would be a useful thing to develop and have adopted by the community of the conference now present.

>> ANDY CHEN: And number three?

>> SEAN MCGREGOR: I think we only had two. There were only two.

>> ANDY CHEN: So I guess before we start, can you just give the audience what KPI is? Some of the people were not in industry and they may not be familiar with that.

>> SEAN MCGREGOR: That was largely the vision of the people on the panel as well. People in the industry knew it was for key performance indicator. So we just broaden that to measurement or assessing the impact in general, and focused on measurement of ethical concerns specifically.

>> ANDY CHEN: Yeah, I can see some of the discussion going on was with industries and academia and governments, having KPI and understanding you need to have green, red, or yellow to show where your performance is, a dashboard. But that's all pieces, sometimes. It's hard. It's a pretty interesting one.

So from what you got here, do you think you would be able to set up the index that you need for measuring the different success of your project?

>> SEAN MCGREGOR: I think the problem that we were having is that the application of intelligence to problems and assessing that is so broad that we found it very difficult to develop a single indicator that we could apply across the whole space. I think that's why we concentrated on processing and research to develop the ideas, and whatever domain is relevant.

>> ANDY CHEN: I can see that. Thanks very much.

For you who have access, could you please rate those two to see if you are interested in participating?

And number three, Approaches for Government, Industries and Other Stakeholders. Lynne?

>> LYNNE PARKER: Yes, thank you. So our group is really looking at the collaborations and the opportunities for partnerships amongst the various stakeholders. I think certainly we are encouraged by meetings like this that have been enthusiastically supported by all the different stakeholders in the community of AI. We really challenged, those of us participating in this panel, to think about concrete steps that we could take to go from sort of a lofty goal of all work together to practical steps that we can take action on.

So the two foods for thought? Is that the plural of food for thought? Foods for thought, number one, to create a repository of AI for good case studies, activities, partnerships, and best practices. So this can be then be used as a resource for others who want to understand how various stakeholders are using AI to solve grand challenges and to help them collaborate.

I think in general we don't really know what has been done. We have a lot of maybe reinventing of the wheel. We have

various spotty activities here and there of people who are trying to about bring together ideas. This food for thought is really trying to bring all of these activities together to help us all understand where we are so that then we can build from those and folks coming into the use of AI can learn from these best practices and have resources and so forth. That's what this food for thought is about.

Our second food for thought is about really looking at a variety of things: On work only incentives, government structures for data sharing and encouragement of availability of open source software relevant for AI applications.

So this is really trying to look at ways that we can incentivize these sorts of partnerships so we can achieve some of the open, available software. This is in some sense an outcrop of some conversations about how do we actually solve real, practical problems? How do we assure that going forward we will have good approaches that can go from one application to another and, therefore, have the standards and the incentives for actually learning from these examples.

So our thinking was that both of these foods for thought can help really in addressing some inequalities in the distribution of knowledge and wealth surrounding AI so that Developing Countries can not only catch up but perhaps sort of leap frog from where they are in the AI revolution.

>> ANDY CHEN: That's two?

>> LYNNE PARKER: Just two.

>> ANDY CHEN: Reading the description here, it strikes me that you must have the whole room of engineers in your sessions because --

>> LYNNE PARKER: We had a pretty good distribution of folks.

>> ANDY CHEN: I can read these, this is right up my Allie, use cases and open sources. But it's good that you will be able to concentrate on the actual things with some kind of approach.

>> LYNNE PARKER: I think as part of our conversation, we looked and just broadly about all the high level activities. You know, we talk about broad strategies, lots of nations have created strategic plans. There are lots of reports on AI. We agreed on a set of characteristics. We want to have AI exhibit. We mentioned many of those, safety, security, ethical and transparent, explainable, all these kinds of qualities.

But what can we do now? We can always invest in more research. I highly advocate for that. But what do we do now that can help solve real problems in the near term?

These were trying to aim at the practical aspects of this.

>> ANDY CHEN: That's great. Thanks very much. There's two items for you to get your teeth in there if you are interested in participating in it.

Let's move on to the last sessions. Roadmap for Collaboration, Paul?

>> PAUL BUNJE: Thanks. We did a couple of things in this session on roadmap for collaboration. The first was to really brainstorm out some of the examples of where we think there are possible solutions to be had in applying AI to SDGs. Yes, there were colored papers in our session, if you missed it. That's the fun. Part of that was done so we can start to think about what it is that the future will look like if we actually accomplish some of these goals as a way of -- we heard about roams the other day, using tools like back casting, as a way of identifying what the highest priority principles would be in developing a roadmap or a programme writ large in AI for good.

The second thing we did was an interactive effort to identify the highest priorities. We heard a lot throughout the day. This summarizes in many ways what a lot of the other panels in breakthrough sessions were talking about. This shouldn't be anything new, but hopefully this gives us a sense of where the panel but also the audience in this breakthrough session saw some of the highest priorities.

The first is on collaboration, for obvious reasons, I think. That may be self-evident but it is also helpful to detail out this is obvious. I'll make a couple of specific points about engaging the crowd writ large, building actual institutions for collaboration, platforms for development of tools among technologists, but also between those developers as well as users and stakeholders. Different types of platforms and forms for collaboration to ensure that.

The second food for thought is inclusion. Collaboration and inclusion is also key. Again, this is a theme that came up in a lot of different sessions, I think. It's worth putting a very fine point on the fact that we need to include diverse perspectives, include diverse communities and bridge the digital divide in many ways. Not only to allow AI to solve grand challenges but for the purse of developing better artificial intelligence including artificial general intelligence. Other sectors, inclusion of key leaders from all sectors of society. So people in government, business, et cetera, who may not even be aware of some of the development of these tools but are not only going to be users and leaders in these but also hold within them the knowledge of how it is that solutions need to be found and what specific problems actually look like.

Then include diverse approaches to solutions as well. So allowing artificial intelligence to be as broadly defined as it

has been in general ways, but time that to specific purposes as well so that we are getting better at the fit for purpose concern.

And then last one is access is key. So inclusion, collaboration, inclusion and access. That means two things really. Exposing the world to the efforts that are happening. So access to knowledge of what's going on. This relates very clearly to things like transparency that have been discussed but really providing a mechanism for the world. You need to think about that as people like me who are aware and knowledgeable but not developing and directly using these things but can be ambassadors, as well as individuals who may be frightened of dystopian visions, to engage them in a way that they can potentially provide input but also access the utility. That's the second piece of that, building transparent systems that include clear intentions, stated purposes and goals that allow us to generally democratize access to the development of AI tools, to the data itself, the solutions themselves as well. I want to make the point that democratizing access is a two-way street. That is a theme as well. It is not about developing things in one room somewhere in a rich country and then allowing people to see it but rather democratizing access to the ability to develop in the first place and find out those problems.

>> ANDY CHEN: Yes, that's really good. A lot of feedback in just a couple days, having to do with how do you address the Developing Countries, how do you get it delivered to them for the platform? So I think what evidence you've done here is pretty much right on what we need to do.

>> PAUL BUNJE: I really want to put a strong point that this is not novel, necessarily. We heard this in a lot of sessions and it came through loud and clear to people here. I appreciate the work that other panels have done to put concrete specifics on how we might do this. Hopefully this gives a sense of consensus around why it's so important to do so and then figure out that the real next systems.

>> ANDY CHEN: Great. So please, also put your vote in to see if you want to take part in one of these. But with that I would like to close this session. Let's give a round of applause for our rapporteurs.

(Applause.)

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