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Bonn AI and Climate Expert Meeting 2024

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence

Towards Enhancing Disaster Response and Mental Health Support Panel

Wissenschaftszentrum, Bonn, Germany

Monday & Tuesday, 1 & 2 July 2024

Session on Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI)

*Digital Strategies for Addressing Climate-related Health Crises,
including Mental Health Support and Infodemics*

Tuesday, 2 July 2024, 12:15 to 13:00 CEST (Bonn time) Hybrid Session

[Register here to join online](#)

This session contributes to the following sub-themes of the overall expert meeting:

1. AI technologies for climate action
2. Use-cases for AI and climate action (incl. a focus on LDCs and SIDS)
3. Governance and enabling regulation for AI & climate

Abstract

This session on ‘Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI): Digital Strategies for Addressing Climate-related Health Crises, including Mental Health Support and Infodemics’ will explore the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in improving crisis management, mental health support, and tackling infodemics. Experts from the United Nations University system, UN agencies, and the International Science Council’s Committee on Data (CODATA) will discuss AI’s benefits alongside the ethical challenges in enhancing community resilience and health outcomes in crises situations related to climate events impacting health. The discussion will build on key insights and recommendations from ongoing work by these organizations in addressing the needs of scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and affected individuals and communities involved in crisis management and humanitarian response.

This discussion will focus on the importance of the use of reliable data and digital tools (e.g., AI) to transform science and policy when addressing health-crisis management strategies while supporting the psychosocial well-being (mental health support services) of those impacted. In this context it considers the framework for dealing with infodemics and misinformation. Consideration will be given to the work of CoARA-ERIP in reforming how digital research is valued and positioned to support societal needs.

The panel discussion brings together experts from United Nations University system [UNU-CRIS (United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies; Belgium), UNU-MERIT (United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology; The Netherlands), and UNU-EHS (United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security; Germany)], other UN bodies (UNDRR, WHO), and ISC CODATA. It will provide a multidisciplinary perspective on leveraging AI to address critical challenges in health crises related to climate events and the need to support the physical, social, and mental well-being of persons and communities directly affected.

Objectives

The primary objective of this session is to address the role of reliable data and advanced digital technologies in remediating the suffering and damages arising from climate-related health crises. It addresses the following key topics:



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1. considering AI innovations, technological advances, and ethical considerations for crisis management;
2. promoting the digital sciences to address health crises: the role of the ISC's 'Protecting Science in Times of Crisis' and the potential support of reforms to research assessment;
3. assessing and mitigating the psychosocial impacts of health crises with the support of new technologies, including AI;
4. leveraging AI for health and well-being in the context of health crises for mainstream and migrant populations; and
5. the challenges of AI in strengthening responses to health crises impacted by climate events.

Background publications

- A. UNU-CRIS, [Unlocking Solutions: AI For Disaster Management and Psychosocial Well-being](#)
- B. International Science Council (ISC), [Protecting Science in Times of Crisis](#) (2024)
- C. UNESCO-CODATA Working Group on Data Policy in Times of Crisis Facilitated by Open Science, Crawley, Francis P., et al. UNESCO Open Science framework for sharing data in times of crisis. Science-policy Brief for the United Nations' Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, May 2024. [UNESCO Open Science framework for sharing data in times of crisis.pdf](#).

Session agenda

Nidhi Nagabhatla (Session Chair and Moderator; Program Lead: Nature, Climate and Health, UNU-CRIS)

- Welcome
- Overview of the session's objectives and expected outcomes
- Brief introduction of the panelists

Francis P. Crawley (Chairman, ISC CODATA International Data Policy Committee (IDPC); Co-chair & Coordinator, CoARA-ERIP; Leuven, Belgium)

'Advancing new digital technologies to address the health crises concerning climate events'

Panel discussion

- Francis P. Crawley (ISC CODATA & CoARA ERIP; in person)
- Sanae Okamoto (UNU MERIT, in person)
- David Oeou (UNU EHS) /or Rep from UNDRR
- Maximilian Jungmann (Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE); online)
- Ghulam Sakhi Bayramli (UNU EHS; in person)
- Tshiamo Motshegwa (African Open Science Platform [AOSP], National Research Foundation [NRF], South Africa; online)

Interactive discussion

Open discussion with Q&A

Closing Remarks

Summary of key insights and takeaways, future directions and collaborative opportunities, and a word or thanks to the panelists and participants