PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2024

PS 2.3

OUR TECH FUTURE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETY: PROMISE OR PERIL?
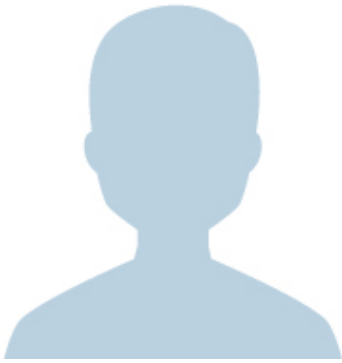
| BACKGROUND

Considerable controversy surrounds the broad societal questions about Artificial Intelligence (AI), even though personal and commercial applications are already reshaping many aspects of life at home and in the workplace. The unaddressed issues linking emerging technologies with national and global outcomes are profound and the stakes could not be higher. Even the nature of truth, the most fundamental elements of democracy, and the drivers of socioeconomic inequality are exposed to poorly considered, extremely powerful, and completely unregulated realities that are already here. In positive terms, AI and other technologies have the potential to automate many tasks, analyze data in volumes that would be impossible otherwise, measure nearly everything, and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of things as yet unimagined by humans.

| OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this session include identifying some of the major ways that technology is reshaping our future and discussing the possibilities for embracing the positive aspects, limiting threat, and adjudicating the lines between the two. The session will feature speakers who will draw attention to specific opportunities and problems that inform their engagement with the societal implications of emerging and future technologies.

Panelist

Eirliani Abdul Rahman

Senior Fellow

Georgetown University
United States of America

A Senior Fellow at Georgetown University, Eirliani holds a doctorate in public health from Harvard University. She is concurrently a Research Affiliate at the University of Cambridge's Centre for Technology and Democracy. She was a member of the inaugural cohort of "Harvard Students in AI" program hosted by the Berkman Klein Center. She is a former New America Open Technology Institute Fellow and P.E.O. International Peace scholar.

Since its inception in 2016, she was a founding member of Twitter's Trust and Safety Council as an expert on child online safety. In December 2022, Eirliani made global headlines following her resignation from the council, speaking out against the meteoric rise in hate speech after Elon Musk's purchase of the platform. In response, Musk dissolved the council four days later. Her work has been profiled by inter alia the BBC, CBC, NPR, Slate, Harvard Public Health, the Sunday Times, and Business Insider.