Press Release
The Transformative Artificial Intelligence Research and Innovation Lab (TAIRI Lab)

The University of Rwanda (UR) is establishing the Transformative Artificial Intelligence Research and Innovation Lab (TAIRI) as part of the Artificial Intelligence for Development (AI4D) Programme, an initiative supported by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and Canada's International Development and Research Centre (IDRC). The Artificial Intelligence for Development (AI4D) program, seeks to foster safe, inclusive, and responsible AI ecosystems that empower individuals and accelerate progress on international development challenges.

The establishment of the TAIRI Lab is in alignment with the Rwanda National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), which aims to create decent jobs, boost exports, improve education quality, enhance public service delivery, and reduce stunting and malnutrition. The goal of the TAIRI AI4D lab is to build the capacity of experts and practitioners to develop and implement responsible AI solutions tailored to local needs, including AI-powered healthcare tools, climate-resilient agricultural planning models, and air pollution forecasting systems. The Lab is being established at the College of Science and Technology, African Center of Excellence in Internet of Things (ACEIoT), in collaboration with experts in AI, agriculture, health, urban planning and the environment from various colleges and public institutions across Rwanda and beyond. Ultimately, this lab will contribute to Rwanda`s efforts in advancing key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in health, food security, climate action, and sustainable urbanization.

The lab will facilitate joint research and knowledge transfer across disciplines within the University and with other labs in the AI4D network and beyond. It will also contribute to the development of AI policy and practice to ensure the ethical use of AI in Rwanda's public and private sectors, as well as in similar regions. Further, it will also improve the understanding of responsible and inclusive AI practices for multidisciplinary innovative development in Rwanda.

The implementation of the project involves different stakeholders in Rwanda such as Carnegie Mellon University Africa (CMU), Rwanda Information System Authority (RISA), Kigali City, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), ICT Chamber, the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR). TAIRI lab will also draw support from AI4D's continental network of labs, such as RAIL Lab in Ghana and others.

Funders

Partners