FAIR FORWARD – Artificial Intelligence for All

The Challenge

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a key technology driving the global digital revolution. AI refers to computer programs that process information autonomously, identify connections between data points, make decisions, and are able to learn and adapt while doing so. For example, AI applications are developed and trained with large datasets in order to automatically recognize and translate languages or predict future trends in areas such as climate or health. Frontrunner companies and institutions already deploy AI applications at scale to improve business practices, administration, environmental protection or health services. AI also offers a range of new opportunities to low and middle-income countries. It can break down existing barriers to human development and social inclusion, and help to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, AI-powered apps already support local farmers in Tunisia and India to detect diseases in agriculture in real time. AI also offers digital entrepreneurs new tools to build innovative products. However, without the necessary capacity, technology and data to train AI, low and middle-income countries may miss out on the immense opportunities AI has to offer. In addition, existing policy frameworks in many countries need to be updated to reflect the development of AI technologies.

What we do

Voice recognition in language Kinyarwanda

In Rwanda, the FAIR Forward initiative supports the local start up Digital Umuganda to coordinate the development of voice interaction technologies in the country's national language, Kinyarwanda. As a first step, Digital Umuganda collects speech data in Kinyarwanda from volunteers during the state wide, monthly community work day Umuganda. Our partner, Mozilla, hosts the data openly on its Common Voice platform. This creates opportunities to develop services built on human-machine interaction in the local language, such as in information hotlines or automated customer services.

Our Mission

The German Development Cooperation initiative "FAIR Forward – Artificial Intelligence for All" strives for a more open, inclusive and sustainable approach to AI on an international level. To achieve this, we are working together with five partner countries: Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and India. Together, we pursue three main goals:

1. **Strengthen Local Technical Know-How on AI – Capacity Development in Africa and Asia**
   FAIR Forward supports digital learning and training for the development and use of AI, and fosters cooperation with German and European research institutions and businesses.

2. **Remove Entry Barriers to AI – Access to Training Data and AI Technologies for Local Innovation**
   FAIR Forward facilitates the provision of open, non-discriminatory and inclusive training data and

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open source AI applications. Open access to African and Asian language data is a key priority to enable the development of AI-based voice interaction in local languages to empower marginalized groups.

3. Develop Policy Frameworks Ready for AI – Ethical AI, Data Protection and Privacy

F**AI**R Forward advocates for value-based AI that is rooted in human rights, international norms such as accountability, transparency of decision-making and privacy, and draws on European experiences such as the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Therefore, we support the development of effective political and regulatory frameworks in Africa and Asia.

Join the Alliance "Opening Up AI Data and Tools with Africa & Asia"

Together with leading technology companies, the German Development Cooperation is building a new alliance of private companies, interested countries and donors. Join us in creating open source training datasets, models, technologies and procedures that will trigger the application of local AI solutions for sustainable development:

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