



Agenda for 1st Caribbean AI Forum (CAIF) 2026

23-24 July 2026 • The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago

**Theme: AI for Caribbean Transformation: Governance,
Innovation & Resilience for a Shared Digital Future**

Conference Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Kristerbella Sookdeo

Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
Day 1: Thursday 23 July 2026 The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago		
08:00-09:00	Registration	-
09:00-09:02	Safety Briefing	University of the West Indies
09:02-09:10	Welcome Remarks	- Mr. Nigel Cassimire, Deputy Secretary-General, CTU - Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Campus Principal, UWI STA Campus
09:10-09:30	Towards Regional Harmonization: The Caribbean AI Task Force	Dr. Craig Ramlal, Executive Director of the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Centre and Head of the Control Systems Group in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and Chair, CTU Caribbean AI Task Force
09:30-09:45	Keynote Address: World Digital Governance (WDG) From Principles to Action	Mr. Graeme Thomson Founding Member, World Digital Governance (WDG)
09:45-10:05	Feature Address	Senator the Honourable Dominic Smith, Minister of Public Administration and AI, Trinidad and Tobago and President, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
10:05-10:10	Launch of the Caribbean AI Task Force Final Report	Senator the Honourable Dominic Smith Dr. Craig Ramlal Mr. Nigel Cassimire
10:10-10:20	Cultural Interlude and Drone Show	Mr. Emmanuel Joseph (Pannist)
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break & Group Photo	-
10:40-11:20	High-Level Session Presentation: AI Governance and Considerations for Small States Panel: Turning the Work of the CAITF into Collective Action <i>About Panel: A focused discussion with senior policymakers and decision makers to convert CAITF recommendations into a regionally led implementation agenda; panelists give brief positions followed by targeted dialogue to recommend pilot initiatives suitable for small states.</i>	Moderator: Mr. Nigel Cassimire, Deputy Secretary-General, CTU H.E. Ren Hongyan, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Trinidad and Tobago Panelists: - Senator the Honourable Dominic Smith - H.E. Guillaume Pierre, Ambassador of the French Republic to Trinidad and Tobago - Dr. Craig Ramlal, Chair – CAITF & Director AIIC
11:20-12:00	National AI Movements: Trends, Opportunities & Lessons Learnt <i>About Panel: A targeted discussion with senior policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to review national AI movements across the Caribbean, surface practical trends and lessons</i>	Moderator: Mr. Kirk Sookram, Deputy CEO, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) Panelists:

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	<i>learnt, and identify three scalable, low-cost opportunities plus a short roadmap for regional knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy harmonization.</i>	• Mr. Christopher Reckord, Chair of the National AI Task Force, Jamaica (Remote) • Mr. Atiba Phillips, Board Director, iGoVTT • Mr. Vincent Roberts, Chairman and Commissioner, NTRC Grenada
12:00-13:00	LUNCH	
13:00-13:40	Culture, Creatives, Intellectual Property & AI About Panel: <i>Regional decision-makers, cultural leaders, and creative industry champions examine how AI intersects with culture, creativity, and intellectual property, with a strong emphasis on youth empowerment and job creation. Panelists will identify practical policies and business models to protect creators' rights, unlock new creative economies, and scale skills pathways for young people, producing three actionable recommendations and pilot initiatives to catalyze youth-led employment and sustainable creative industries.</i>	Moderator: Ms. Nievia Ramsundar , Legal and Regulatory Consultant Panelists: • Dr. Justin Koo, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UWI • Jean Marie Altema, Profit Development Consulting Executive Manager (Remote) • Mr. Keron Rose (Remote)
13:40-14:50	Data Sovereignty, Cybersecurity & AI Infrastructure About Panel: <i>A strategic convening of regional decision-makers and infrastructure stewards to define practical approaches to data sovereignty, cybersecurity, and resilient AI infrastructure. Panelists will surface appropriate frameworks for secure local data repositories, shared edge and cloud architectures, procurement safeguards to avoid vendor lock-in, and a concise action plan with designated focal points for standards, capacity building, and incident-response coordination.</i>	Moderator: Mr. Kurleigh Prescod , CEO, TATT Panelists: • Mr. Tracy Hackshaw, Chef d' Enterprise, UPU (Remote) • Mr. Reza Sookdeo, Chief Information Officer, Heritage Petroleum Limited • Mr. Shernon Osepa, Consultant Strategic Advisor and CAITF Coordinator, CTU • Mr. Steven Williams, Principal Consultant Data Privacy • Mr. Cédric Pradel, Executive Director ACCYB
14:50-15:05	Coffee Break	
15:05-15:45	Human-Centric, Rights-Based & Ethical AI About Panel: <i>A high-level discussion with senior policy leaders and strategic decisionmakers to anchor Caribbean AI development in humancentric, rights based, and ethical principles; panelists will propose practical safeguards, and a timebound set of policy commitments to protect rights, counter bias, and serve vulnerable communities.</i>	Moderator: Ms. Nia Nanan , Senior Research Analyst, CTU Panelists: • Mr. Cordel Green, Executive Director, Broadcast Commission of Jamaica, Jamaica (Remote) • Ms. Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor UWI • Ms. Lily Dash, Founder Future Caribbean • Prof. Derrick Cogburn, Professor of Information Technology & Analytics (Kogod School of Business), and Environment, Development & Health (School of International Service) and Executive Director, Institute on Disability and Public Policy, American University • Mr. Kevan Rajaram, Manager of Analytics and Information Management at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) & Researcher (TTLAB)
15:45-16:50	Women in AI About Panel: <i>A transformative session convening women leaders, to accelerate women's leadership in AI across the region. Panelists will identify</i>	Moderator: Ms. Shanea Lewis , Policy Analyst, CTU Panelists: • Ms. Diedre Cousins, CIO GraceKennedy



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	<i>practical pathways for skills, funding, and entrepreneurship and recommend priority actions to scale women-led talent, startups, and youth job creation.</i>	• Dr. Maria Myers-Hamilton, Chair CTU Network of Women (Remote) • Ms. Amanda Zilla, Co-Chair HerSpace in AI, AIIC, UWI • Ms. Julie Koon Koon, Lead Data Scientist, Republic Bank Limited and Lecturer, Bsc Computing, University of Greenwich (SBSCS) • Ms. Sarah Rudder-Chulhan, Associate Director, Digital & Client Experience, CIBC
16:50-17:00	Day 1 Wrap-up	Dr. Craig Ramlal , Chair CAITF
End of Day 1		
Day 2: Friday 24 July 2026 The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago		
09:00-09:05	Day 1 Recap & Day 2 Kick-off	Ms. Kristerbella Sookdeo
09:05-10:30	Youth Debate - Moot: The House believes that mandatory cyber insurance requirements will improve AI security standards more effectively than government regulation. About: <i>The debate invites participants to critically examine the most effective approaches to strengthening cybersecurity and AI governance. Teams are encouraged to consider legal, economic, technological, ethical and public policy perspectives while assessing whether market-driven mechanisms such as cyber insurance create stronger incentives for secure AI systems than traditional regulatory approaches.</i>	Facilitators/Judges: • Ms. Gabrielle Johnson, Vice Chair, Caribbean ICT Youth Network (CIYN), CTU • Mr. Andrew Sieupersad, Director, TAIROne Initiative • Mr. Terren Finley, President, ISG • Mr. Kevon Swift, Past-Chair, ISOC Trinidad and Tobago Debaters: Team A (FOR): • Mr. Bryan Balkissoon, UWI-GUILD • Mr. Mikail Barrock, UWI-GUILD • Ms. Samisha Maharaj, UWI-GUILD • Mr. Zephion Lee- Harris, UWI-GUILD Team B (AGAINST): • Ms. Shania Sobers, Debate Club Member, UWI-ROYTEC • Mr. Ezekiel Renne Cambridge, ISACA Student Member, UWI-ROYTEC • Ms. Annalisa Maharaj, Debate Club Member, UWI-ROYTEC • Mr. Zacharias Dyer, Vice President, ISACA Student Group, UWI-ROYTEC
10:30-10:50	Coffee Break	
10:50-11:00	Debate Feedback & Winner Announcement	Ms. Gabrielle Johnson
11:00-12:00	Driving AI Development in SIDS: The Role of Intergovernmental Organizations in Multilateral Development About Panel: <i>A strategic convening on how intergovernmental organizations and multilateral partners can unlock AI for Small Island Developing States by coordinating financing, shared data and computing infrastructure, capacity building, and governance. The panel will define practical partnership models to turn scale constraints into regional advantages and policy recommendations to catalyze resilient, inclusive AI-driven development.</i>	Moderator: Ms. Lois St. Brice, Senior Programme Officer – Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Office of global affairs Office of the Vice-Chancellor, UWI Panelists: • Mr. Ahmed Elraghy, Head RME Division ITU • Mr. Ugo Blanco, Resident Representative, UNDP, Trinidad and Tobago, Curacao, Aruba and Sint Maarten, Digital Facility Lead – AI & Emerging Technologies, UNDP • Mr. Demetris Herakleous, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC

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		• Ms. Paula Istruiz Caverro, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-13:50	AI Literacy, Youth & the Future Workforce <i>About Panel: In this session panelists will discuss the AI literacy small states need to meet their unique regional challenges and how youth and the wider community should prepare for the future of work. The session will explore practical steps for building local skills, expanding access, aligning education with employers, and fostering community-wide strategies that make AI an engine for inclusive jobs and resilient economies.</i>	Moderator: Mr. Tariq Mohammed, Advisor to the SG and Chair, CIYN, CTU Panelists: • Prof. Sean Thorpe, Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Computing, UoT, Jamaica (Remote) • Ms. Lois St. Brice, Senior Programme Officer – Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, Office of Global Affairs Office of the Vice-Chancellor, UWI • Dr. Andrea Kanneh, Manager of Performance and Engagement, MPAAI
13:50-15:50	AI for Climate Resilience & Disaster Risk Reduction <i>About Panel: This session will examine how AI can mitigate the annual disaster risks facing Caribbean states, improving early warning, damage assessment, infrastructure planning, and recovery, and clarify the responsibilities and partnerships needed across institutions to make the region more resilient.</i>	Moderator: Mr. Shernon Osepa, Consultant Strategic Advisor CTU/Coordinator CAITF Panelists: • Kenneth Kerr, Science and Technology Officer, Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) • Dr. Letetia Addison, Deputy Chair, Advisory Board, UWI Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, UWI & Researcher, TTLAB • Prof. Derrick Cogburn, Professor of Information Technology & Analytics (Kogod School of Business), and Environment, Development & Health (School of International Service) and Executive Director, Institute on Disability and Public Policy, American University • Representative, CDEMA
15:50-16:05	Coffee Break	
16:05-17:00	AI for Economic Transformation <i>About Panel: A roundtable discussion convening regional development partners, private sector innovators, to map how AI can accelerate economic development across the Caribbean. The session will prioritize scalable, locally relevant applications, tourism optimization, fintech and financial inclusion, climate-smart agriculture, public service efficiency, and digital trade, while addressing governance, data, and capacity constraints.</i>	Moderator: Ms. Lois St. Brice, Senior Programme Officer – Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Office of global affairs Office of the Vice-Chancellor, UWI Panelists: • Mr. Javed Razack, Vice-President of Shared Services, Ramps Logistics • Mr. Riard Mohammed, Regional Manager, Honeywell Caribbean • Mrs. Esther Callender-George, Group Chief Information Security Officer, Guardian Group • Mr. Mervyn Eyre, Head of Fujitsu Caribbean Operations
17:00-17:30	OPEN INTERACTION SESSION	• Mr. Tariq Mohammed – Advisor to the SG and Chair, CIYN, CTU
17:30-17:40	Next Steps & Wrap-up	• Mr. Nigel Cassimire, Deputy SG CTU
End of CAIF 2026		

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