

AI for Caribbean Sustainability: Conference Programme

June 22-24, 2025 | The UWI Five Islands Campus, Antigua & Barbuda

PRE-CONFERENCE

UWI Five Islands Campus • Sunday, June 22, 2025

SESSION TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER(S)
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	AI in Education: Demystifying AI for Educators Keynote address by the VP of Khan Academy Location: Main Auditorium	Dr. Andrew Hunte , Lecturer, FIC Campus KEYNOTE: Sandeep Bapna VP International Partnerships, Khan Academy
	AI & The Public Sector: Demystifying AI in Public Sector In collaboration with UWI Five Islands Campus Location: Music Room	Ms. Gail Rolle-Greenidge , Lecturer, FIC Campus Kerrie-Faun Nathan , Assistant Registrar (Ops), FIC Campus
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Opening Reception @ Hodges Bay Resort and Spa <i>Social networking and cultural entertainment</i>	MASTER OF CEREMONY Indrani Bachan-Persad UWI Head Economic Engagement & Industry Partnerships, UWI Office of Planning Welcome Remarks: Professor Justin Robinson PVC & FIC Campus Principal Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy Regional Manager for the CAF, Caribbean Region The Hon. Gaston Browne , Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda

DAY 1: Monday 23 June 2025

MORNING SESSION • UWIFIC Auditorium

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:30 AM	Opening Ceremony	Master of Ceremonies (MC): Ercil Charles Jr.
8:35 AM	Introduction and Welcome Remarks	Professor C. Justin Robinson Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UWI Five Islands Campus
8:45 AM	Welcome Remarks	Hon. Daryll Matthew Minster of Education, Sports & the Creative Industries, Gov. of Antigua and Barbuda
8:50 AM	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy Regional Manager for the CAF, Caribbean Region
8:55 AM	Opening Remarks	Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee Pro-Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research
9:00 AM	Keynote 1 Introduction	Ercil Charles Jr.
9:05 AM	Keynote Address 1: "Platform Revolution: How AI is Reshaping Caribbean Economic Models"	Dr. Sangeet Paul Choudary Senior Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, and was formerly

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
		the co-chair of the MIT Platform Strategy Summit.
9:25 AM	Keynote 2 Introduction	Ercil Charles Jr.
9:30 AM	Keynote Address 2: "Empowering the South 2030: AI for Inclusive Digital Sovereignty in the Caribbean"	Tianze Zhang Founder, AI For Developing Countries Forum (AIFOD) CEO, ZAAN.com
9:55 AM	Group Photos (Speakers / Participants)	

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10:00 AM	Opening Panel: "Sustainable Strategic Diplomacy in an Age of AI and Shifting Geopolitics" <i>Policy Focus: Regional Resilience, Sovereign Engagement, and Global Partnerships</i>	MODERATOR: Joy-Marie King Hon. E. P. Chet Greene - Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration Dr. Armstrong Alexis - CARICOM Secretariat Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Craig Ramlal – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Policy Network's AI Expert, UWI Lecturer Ms. Andrea Jacobs - AI National Focal Point for Antigua & Barbuda and Crown Counsel

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10:40 AM	REFRESHMENTS BREAK	

Plenary Session II - BLOCK 1

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
11:00 AM	CAF Roadmap for National AI Implementation <i>Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF).</i> <i>Policy Focus: AI Policy; National Strategic Planning</i>	Mr. Enrique Zapata Coordinator for Artificial Intelligence and GovTech - CAF
11:40 AM	REFRESHMENT BREAK	

ACADEMIC PAPER PRESENTATIONS - BLOCK 1

TIME	SESSION 1A (Music Room)	SESSION 1B (A305/306)	SESSION 1C (Auditorium)
12:00 PM	AI & Caribbean Digital Transformation Session Chair: Dr Edward Dixon <i>Paper 1: AI at the Crossroads – Navigating the Caribbean’s Digital Destination (Andrea Bhagwandeem)</i> <i>Paper 2: Leapfrogging Barriers with Generative AI: A New Path for Digital</i>	AI for Healthcare Sustainability Session Chair: Dr Dalano Dasouza <i>Paper 1: Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Caribbean Social Work Practice: Ethical, Professional and Ethical</i>	AI for Enhanced Quality Higher Education Session Chair: Dr Andrew Hunte <i>Paper 1: UTech Syllaboost: A Case Study in Using AI to Foster the High-Impact Instructional Practices needed to Transform Education in the Caribbean (Camille Rutherford)</i>

TIME	SESSION 1A (Music Room)	SESSION 1B (A305/306)	SESSION 1C (Auditorium)
	<i>Transformation (Nadeen Matthews Blair)</i> Paper 3: Accelerating AI Adoption in the Caribbean: The Vision, People, Value Framework for Human-Centric Digital Transformation (Stacey Hines)	<i>Considerations for Workforce Readiness (Cheryl-Ann Sarita Boodram)</i> Paper 2: Virtual Influencers as Promoters of Healthy Food Choices: The Effect of Disclosure Timing, Message Sidedness and Brand Familiarity (Barney G. Pacheco, Marvin Pacheco, Brevard Nelson) Paper 3: Smart, Secure, and Connected: AI and Big Data for Caribbean Health (Travis G. Paul, Wayne Goodridge)	Paper 2: On the Correlation between Teacher to Student Ratio and Student Performance (Nicholas Mendez, Patrick Hosein) Paper 3: On Extending Fairness to Teaching Assistants (Kris Manohar, Patrick Hosein, Alana Sankar)
12:45 PM	LUNCH BREAK (1 hour)		

AI Insights – THEMATIC PANELS – BLOCK 2

TIME	SESSION 1A (Auditorium)	SESSION 1B (A305/306)	SESSION 1C (Music Room)
1:40 PM	Panel: “AI for the Future of Work” <i>The world of work is changing faster than ever—AI is at the wheel. Thought leaders and industry trailblazers reveal how machine learning, intelligent automation, and data-driven insights are reshaping Caribbean workplaces.</i>	Panel: “Healthy Futures: AI for Sustainable Caribbean Healthcare” <i>AI is transforming healthcare across the Caribbean right now. Hear from regional health leaders and AI pioneers using predictive analytics to spot outbreaks before they spread.</i> MODERATOR: Dr. George Mansor Dr. Michael Lingzhi Li	Panel: “AI for Accessibility: Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Futures” <i>Join leading technologists and advocates as they unveil cutting-edge tools to support Accessibility.</i> MODERATOR: Dr. Kwasi K Tonge. H. E. Walton Webson – Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations

TIME	SESSION 1A (Auditorium)	SESSION 1B (A305/306)	SESSION 1C (Music Room)
	MODERATOR: Mrs. Wendy Jackson-DeSouza – President, Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda Mr. Richard P. Kessler – AI Governance & Risk Management at Protiviti Global Business Consulting Mrs. Melinda Tijerino, CIPP – Director, AI Risk Management, Moody’s Analytics, Inc. Lorenzo Hodges CEO, Plain White Table	Assistant Professor at Harvard University (HBS TOM Unit) and Chief Data Scientist at Waffle Labs Dr. Cherie Tulloch – Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Consultant at The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in Antigua Dr. James Hospedales Former Executive Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Ms. Maxine Williams - Vice President of Accessibility and Engagement at Meta

Plenary Session III - BLOCK 2

TIME	SESSION 2A (Auditorium)		
3:30 PM	Smart Farming: AI for a Sustainable Agricultural Future <i>Join Dr. Ranveer Chandra, Microsoft's visionary CTO of Agri-Food, as he unveils how AI, edge computing, and sensors are transforming farming from intuition-driven to data-driven—empowering farmers to boost yields, cut waste, and adapt to climate change. Discover how these smart technologies are seeding a sustainable agricultural revolution across the globe, including right here in the Caribbean.</i>	MODERATOR: Samantha Marshall Dr. Ranveer Chandra Vice President, Copilot Tuning, M365 Copilot and CTO Agri-Food, Microsoft	

AI Insights – THEMATIC PANELS – BLOCK 2

TIME	SESSION 2A (A305/306)	SESSION 2B (Music Room)	SESSION 2C (Auditorium)
4:30 PM	Panel: “AI and Climate Change: Building Resilience Across Sectors” <i>Innovators reveal how AI can forecast weather, protect crops, and fortify roads.</i> MODERATOR: Dr. Chris Jones Dr. Cynthia Zeng – Assistant Professor at the NYU Stern School of Business in Abu Dhabi Dr. David Farrell – Director of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) Dr. Sandeep B. Maharaj – Director School of Pharmacy, Senior Lecturer & Coordinator Pharmacy Administration	Panel: “Sustainable Tourism: Leveraging AI for Eco-Friendly and Resilient Travel Experiences” <i>Travel is evolving—and AI is leading the charge to greener, more resilient getaways. Hear from innovators using real-time data to route guests away from overcrowded spots, harness machine-learning to tailor low-impact itineraries, and deploy smart sensors to conserve resources.</i> MODERATOR: Ercil Charles Jr. Hon. Charles Fernandez – Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment Dr. Michelle Allen– Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus Mr. Jeff Wellemeyer, Chief Technology Officer, ZEN/VEILWATCH Corporation Mr. Colin James – Executive Director, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority	Panel: "Financing the Future: AI-Driven Sustainable Finance and Investment in the Caribbean" <i>Uncover how AI is revolutionizing the financial sector to support sustainable growth in the Caribbean. This panel will explore the transformative impact of AI on green financing, sustainable investment strategies, and ESG initiatives.</i> MODERATOR: Dr. Dalano Dasouza Dr. Cleopatra Gittens Lecturer, UWI School of Business & Management Dr. Gale T C Rigobert Propel Ltd., CEO and Principal Consultant Zuleka Fraser, MBA, HCCP, RHDFP

TIME	SESSION 2A (A305/306)	SESSION 2B (Music Room)	SESSION 2C (Auditorium)
			Founder and Principal Consultant of Frazher Consulting, a financial services firm

ACADEMIC PAPER PRESENTATIONS – BLOCK 3

TIME	SESSION 3A (Auditorium)	SESSION 3B (A305/306)	SESSION 3C (Music Room)
5:15 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK		
5:30 PM	AI Policy & Governance 3 Academic Papers (15 mins each) <i>Topics: AI governance frameworks, policy development, regulatory approaches</i>	AI for National Development 3 Academic Papers (15 mins each) <i>Topics: National AI strategies, development planning, implementation roadmaps</i>	AI Ethics & Responsible Implementation 3 Academic Papers (15 mins each) <i>Topics: Ethical AI development, responsible deployment, bias mitigation</i>

Closing Session 3

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
6:15 PM	Day 1 Closing Remarks	Curtis B. Charles, PhD.

Day 1 Social Networking Reception – Taste of the Caribbean 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Day 1 Reception: “Taste of the Caribbean”	@ UWI FIC Campus Live Soca Entertainment and Caribbean Cuisine

DAY 2 – Tuesday, June 24, 2025

PLENARY SESSION 1 • UWIFIC Auditorium

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:30 AM	Introduction	Master of Ceremonies (MC): Ercil Charles Jr.
8:35 AM	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Karen Murdock Senior Lecturer, and Head, UWIFIC School of Business & Management
8:40 AM	Keynote 1 Introduction	Ercil Charles Jr.
8:45 AM	Keynote Address 1: Digital Currency and AI: Transforming Caribbean Financial Ecosystems	Timothy N. J. Antoine Governor, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)
9:05 AM	Keynote 2 Introduction	Ercil Charles Jr.
9:10 AM	Keynote Address 2: The New Empire of AI: Governing Global Inequality in the Caribbean Context	Rachel Adams, PhD Founder and CEO, Global Centre on AI Governance Research Associate, Leverhulme Center, University of Cambridge
9:30 AM	Keynote 2 Introduction	Ercil Charles Jr.
9:35 AM	Keynote Address 3: TTLAB – A Case Study in Caribbean AI Innovation	Prof. Patrick Hosein Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UWI, St Augustine Founder, TTLAB
10:00	Group Photos (Speakers / Participants)	

AI Insights - THEMATIC PANEL - BLOCK 3

TIME	SESSION 3A (A305/306)	SESSION 3B (Music Room)	SESSION 3C (Auditorium)
10:10 AM	Panel: "AI and Justice: Crime Reduction and Law Enforcement" <i>This panel explores the transformative role of AI in enhancing regional safety and justice systems. Experts will discuss AI applications for crime prediction, advanced surveillance techniques, and data-driven law enforcement strategies.</i>	Panel: " Accelerating AI Use Case Adoption Using Governance as Enablement " <i>In order to speed up AI adoption, organizations that are employing leading practices are enhancing their AI and product development lifecycles. They typically create comprehensive use case data models and corresponding checklists across responsible AI principles' domains (e.g., privacy, security, accountability, ethics/fairness, human-centered design, transparency). Using pre-defined processes, tollgates, and decisions points, they incorporate a risk-tiering and risk-tailored approach to right-size rigor and effort to the actual risk. Join us to explore how this is done in more detail and some of the challenges that come with it.</i>	Panel: " From Sargassum to Sustainability: Tech-Driven Solutions for Ocean Health " <i>This panel explores how the Caribbean is transforming the sargassum crisis into a platform for innovation and sustainability. It highlights the Rapid Sargassum Modeling (RSM) Project, which uses AI, immersive technologies, and real-time data visualization to monitor blooms, predict environmental impacts, and support coral reef resilience. Alongside it, Rum & Sargassum Inc. unveils a breakthrough renewable natural gas (RNG) made from sargassum, sheep manure, and rum distillery wastewater—recently demonstrated to power electric vehicles and stabilize energy grids. Together, these initiatives showcase how technology can turn environmental threats into scalable solutions for clean energy, marine health, and climate resilience.</i>

MODERATOR: Mr. Jose Vanterpool

Ms. Cathrona Samuel

Director, Stakeholder Engagement,
Caribbean Agency for Justice
Solutions CAJS

Mr. Theo Jones

Director, Legal Services, CAJS

Mr. Kevin Khelawan

Chief Executive Officer, Advent AI

MODERATOR: Ercil Charles Jr.

Mrs. Melinda Tijerino, CIPP

Director, MA Risk Management, Moody's
AI Analytics, Inc.

Mr. Richard P. Kessler - AI Governance &
Risk Management at Protiviti Global
Business Consulting

MODERATOR: Dr. Ilenius Ildephonc

Dr. Mario Costa Sousa

Professor of Computer Science at the
University of Calgary, Canada

Dr. Legena Henry

CEO-Founder, Rum and Sargassum Inc.;
University Lecturer at University of the
West Indies: Cave Hill

10:50
AM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

PLENARY SESSION I - (Auditorium)

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
11:05 AM	Official Launch of Antigua and Barbuda's UNESCO Ethics in AI Readiness Assessment Report <i>"Charting the Course: Antigua and Barbuda's AI Journey"</i> Opening Remarks: Hon. Melford Nicholas - Minister (Ministry of ICTs, Utilities & Energy) Brief Presentation on RAM recommendations: Dr. Ilenius Ildephonc	Ms. Isoke Perry, Director, e-Government Dr. Paul Hector, Director for Communication and Information, UNESCO Caribbean

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
	Panel Discussion: Ms. Paula Istúriz-Cavero (Session Moderator) Q & A Moderator: Dr. Ilenius Ildephonc - RAM Consultant	

PLENARY SESSION II - (Auditorium)

TIME	
12:50 PM	Panel: Supporting Public Sector Reform: “AI, Ethics & Responsible Implementation” <i>This foundational panel addresses the critical ethical considerations and governance frameworks essential for responsible AI deployment in the pursuit of Public Sector Reform in the Caribbean.</i> MODERATOR: Ercil Charles Jr. • Hon. Melford Nicholas - Minister (Ministry of ICTs, Utilities & Energy) • Dr. Christopoher Jones, Dept. Electrical Engineering • Dr. Donovan Johnson, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration, Florida International University (US) • Ms. Laleta Davis Mattis CD JP - University General Counsel, Office of the Vice Chancellor
1:20 PM	LUNCH BREAK (1 hour)

ACADEMIC PAPER PRESENTATIONS - BLOCK 4

TIME	SESSION 4A (Auditorium)	SESSION 4B (A305/306)	SESSION 4C (Music Room)
2:20 PM	AI in Education and Learning Environments Session Chair: Mrs. Kadian Camacho	AI in Financial Services & Green Investment Session Chair: Dr Dalano Da Souza <i>Paper 1: The Bite of Accountability: A Framework for Enforceable AI</i>	AI and Sustainable Development Session Chair: Dr Edward Dixon

TIME	SESSION 4A (Auditorium)	SESSION 4B (A305/306)	SESSION 4C (Music Room)
	Paper 1: <i>Augmenting Human Potential with AI-Assisted Research</i> (Avanelle Joseph-Edwards) Paper 2: The End of Education is Character: A Theory of Learner Effectiveness for an AI World (Tanushree Luthra) Paper 3: <i>Examination of the Educator's Perspectives on Generative Artificial Intelligence in Student Assessments</i> (Fariah Hyatali) Paper 4: Critical Thinking and Reasoning Skills in the Age of Artificial Intelligence; A Statistical Evaluation of Student Performance on Selected Caribbean Examinations Council Assessments. (Atiba D. Griffith)	<i>Governance in Caribbean Government Systemes</i> (Jeane Warner) Paper 2: <i>The use of AI to Detect Fraud in Government Treasury Departments in Small Islands of the Eastern Caribbean</i> (Cleopatra Gittens) Paper 3: <i>Evaluation of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) Among Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs in the Greater Hartford Area: A Cross-Sectional Survey</i> (Eben Afarikuman) Paper 4: <i>Community Tourism Innovation and Technological Advancements</i> (Michelle Allen)	Paper 1: <i>Using Agentic RAG Systems to Accelerate Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</i> (Abdulla Ali, Tamika Ramkissoon, Akil Hosang, Kevan Rajaram, Letetia Addison, Kris Manohar, Patrick Hosein) Paper 2: <i>Artificial Intelligence, Human Intelligence and Truth – Some Thoughts on the Future of Social Scientific Research</i> (Godfrey St. Bernard, Hafeeza Hosein Shah) Paper 3: <i>The Critical Importance of Launching a Caribbean Center for Collective Intelligence in Antigua and Barbuda</i> (Andy Williams) Paper 4: <i>Reclaiming the Digital Frontier: AI, Creative Sovereignty, and the Future of Caribbean Cultural Expression</i> (Lloyda Alicia Garrett)
3:20 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK		

PLENARY III - BLOCK 4 - (Auditorium)

TIME	
3:35 PM	AI & Cyber Resilience: Fortifying the Caribbean's Digital Borders <i>This panel will bring together leading cybersecurity experts, AI practitioners, and policymakers to explore how intelligent technologies are transforming the region's digital defense.</i> MODERATOR: Ercil Charles Jr. Edward Millington, CISPP Professional Security Consultant, Snr. Lead <i>Risk Manager</i> Stephen Lee Cybersecurity Lead, Development Solutions Agency / Program Director, CaribNOG Dr. Sean T. Miller Lecturer, Dept. Computing, UWI Mona.

ACADEMIC PAPER PRESENTATIONS - BLOCK 6

TIME	SESSION 6A (Auditorium)	SESSION 6B (A305/306)	SESSION 6C (Music Room)
4:20 PM	AI in Creative Industries & Arts 2 Academic Papers (15 mins each) <i>Topics: Creative applications, cultural preservation, media innovation</i>	AI for Economic Development 2 Academic Papers (15 mins each) <i>Topics: Economic diversification, business innovation, market development</i>	AI Innovation & Entrepreneurship 2 Academic Papers (15 mins each) <i>Topics: Startup ecosystems, innovation frameworks, technology transfer</i>
4:50 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK		

Closing Panel: “Next Frontiers”

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
5:05 PM	"Vision 2040: Forecasting the Caribbean’s AI-Driven Future"	Moderator: Dr. Curtis Charles Dean & Director of Academic Affairs, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Dr. Tianze Zhang, Founder, AI for Developing Countries Forum (AIFOD); CEO, ZAAN.com <i>Topic: Digital Sovereignty and Strategic Forecasting for the Global South</i> H. E. Walton Webson – Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations Prof. Patrick Hosein Founder, TTLAB; Professor, UWI St. Augustine Mr. Enrique Zapata Coordinator for Artificial Intelligence and GovTech - CAF

CLOSING SESSION

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
6:00 PM	Vote of Thanks	UWIFIC Registrar: Dr. Camille Samuel
6:05 PM	Closing Remarks	UWIFIC Director of Academic Affairs Dr. Curtis B. Charles
6:15 PM	CONFERENCE CLOSE	

FINAL NETWORKING: Lime on the Greens

TIME	ACTIVITY	
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Conference Closing Reception	Social Networking Event on the FIC Greens