

## Webinar:

# Navigating the Artificial Intelligence Landscape: Perspectives from National Academies



## Background:

As artificial intelligence (AI) technologies increasingly permeate every aspect of our lives—from healthcare and education to governance and industry—it is crucial for national academies of sciences, medicine and engineering, to both understand and actively shape the trajectory of AI development and utilisation. The rapid advancement of AI not only offers transformative potential but also brings significant challenges, including ethical concerns, privacy issues, and the need for robust regulatory frameworks. National academies are uniquely positioned to address these challenges due to their authoritative standing, multidisciplinary expertise, and commitment to scientific integrity.

The [InterAcademy Partnership \(IAP\)](#) and [The World Academy of Art and Science \(WAAS\)](#) are organizing this webinar to explore AI activities around national academies, and perspectives on how academies could utilise their unique position to shape the development and application of AI in ways that are human-centric, prioritise ethical standards, and promote the broader application of science and technology for societal benefit. The event will be recorded and summarized on the IAP website.

**Registration and Participation:** All participants, including speakers, should register using this link. <https://nasem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkcUghrj4jGNdyxUPXoYLSp519bcscdDaN>

## Format and Structure:

- **Date:** Wednesday, 04 September 2024.
- **Time:** 12:00 noon - 13:30 PM UTC/GMT; 8:00 - 9:30 AM EST.
- **Platform:** Virtual on Zoom.
- **Duration:** 90 minutes.

## Agenda:

1. **Introduction:** Moderator, Prof. **Phoebe Koundouri**, Trustee WAAS; and Member, IAP Capacity Building Committee.
2. **Opening Remarks:** Garry Jacobs, President & CEO of the World Academy of Art and Science.
3. Moderated Panel Discussion.
4. Moderated Open Discussion with the audience.
5. **Closing Remarks:** Peter McGrath, Coordinator, IAP.

## Speakers:



[Phoebe Koundouri](#), Trustee WAAS; and Member, IAP Capacity Building Committee. Phoebe Koundouri is a world-renowned environmental economics professor and global leader in sustainable development. She is widely recognized as a pioneer in innovative, human-centric, interdisciplinary systems for the sustainable interaction between nature, society, and the economy. She is an elected member of the World Academy of Art & Science and president of the European Association of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists, the oldest and largest scientific association in the field, with members from 85 countries worldwide.



[Garry Jacobs](#), President & CEO of the World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS), USA. Besides this position he is the Chairman & CEO of the World University Consortium (WUC), USA; Director of Social Science Research & Former President at The Mother's Service Society, India; Editor in Chief of Cadmus Journal focusing on economy, security and governance; Member of Club of Rome International; Member of the advisory council, Force for Good, and Chairman of the advisory council of Global Institute of Integral Management Studies, India.



[Jerome Glenn](#), Co-Founder and CEO of The Millennium Project, and WAAS Fellow is currently leading a major international study on the transition from artificial narrow to artificial general intelligence and is a voting member of IEEE AI governance P2863 working group. The Millennium Project is a leading global participatory think tank, which produces the **State of the Future** reports for the past 27 years. He invented the "Futures Wheel", a futures assessment technique and concepts such as conscious-technology, TransInstitutions, tele-nations, management by understanding, self-actualization economy, feminine brain drain, and definitions of environmental security, collective Intelligence, and scenarios. He wrote about information warfare in the late 1980s in his book **Future Mind**, sent his first email in 1973, and in the mid-1980s he was instrumental in getting x.25 packet switching in 29 developing countries which was key to their later getting low-cost access to the Internet.



[Ricardo A. Baeza-Yates](#), Chilean Academy of Sciences, and Chilean Academy of Engineering, and expert member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence. Ricardo is a professor of the practice at the Institute for Experiential Artificial Intelligence of Northeastern University. He came to Northeastern after his role as the chief technology officer of NTENT, a semantic search technology company based in California. Prior to these roles, he was the VP of Research at Yahoo Labs, based in Sunnyvale, California, from August 2014 to February 2016. Before joining Yahoo Labs in California, he founded and led the Yahoo Labs in Barcelona and Santiago de Chile from 2006 to 2015. Between 2008 and 2012, he oversaw Yahoo Labs in Haifa, Israel, and started the London lab in 2012.



[Susan Veldsman](#), is Director of the Scholarly Publication Unit at the Academy of Sciences in South Africa, responsible for driving the Open Science agenda, to raise the visibility, discoverability and accessibility of South African scholarly journals, improve the quality of SA research output, and support the development of policy frameworks in order to facilitate optimal use and access to publicly funded research. She received the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) award for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of Open Access in Developing Countries. Recently, she was the Co-chair of the IAP Report on "Combatting Predatory Journals and Conferences", which was launched on the 16th March 2022.

## Select reports and research on AI by national academies

1. [Transition from Narrow AI to AGI Governance](#) (The Millennium Project/WAAS).
2. [AI for Scientific Discovery: Proceedings of a Workshop](#) (US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine).
3. [Science in the age of AI: How artificial intelligence is changing the nature and method of scientific research](#) (Royal Society).
4. [The effective and ethical development of artificial intelligence: An opportunity to improve our wellbeing](#) (Australian Council of Learned Academies).
5. [G7 Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Society](#).

## Organizer and contact information

The webinar is organized by the [InterAcademy Partnership \(IAP\)](#) as part of its ongoing webinar series. This webinar is co-hosted with [The World Academy of Art and Science \(WAAS\)](#).

For any queries, please contact Moses Ogutu at [mogutu@nas.edu](mailto:mogutu@nas.edu) (IAP) or Prof. Phoebe Koundouri at [pkoundouri@aueb.gr](mailto:pkoundouri@aueb.gr) (WAAS).

## About The World Academy of Art & Science

**The World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS)** was founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals including Robert Oppenheimer, Father of Manhattan Project; Bertrand Russell; Albert Einstein (posthumously); Joseph Needham, co-Founder of UNESCO; Lord Boyd Orr, first Director General of FAO; Brock Chisholm, first Director General of WHO and many others. The Academy serves as a forum for reflective scientists, artists, and scholars dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges confronting humanity today independent of political boundaries or limits, whether spiritual or physical — a forum where these problems can be discussed objectively, scientifically, globally, and free from vested interests or regional attachments to arrive at solutions that affirm universal human rights and serve the common good of all humanity. WAAS is founded on faith in the power of original and creative ideas — Real Ideas with effective power — to change the world. More information is available at <https://worldacademy.org/>.

## About InterAcademy Partnership

The **InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)** is a global network of 150 academies of science, engineering, and medicine. With its four regional networks—in Africa (NASAC), the Americas (the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences, IANAS), Asia/Oceania (the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia, AASSA) and Europe (the European Academies Science Advisory Council, EASAC), IAP provides a platform for mobilising regional and national expertise on wide ranging issues of global importance, and for facilitating cooperation with other key stakeholders and potential partners. IAP's secretariat offices are hosted by The World Academy of Sciences in Trieste, Italy, and the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, USA. More information is available at [www.interacademies.org](http://www.interacademies.org).