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SALISES Announces GenAI4D Observatory Dashboard at W. Arthur Lewis Memorial to Track the Readiness of SIDS AI-for-Development Pathway

Jamaica's pioneering GenAI readiness study to extend across Small Island Developing States

KINGSTON, JAMAICA | Monday, 26 January 2026: The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, today announced the SALISES GenAI4D Observatory Dashboard, to be hosted at the Derek Gordon Databank. The announcement was made during the W. Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture webinar, held under the theme “*The UNDP–Jamaica Partnership at 50: The Transformative Legacy of Sir Arthur Lewis and the Future of Development.*” The event featured keynote remarks by Dr. Kishan Khoday, UNDP Resident Representative, and was chaired by Professor Lloyd Waller, Director of SALISES.

The platform will establish a flagship evidence hub to monitor, evaluate, and forecast the development impacts of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) across Jamaica and Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with plans to extend coverage to additional SIDS as they prepare to adopt these technologies for sustainable development, while also facilitating commercial opportunities and the exchange of information to strengthen regional innovation, partnerships, markets, and investment flows.

The Observatory was conceptualized out of a recently completed GenAI readiness study in Jamaica, the first in the region. “The study highlighted the need for a centralized space for people to access trusted and reliable information about GenAI” said **Professor Lloyd Waller**. “This Observatory gives SIDS like Jamaica and other Caribbean countries a practical dashboard, students and entrepreneurs can learn about GenAI, access information relevant to the needs specific needs and know about various opportunities facilitated by different GenAIs. Governments and businesses can learn about GenAI tools and opportunities to make their lives better, track readiness, identify risks, learn from real pilots, and convert GenAI into measurable development gains, ethically, inclusively, and with confidence.” **Dr. Kishan Khoday, UNDP Resident Representative**, whose presentation included the role of GenAI for development stated that “Artificial intelligence, when guided by principles of inclusion, equity, and ethics, can contribute meaningfully to sustainable development. UNDP is committed to supporting countries and island states as they build capacity and harness GenAI for transformative impact, ensuring no one is left behind.”

Designed as a public-facing, policy-relevant platform, the Observatory helps governments, the private sector, educators, and development partners move from excitement about GenAI to evidence-based adoption. Core components include:

1. **Jamaica’s GenAI Readiness Index:** A composite index offering a snapshot of Jamaica’s preparedness to harness GenAI for sustainable and equitable development across governance, infrastructure, skills, ethics, and accessibility.
2. **Projects & Pilots Registry:** A searchable registry mapping AI-related projects and pilots across Jamaica and Caribbean SIDS to strengthen transparency and knowledge-sharing, with profiles capturing partners, sector, funding, inclusion metrics, SDG alignment, outcomes, and duration.
3. **GenAI Marketplace & Directory:** A searchable repository of generative AI solutions, products, and services developed by Caribbean and SIDS nationals. including diaspora innovators — structured to capture solution descriptions, developers, sector focus, deployment stage, access model, inclusion metrics, SDG alignment, and impact indicators, supporting sourcing, partnerships, and commercial engagement.
4. **Awareness & Confidence Building Component:** A dedicated stream to raise awareness about GenAI innovations across SIDS and help build confidence in using these technologies responsibly and effectively, through curated learning resources, public-facing showcases, use-case highlights, and clear guidance on benefits and risks for diverse users in government, industry, education, and civil society.
5. **Ethics, Risk & Accountability Hub:** A governance space to promote public trust through safeguards, risk tracking, and accountability tools to support responsible deployment across both public and private sectors.
6. **Capacity Building & Adoption Lab:** A delivery engine for training, toolkits, and “safe-to-fail” pilots that build capability across educators, MSMEs, youth, and public-sector teams. supporting wide uptake while managing harm and unintended consequences, using GenAI generated animation, micro-videos and gamification.
7. **Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Dashboard:** A performance layer to track progress, measure inclusion outcomes, publish learning, and strengthen donor and citizen confidence, anchored by an annual flagship report on the state of GenAI4D in Jamaica and Caribbean SIDS.

SALISES will pursue partnerships with regional and global institutions and expand the Observatory’s coverage over time, initially across Caribbean SIDS (Years 1-2) and later to Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and Pacific SIDS (Year 3), building shared learning and rights-respecting models for GenAI adoption.

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