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Embassy of Switzerland in India

Swiss it!

Invitation to an Indo-Swiss Round Table Discussion on

Women in AI and in Technology

Embassy of Switzerland
Nyaya Marg, New Delhi
Thursday, 7 November 2019

The underrepresentation of women in the world of employment in the technical fields, including in AI is well known. At Google and Facebook, only about 22% of technical employees are women, dropping to 10% and 15% in 'machine intelligence' and AI respectively. The artificial intelligence market is growing rapidly and is a major driver of change in the labour market. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also reports that "the tasks that AI and robots cannot do are shrinking rapidly" and 14 per cent of jobs across 32 countries are "highly vulnerable" to automation. Women will be primarily affected by these job losses.

These developments affect Switzerland and India equally. In Switzerland, in 2016, only 11% of IT specialists and analysts were women, while they held 12% of other engineering jobs and 15% of other computing jobs. The picture is slightly better in India where women hold 26% of engineering jobs and 34% of IT jobs. However, 50% of them leave employment at the junior or mid-level.

Is there a need for gender diversity in AI / technology?; how to attract more women into STEM education; what are the cultural and other challenges that women face in entering employment in the tech and AI space; how to retain women who join these spaces. To debate some of the issues across the two countries, the Embassy of Switzerland is organising a panel discussion bringing in stakeholders from both the countries.

This event is organised within the framework of the visit of a delegation of Swiss businesswomen / entrepreneurs to India

Programme

18:00   Arrival of guests

18:30   **Dr Andreas Baum**, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan
         Welcome address

18:35   Introduction by the visiting Swiss delegation

18:45   **Ms. Marisa Tschopp**, Ambassador for Women in AI in Switzerland, AI Researcher @scip AG (video intervention)
Setting the scene: "What Women in AI does in Switzerland to promote women's participation in the world of employment in AI and in Technology"

19:00   Opening remarks by the panellists
- **Ms. Priska Burkard**, Chief Operation Officer, Girls in Tech, Switzerland, Co-Founder and MD, Skills Finder

- **Professor Isabel Collet**, Associate Professor at the University of Geneva (video intervention)

- **Professor Isha Dewan**, Professor, Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

- **Ms Namrata Mukhija**, Ambassador Women in AI Delhi, India chapter and Core Team member Women in Machine Learning and Data Science, Delhi, India chapter, Software Engineer at Microsoft

- **Ms Cristina Riesen**, Founder and CEO, We Are Play Lab Foundation

- **Ms Susmita Sinha**, External Consultant at Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (data advisory) and Founder and CEO of Local Feedback, a civil society organisation

19:45   Interactive discussion with the audience
Moderator, **Ms Deepti Sharma**, Deputy Head, Swiss Business Hub India

20:15   Networking dinner