Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Greetings from the Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk (IPUR) at the National University of Singapore. We are a research institute that aims to improve lives by transforming the risk communication landscape and improving the public understanding of risk.

Over the past 3 months, IPUR has embarked on many exciting programmes that span across an array of risk topics from climate action to fake news and AI. On 4 June, we organised a "Youth in Action: Taking on Climate Change" virtual workshop to empower and mobilise young people to take impactful action. Over 80 participants engaged in meaningful and insightful discussion on how to make a positive difference on the environment.

We took the opportunity during the workshop to launch our Climate Action Fund to seek support for our efforts to devise effective risk communications strategies to help people understand climate change risks better and take concrete actions to mitigate it and protect the people and things they value.

We are happy to announce that come 2-3 December, IPUR will hold the first ever conference on Understanding Risk in Asia (UR Asia). We will bring you sessions and workshops that improve risk assessments and the communication of risk information, and to help to integrate them into policy and development planning with focus on Asia.
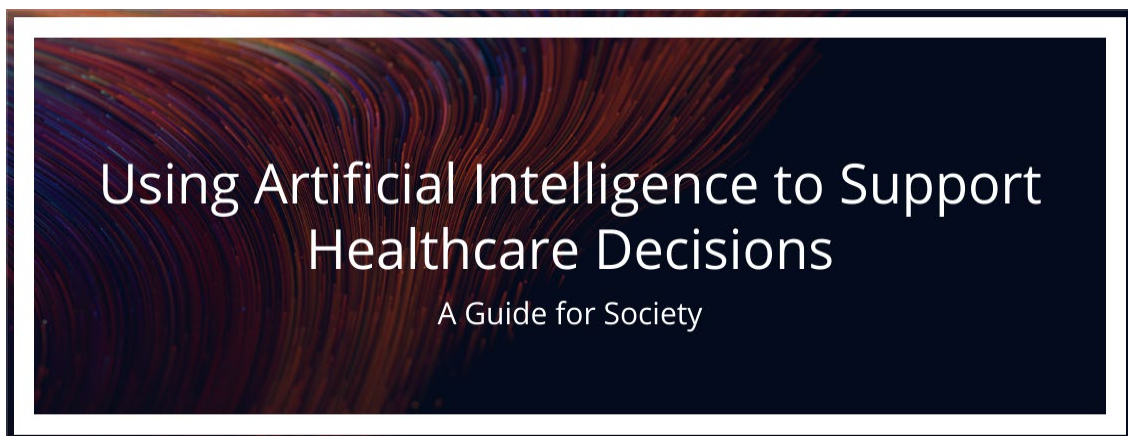
Wishing you good health.

Koh Chan Ghee
Lloyd's Register Foundation Professor and Director, IPUR

Understanding Risk Asia. 2-3 December 2021.

We're excited to announce that IPUR and [The World Bank](#) will be organising the first ever Understanding Risk (UR) Conference in Asia, building on the growing community of over 13,000 experts and practitioners interested and active in the creation, communication, and use of disaster risk information.
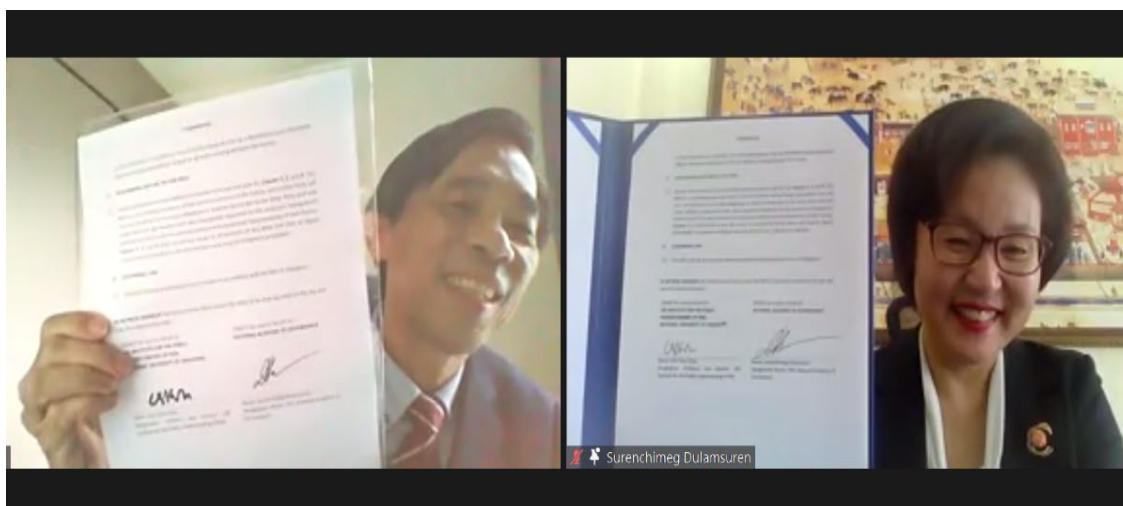
The conference will be held from 2-3 December and will be a paid hybrid event, with sessions and tracks available for those who wish to attend in person or virtually. Registration opens on 1 October.

On 15 August, in partnership with the [KAIST Korea Policy Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution](#) and [Sense about Science](#), we launched a society guide on "Using Artificial Intelligence to Support Healthcare Decisions".

The Guide aims to support the effective adoption of AI in the healthcare sector, and serves the general public, including patients, healthcare practitioners, and policymakers in South Korea and Singapore. It equips readers with a broad understanding of the benefits and risks of AI and presents useful questions which will help users make wise decisions on adopting AI applications in healthcare settings.

The Guide was launched during a workshop titled "Understanding Public Perceptions for Applied Data Science" in conjunction with the [Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD) 2021 Conference](#), held virtually from 14-18 August.
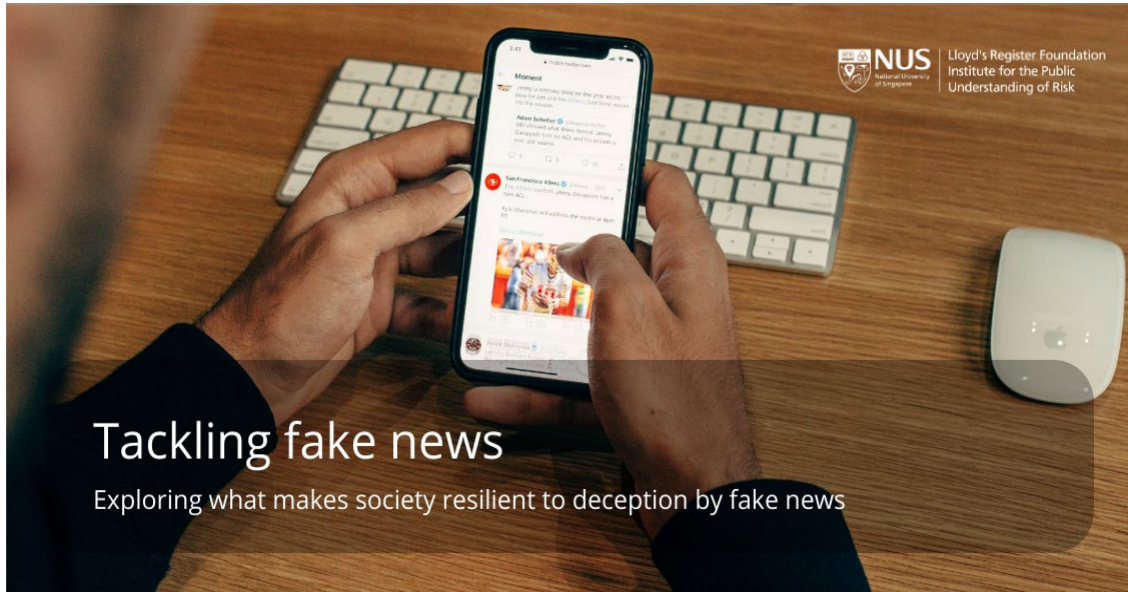

Promoting data-driven innovations in Mongolia

IPUR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Academy of Governance (NAOG) of Mongolia to formalise the intention to explore areas of collaboration to promote data-driven innovations in the public sector for Mongolia.

The signatory from IPUR was its Director, Professor Koh Chan Ghee, and the signatory from NAOG of Mongolia was its Rector, Dr Surenchimeg Dulamsuren, during the virtual ceremony on 6 September.

The one-year partnership will see IPUR and NAOG commit to do capacity building in terms of data literacy and risk communication through Blended Innovation Masterclasses that look at strategic and technical perspectives of data policy and artificial intelligence. A Data Innovation

Laboratory programme will be developed to actualise ideas and innovations from the masterclasses and translate them into projects and initiatives that help shape the data and technology landscape in the country.

Tackling fake news
Exploring what makes society resilient to deception by fake news

We recently organised two workshops discussing findings from a pilot study led by Dr Catherine Wong, Research Fellow at IPUR, on what makes society resilient to deception by fake news. The study approached this general question by experimenting with the use of a fake news game to see if the intervention was effective in increasing players' ability to identify online mis/disinformation.

The workshops were held virtually over two days on 11 and 13 August in collaboration with the Centre for Trusted Internet and Community and featured experts and professionals from media, government and academia.

Developing Technological Competency
Building a tool to increase confidence and adoption

In an IPUR seed grant project, Prof Hwang Bon-Gang, from the Department of Building, School of Design & Environment at the National University of Singapore, has developed a tool to assess users' technological risk perception and technological competency in the construction industry.

Known as the Knowledge-Based Technological Risk Perception-Technology Competency Analytics System, it identifies and explores the reasons for technological risk perception gaps according to the various technological competency levels. Suitable risk communication strategies can then be developed and implemented to bridge this gap and help end-users such as project managers be more proficient with technologies.

Insights

Inspiring youth to take action against climate change

What does it mean to be a climate action champion and what skills and knowledge are required to get involved in the green space? IPUR sought to answer these questions and more during its workshop on "Youth in Action: Taking on Climate Change" on 4 June. In this workshop, participants found out what existing efforts are already in the green space and gained insights on how to respond to climate action as well as what societal narratives are restricting them from making a difference.

In relation to the workshop, we would like to congratulate the four youth teams awarded in this year's competition called "Optigram 2021: Climate Change in Asia". With cash prizes to be given by IPUR, the teams are now developing their digital media products (e.g. artwork, videos, interactive website) to visualise scientific data creatively in communicating risks, patterns and trends (e.g. how risk perceptions emerge and evolve).

Climate change communicators: risks and strategies

IPUR had the privilege of having Dr Louis Lebel, Unit for Social and Environmental Research, Faculty of Social Science, Chiang Mai University, to share his insights into a study on what 45 communicators in Singapore and Bangkok, Thailand, had to say about climate risks, and the strategies they employed to communicate with different audiences. In the virtual seminar on 27 May, he spoke about how future, uncertain, distant and invisible threats do not motivate action unless linked by communicators to recent extreme events.

Reducing forecast uncertainty of ecosystem changes in climate models

On 22 July, Dr Yanyan Cheng, Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Industrial Systems Engineering and Management, presented her work on land model used in climate change forecasting and gave an overview of earth system models and ecosystem demographic models, and how they influence interactions between vegetation and the climate. The forecast uncertainty can be reduced by using improved optimisation methods in the calibration of model parameters to data.