

For immediate release

Press release



Artificial intelligence

Montreal confirms once again its position as a world leader in Responsible AI

Montreal, June 9th, 2022 – The International Centre of Expertise in Montreal for Artificial Intelligence (CEIMIA) is a new organization with an international scope based in Montreal whose objective is to support the Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) expert groups in the development and implementation of applied responsible artificial intelligence projects, as well as to contribute to the development of competencies in responsible artificial intelligence. This new organization will help reinforce Montreal's status as a leader in ethical artificial intelligence.

Following the adoption of a declaration on AI by the G7 in 2018, stakeholders agreed on a common vision, based on principles of human rights, inclusion, diversity, and innovation, including strengthening personal data protection and fostering international cooperation. Many ethical considerations accompany the rapid evolution of AI around the world, hence the importance of international cooperation.

Funded by contributions from the governments of Canada and Quebec, which have joined forces and invested \$10 million and \$5 million respectively over five years, the CEIMIA contributes to strengthen the position of Quebec and Canada as a key player in artificial intelligence in the world, and particularly as a leader in ethical AI. The CEIMIA will play a leading role on the international scene. By supporting the activities and projects of the GPAI, the CEIMIA will contribute to the dissemination and development of responsible AI, considering the interests and contributions of emerging and developing countries, as well as promoting projects between actors of the AI ecosystem in Quebec and Canada and international partners.

A 1.4M\$ partnership with the government of Singapore

Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and CEIMIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on June 1st, 2022 for one of the world's first cross-border collaborations on Privacy enhancing technologies (PETs). As part of this project, practical uses of this technology for AI systems will be conducted to develop actionable guidance for developers and users of AI systems. This experience will guide the research, development, and adoption of privacy-enhancing technologies by companies, and contribute to the development of international standards.

IMDA and CEIMIA will collaborate on this project put forth under GPAI. For CEIMIA, this is the second major agreement signed between CEIMIA and one of GPAI's member states.

"The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence is a critical forum for advancing the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence. Our government is actively working with several experts from around the world to better understand the impact of AI and find solutions to related challenges, while building a global collaborative ecosystem. This agreement with Singapore is a testament to the Canadian contribution, and more specifically the Montreal Centre of Expertise, to ensure that artificial intelligence is developed and used responsibly for the benefit of all."

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

"Convinced of the importance of fostering international collaborations to promote and adopt trustworthy AI, our ministry financially supported the creation of CEIMIA. I am proud to see the organization's significant achievements, including the signing of this partnership with the government of Singapore. This is a great testament to CEIMIA's international recognition, and the importance of the projects completed for the benefit of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence."

Nadine Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie
Minister Responsible for the Laurentides

Sophie Fallaha is CEIMIA's new Executive Director

Sophie Fallaha is leading CEIMIA as Executive Director of the organization. Prior to joining CEIMIA, Ms. Fallaha was the Executive Director of the International Reference Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG).

"It is with great enthusiasm that I join the CEIMIA team. If AI is to be a powerful tool that can support the fight against climate change, human rights and global health issues, its development must be done in a responsible manner. I am convinced that it is through concerted multi-stakeholder and international action that we will achieve this goal and CEIMIA will play a key role in this. Our ambition is to build a world-class centre of excellence in Montreal that will contribute not only to the responsible development of AI, but also to the influence of Montreal's leadership on the international scene."

Sophie Fallaha, Executive Director of CEIMIA

A first board of directors of international calibre

In order to give itself the means to achieve its ambitions, CEIMIA has elected its first international board of directors. Composed of three international members, three national members, two members appointed by the governments of Canada and Quebec and one seat reserved for an international organization, CEIMIA's mission has attracted major players in the field:

- Philippe Beaudoin, Co-Founder and CEO · Waverly
- Ashley Casovan, Executive Director · Responsible AI Institute
- John Hepburn, CEO and Scientific Director · MITACS
- Lyse Langlois, Executive Director · OBVIA
- Dewey Murdick, Director · Center for Security and Emerging Technology · Georgetown University
- Jean-Philbert Nsengimana, Chief Digital Advisor · Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- Marc-Étienne Ouimette, Global Lead AI Policy (AWS) · Amazon
- Marietje Schaake, International Policy Director · Cyber Policy Center / International Policy Fellow ·

The Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence

- Sonia Sennik, Executive Director · Creative Destruction Lab

« Artificial intelligence will be one of the most transformational technologies of our generation, tackling some of humanity's most challenging problems, augmenting human performance, and maximizing productivity. In fact, AI is already part of our daily lives. CEIMIA is here to help the policy world keep pace with the technology. To ensure we reap the technology's sizeable benefits, responsible use and stewardship of AI – including control of high risk applications - is key to fostering trust and responsible innovation. CEIMIA is a key actor to achieve this objective.»

Marc-Étienne Ouimette, Chair of the Board - CEIMIA

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Source

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