Call for Papers
Silicon Valley Peace Conference
on
"AI's Role in Community Development and Peacebuilding in Developing Nations"
August 21 and 22, 2026
Santa Clara University, California

Organized by

Global Ministries University,
Bay Area Cultural Connections,
Tangaza University,
Pacifica Institute,
Silicon Valley Interreligious Council,
Ufuk Dialogue Foundation,
Harmony Institute

Concept Note:

The Silicon Valley Peace Conference will explore "AI's Role in Community Development and Peacebuilding in Developing Nations." Scheduled for September 21-22, 2026, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, this conference will bring together a diverse group of experts, including scholars, peacebuilders, technologists, and policymakers. The unique setting in Silicon Valley, renowned for its technological innovation, provides an ideal backdrop for discussing how artificial intelligence (AI) can be leveraged to address some of the most pressing challenges to community development, global peace, and security. The conference will explore AI's potential to prevent conflict, promote social equity, and contribute to uplifting communities and sustainable development through collaborative discussions.

With a strong emphasis on the ethical and practical implications of AI in development and peacebuilding, the Silicon Valley Peace Conference is dedicated to fostering a meaningful dialogue that bridges technology and social good. Attendees will participate in sessions that delve into AI's impact on peacebuilding, education, public health, poverty alleviation, and climate action—critical areas for building a peaceful and just society. The organizers are pleased

to host the conference in Silicon Valley and hope it will serve as a dynamic platform for participants to engage in meaningful interaction, exchange ideas, and gain practical insights into how AI can support peace and development efforts globally.

Subthemes:

- AI-Driven Innovative Solutions in Community Development and Peacebuilding
- Advancing Social Innovation and Change through AI-Driven Entrepreneurship
- AI Applications for Inclusive Development in the Global South
- AI-Enabled Contribution to Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Addressing Environmental Challenges through AI-Driven Climate Action
- Empowering Marginalized Communities with AI-Enabled Solutions
- Preserving Indigenous Cultures and Endangered Languages with AI
- Assistive AI Technologies to Support Persons with Disabilities and Caregivers
- Utilizing AI to Alleviate Poverty and Strengthen Communities
- Promoting Social Justice and Reducing Inequality through AI
- Creating Economic Opportunities and Jobs with AI Technologies
- Role of AI Technology Companies in Advancing Peace and Development
- The Challenges Posed by AI-Driven Misinformation, Disinformation, and Deepfakes
- Improving Public Health and Access to Healthcare Services through AI Innovation
- Supporting Humanitarian Efforts and Crisis Management with AI Approaches
- Deep Research for Research Assistance and Accelerating Scientific Discoveries
- Challenges Facing Education Systems in the Age of AI
- Enhancing Access and Quality in Global Education through AI
- Expanding Digital Inclusion and Equitable Access to Technology
- Building Public Awareness and Literacy on Artificial Intelligence
- Predicting and Preventing Conflict through AI-Based Approaches
- Strengthening the Capacity of Non-Profit Organizations with AI Tools
- AI Safety, Global Security, and the Future of Humanity

- Ensuring Responsible and Ethical Development and Use of AI
- Fostering Collaborative Policy Responses to AI-Related Existential Challenges
- Addressing Emerging Cybersecurity Threats in the Age of Artificial Intelligence
- Fine and Performing Arts, Creativity, and Artistic Expression in the Age of GenAI

Publication:
Scholars and practitioners are invited to contribute to the conference by submitting an abstract of their research proposal aligned with the theme of AI's role in community development and peacebuilding. The academic board will review all submitted abstracts, and the status—accepted, accepted with revisions, or not accepted—will be communicated within two weeks, along with any reviewer feedback.

Authors whose abstracts require revisions may submit an improved version before the abstract submission deadline. After final review and shortlisting, selected contributors will be invited to submit a full paper.

Full papers will undergo a similar review process, which will take approximately three weeks to complete. Based on feedback from the academic board, authors may be asked to revise and resubmit their papers. Only papers that meet the required academic standards by the final deadline will be accepted.

Global Ministries University (GMU) will compile, peer-review, and publish all accepted and finalized full papers as a conference proceedings book.

Types of Contributions
We invite scientifically sound and relevant research contributions that critically examine the role of AI in peacebuilding, community development, and global equity. Submissions may include:

- Case Studies – Real-world AI applications in community or development settings, highlighting lessons learned and impact.
- Empirical Research – Data-driven investigations using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods.

- Theoretical Papers – Philosophical, conceptual, or ethical analyses of AI and its societal implications.
- Policy Analyses – Studies exploring policy frameworks, governance models, or regulatory considerations.
- Technical Research – Development or evaluation of AI methodologies and systems designed for social impact.
- Applied Implementation Studies – Papers detailing the design, deployment, and scientific evaluation of AI systems in specific peacebuilding or development contexts.
- Practice-Based Research – Practitioner insights and critical reflections grounded in fieldwork or implementation.
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration – Cross-sector or multi-disciplinary work integrating technical, social, and policy dimensions.

Mode of the conference:
The conference will be conducted in a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and virtual participation. Presenters who are unable to attend in person will have the opportunity to deliver their presentations and engage with participants remotely via an online platform. The sessions will be organized by combining both in-person and virtual presenters.

Participation:
There is no registration fee for attending or presenting at the Silicon Valley Peace Conference, and no fee will be charged for publication in the conference proceedings. However, all participants are responsible for covering their own travel, accommodation, and personal expenses. The organizing committee will provide logistical guidance upon request, but is unable to offer financial assistance.

Conference invitations will be extended only to the lead author of each accepted full paper.

Important Dates:
- Deadline for abstract submission: Dec 1, 2025
- Notification of abstract status: will be communicated within two weeks

- Deadline for full paper submission: March 1, 2026
- Notification of full paper status: will be communicated within three weeks
- Conference dates: September 21 and 22, 2026

Conference Program:

- San Francisco tour and welcome dinner: Thursday, Aug 19, 2025
- The first day of the conference: Friday, Aug 21, 2026
- The second day of the conference: Saturday, Aug 22, 2026
- Silicon Valley tour: Sun, Aug 23, 2026

Conference Website: A dedicated conference website will be launched to manage all abstract and full paper submissions, updates, and participant information.

Conference Venue: Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California

Academic Board:

- Prof. Gerald J. Grudzen, President, Global Ministries University, USA
- Prof. Sterling Harwood, J.D., Professor of Philosophy, Evergreen Valley College, California, USA
- Prof. Susana Gallardo, Professor of Women's Studies, San Jose State University, USA
- Prof. Noah Yusuf, Vice-Chancellor, Al-Hikmah University, Nigeria
- Prof. Marita Grudzen, Former Professor at Stanford University, Associate Director Emerita of the Stanford Geriatric Education Center, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, USA
- Prof. Prabhakar Rao, Retired Professor of Linguistics, Former Dean, School of Humanities, Former Director, e-Learning Centre, University of Hyderabad, India
- Prof. Reginald Maudlin Nalugala, Tangaza University, Kenya

- Prof. Augustine Pamplany, Institute of Science and Religion, Little Flower Seminary
- Prof. Mohamed El-Guindy, Co-Programme Director, Professional Master's In Cybercrime Investigations, Faculty of Law, The British University in Egypt
- Prof. Reginald Maudlin Nalugala
- Assoc. Prof. Talant Asan uulu, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Administration, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyz Republic
- Sonia Sofer, Program Manager and AI strategist, Google
- Syd Geraghty, Ascent of Man Project, Institute of Computational Knowledge Project, Bruno Metacomputer Project
- Cordel Green, Vice-Chairman of the UNESCO-Information For All Programme, Executive Director, Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica
- Dorothy Gordon, Past Chair, UNESCO Information for All Programme, Founding Director-General, India Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, Ghana
- Dr. Nurdin Kaparov, Northern California Director, Pacifica Institute, California, USA

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