Call for Papers
Silicon Valley Peace Conference
on
“AI’s Role in Community Development and Peacebuilding in Developing Nations”
September 25 and 26, 2026
Santa Clara, California

Organized by
Global Ministries University,
Bay Area Cultural Connections,
Pacifica Institute,
Ufuk Dialogue Foundation

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 AI's ethical and practical implications 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
- Improving Public Health and Access to Healthcare Services through AI Innovation
- Supporting Humanitarian Efforts and Crisis Management with AI Approachs
- Deep Research for Research Assistance and Accelerating Scientific Discoveries
- 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
- Strengthening Education And Policy To Address AI-Related Existential Risk

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. 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.

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

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 not able 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:

- Welcome dinner and plenary session on September 20, 2026
- The first day of the conference is on September 21, 2026
- The second day of the conference and the closing session on September 22, 2026
- Guided Tour of Local Technology Companies: 23rd September 2026

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

Conference Venue: The conference will be hosted at the 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, USA
- Prof. Marita Grudzen, Global Ministries University, Retired Professor from Stanford University, USA
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- Dr. Nurdin Kaparov, North California Director, Pacifica Institute, USA

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