

Recent Event



DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence organized an online bilateral webinar with Uganda Council for Foreign Relations (UCFR) on 15 Apr 2025. The topic of the webinar was "Leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure for Inclusive Development - Experiences in India and Uganda." This was organized with the active encouragement from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Indian Mission in Uganda and the Government of Uganda. The event witnessed participation from H.E. Upendra Singh Rawat; High Commissioner of Uganda to India, HE Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, Ambassador Francis Katana; ED, UCFR, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi; DG, RIS, Professor Gulshan Sachdeva; Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, Shri Anish Kumar; Advisor, DPA III, MEA, Shri Bhavesh Chaudhary; Under Secretary, DPA III, MEA, Dr. Robinson Ogwang; Fellow, UCFR, Dr. Chris Kanunga; UCFR, Dr. Feta Simon; Fellow, UCFR, Dr. Jaqueline Nakaiza; Fellow, UCFR, Shri. Ritesh Shukla; CEO, NPCI International, Shri Atul Kaushik; Fellow, GDC, RIS, Professor S. Rajagopalan; Head, MOSIP, Shri Nagarajan Santhanam; Chief Dissemination Officer, MOSIP, Shri Venkatesh Krishnamurthy; Advisor (Digital) DAKSHIN, Dr. Monika Kochar; Advisor (Health), DAKSHIN, Dr. Sivasenareddy; Advisor (Agriculture), DAKSHIN, Dr. Sayantan Ghosal; Consultant, RIS, Mr. John Patrick Omegere; Resource Person Africa, DAKSHIN, Shri Amit Arora; Manager, DAKSHIN, Shri Akash Singh; Research Assistant, DAKSHIN and Ms. Tanya Singh; Research Assistant, DAKSHIN.

Professor Chaturvedi inaugurated the event. In his welcome remarks, he emphasised on India-Uganda relations, importance of DPI in building inclusive societies and the vision of Government of India. The opening remarks were made by Ambassador US Rawat and Ambassador Kikufana. Ambassador Rawat emphasized on the historic ties between Uganda and India. He said that Uganda was a long time significant trading partner of India. Ambassador Kikufana was very appreciative of India's relations with Uganda. Both the ambassadors expressed their appreciation on the increasing cooperation between India and Uganda as well as the use of DPI for inclusive

development in both the countries. Professor Sachdeva welcomed the participants. He expressed gratitude to the Indian Ambassador and Indian mission, the Ugandan government, the Ugandan mission and UCRF for all their continuous support in organizing the bilateral webinar. He spoke at length on the initiatives of DAKSHIN, the synergy between the objectives and projects that DAKSHIN and UCRF undertake and potential opportunities to work together in the areas of research, capacity building and DPI projects.

The next part of the webinar was a panel discussion coordinated by Shri Venkatesh Krishnamurthy. Shri. Venkatesh began the panel discussion by citing the vision of the Indian Prime Minister of making DPI technologies accessible and available. He also said that as India shares technologies with fellow countries of global south free of charge, with the rights to modify and store domestic data locally preventing any lock-in, the fellow countries can benefit from using India's DPI technologies. He introduced the panelists and began the panel discussion with Prof. Rajagopalan. Professor Rajagopalan spoke in detail on consciously building inclusivity in DPI. He elaborated on 5 layers of DPI viz., identity, payments, data, consent and trust. He cited examples of creating technology solutions to include women in DPI, in societies where women culturally had limited mobility and had to be accompanied by men from the family. He mentioned that building trust layer in DPI is crucial for the success. Next, Shri. Ritesh Shukla spoke of the payments layer of DPI as an important tool for social inclusion. He introduced NPCI, its ownership and its not-for-profit motive. He spoke of rural consumers feeling included by the use of Unified Payments Interface (UPI, India's instant payments platform), access to credit brought about by UPI and Unified Lending Interface (ULI) as a measure of social inclusion as well as the formalization of economy. Shri Anish Kumar spoke next, elaborating on the measurable successes of several DPI applications in India. Shri Bhavesh Chaudhary shared the vision of the Government of India on making DPI accessible and available to the fellow countries of global south. Shri Nagarajan spoke on experience of implementing the citizen identity DPI MOSIP (Modular Open Source Identity Platform) in Philippines and Uganda. He said that inclusivity was implemented by making offline registration of citizen identity in Philippines comprising of 7,000 islands. He shared his positive experience of enabling the deployment of MOSIP in Uganda, followed by training of Ugandan officials in maintaining the identity platform independent of India. Dr. Nakaiza emphasized on the DPI technologies being sovereign and of the importance of data not being stored by any private enterprise. Dr. Simon expressed that Uganda can use India's healthcare DPI and agriculture DPI. Finally, John Patrick Omegere, based in Kampala, spoke on the advantages the use of Indian DPI can bring to Uganda and of India learning from Ugandan DPI experiences. After the Q&A session, Prof. Sachdeva thanked the ambassadors, the MEA officials, UCRF and DAKSHIN teams for organizing this event. He closed with a note on DAKSHIN working on research, capacity building and projects with UCRF.