

accelerating digital

Connect • Innovate • Transform



The Inaugural Global Digital Summit

Digital technologies can be transformative for economic and social development—providing new tools and unlocking new approaches to end poverty and create a more livable planet. As digital innovation races ahead, the possibilities for progress are growing exponentially. At the same time, progress for some equates to a digital divide for others, and digitization is creating new risks to privacy and security.

The World Bank is launching its inaugural Global Digital Summit to bring together government officials, private sector, partner organizations, and thought leaders to explore these opportunities and risks, around the shared goal of Accelerating Digital for Development. The Summit will showcase cutting-edge thinking, technology, and practical insights on a wide range of digital topics, with a focus on three pillars of how digitalization can (1) Connect, (2) Innovate, and (3) Transform.

The summit will also include an exhibit of transformative technologies that are changing the realities of development around the world.

Breakout sessions will delve into topics ranging from artificial intelligence to skills, data governance, cloud, digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity and more.

The Summit will feature high-level participants including ministers, private sector leaders and thought leaders across diverse sectors.

March 4–7, 2024

Washington DC, USA
The World Bank

[Learn More](#)

KEY TOPICS



Connect

Shaping a Decade of Digital Inclusion: Access, Affordability, and Internet for All



Innovate

Doing Digital Faster, Smarter, and Safer



Transform

A World Transformed: Key Scenarios for Our Digital Future

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



Ajay Banga
President
The World Bank



Vint Cerf
VP, Chief Internet Evangelist
Google



Stephanie Mehta
CEO
Fast Company



Satya Nadella
Chairman and CEO
Microsoft



Hans Vestberg
Chairman and CEO
Verizon

Summit Agenda

Monday, March 4–Thursday, March 7

Monday, March 4

3:00–5:00 pm *Pre-registration in Atrium & MC Entrance*

5:00–8:00 pm
Atrium
Plenary 1: Keynote & Networking Reception
The Internet Turns Fifty
Vint Cerf, *Chief Internet Evangelist, Google*
Afua Bruce, *Engineer and Author of The Tech That Comes Next*

Tuesday, March 5

8:00–9:00 am
Atrium & MC Entrance
Breakfast, Registration, and Networking

9:00–9:15 am
Atrium
Welcome

9:15–10:15 am
Atrium
**Summit Opening: Accelerating Digital:
A Conversation with Ajay Banga and Hans Vestberg**
Ajay Banga, *President, World Bank Group* & **Hans Vestberg**, *Chairman and CEO, Verizon*
moderated by **Stephanie Mehta**, *CEO, Fast Company*

10:15–10:45 am
Atrium
Plenary 2: Building a Collective Digital Agenda
Vilas Dhar, *President, McGovern Foundation* & **Amandeep Gill**, *Secretary General's Envoy on Technology, United Nations*; moderated by **Stephanie Mehta**, *CEO, Fast Company*

10:45–11:00 am
Atrium
Coffee break

11:00 am –
12:30 pm
Various locations
Breakout Sessions
» Can Satellite Close the Rural Connectivity Gap? (*Atrium*)
» Cyber resilience in the age of AI—how can the Global South stay ahead of the curve? (*MC4-800*)
» Government in Your Pocket: Innovations in Service Delivery (*MC7-800*)

12:30–1:00 pm
Atrium
Spark Talks

1:00–2:00 pm
Atrium
Lunch & Exhibition

2:00–3:30 pm
Various locations
Breakout Sessions
» Who's Afraid of Cloud? (*Atrium*)
» Getting it Right: What it Takes for Digital Investments to Deliver Better Health Results for Everyone (*Preston*)
» Transforming small holder agriculture through data, AI and digital technologies (*MC4-800*)

3:30–4:00 pm Atrium	Coffee break
------------------------	--------------

4:00–5:15 pm Atrium	Plenary 3: Connect Panel: Shaping A Decade of Digital Inclusion: Access, Affordability and Internet for All
------------------------	---

Wednesday, March 6

8:30–9:00 am Atrium & MC Entrance	Breakfast, Registration, and Networking
---	---

9:00–9:15 am Atrium	Day 2 Opening: Development in the Digital Era Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director, World Bank
------------------------	--

9:15–10:30 am Atrium	Plenary 4: Innovate Panel: Doing Digital Faster, Smarter, and Safer
-------------------------	---

10:30–11:00 am Atrium	Coffee break
--------------------------	--------------

11:00 am– 12:30 pm Various locations	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » From “What” to “How”: Lessons for Scaling DPI (Atrium) » Navigating the Linguistic Gap in AI (MC4-800) » Powering digital transformation—why digital needs energy and vice versa (MC7-100)
--	---

12:30–1:00 pm Atrium	A Conversation with Satya Nadella (Virtual) Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations, World Bank & Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO, Microsoft
-------------------------	--

1:00–2:00 pm Atrium	Lunch & Exhibition
------------------------	--------------------

2:00–3:30 pm Various locations	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Digital Futures: Building Digital Skills Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow (Atrium) » Digital Solutions for a More Resilient Future (MC4-800) » Governing the Digital Future: Optimizing Trust in Data-Driven Economies (MC7-100)
-----------------------------------	---

3:30–4:00 pm Atrium	Coffee break
------------------------	--------------

4:00–5:00 pm Atrium	Plenary 5: Transform Panel: A World Transformed: Key Scenarios for Our Digital Future
------------------------	---

5:00–5:30 pm Atrium	Plenary 6: Event Close Guangzhe Chen, VP Infrastructure, World Bank
------------------------	---

5:30–7:00 pm Atrium	Networking Reception
------------------------	----------------------

Thursday, March 7

8:00 am–5:30 pm	Client Consultations
-----------------	-----------------------------

Featured Exhibitors

Global Digital Summit

The Global Digital Summit marks the World Bank's inaugural annual digital conference hosted in Washington, D.C. from March 4-7, 2024. The Summit will convene external partners, stakeholders, client governments, and World Bank staff for knowledge exchange and dialogue on the latest trends, opportunities, and risks in the digital landscape, covering connectivity, cloud infrastructure, digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), digital skills, and more.

The Summit will feature an exhibit space in the World Bank Atrium, where attendees can explore cutting-edge digital solutions and innovative products from both public and private sectors. The exhibit will showcase digital technologies that address development challenges, spanning connectivity, AI, machine learning, robotics, augmented reality/virtual reality, and beyond.

.lumen—Empowering the blind (Romania): .lumen utilizes spatial navigation AI, robotics, and neuroscience to create Glasses for the Blind, offering an alternative to guide dogs for the 300 million visually impaired people worldwide. Experience the Glasses for the Blind through blindfolded testing sessions.

Roadathena (India): Roadathena, an AI-based system, has transformed road surveys, saving governments millions by enhancing transparency in road conditions and quickly identifying issues that impact transportation, such as potholes or cracks. Experience live demonstrations of its anomaly-detecting capabilities.

TrueBees (Italy): TrueBees, the first deepfakes detector, challenges attendees to distinguish between AI-generated portraits and real ones. Visitors can explore how TrueBees works and test their own accuracy performance.

TUMO Center for Creative Technologies (United States/Armenia): A free after-school program empowering teens to take the reins of their education. TUMO leverages technology to create personalized learning for 30,000 youth each week, honing skills, fostering creativity, and offering in-person mentorship opportunities.

Google Data Commons (United States): Data Commons is an initiative from Google that uses AI to make the world's public data more accessible and helpful. The tool brings together publicly available data from over 200 sources across a multitude of areas and creates one unified view of information from across hundreds of inputs.

**accelerating
digital**

Global Digital Summit • March 4 –7, 2024



Meta (United States): Meta will demo their latest virtual reality/mixed reality headsets Quest 3 and the Ray Ban|Meta Smart Glasses. Visitors can test out cutting-edge gear that delivers interactive experiences in 3D spaces that go beyond the physical world.

Commit Global (Romania): Commit Global is a civic technology NGO offering several digital tools and open-source software for refugee-centric humanitarian response during disasters or conflicts, saving crucial time and resources. Explore the digital mapping of a refugee's journey from crisis to the host country.

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) (United States): Esri's ArcGIS System is the market leader for geographic science, spatial analytics and mapping used by global development organizations, including the World Bank. Explore the real-world examples of ArcGIS' impact for development highlighting applications in sustainability, risk management, and broadband mapping.

National Information Society Agency, Republic of Korea (Korea): Learn about the Internet Access Center on AI, AI Hub, Digital Competency Center, and the Digital Bill of Rights, demonstrating the Korean government's commitment to digital inclusion and literacy. Explore the country's work on equitable and open access to digital resources.

Internet Initiative Japan (IIJ) (Japan): IIJ, a pioneer internet service provider, offers internet network solutions globally, including energy-efficient data centers suitable for low- and middle-income countries. Explore their modular and energy-efficient data center technology.

Digital Earth Partnership / European Space Agency (International): Explore localized Earth Observation data and services offered by the Digital Earth Partnership and ESA. Try out interactive dashboards and applications that support efforts to build resilience worldwide.

World Bank Augmented/Virtual Reality Lab (International): Experience the latest AR/VR projects developed for World Bank clients at the GCS AR/VR Lab lounge. Explore interactive information about World Bank projects and regions at their touch screen desk.

World Bank Technology and Innovation Lab (International): The booth will highlight the Technology and Innovation Lab and showcase its use cases, leveraging emerging technologies such as AI and blockchain. Participants will be able to immerse themselves into a virtual reality experience to learn more about the lab and its selected use cases.

**accelerating
digital**

Global Digital Summit • March 4 –7, 2024

