Sponsorship Request for the Hybrid Workshop "Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning" at ICLR 2023

Climate Change AI (CCAI) is a global nonprofit that catalyzes impactful work at the intersection of climate change and machine learning. Founded in June 2019 by world experts in these areas, CCAI has been instrumental in establishing climate change as a key area of impact for machine learning and has inspired, informed, and connected thousands from across academia, industry, and the public sector. At CCAI, we believe that **AI, machine learning, and data science tools can accelerate climate action when applied responsibly in partnership with relevant stakeholders**. Run by a dedicated, predominantly volunteer team spanning 5 continents and a wide range of institutions, CCAI provides critical education, networking, and knowledge-sharing resources to enable impactful work in this area.

CCAI conference workshops at principal machine learning venues such as NeurIPS, ICML, and ICLR have drawn hundreds of research submissions and thousands of participants. After moving fully online for the past few years, our next workshop will be held in a hybrid format in Kigali, Rwanda as part of the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR). This workshop is intended as a forum for those in the global machine learning community who wish to help tackle climate change and is further aimed to help foster cross-pollination between researchers in machine learning and experts in complementary climate-relevant fields. This edition of the workshop particularly aims to explore the connection between **global perspectives and local challenges** in the context of applying machine learning towards tackling climate change. We want to take the opportunity of the *first leading machine learning conference being hosted in-person in a country outside of the Global North* to shine a light on work that deploys, analyzes, or critiques machine learning methods and their use for climate change mitigation and adaptation in middle- and low-income countries.

The last edition of this workshop at NeurIPS 2022 (virtual) had **116 accepted paper submissions**. This workshop and the last virtual workshops at ICML 2021, NeurIPS 2020, and ICLR 2020 **had up to 2000 live viewers each.** The in-person editions at ICML and NeurIPS 2019 **were at capacity with lines out the door**. We anticipate similarly strong attendance at ICLR 2023. We also plan to publicly live stream the event on our website (and otherwise encourage hybrid virtual participation).

The planned workshop is a full-day event with a diverse program featuring two invited keynotes. The first is by Bistra Dilkina, Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southern California and co-Director of the USC Center for AI in Society (CAIS). The second keynote is given by Racine Ly, Director of Data Management, Digital Products, and Technology at Akademiya 2063. The program further consists of **two panels** on *resource-aware development and deployment of machine learning* and *a public sector perspective on AI and climate change*, hosting renowned experts in the respective fields. The program is rounded up by **spotlight talks** and **poster sessions** by the participants to present the accepted workshop papers and tutorials. The workshop has received **well over one hundred submissions**, and based on prior workshops we expect around **100-300 participants locally** as well as **500-2000 live virtual viewers** on the stream.

CCAI welcomes **Sponsorship for the event**, with which we aim to fund the following:

- **Travel and registration grants:** As in our previous workshops, we plan to provide grants for travel, registration, and mobile data, aiming to increase accessibility for a diverse set of participants both in-person and virtually. Next to visa issues, travel costs often pose the most significant obstacle for interested participants from middle and low-income countries, which we aim to alleviate for presenters and other participants at our workshop.
- **Catered lunch and coffee breaks at the workshop venue**: This workshop is typically attended by a uniquely interdisciplinary set of participants - as is needed to solve impactful problems in the context of climate change. To facilitate networking and community building among the participants, we aim to provide lunch and coffee at the workshop location.

Sponsorship Benefits. All sponsors **with a donation of at least $10,000** will:

- have their **logos featured on our [workshop landing page](#),**
- be recognized in the **welcome and closing slides** for the event, and will be mentioned locally on other local signage and marketing materials where appropriate,
- be mentioned among the other sponsors in social media posts (8,000 followers on LinkedIn and 9,600 followers on Twitter),
- receive an acknowledgment from the organizers in the opening session of the workshop.

All sponsors with a donation of at least $15,000 will additionally:

- be **highlighted** as a sponsor **in the [newsletter](#)** (ca. 15,000 subscribers, with ca. 50% open rate),
- have their **logo featured on t-shirts** worn by the workshop organizers at the event.

Contact information

Sponsorship of the CCAI ICLR 2023 Workshop will enable knowledge-sharing and partnerships between data scientists and climate-relevant stakeholders from around the globe. Learn more at [www.climatechange.ai](#) and get in touch at [climatechangeai.iclr2023@gmail.com](#).