

Adopting Big Data in Creating Smart LREB's Economic Prosperity

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Abstract

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) were designed to serve as a useful guide for focused and coherent action on sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels, and also help to mainstream sustainable development into the United Nations system by 2030. Information, a leading factor of production cutting across all sectors lacks the due consideration as a significant enabler of progressive development of infrastructure and e-readiness for accelerated economic take-off. This paper presents a review of academic literature, policy documents from government organizations and international agencies, and reports from industries and popular media on the trends in Big Data utilization in key development issues and its worthwhileness, usefulness, and relevance. By analytically evaluating the Big Data deployment in a number of key economic sectors, it seeks to provide a better comprehension of the opportunities and challenges of using Data Science for addressing key issues facing the Lake Region Economic Block as identified in the LREB blueprint. It reviews the uses of Big Data in agriculture and farming activities in developing countries to assess the capabilities required at various levels to benefit from Big Data. It also provides insights into how the current digital divide is associated with and facilitated by the pattern of Big Data diffusion and its effective use in key development areas. It also discusses the lessons that developing countries can learn from the utilization of Big Data in big corporations as well as in other activities in industrialized countries.

Key Words: Big Data, development, agriculture, Data Science, social media