Topic: **Disruption and the New Normal**

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Abstract:

We live in an age of knowledge society underpinned by science and technology. Science discoveries and technology inventions have co-evolved most significantly in the last century and have led to revolutionizing the human life and the modern world. They have led to unlocking the mystery of universe and demystifying who we are, our environment, facts from fiction and bringing science fiction to reality. This presentation would reflect on the significant advances made towards empowerment for humans and humanity. Exponential factors and the technology drivers form the vehicle for this transformative journey. They are inspired by challenges and opportunities to realize the potential afforded now through technologies to improve and sustain the quality of life. Technology has been powering innovation, change and prosperity but digital disruption and artificial intelligence have perhaps had the greatest impact on the radical shaping of the global world of late – they impact most walks of life including transport, healthcare, education, public safety and security, and employment and the workplace. Cyberspace is an innovation that drives the global, shared, knowledge base (through internet) for endeavors including intellectual pursuits, knowledge sharing, social connectivity, services, and connectivity for devices, agencies, businesses, communities and cultures. The only questions one has to ask are - Just how far can technology take us, and are we ready to go there? We have little choice but to be part of this phenomenal, global change – which is largely accepted as the New Normal. Who we are and where want to be are fundamental to our lives and our legacy for future generations. Technology led disruption empowers us to imagine, innovate, challenge and embrace curiosity in pursuit of knowledge and excellence in the New Normal. Can we create the necessary intellectual, educational, social, political and economic environment to realise the aspirations acting locally but keeping abreast with the rapidly advancing world? This reflection would share the insights on digital disruption, its potential and challenges for now and for the future.