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On March 6th, the **Oxford Centre for Technology and Development (OCTD)** and **Top Tier Impact (TTI)** came together to host a roundtable on 'Data Accessibility and Equity in Climate Tech: Bridging the Gap between Hyper-Development and Under-Developed Economies'. **Duke Corporate Education (DCE)**, our co-host, provided the venue at their central London office.

The roundtable gathered a diverse group of **experts, including investors, researchers, associates, and founders, aiming to engage key stakeholders** on the issue of data scarcity in climate tech. Over thirty participants joined in-person in London and an additional twenty-five contributed virtually around the world. Leading the discussion was **the Managing Partner of Spin Ventures and Top Tier Impact Ambassador Nic Gorini**, facilitating an exchange of ideas framed by opening and closing remarks from **OCTD's CEO and Founder, Dr Emre Eren Korkmaz**.



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A lively event, the thorough discussion addressed **capital mobilisation, artificial intelligence, data scarcity, climate technology, and impact metrics**. The session opened by attending to the basics: **defining the types of data considered in reference to corporations' environmental impact and outlining the types of challenges caused by data accessibility**.

While establishing data scarcity as a fundamental issue provides scientific value, the primary objective is to expedite the development of **measurable, positive, tangible, and profitable** solutions to address this scarcity.

**“We can’t manage what we can’t measure,”** underscores our commitment not just to highlighting the problem but to actively seeking out and implementing solutions.



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The issue of data scarcity transcends geographical and economic boundaries, affecting both developed and developing economies, from regulatory frameworks like CSDR to ESG standards.

**Joanna Catalano**, Tech Executive (ex-Google) and consultant with OCTD, set the stage by addressing fundamental difficulties posed by data accessibility in climate tech. She highlighted the **dual challenge of not just defining the necessary data but also the practicalities of collecting it, with neither climate startups nor investment funds equipped with capabilities to handle relevant datasets.**

**Alpin Özmen** (ESG Programs at DCE) further noted how SMEs can struggle to draw meaningful insights from data and lack an **interoperable infrastructure, which hinders data collection by larger organisations further along the supply chain.**



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**Manish Godkindi** (ESG Executive, ex-ERM) urged reshaping discussion around supply chains to focus on the data burden placed on SMEs by larger companies, namely a result of a lack of an agreed standard and reporting template.

The conversation delved into the evolving regulatory landscape, emphasising the growing pressure on the private-sector to enhance data collection efforts.

**Genevieve Steele** (Commercial Director at Finastra) reflected on the banking sector's navigation of these changes, noting the unique nature of these datasets to challenge a sector accustomed to evolving regulatory requirements.



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**Serkan Erdem**, from EY's Climate Change & Sustainability division, noted **the unprecedented era of regulatory scrutiny**. He underlined **the need for the private sector to act swiftly**, saying, **relevant parties have "got to be starting [adhering to data collection standards] yesterday."**

Attendees proposed various solutions aimed at **improving the collection and management of climate data**. Suggestions ranged from **leveraging advances in generative AI to streamline messy datasets**, to **advocating anthropologically-focused approaches in reducing the burden on SMEs by hitting the "sweet spot" of amount of data collected** (Mark Mann, Co-Founder of DivineOx).

**Ergem Tohumcu** (C-Founder, FutureWise Partners) emphasised **the importance of considering wider capabilities when considering the 'magical solutions' of new technologies**, stating **any solution must be embedded in an understanding of cultural, human processes**; again, reverting to the common thread of discussion that **issues must be better considered from the SMEs point of view**.





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**Dr. Emre Eren Korkmaz** brought discussion to a close by urging action to facilitate financial flows into emerging markets, highlighting investments to be disproportionately concentrated in high-income countries. This disparity between hyper-developed and under-developed economies is both a symptom and a driver of the data gap discussed throughout the roundtable.

Looking ahead, OCTD, TTI, and DCE are committed to advancing this conversation. This roundtable marked the beginning of joint efforts to confront this urgent global challenge, with more events scheduled for the coming weeks and months both in London and in other major cities around the world.



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## Want to contribute to this discussion?

Join our WhatsApp group of experts on the conversation around Climate X Data:



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