

COLLABORATIVE AI DEVELOPMENT

Dayeon Lim - *Geumcheon-Gu High School*

Meeting on the margins of the Summit of the Future at United Nations headquarters in New York, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen and the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Under-Secretary-General Amandeep Singh Gill, announced a new enhanced collaboration between the UN and the OECD on global AI governance. "The speed of AI technology development and the breadth of its impact requires diverse policy ecosystems to work more cohesively. And in real time. I am delighted that the OECD and the UN will link their efforts to help policy response to AI's opportunities and its risks," UN Under-Secretary-General Gill said. "We will work with all stakeholders, including leading scientists and academic centers from around the globe, to realize this goal."

Governments improve the quality and timeliness of their "rigorous scientific and evidence-based assessment must be at the heart of global AI governance. This announcement marks a significant step in that direction by bringing the technical and analytical capabilities of the OECD together with the UN's global reach and complementary efforts to support globally coordinated AI governance," OECD Deputy Secretary-General Knudsen said. "The OECD's AI Policy Observatory, our extensive work to advance the implementation of the AI Principles, and the Global Partnership on AI at the OECD provide a strong foundation for this collaboration. Our joint efforts will help countries to seize all the opportunities of AI while mitigating and better managing the associated risks and disruptions to foster human-centered, safe, secure, and trustworthy AI."

UN-OECD collaboration will focus on regular science and evidence-based AI risk and opportunity assessments. The two organizations will leverage their respective networks, convening platforms, and ongoing work on AI policy and governance to support their member States and other stakeholders in their efforts to foster a globally inclusive approach.

In a landmark decision, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/78/L.49 on "Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence for sustainable development." This marks the first-ever resolution adopted by the United Nations (UN) regarding AI. The resolution will guide the regulatory development of AI technologies on the national and international level in years to come and marks a step in the "race to AI regulation."

UNITAR Division for Peace will focus on establishing and integrating an AI-focused digital cooperation and partnership development as part of its Online Learning and Education Unit (OLE). UNITAR Division for Peace's AI-focused digital cooperation and partnership development initiative will aim to explore novel

opportunities to contribute to the UN Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9: New Agenda for Peace.

Thus, exploring and creating cross-cultural collaborative partnerships focusing on sharing and disseminating thoughts and experiences of working with artificial intelligence in shaping global peace and security in both higher education and technical, vocational education and training.

The emphasis will be on exchange integrating three core principles. UNITAR recognises it does not have the solutions or answers to many questions related to seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence for peace, security, and sustainable development.

UNITAR is open to all who work in higher education and care about how the sector is being shaped by AI. We will aim to promote education through technology, and at the heart of the AI-focussed digital collaboration are questions such as what the purpose is, and future, of higher education and technical, vocational education and training. It is open to all who have professional interest in higher education and AI. We will actively seek to ensure that we have a balanced membership representing different disciplines, genders, career stages, institutions, and geographical regions. It encourages cross-cultural perspectives and collaboration. However, we do not aim to replicate international organizations. Membership will be based on interest and relevance rather than nationality. Our working language will be English.

< Specific Themes and Area of Collaboration >

Ethical AI Development

Emphasize the importance of developing AI systems that adhere to ethical principles, respect human rights, and promote global well-being.

AI for Peacekeeping

Outlines the use and integration of AI technologies into current UN peacekeeping missions, enhancing situational awareness and conflict prediction capabilities.

AI-Powered Early Warning Systems

It proposes the creation of AI-driven early warning systems to detect and prevent potential conflicts and humanitarian crises.

Capacity-Building

Highlight the need for capacity-building in AI technologies, particularly in developing nations, to bridge the global digital divide.

In conclusion, the integration of AI into higher education focussing on UN peace and security efforts would contribute to:

Conflict Prevention: AI-powered analysis of vast datasets can help identify early signs of potential conflicts, allowing for timely preventive action.

Peacekeeping Operations: AI can enhance the safety and effectiveness of peacekeepers through improved threat detection and resource allocation.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

How is international collaboration on AI shaping sustainable development?

at this year's Data Science Conference (DSC) Europe 2024 brought together ambassadors and diplomatic corps from relevant European countries and Brazil to discuss equality, security, and the future of AI.

The ambassadors talked about their countries' experiences in using AI, priority areas for its future application for the benefit of citizens, as well as potential risks associated with AI and how to address them.

The panel opened with speeches by Yakup Beris, Resident Representative of UNDP in Serbia, Mr. Dominic Otway, Deputy Ambassador to the British Embassy Belgrade, and H.E. Emanuele Giaufret, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union.

“Artificial intelligence can significantly improve our lives through the application of new technologies in medicine, education, economy, transport, security and other areas. It can also serve policy makers and we should focus on ensuring sustainability, equality, data protection, environmental protection and greater participation of women in sectors related to these technologies”, stated Mr. Beris.

He added that it is necessary to pay attention to security, the issue of misuse, and the direction of new technologies to ensure they serve solely for the benefit of humanity.

Deputy Ambassador at the British Embassy in Belgrade, Dominic Otway, stated that the focus of all policy makers and other participants in the field of new technologies should be on increasing the participation of women in order to ensure equality and sustainability.

“Artificial intelligence should serve us all by helping us save valuable time on tasks that require more effort and advancing key areas such as medicine, education and security. But we also need to be aware of the dangers of AI misuse,” emphasised Mr. Otway, adding that AI learns from us and imitates us, and that it is up to us to determine the direction of its use.

H.E. Emanuele Giaufret explained that the world is at a crossroads in terms of AI and numerous challenges that need to be addressed and added: “Artificial intelligence can and will shape our future and we need to steer its development. International cooperation and exchange of experiences are essential, and we must ensure equality, sustainability and security”.

He highlighted that the European Union has launched numerous initiatives, research and programmes within its strategy to develop AI and tools that ensure the safety of all users. Regarding Serbia, he also praised the introduction of legal regulations and the adoption of the national AI strategy, which contains clear guidelines for the application, development and control of AI.

“Italy is focussing on enhancing human potential through AI applications for the common good. Key areas include the digitalisation of public administration, AI research and development and the mitigation of potential risks”, explained H.E. Luca Gori.

H.E. Anke Konrad emphasised that Germany focuses on data and that without it, all efforts would be in vain. In this context, she mentioned the Data Lab and the use of AI by the police to solve crimes. She also referred to the use of AI in visa authorisation, which greatly facilitates the work of administrative officials.

“Sweden has invested considerable resources to ensure competitiveness in the field of AI on the European and global market”, H.E. Charlotte Sammelin pointed out. She also referred to the use of AI in the judiciary, where tools for the automatic translation of legal and court texts have significantly improved practises and led to considerable savings. Another example was the use of chatbots in the healthcare sector, which help patients and facilitate the work of medical staff.

H.E. Pierre Cochard mentioned that France is focussing on research and innovation. The application of AI in various fields, such as transport, medicine, defence and the digitalisation of public administration, has led to significant results. He referred to the use of AI in tax administration, where the technology has contributed significantly to the prevention of fraud.

H.E. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto emphasised that Brazil values equality, justice and responsibility in the development of new technologies. He highlighted Brazil's plans to unify data in a single system and develop regional data centres to address specific challenges such as droughts, floods and other extreme weather.

The value of collaboration in AI software development

Diversity of perspectives

Collaboration brings together specialists with different backgrounds and perspectives. This fosters creativity and innovation in AI software development. Collective knowledge and diverse perspectives create great space for new ideas. This, in turn, fosters creativity in artificial intelligence software development.

Cross-functional teamwork

Effective collaboration brings cross-functional teamwork across different departments and disciplines. As a result, different experts, such as data science specialists or software engineers, take corresponding responsibilities while adhering to the collaboration principles. By breaking down silos and fostering collaboration between these diverse teams, organizations can ensure improved team efficiency.

Agile development

Collaboration enables agile development practices and iterative improvement. By working closely together, teams can quickly prototype, test, and refine AI models and applications based on user feedback and evolving requirements. This ensures a culture of continuous learning and adaptation. Such an approach is associated with great flexibility and the development of a well-defined roadmap to product development.

Shared learning and knowledge transfer

Collaboration facilitates shared learning and knowledge transfer among team members. Different specialists can easily learn from each other's experiences, best practices, and lessons learned. This ensures faster learning and efficient skill development. As a result, over time, such an approach can lead you to establish a team of mature AI software development specialists.

Enhanced problem-solving

Collaboration encourages collaborative problem – solving and innovation in AI software development.

Various brainstorming sessions help teams identify creative solutions to complex challenges. Besides, each team member involved in market research can find interesting ideas that can be used by the team. As a result, there appear solid chances for pushing the boundaries of what's possible with AI technologies.

Greater stakeholder engagement

Efficient team cooperation involves engaging stakeholders, including end-users, customers, and business stakeholders. Their impact can bring many benefits to the AI software development process. That's why collaboration goes beyond teams and involves communication with users and other stakeholders. This helps businesses ensure that AI software meets user needs and delivers tangible value. Overall, collaboration fosters alignment between technical teams and stakeholders. This means successful project outcomes and greater user satisfaction.

Korea opens AI research hub in Seoul

South Korea has opened a research hub for artificial intelligence (AI) technology to support global collaborative research and position itself among the top three global AI leaders.

The Ministry of Science and ICT and the Institute of Information & Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation (IITP) held the inauguration ceremony for the National AI Research Hub at the Seoul AI Hub on Monday in Seocho District, southern Seoul.

The Seoul AI Hub, which the city plans to expand to 7,600 square meters by 2025, will host the National AI Research Hub, focusing on AI talent development and extensive industry-academia collaboration.

A total of 94.6 billion won (\$68.5 million), including 44 billion won in government funds, will be invested by 2028. The government aims for the hub to become a focal point for international collaborative AI research, talent development, and a thriving ecosystem for AI-related academia and industry. A consortium comprising the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea University, Yonsei University, and POSTECH has been selected to establish and operate the research hub.

Typically, research with relatively higher risks will be conducted at the National AI Research Hub, and once the technology is fully developed, it will be transferred to private companies.

“The successful launch and innovative management of the National AI Research Hub will become a new milestone for AI development in our country,” Minister of Science and ICT Yoo Sang-im said. He further highlighted the urgency of establishing an AI Basic Law in the National Assembly to promote the AI industry, build a foundation of trust, and propel Korea into the global top three in AI.

Russia to enhance AI collaboration with China

Russian President Vladimir Putin has instructed the government and Sberbank to strengthen cooperation with China in artificial intelligence (AI), reports Reuters.

The directive aims to bolster technological research and development in AI, with Sberbank leading Russia's efforts.

He directed the government and the top bank to "ensure further co-operation with the People's Republic of China in technological research and development in the field of artificial intelligence".

Western sanctions have limited Russia's access to essential technologies, including microchips, impacting its AI ambitions.

By partnering with non-Western countries, Russia seeks to challenge US dominance in AI.

In December 2024, Putin announced the creation of an AI Alliance Network to unite specialists from BRICS countries and other interested states.

"Russia must participate on equal terms in the global race to create strong artificial intelligence. It is precisely the advanced solutions that Russian scientists are currently working on," Putin said at the time, inviting "scientists from all over the world to join in the collaboration."

The US and China are leading in AI, with the US appointing a "White House AI and Crypto Czar" to maintain its technological edge.

However, Russia's collaboration with China could alter the AI landscape.

Russia anticipates AI technologies will contribute Rbs11.2trn (\$109bn) to its gross domestic product by 2030, up from Rbs0.2trn in 2023.

Russia's AI strategy envisions 80% of its workforce possessing AI skills by 2030, compared to 5% in 2023, with AI investment increasing seven-fold to Rbs850bn.

Sberbank, with its GigaChat AI model, and Yandex, with YandexGPT, lead Russia's domestic AI market.

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