

# A Networking Event to Share AI Governance Practices and Challenges Event Report

## 1 Outline

On March 28, 2024, the University of Tokyo's Institute for Future Initiatives and the University of Tokyo's Tokyo College held a "Networking Event for Sharing AI Governance Practices and Challenges" at the SMBC Academia Hall, International Academic Research Building, Hongo Campus, University of Tokyo.

While the need for AI safety and governance has become common knowledge in society as a whole, and various examples and services are being developed by companies and government organizations working on AI implementation, the discussion on AI ethics and governance is ahead of that in Europe and the United States, and does not necessarily match the issues that Japanese companies and government organizations are facing. In view of the fact that AI services and systems are also rooted in society and that cultural and institutional factors cannot be ignored, this event was held with the aim of providing a forum for sharing knowledge on AI governance.

The event was also intended to promote international networking, as it was attended by practitioners working on AI safety at the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), an organization specializing in AI governance, and to provide input on various practices in Japan. In addition to providing input on various practical examples in Japan, the participants discussed issues such as the objectives and methodologies for implementing AI governance, and how the Japanese government and international organizations should support and collaborate with each other.

## 2 Japan's AI Policy

At the beginning of the session, a high-level practitioner at the helm of Japan's AI policy explained the latest developments in Japan's AI policy.

First, Mr. Shoji Watanabe, Director-General of the Office of Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, explained that Japan's AI policy is based on three pillars: addressing risks, promoting utilization, and strengthening R&D capabilities. He contrasted the current situation with that of Japan, where Japan has basically continued to take soft law measures, with the EU, which has taken legal action in response to online platform operators, and the U.S., which has basically left the matter up to self-control of the industry but is imposing reporting requirements for large-scale general-purpose models. He then raised the question of whether Japan should do nothing. Furthermore, regarding those who

pointed out the haste with which Japan is moving toward legal regulation, Mr. Watanabe pointed out that the past documents of the ruling party had clearly stated that the government would consider the establishment of laws and regulations.

Next, Ms. Akiko Murakami, Executive Director of the AI Safety Institute of the Information-technology Promotion Agency, Japan (IPA), gave a speech on her appointment as the first Director of the Institute, followed by her



determination that the role of the Institute is, first, to ensure that AI systems are not allowed to be created without any guidelines and that they can develop without any worries. Secondly, she expressed her determination to consider establishing some form of system to certify private AI system certification organizations in the future. In addition, Ms. Murakami mentioned that similar organizations have been established internationally in various countries, and also introduced the fact that the Institute will use the abbreviation "Japan AISI" by those organizations.

#### 4 AI Governance Initiatives Overseas

Mr. Matt Chessen, Embassy of the United States of America in Japan, began the session with a presentation on the country's approach to AI safety. First, Mr. Chessen explained that while AI has immense potential for good, it also poses risks such as security threats, bias against vulnerable groups, and discrimination. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has developed an AI Risk Management



Framework, and the White House issued an AI Bill of Rights. President Biden issued an Executive Order on AI in October last year. NIST is setting up an AI Safety Institute, The U.S. is cooperating at the international level through the Hiroshima AI process. Mr. Chessen expressed his pleasure that the United Nations also unanimously

passed a resolution on safe, secure and trustworthy AI. Mr. Chessen expressed US's commitment to both protect the public and advance AI innovation.

Next, Dr. Qinghua Lu of the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) explained that the CSIRO, a national organization, has established a "Responsible AI Team" for 2021, they are currently working on the Australian AI Safety Standard, the first edition of which will be published in April. Based on the concept of "AI engineering" that principles alone are not sufficient and that concrete best practices and tools are needed, she introduced the construction of a "Responsible AI Pattern Catalogue" that accumulates best practices and mapping with ISO standards and EU laws and regulations, and pointed out that these methods have similarities with Japanese efforts.



#### 5 Comments from international guests

First, Ms. Inma Martinez of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) explained that the GPAI, of which Japan is a founding member, places emphasis on the safety and trust of AI and promotes a framework that enables the better development of AI. She also explained that the GPAI recognizes that AI can contribute to the progress and welfare of society and emphasizes the incorporation of national and industry principles, and has established working tracks for industry participation.



Next, Mr. Cyrus Hodes, also from GPAI, stated that GPAI is focused on finding concrete solutions and adopts a solution-based approach rather than a policy approach, and that he looks forward to Japanese industry's participation in mapping and other efforts.

Ms. Merve Hickok, President of the Center for AI & Digital Policy (CAIDP) then said that the past two days had made her aware once again of the need for diversity of stakeholders. She explained that the discussion on AI governance is like creating the road signs, rules and guardrails as we are already driving on the road. She also introduced her own testimony to the U.S. Congress in March highlighting the need

for guardrails, explaining that CAIDP is working with policy makers and academia to wrestle with human rights and democratic values issues.

## 6 Q&A/Discussion

These topics were followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion between the presenters and participants.

The main issues discussed included concerns about the complexity of the multiple rules that will be formed and applied to AI in Japan, differences in the granularity of regulations by sector, and the degree to which international consistency should be emphasized.

Participants expressed the opinion that an approach in which rules are established by organizations with sector-specific expertise, whether domestic or foreign, could be considered, and that a balance should be struck between consideration of Japan's unique context and international consistency from the perspective of ensuring the effectiveness of the rules. It was also discussed that rule-making efforts should not be led solely by the government, but should be promoted with the participation of multi-stakeholders, including industry and other private sectors.

## 7 Organizational/company initiatives and issue sharing in Japan

Next, practitioners shared information on the efforts and challenges of organizations and companies in Japan, each with a time limit of one minute.

The presenters, who came from a variety of public and private entities, gave presentations that condensed the essence of their respective efforts in AI governance practices and rule formation. The names, affiliations, and themes of the presenters were as follows.

Mr. Masanori Tachibana (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) – AI Guidelines for Business

Mr. Hiroki Oda (Kobe City) - AI-related Initiatives in Kobe City

Mr. Hirotaka Kaji (Toyota Motor Corporation) - Resilient and Responsible AI

Ms. Rie Izumida (KPMG Consulting) - Status of Corporate Inquiries on AI Governance

Mr. Satoshi Funayama (rinna)-Action at the end of chat service for general consumers

Mr. Hironori Kobayashi (Citadel AI)-Examples of Citadel AI in Practice

Mr. Akira Yoshida (Amazon Web Service)-Perspectives on AI governance

Mr. Hiroaki Sakuma (AI Governance Association) - AI Governance Association's

## Activities and Latest Risk Management Practices

Mr. Haruki Kojima (Microsoft Japan) - Microsoft's approach to Responsible AI

Mr. Hirohiko Ito (NEC) - AI Governance and framework of NEC

Ms. Momoko Fukazawa (PwC Consulting) - Awareness of AI risk control and its impact on ROI

## 8 Discussion

Following the information sharing, discussion between the presenters and participants took place again.

The main issues discussed included the attitude of Japanese industry, especially user companies, toward AI governance, AI governance efforts in developing countries and how developed countries, including Japan, should support such efforts, and the similarities and differences between climate change countermeasures and AI governance.

While some participants expressed the view that Japanese user companies place great importance on being assured that "as long as we do this, we will be fine," others questioned whether the spread of such awareness is at odds with what should be expected. Regarding AI governance in developing countries, some participants expressed their hope that AI governance efforts in developing countries will be more inclusive, taking into account the activities of the UN Advisory Board and UNESCO, and the prospect that countries with close values will be involved in AI governance efforts in turn. Lastly, with regard to the differences with climate change countermeasures, it was introduced that the international frameworks on AI governance established so far have many aspects referring to climate change countermeasures, and it was suggested that what can be applied should be sorted out based fully on the differences with climate change countermeasures.

