

⋮ P R E S S R E L E A S E

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New Aspect of How to Deal with Artificial Intelligence Infused

3 March 2021

Japanese Ambassador, **H.E. MURATA Takashi**, welcomed the participation of a Japanese research institute, RIKEN, in forces with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) in international research efforts to support development of precision prediction model to identify those most at risk from COVID-19 with AI technology and emphasized hope that Japanese and Finnish bilateral substantial cooperation on AI will further extend for building our sustainable future. He spoke on occasion of an online seminar on AI co-organized with gHAIR.

On 3 March, as a part of Dispatch Program of Japanese experts for JFY 2020 by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, **the Embassy of Japan** and **gHAIR (Global Human-Centric AI-Transformation Research Network)** co-organized an online seminar on Artificial Intelligence (AI), lectured by a Japanese prominent AI expert, **Dr. NAKAGAWA Hiroshi**, Group Director of Artificial Intelligence in Society Research Group, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project.

At this seminar attended by approximately 50 participants including experts in public and private sectors, Dr. Nakagawa, under the theme of “Delegation of Digital Heritage to Personal AI Agents”, elaborated on how to treat personal digital heritage including SNS account information that remains after the death of the users, following opening remarks by **H.E. Ambassador MURATA Takashi** and **Prof. Petri Myllymäki of the University of Helsinki**.

The ensuing panel discussion among Dr. Nakagawa and the Finnish panelists, **Mr. Aleksi Kopponen of Ministry of Finance**, **Prof. Tommi Mikkonen of the University of Helsinki** and **Prof. Kaisa Väänänen of the University of Tampere** inspired the participants as well as helped to broaden their

horizons on how to deal with AI in the future. They confirmed the importance of continued cooperation on this field including the exchange of information.

Attachments :

Photos

Opening remarks by H.E. Amb Murata

Presentation materials by Dr. Nakagawa

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**Remarks by H.E. MURATA Takashi,
Ambassador of Japan to Finland,
“AI Online Seminar” on 3 March 2021**

My name is MURATA Takashi, Ambassador of Japan to Finland. To mark the opening of this seminar, allow me to say a few words.

First, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Aleksi Kopponen from Ministry of Finance for his great support to make this online seminar possible, Professor Petri Myllymäki from Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence for serving as a moderator and all the other people from Global Human-Centric AI-Transformation Research Network for co-organizing this event.

My deepest gratitude also goes to Dr. NAKAGAWA Hiroshi, Group Director of Artificial Intelligence in Society Research Group, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project for lecturing at this seminar out of his busy schedule.

Dr. Nakagawa is a leading expert on Artificial Intelligence, who is active domestically and abroad. His major field of interest is AI ethics, in particular, how to deal with the protection of privacy. At today's seminar, Dr. Nakagawa is about to enlighten us on digital heritage such as SNSs.

People are apt to pay attention to only merits or benefits gained from AI. But, we also need to notice accompanying emerging issues such as the privacy protection in dealing with numerous personal data to support AI as well as ethical ones that the development or utilization of AI should be consistent with human social and moral standards. Accordingly, like Finland, Japanese government adopts the concept of “Human-centric AI” in its national strategy.

Gaining more awareness of such accompanying challenges on AI and understanding of what is more appropriate way to deal with AI through this seminar would be also highly conducive to promoting cooperation between Japan and Finland.

Last November, under the bilateral agreement on cooperation in science and technology of 1997, both governments held the seventh Joint Committee Meeting on Cooperation in Science and Technology online, where both sides exchanged views on each effort on AI. Bilateral cooperation has progressed in business sector as well. A Japanese

company, SB Drive that develops the AI-related self-driving technology, entered into a partnership with a Finnish company, Sensible 4, that developed all-weather self-driving bus “GACHA”.

Furthermore, last month it was announced that a Japanese research institute, RIKEN, where Dr. Nakagawa works, joined forces with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) in an international research effort to support development of a precision prediction model to identify those most at risk from COVID-19 with AI technology.

In a world of uncertainty, we now witness the spread of COVID-19 posing a threat to lives, livelihood and dignity of people across the globe. The international community as a whole should address this challenge as a serious crisis that is directly linked to the human security.

In this situation, I sincerely hope in the wake of this seminar, our bilateral substantial cooperation on AI and human network will further extend across industry, government and academia for building our sustainable future.

Thank you.

(End)