

## Event Report: Global AI Dialogues Workshop in Japan

Date/Time	Saturday, August 24, 2024, 10:00-13:30
Venue	SMBC Academia Hall, 4th Floor, International Academic Research Building, Hongo Campus, The University of Tokyo
Organized by	Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Research Center, The University of Tokyo
Co-organized by	Technical University of Munich, Germany
Cooperated by	B'AI Global Forum, The University of Tokyo

### About the Global AI Dialogues

The Global AI Dialogues is a workshop series led by a research team from the Technical University of Munich that invites citizens around the world to engage in dialogue on topics related to artificial intelligence (AI).<sup>1</sup> As part of the series, a Japanese research team collaborated with the German team to organize a workshop in Tokyo, where approximately 60 participants discussed AI—specifically generative AI (genAI), facial recognition technology (FRT), and child abuse response systems—and its social implications. Similar workshops were held in Germany and Nigeria shortly before the Tokyo event, and the outputs are to be compared and analyzed cross-nationally.

### Event Report

#### 1. Opening Remarks

The event began with opening remarks by Dr. Arisa Ema (Associate Professor, Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo) on behalf of the Japanese research team, Dr. Takeo Hoshi (Director, Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo) on behalf of the organizers, and Ms. Chiara Ullstein and Mr. Michel Hohendanner on behalf of the research team from the Technical University of Munich.

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<sup>1</sup> The Global AI Dialogues gratefully acknowledge the support by the IEEE Computer Society.



▲ Dr. Ema (left) and Dr. Hoshi (right) giving opening remarks.



◀ Ms. Ullstein (center) and Mr. Hohendanner (right) also delivering opening remarks. They mentioned the workshops in Germany and Nigeria, stating, “We hope to provide a platform for citizens’ perspectives worldwide through dialogue.”

## 2. Information Briefing

Prior to the group work session, Dr. Tatsuya Daikoku (Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo), Dr. Amelia Katirai (Specially-Appointed Assistant Professor, Osaka University), Dr. Aimi Ozaki (Associate Professor, University of Tsukuba), and Dr. Kenta Shiina (AiCAN Inc.) provided basic information on AI technology in general, genAI, FRT, and child abuse response systems, respectively. They added brief explanations based on the materials distributed to the participants in advance.





▲ Dr. Daikoku (top left), Dr. Katirai (top right), Dr. Ozaki (bottom left), and Dr. Shiina (bottom right) providing information.



◀ Part of the materials distributed in advance. The documents offer several pages of information on each of four topics: AI technology in general, genAI, FRT, and child abuse response systems.

### 3. Group Work Session

Following the information briefing, a group work session was conducted in which the participants were divided into groups of five to six people. Each group was assigned one of three specific themes: genAI, FRT, or child abuse response systems. Using the provided worksheets and sticky notes, the participants engaged in dialogue for approximately two hours, including a break. A staff member, called a “group supporter,” was assigned to each group to facilitate the discussion.



◀ At the beginning of the group work session, each group experienced a demonstration corresponding to its assigned theme: image and text generation for genAI, face verification for FRT, and a mock safety assessment for child abuse response systems. The photo shows a group assigned FRT as its theme.



◀ Each group created its own starting question, such as “What if genAI / FRT / child abuse response systems were applied in [a specific context, such as public services]?” and brainstormed potential events that could occur in that context. The identified events were evaluated in the following steps in terms of their positive/negative impact and likelihood.



◀ Based on the discussion of potential events, each group determined a goal that society should aim for in the explored context when dealing with genAI / FRT / child abuse response systems, and discussed relevant stakeholders and strategies. These elements were incorporated into the final step, backcasting, to explore how to achieve a desirable future.

#### 4. Plenary Session

A summary of each group’s discussion was presented in the plenary session.



▲ In the Plenary session, held over lunch, each group provided a brief overview of its discussion.

## 5. Expert Comments and Closing Remarks

At the end of the event, Dr. Hajime Asama (Project Professor, Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo) and Ms. Akiko Murakami (Executive Director, AI Safety Institute, Japan) provided their comments, and Dr. Ema delivered closing remarks.



▲ Dr. Asama (left) and Ms. Murakami (right) making comments.



▲ Group photo after the closing of the event

### **Postscript**

As a member of the research team, I would like to extend my gratitude to all the participants and everyone who contributed to this event. Being involved in the process of organizing the Global AI Dialogues workshop in Japan and observing the intensive discussions on the day were incredibly inspiring.

For the Japanese research team, the next step is to analyze the outputs within the framework of the Global AI Dialogues. However, I believe that it is also important to connect the possibilities and challenges identified through this process to future initiatives. I look forward to meeting a wider range of people and deepening our dialogues in the future.

Written by Jun Kuribayashi

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