

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CMU collaborates with Japanese university to study AI

MADDIE AIKEN | April 9, 2024



A multimillion-dollar collaboration between Carnegie Mellon University and a Japanese university will aim to advance the research and impact of artificial intelligence in Pennsylvania and beyond.

Students, faculty and researchers at CMU and Keio University in Tokyo will research areas like multimodal and multi-lingual learning, autonomous AI symbiosis with humans, and AI for life sciences through the collaboration, which school and government officials announced Tuesday.

"This new partnership is global in its scope and single-minded in its purpose to advance AI research and impact," CMU President Farnam Jahanian said in a news release.

Mr. Jahanian described the opportunity as "tailor made" for

CMU, which has long served as a global leader in AI.

Similarly, Keio University is a leader in AI research in Japan, according to Kohei Itoh, the university's president.

"We are very excited to be moving on to the next stage in our research by forming a U.S.-Japan collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, a globally renowned research institute in the field of AI," Mr. Itoh said in the release.

The collaboration is part of a \$110-million partnership between U.S. and Japanese universities; the University of Washington and the University of Tsukuba also will collaborate.

Research investors include Amazon, Arm, Microsoft, Nvidia, SoftBank

Group and a consortium of Japanese companies.

The agreements of the collaboration were announced in tandem with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio's visit to the United States.

At CMU, AI research efforts are housed in the private institution's School of Computer Science. Martial Hebert, that school's dean, said he is excited for CMU faculty, researchers and students to begin collaborating with Keio University.

"Establishing AI research collaborations and industry partnerships on topics that align so closely with the research that's underway at CMU are essential for making progress in advancing the best possible impacts of AI on people's lives," Mr. Hebert said in the release.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said the partnership will build on state and national efforts to enhance AI technology.

"Artificial intelligence is already impacting every sector of our economy — and government leaders need to lean into its innovation to adapt to the rapidly changing technology market ethically and responsibly," Mr. Shapiro said in the release. "That's the approach we've taken in Pennsylvania and why the commonwealth has partnered with Carnegie Mellon to develop best practices for governing generative AI."