AI future

A panel discussion at ITU Kaleidoscope 2016 Special Session: Artificial Intelligence for a sustainable future: Friendly companion or threatening conqueror, Bangkok, 16 Nov 2016. Prabhas Chongstitvatana

My background is a researcher in the field since 1980.

My position is that AI is a boon for humanity. It will create a lot of new opportunity. With this new opportunity, society will adapt, similar to the change from industrial age to information age. AI will be human companion, a helper to improve our chance of survival. The society is going through a rapid change. AI will be a technology to enhance human to cope with solving problems of large scale and also it will facilitate us to better manage our daily life.

There are a lot of advances in the use of AI today: Speech recognition, Image classification, Autonomous vehicle, Machine translation, Legged locomotion, Question answering machine. Because AI had become an important part of our live, there are voices of worries about the bad influence of AI on humanities. Elon Musk and a number of prominent technologists warn us (January 2015).

The IT industry is already concerns about this.

Satya Nadella talked in June 2016, 6 principles

- 1 AI must be designed to assist humanity.
- 2 it must be transparent
- 3 It must maximize efficiencies without destroying the dignity of people.
- 4 It must be designed for intelligent privacy.
- 5 It must have algorithmic accountability.
- 6 It must guard against bias.

Human must be in control.

I am optimistic about the progress of artificial intelligence that can be beneficial to mankind. But at the same time, I think we must be cautiously plan and prioritize this advancement.

I can see two kinds of tools. One kind is for individual. The second kind of tool is for society at large. We must build the good future having this safety concern in mind. The key for success is education for layperson and open discussion.

How to get benefits while avoiding potential pitfalls.

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