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UAE Artificial Intelligence National Strategy

1 message

Hagir Elawad <hagir@uaestrategies.com> Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 4:35 PM
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[redacted]

Good afternoon Colleagues,

In advance of this Wednesday's meeting with our Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, I wanted to share some background and recent developments.

In October 2017, H.E. Omar Al Olama was appointed as the UAE's first Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and a council for artificial intelligence, named the Dubai Future Council, was subsequently formed in March 2018.

In the last couple of years, the UAE has ramped up its efforts to make AI growth a top priority. And yesterday, the UAE Cabinet adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031. This progressive initiative promotes rapid technology development in all sectors of society and illustrates the UAE's continuing efforts to integrate artificial intelligence into daily life. Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, who chairs the cabinet, emphasized the UAE's commitment to implementation: "We have launched a national strategy for artificial intelligence to make it an integral part of our business, our lives, and our government services."

Included below are two articles highlighting the approval of the AI strategy and details of the council's first meeting.

Kind Regards,

~Hagir

UAE Cabinet approves national artificial intelligence strategy

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The National
April 21, 2019

The UAE Cabinet has approved ambitious plans to put the country at the forefront of global efforts to develop artificial intelligence.

The cabinet, chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031 during a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

The wide-ranging initiative will involve the rapidly-developing technology being implemented in all sections of society - from government services to education.

The bold strategy is comprised of eight objectives, including reaffirming the UAE's position as a global artificial intelligence (AI) hub, employing AI in customer services and recruiting and training people to work in fields which will be driven by the technology for years to come.

Sheikh Mohammed said the growth of artificial intelligence was key to the ongoing development of the country.

"We have launched a national strategy for artificial intelligence to make it an integral part of our business, our lives and our government services," said Sheikh Mohammed.

The strategy will be put into operation by the Emirates Council for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transactions, in partnership with a number of local and federal bodies.

The first phase of the strategy will focus on vital areas such as healthcare, cyber security, logistics and transportation and tourism and hospitality.

The high-level cabinet meeting was also attended by Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs.

The action plan is part of an ongoing bid by the UAE government to integrate artificial intelligence into everyday life.

In March of last year, the UAE Cabinet formed a council for artificial intelligence to oversee AI integration in government departments and the education sector.

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The ten-member UAE Council for Artificial Intelligence is chaired by Omar Al Olama, who was appointed Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence in October, 2017.

Dubai Future Council on Artificial Intelligence holds its first meeting

DUBAI, 20th April, 2019 (WAM) -- Chaired by Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, the Dubai Future Council on Artificial Intelligence discussed at its first meeting plans and trends to strengthen Dubai's position and leadership in future sectors and how the role of artificial intelligence will further enhance Dubai's status as a future global city.

One of 13 Councils launched by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Dubai Future Foundation, the Dubai Future Council on Artificial Intelligence aims to enhance public and private sector awareness on the importance of adopting technologies in vital sectors such as education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as supporting research aimed at creating a legislative and regulatory environment that meets the needs of relevant stakeholders.

Omar Al Olama highlighted that the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, focuses on providing an encouraging environment and ecosystem for a sustainable knowledge-based economy that provides opportunities for startups and young talent to create businesses based on artificial intelligence and big data, hence developing various vital sectors in the emirate.

He pointed out the importance of employing modern technology in various economic, governmental and private sectors to establish new sectors, embrace ideas, foster talents as well as attract more investments from around the world.

During the first council meeting, the members discussed the artificial intelligence landscape, key challenges facing the development of artificial intelligence both locally and globally, policies and regulations and reviewed prominent developments of artificial intelligence in governmental and economic sectors.

The Council is comprised of a number of government officials, experts, representatives of private companies and academic institutions.

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Ronaldo Mouchawar, Co-founder of Souq.com & VP of Amazon MENA, highlighted the importance of encouraging entrepreneurs and startups, both locally and globally to be part of the AI sector and better utilize such technology, as well as reviewing current incubators and accelerators and how to bridge the gap between those incubators and AI startups.

Dr. Oussama Khatib of Stanford University talked about the importance of keeping the future generation in mind when it comes to deploying such technology, he said,"by collaborating with universities in the UAE and introducing AI in education, we thereby ensure better AI understanding and utilization". He further added, "we need to allow and enable a more human-centric AI approach and foster potential collaborations on a global scale."

"Dubai has become a global center for the development and testing of innovations, and an integrated system of cooperation between government agencies, international companies and academic institutions should be established to strengthen this leadership," said Dr. Hamad Al Awar, Director of Pictures & Video Analysis, Forensic Science and Criminology Department at Dubai Police.

"There is a lot of demand for artificial intelligence applications, so we need to develop policies that will enable the implementation and use of this technology in a smoother and easier way for companies that want to invest in artificial intelligence," said Mohamed Bu Hamra, Senior Manager- Technology Business Solutions at DP World "The Dubai Future Council on Artificial Intelligence will require to focus creating the right ecosystem for AI in the UAE, as well as look into incentivizing and empowering global AI labs to open their facilities and R&Ds in the UAE" said Oussama Berqi, Director of Engineering at Careem "The Council should focus on becoming a knowledge hub for AI in order to explore and anticipate the future of such technology and its implications on vital sectors" said Matthew Karau, Research Associate & Lecturer of Engineering Design at NYUAD "We need to develop a comprehensive vision of the artificial intelligence sector in Dubai, support the recruitment of its solutions and practical uses to meet the needs of different sectors, and focus on the main objectives of artificial intelligence applications in order to attract talent and companies over the next 10 years," said Divyank Turakhia Founder of Media.net

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