



Boao Youth Forum for Asia 2017

Session Summary (No. 2)

Boao Forum for Asia Institute

November 2, 2017

Session 2

Youth: Challenges of AI and automation to education and vocational training and its effect to youth's career and academics pursuit

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m., November 2, 2017

Venue: Hall 1A, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center

Moderator: Vanessa GAO, CEO and founding partner of The Jiangmen

Panelists:

- Roy CHUNG, Honorary President, Federation of Hong Kong Industries
- Yun LUO, Partner and CIO of Extreme Vision
- Matt SCOTT, Co-founder and CTO of Malong Technologies, Co. Ltd.
- Naiyan WANG, Principal Scientist of Beijing TuSimple Future Technology Co., Ltd.



- Fan YANG , CEO of IQIANJIN.COM
- Lu ZHANG , The Founding and Managing Partner of Fusion Fund
- Ares ZHOU , Chairman of Shanghai Hefu Holding (Group) Company Limited

Synopsis:

Delegates concurred that AI was revolutionizing some conventional industries by infusing new energy and creating new sources of economic and profit growth.

They also agreed on looking on AI and its resulting changes objectively. AI is intended to serve us and not to displace us. It will replace some trades while creating new ones. Young people should embrace and adapt to these changes , improving themselves and grabbing any new opportunities. For China , a massive population lays the cornerstone for wide application of AI technology ; besides , mass data on the population lends itself to exploring diverse application scenarios.

Are you sure your job is secure from the attack from AI?

Since AlphaGo won the board game Go , Xiaodu beat the most powerful human brains and robots composed increasingly better articles , many have displayed a bit of worry about the purported replacement of human labor in the coming AI era — in regard of hobby , recreation or employment.



Prof. Roy CHUNG expressed his views on the likely changes: “Changes are going on all the time, but we frequently get used to them. AI and its resulting changes deserve objective assessment. AI works to serve instead of displacing human beings, you know. While putting an end to some types of work, it creates new ones.”

Matt SCOTT remarked: “AI is revolutionizing quite a few conventional industries, in respect of output, quality, efficiency as well as service improvement. We see pioneering technologies applied in multiple fields — such as retailing, logistics and health care — bringing about so many changes in our life.”

ZHANG Lu mentioned about Silicon Valley: “Silicon Valley has a head-start in regard of AI. First, it started very early and boasts years of technical background. Second, plenty of high-quality data provides a core advantage in machine learning and computer vision. Third, many high-tech giants launch open-source learning platforms or share mass data to boost application efforts. Fourth, innovative-thinking tech professionals are very much valued in Silicon Valley.”

ZHANG believed that the great advantage of developing AI in China is its demographic dividend. The mass data sourced from the population lends itself to exploring diverse application scenarios. Besides, Chinese users tend to accept new technology more readily in general. A latecomer, China possesses very great advantages in terms of to C AI application.



AI is well established in everyday life, but how many application scenarios do you know?

Does AI have something to do with perfume and makeup! Ares ZHOU replied in the affirmative.

Prof. ZHOU, a dedicated researcher on industrial high-tech application, is certain that wide application of AI in conventional industries will infuse new energy and create new sources of economic and profit growth.

Automation technology as well as AI is beginning to be applied in many conventional industries, such as coal and chemical engineering. According to ZHOU, AI reduces coal sector-associated risks by making data analysis for prediction purposes, while it improves productivity effectively for chemical engineering, such as digital workshops and high tech-supported factories.

Self-driving cars are one scenario where AI and automation are most applied. WANG Naiyan listed the many safety risks associated with manned trucking, such as transport capacity crisis and overlong hauling distance. A precise solution to these shortcomings and freeing humans from such physical labors, AI is believed to revolutionize industries in the same way the Industrial Revolution did in the past. In addition, self-driving trucks will cut human cost by as much as 40%, sharpening the core competitive edge of logistics service providers.

ZHANG Lu shared the facts of AI application in the health care industry, citing medical imaging, a field where information overload constitutes the



biggest problem; yet with AI, doctors find no great difficulty singling out the most important three from hundreds of images. Besides, AI prompts doctors where necessary and comes up with precise personalized diagnosis results.

What “trump card” should young people arm themselves with in the face of AI propagation?

Prof. CHUNG advised young people to embrace AI and the changes, improve personal capabilities and grab new opportunities. First, there should be more designers with creative thinking and solutions. Second, young people should hone their self-regulation skills in order to make the right decisions. Third, teamwork is very important. Fourth, they should cultivate a more insightful cross-cultural perspective. Prof. CHUNG recommended that educators work with the government and entrepreneurs to build a sound platform on which young people can learn new skills and ways of thinking.

LUO Yun remarked: “The AI initiative is supposed to focus on basic research as well as industrial application. For those young men involved in AI, I advise being receptive to cross-disciplinary knowledge and learning the industry trends. Besides, they should be motivated and imaginative. For young men, these are the primary priceless merits that drive scientific development and enable AI to serve us.”

At the session YANG Fan served a special “chicken soup” for the young: “You needn’t have fear about AI and its challenges in a new era. Think more about how to grow up to be a free-thinking individual. Go with the streams while improving yourself. Be brave to look for opportunities from challenges.”



According to him , internet finance , medical care and block chain are fields where AI application is anticipated for the future.

YANG emphasized four qualities a start-up company most valued in a new recruit , i.e. quick learning and application of professional knowledge , an open mind , looking into the nature of problems and holistic thinking.