

BEST PRACTISE FORUM ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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5. Timeframe for the work (1-year or multi-year forecast):
6. Names of Co-Facilitator(s) (2-3 MAG members + non-MAG members if appropriate)

Needs and Requirements

The AI is a newly introduced product/services into the ICT??? Market. The MAG-IGF has seen the need to discuss and promote more educational and awareness information on the product as experienced, many users and importantly decision makers were not fully informed on its benefits and disadvantages.

Background

The application of Artificial Intelligence technologies like speech recognition, chatbox, etc. to internet are considerably increasing, significantly modifying our way of life.

Thanks to the availability of big data and cloud computing, main players like Google, Facebook, Amazon can classify and group user data by means of machine learning applications, to extract user profiles and models and apply them in a variety of contexts.

Self-learning algorithms are also available on our mobile devices, influencing our choices, our purchases, etc.

Issue for the BPF

There are several benefits coming from AI: it can help improve efficiency and cost saving; it can enable better and more accurate decision-making; it can be used for discovering specific data patterns, complex cause and effect relationships, etc.

This could help people to solve complex problems and global challenges related to the environment, transportation, health, etc. Also on the level of the individual internet user there is an almost endless and growing list of examples of how AI could help. There are AI applications, for instance, designed to support doctors in diagnosing and detecting symptoms of diseases like Alzheimer and Parkinson, applications supporting patients or helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities, and AI in imbedded in tools intend to assist people in organising their daily lives and work.

While Artificial Intelligence applications could help to tackle many global challenges and support people in their daily pursuits, there are a large number of unknown and potential negative impacts and risks, for example related to privacy and discrimination, inequality and infringement of human rights.

AI is an issue of importance to all stakeholder groups, as all will be impacted by and benefit from AI. Therefore, it is important establish a dialogue with all stakeholders to understand how Internet could best benefit from AI, to identify the risks and seeks ways to mitigate unwanted side-effects, e.g. by setting limits to the automated decision making.

Several social and economic issues related to the application of the AI to the internet can be identified. Therefore, a debate would be required to help stakeholders to pick out the right measures and policies to be adopted for managing the impact of AI on the society.

For instance, it would be important to request transparency in the AI algorithms, as they may induce decisions with severe impacts on people, they can categorize people based on their preferences, etc. AI applications should be designed to respect common society rules, cultural and religious difference, etc. (AI Ethics).

Objectives of AI BPF

BPF proposal on AI should specifically target to be a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary platform to discuss on opportunities and threats related to the application of AI on Internet, and ways to stimulate the positive or mitigate the negative. Focusing on the benefits, the use of the AI applications could be analysed for reaching SDG objectives.

The BPF on Artificial Intelligence may be started with the study of the context of the AI. Several focus groups may be organized, one for each of the following tasks:

- Identify existing platforms and communication mechanisms between stakeholder groups discussing or well-placed to discuss AI issues;
- Analyse the main AI applications used in Internet and the related benefits/threats;
- Identify common problems and best practices to fix them;
- Activate a network with the main existing working group on AI (AgID, OECD, IEEE, etc.) to share results and best practises;
- Identify how AI applications can be used to reach SDG objectives;
- Identify the impacts on policies and regulations as well as budget implications for governments (computing power, bandwidth, technical capacity);
- Verify roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholder groups and explore if there is ground for global common policy recommendations as outcome of the BPF.

Expected Output(s):

As anticipated before, the BPF intends to stimulate the debate between stakeholders, laying the basis for a continuous dialogue, within and outside the context of the IGF. A tangible output of the process will be a document, based on stakeholder input, on the benefit and threats related to AI.

The document could help to take maximum advantages of this technology and to avoid any misuse.

Outreach and Dissemination Plan/Strategy:

As mentioned, we envisage a broad participation from the different stakeholder groups and multi-disciplinary input, and intend to obtain this by a mix of general outreach to all interested parties and targeted outreach to existing working groups on AI related issues (e.g. AgID, OECD, IEEE, etc.).

The main results discussed by the BPF will be collected in a report that will be presented during IGF 2018. We expect that the different stakeholders involved in the BPF's discussions will take the BPF's report back to their respective communities.

Timeframe for the work (1-year)

This proposal is for a BPF of 1 year. This should be sufficient time to identify stakeholders and discuss main issues. During this year, it should become clear whether a follow-up BPF would be useful.

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