Study Group 'AI governance and its Evaluation'
Report on the Session #1

1. Introduction

The Japan Deep Learning Association establishes study groups as a forum for deepening knowledge and discussing domestic and international policy trends related to artificial intelligence (hereafter AI) and Deep Learning (hereafter DL). This study group, "AI Governance and its Evaluation," defines "governance" as a system of management and evaluation by various actors, and launched a study group in July 2020 to investigate what forms of governance are possible and conduct a year-long study to help build trustworthy AI systems.

This report is a reconstruction of the discussions of the study group participants.

2. Discussion on AI governance in Japan

Discussion on the implementation of AI governance in Japan

Currently in Japan, the government, private companies, and industry groups are working on the implementation of AI governance. More and more startups are being invited to participate in government committees. However, unlike large corporations, startups have limited resources and time, making it difficult for them to actively participate in those discussions. In addition, there are limits to the governance policies that the government can solely take initiative on implementation, so that the private sectors are required to take the lead in creating governance rules and best practices in the industries.

The Japan Deep Learning Association (JDLA) and other industry organizations are therefore expected to play a role in gathering the opinions of companies and making recommendations, and we believe that JDLA can provide opinions from the perspective of what policies startup companies in particular expect, given its constituent companies. The purpose of this study group is also to exchange opinions on AI governance with stakeholders from industry, government, and academia.

While the Partnership on AI (PAI) is working internationally to implement AI governance, many Japanese companies face technical and economic difficulties in implementing AI governance as proposed by major corporations such as GAFA. Under such circumstances, JDLA members expressed their desire to consider implementing governance practices that are feasible for startups and small and medium-sized companies. One example of an attempt to implement AI governance is the Model AI Governance Framework in Singapore. This framework is designed to help companies

envision concrete ways to implement AI governance by disclosing AI governance approaches and precedent cases in a set. The accumulation of case studies for the realization of AI governance is expected in Japan as well. JDLA plans to collaborate with other industry organizations that are implementing similar AI governance initiatives to provide practical measures that go beyond policy recommendations, such as opening a consultation service and publishing best practices.

Roles required of management in implementing AI governance

What role should corporate managers play in implementing AI governance? Referring to the reports by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Chair Ema said that "being able to respond immediately," "always showing an attitude of dialogue," and "having a system in place to explain incidents and accidents" would increase trust in the companies. In addition, it is expected that the management team will reconsider their vision and management philosophy based on the idea of "what kind of society they want to live in," and link them with practices to create a flat and easy-to-move organization within the company.

Scope for AI governance

The scope of AI governance is complex, not limited to specific methods such as DL, but also includes models, algorithms, and development processes such as user interaction after data output. As AI service providers are required to be accountable not only for specific technical elements, but also for digital governance in general, this study group will proceed discussions not limiting the definition of the scope of AI governance at this moment.

In addition to defining the scope, members also raised the question of which positions should be focused on in AI governance. In the current AI governance, when there is a large gap between policy and global issues and practical perspectives (i.e., when the feasibility of the requirements of ethical principles is too low), an approach to support and protect companies that provide AI services may be required. Since this is the first year of the study group, the discussion will proceed from an overarching perspective of the scope and basic principles of governance, the social structure of Japan, and what approaches are important. However, on the other hand, it is not desirable to have only overlapping discussions without a practical perspective. Therefore, we would like to publish a collection of case studies separately from the final report, and we are considering collaborating with domestic and international industry organizations that are conducting similar studies on AI governance.

3. **Discussion on disseminating AI governance to overseas**

Looking at the trends in AI governance overseas, it seems that the current rule-making in AI governance is led by institutions in specific countries and regions, such as Europe, the US, and China. As for the ethical principles on which governance is based, it is not difficult to imagine that different countries and regions have different values and incidents that are likely to be problematic, for example, discrimination issues such as racism are likely to be raised in some regions, while the impact on democracy is likely to be important in other regions.

So what values are considered important in Japan? In light of the above situation, a member raised the question of whether it is necessary to redefine the values that are likely to be considered more important in Japan today, as they are still unclear. In response to the above, it was pointed out that business-to-business transactions (B2B), especially in Japan, tend to have a so-called B2B2C (Business-to-business-to-consumer) structure, in which AI model developers, AI system integrators, AI service providers, and business users (or consumers) are each made up of different business entities. Since such business practices unique to Japan have not been focused on in guidelines and ethical principles formulated overseas, it is expected that information will be disseminated to the international community after further study in Japan. In fact, each company is making partial efforts, and it is expected to collect such examples and disseminate them internationally based on the relationships among stakeholders. As for the activities of this study group, it is being considered to create an English version of the final report, to create a network by inviting overseas research institutes and policy makers for webinars and exchange of opinions, and to actively disseminate Japan's unique values to overseas. The workshop concluded with the hope of asserting Japan's presence in AI governance in the international community through these activities as described above.

4. **Conclusion**

As mentioned above, the first session identified issues that need to be considered in AI governance and presented a vision for the future. We will continue to discuss AI governance in Japan and abroad through this study group.

Written by Ayuto Makiguchi
Translated by Michiko Shimizu

<Outline of the 1ˢᵗ Study Group>

Date & Time: Tuesday, July 31, 2020, 16:00-18:00 (Zoom)

Agenda:

- Introduction: "Sharing the purpose of this workshop and how to proceed"
- Topic: "Domestic and International Trends in AI Governance" provided by Arisa Ema (Project Assistant Professor at the Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo/ Board member of JDLA)
- Question and answer session / discussion