



The United States and Japan Announce Two New University-Corporate AI Partnerships Worth \$110 Million

As part of Prime Minister Kishida Fumio's historic state visit to the United States, on April 9, 2024, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, and Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Moriyama Masahito announced two new research partnerships in Artificial Intelligence between the University of Washington and the University of Tsukuba and between Carnegie Mellon University and Keio University. These partnerships are supported by \$110 million in combined private sector investment from NVIDIA, Amazon, Arm and Softbank Group, Microsoft, and nine Japanese companies.

The partnerships were announced at a signing ceremony at the U.S. Department of Commerce Research Library in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, April 9.

In support of the breakthrough AI partnerships, Ambassador Emanuel said, "Nothing is more important than having trusted partners who can collaborate not only on the technological side of this critical research but on the ethical side as well. With our countries' shared values and world-leading expertise, these partnerships can help set the standard in this fast-evolving field."

"The United States is committed to working with our allies and partners to lead on the development of safe and responsible artificial intelligence and welcome opportunities for collaboration between our institutions in leading edge technology," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Today's announcement will build on President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida's commitment to advance U.S.-Japan science and technology cooperation to develop a talented global workforce and strengthen economic security in both countries."

While both AI research partnerships will create interdisciplinary collaboration across academic departments, faculties, and students, they are distinct and have different focus areas.

The University of Washington and University of Tsukuba partnership capitalizes on the universities' locations in science and technology hubs. With unique commercial ecosystems in Seattle and Tsukuba, this partnership will focus on the nexus between AI-related research and workforce development.

"This is an exciting effort that brings together the talents and expertise of two cutting-edge, world-class universities. Advancements in AI are happening at a breakneck pace. This collaboration between the University of Washington, University of Tsukuba, Amazon, and NVIDIA will help provide the research and workforce training for our regions' tech sectors to keep up with the profound impacts AI is having across every sector of our economy," said Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington State.

The Carnegie Mellon University and Keio University partnership will focus on specific research themes:

Multimodal and Multi-lingual Learning, Embodied AI or AI for Robots, Autonomous AI Symbiosis with Humans, Life Sciences, and AI for Scientific Discovery.

“Pennsylvania is a global leader in AI development and innovation – thanks in large part of leading institutions like Carnegie Mellon University that have long embraced the promise of new technologies and harnessed their power to transform the way people live and work. Artificial Intelligence is already impacting every sector of our economy – and government leaders need to lean into its innovation to adapt to the rapidly changing technology market ethically and responsibly. That’s the approach we’ve taken in Pennsylvania and why the Commonwealth has partnered with Carnegie Mellon to develop best practices for governing generative AI. This new partnership between Carnegie Mellon University and Keio University will build on Pennsylvania's and the United States’ global leadership in AI technology – and will empower our workforce, lean into innovation, and capitalize on economic opportunity,” said Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania.

Corporate supporters include Arm and Softbank **Group**, NVIDIA, Amazon, Microsoft, and a consortium of nine Japanese companies.

Artificial Intelligence is the third strategic university-corporate partnership initiative concluded between American and Japanese academic institutions and the corporate sector since May 2022, when President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida made a commitment to advance U.S.-Japan science and technology cooperation. Last year, on the sidelines of the G7 Leaders’ Summit in Hiroshima, U.S. and Japanese universities and corporations signed partnerships in quantum computing and semiconductor engineering. IBM, Google, and Micron invested a combined \$210 million to support the new quantum computing and semiconductor academic programs.

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