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OMAN INDUSTRY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SPECIAL REPORT

"How will AI Enable Oman's Industry to Empower the National Economy?"

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سلطنة عُمان
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The exclusive insights and opinions revealed in this Special Report were shared at Gulf Intelligence's Forum in Muscat in November 2023. Comments have been paraphrased for publishing purposes and cannot be quoted or used as verbatim without contributors' approval. Any further use of the material must also cite Gulf Intelligence and the event in full.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Countries around the world have been competing to develop and govern Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies since the issuance of the first AI strategy by the Canadian Government in 2017. Oman is no exception, and like many nations, it is facing the challenge of ensuring that its industries do not get left behind in the global AI revolution. The Sultanate has been making efforts to implement AI across various sectors such as healthcare, public transport, and education, as well as vital industries like energy, logistics, agriculture, banking, and finance. However, a lot still needs to be done to fully embrace the potential of AI and leverage it to drive innovation, efficiency, and growth. The Omani Ministry of Economy has launched an OMR 10 million 'National Initiative to Empower the National Economy Enhanced by Artificial Intelligence' for the year 2024, with the aim of integrating AI applications and technologies into development projects. The program's main pillars, launched with the support of the Ministry of Economy, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, are aimed at - enhancing productivity in the sectors targeted for economic diversification and specified in the Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025); developing human capabilities in AI, accelerating AI adoption; and developing a governance structure for AI applications and advanced technologies with a human-centric focus.

$15.7 trillion
AI's potential contribution to the global economy by 2030, of which $320 billion will be from Middle East[1]

62%
Middle East organizations which use AI in at least one business function[2]

RO 10 million
amount earmarked by Oman Ministry of Economy for government AI initiatives for 2024[3]

64%
businesses which expect AI can increase their productivity[4]

25%
Middle East organizations that are Responsible AI (RAI) leaders while 75% are laggards[5]

48th
Oman's international AI ranking – Government AI Readiness Index 2020, Oxford Insights[6]

Sources: [1] PwC [2] McKinsey [3] Oman News Agency [4] Forbes Advisor [5] Zawya

OMAN'S COMPETITIVE AI ADVANTAGE

*Stable political climate conducive to foreign investment

*Established submarine cable infrastructure - enabling hosting of data centres, high speed computers and cloud services – to support AI algorithms

*High number of IT graduates

*Diverse economic sectors, in which technologies can be tried and tested

Enabling Oman's AI Ambition

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وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
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Q&A with Dr. Ali Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

Does Oman's National Strategy have a clear plan for the development and application of AI for industry stakeholders?

Our AI action plan was issued in August 2022, and we have publicised it through different media channels and roadshows, visiting every governorate to spread awareness about the program. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and the center of AI, can set policies and direction, facilitating what needs to be done to accelerate adoption, but we also need all stakeholders to play a role in helping the nation adopt AI and feedback to the Ministry. The Ministry can open doors, facilitate, and link industry looking for AI solutions, to companies and academic professionals in that space. It can also provide advice on the laws and regulations and roadmap for AI in Oman.

"We are today ranked 53rd out of 180 countries in AI readiness. We want to be in the top 40 by 2025."

How does the National Digital Economy Program link into Oman's AI program?

The digital economy's contribution to GDP today is modest and we want to grow that contribution fivefold in the coming years. The National Digital Economy Program is segmented into five-year chunks, and we are in the first phase of that (2021-2025). It has eight executive programs, one of which is AI. Other programs are digital government; cybersecurity; e-commerce; digital infrastructure; space; the digital industry program which focuses on attracting international digital investments and nurturing start-ups in the country; and the fintech program. Some of them are run by the Ministry, and others by different entities in the government. The AI program is based on four pillars. The first is accelerating AI in economic sectors such as tourism, logistics and mining. Pillar two is the acceleration of AI in strategic sectors such as health and education. Pillar three is capacity building in AI, and pillar four is governance. One target we have set for 2025, is to improve Oman's ranking in the Global AI Readiness Index. We are today ranked 53rd out of 180 countries. We want to be in the top 40 by 2025. Other KPIs are: to increase AI investments in the country, increase the number of startups in AI, and stimulate research and innovation in AI by increasing the number of papers and patents.

Are there challenges to managing data in AI schemes?

One reality is that the flow of data never stops. Another is that data ownership is scattered, so getting it all aligned is not simple. A third challenge is that there are so many terminologies being used - Big Data, Open Data etc. – and sometimes the real meaning gets lost in translation. So, working towards a mutual understanding of what we are talking about is very, very important. A prime example of using AI data in Oman was in recent elections, to predict voter turnout based on age, sex and location. That classified data came from historical records held by the Ministry of Interior, which is the custodian of the election process.

"The priority regarding AI should be put on safety and having a consensus on principles like equality, non-bias, and fairness, but we should also not choke innovation."

Data can also be unclassified, or open, such as information on the number of hospitals in the country. The government has been working on an open data platform that will become the fuel for AI.

Should Oman leverage AI in key industry sectors first, or target all sectors at once?

The AI action plan that we published last year focused on key targeted sectors, defined by Oman's 10th five-year economic plan. However, sometimes there are opportunities in other sectors that are easier to penetrate and less reluctant to innovate.

Should Oman's AI initiative adopt examples of best practice from elsewhere?

Part of the development of the AI program was to have a benchmarking phase, where the team looked at what other countries are doing and their different strategies and programs, which we then input into ours. The learning is continuous. Oman is a member of several international committees and AI is the number one topic whenever we meet with other officials around the world.

Are AI laws and regulations keeping up with innovation?

AI safety is very important; it's the fourth pillar in Oman's AI Executive Program. The Ministry has published AI principles for government entities, for whenever they want to adopt AI solutions. We've also seen how the EU is now enacting the AI Act. The entire world is wrestling with the question of 'do we regulate or innovate?' I believe that the priority should be put on safety and having a consensus on principles like equality, non-bias, and fairness, but we should also not choke innovation.

Equipping Oman's Workforce to Foster a Sustainable AI-driven Digital Economy

Walter Simpson, Managing Director, CC Energy Development (CCED)

Capacity building is crucial for nations aiming to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence, particularly given its proven role in enhancing business and societal outcomes. These possibilities highlight the need for strategic discussions about both the trajectory of AI and the importance of digitalization efforts in general. As those discussions unfold, three themes will become evident: the role of the government in aligning AI with national priorities, the role of higher education in aligning the skill set of the current and future workforce with the needs of industry, and finally the need to create a culture of innovation and iterative learning.

LEADING BY PUBLIC EXAMPLE

The primary role of government, through ministries and other government institutions, is to play an intermediary role in connecting the private and public sectors. Government organizations need to understand the technical landscape, the skillset of the national workforce and the abilities and profiles of companies that are working on or want to explore AI. They then need to work to align the workforce and companies with technological opportunities through strategic programs and initiatives. This is critical in removing barriers and expediting AI implementation.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION

The role of education is equally critical. Universities should stress a flexible curriculum (to adapt to new AI technologies and approaches) and emphasize the formation of a practical skillset that includes AI and data science competencies. Key to fostering practicality is the adoption of programs that provide students with real-world experiences, through internships or similar, to bridge the theoretical and practical aspects of AI. Finally, the need for early AI education should not be overlooked. Herein, it is crucial to be able to adapt to the fast-evolving mindsets of younger generations and prepare them for future technological landscapes.

INNOVATION CULTURE

Finally, the need to foster a culture of innovation and exploration must be considered. By its nature, AI requires an approach which views failure as a learning opportunity and part of the AI process rather than as something to be avoided. This is because an AI project requires many rounds of iteration and exploration that may or may not lead to immediate results. Thus, it is critical to imbue this culture within individuals, organizations and eventually even at the national level. Given the need for this change, it is also critical to foster dialogue between generations. Advocating for open dialogue ensures that all age groups are moving forward together and can learn from each other.

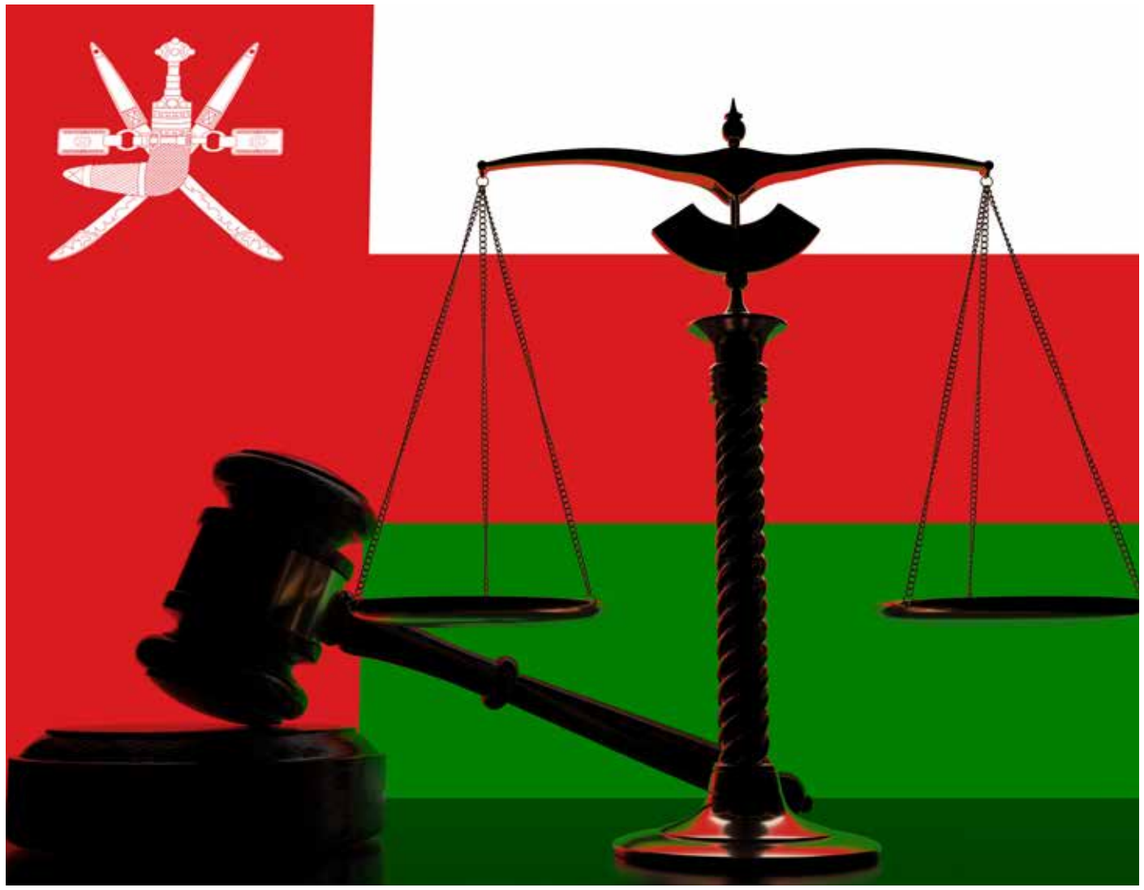
The development of a workforce equipped with both technical and soft skills for an AI-driven future must leverage a dynamic education system along with collaborative efforts between academia, industry, and government.

Recommendations

Establish internships which are funded through government programs to ensure a practical curriculum and connect students with opportunity both in Oman and abroad - with the caveat that they must bring the skills acquired back into Oman.

Establish a government program to fund training to help executives and leaders in critical sectors internalize the AI and innovation process and a culture which allows iteration and exploration.

Establish conferences and forums between government, the education sector and companies to begin to align funding, priorities, market, and skillsets to help accelerate the AI journey.



Shaping Governance, Laws, and Regulations for a Future-ready AI Economy

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Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, OMAN

Governance has an important role to play in mitigating the risks of AI and emerging technologies. Collaboration, flexibility, and ethical considerations should all be included when shaping regulations in this dynamic digital landscape. In doing so, one should balance the needs of governance and innovation and involve diverse stakeholders with an adaptable model that aligns with differing requirements across all sectors.

Data governance is multinational – the US for example has a more laissez-faire approach about data privacy compared to Europe's more controlled model. We must be careful not to stifle innovation with regulation and find a balance between ethical considerations and consumer protection on the one hand, and innovation enablement on the other. Regulation should be an enabler to guide responsible practices.

One area to address when regulating the evolving AI landscape is employment and the need for adaptability and reskilling to navigate AI-induced changes. The need for a bottom-up approach, involving educators' role in emphasizing critical thinking and considering the impact on young people seeking employment in the future jobs market, reflects a commitment to maintaining ethical values in the face of technological advancements.

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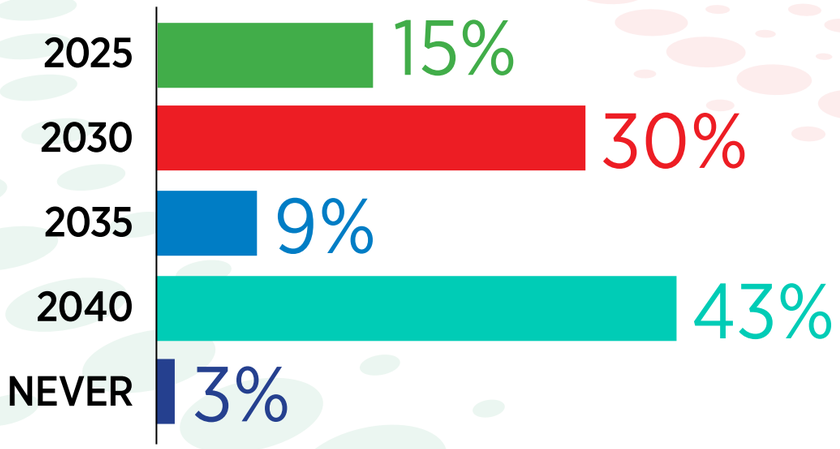
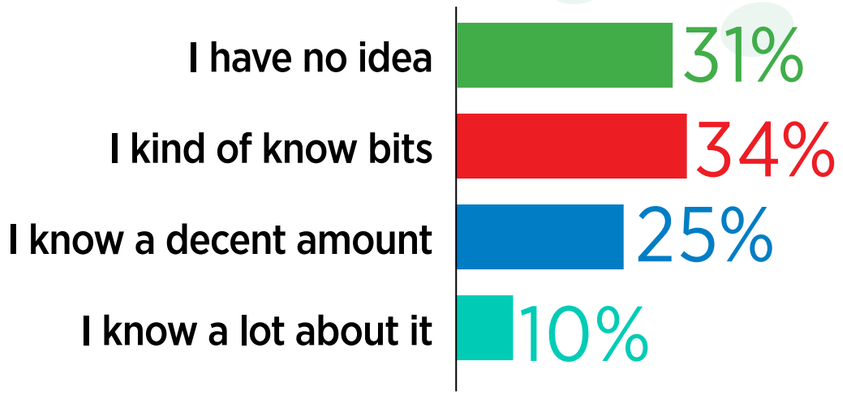
"How will AI Enable Oman's Industry to Empower the National Economy?"

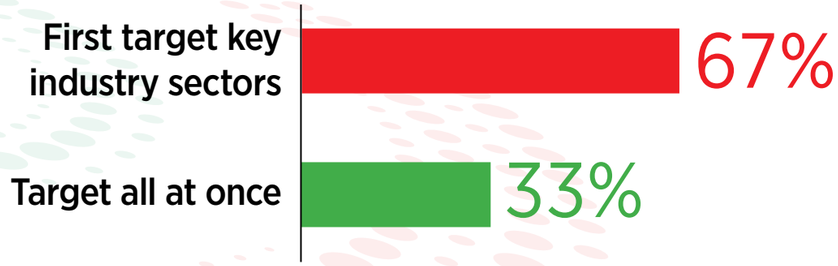
AI will enable Oman's industry to empower the National economy by:



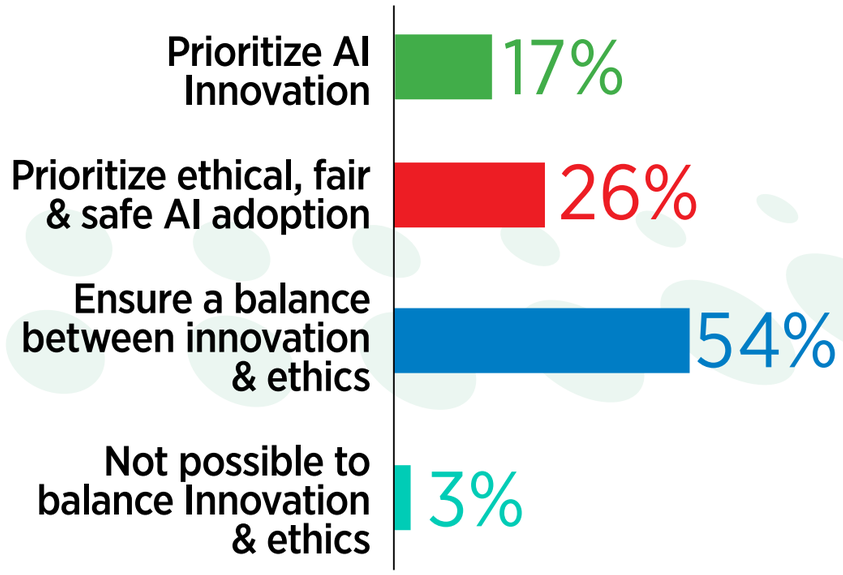
What is the Sultanate's national strategy regarding the development and application of AI?



Oman should first leverage AI in key industry sectors to fuel a tech-driven economy or target all sectors at once?



Regulatory laws and policies should be adapted and updated to:



Survey was conducted on Nov. 1st 2023 with 300 executives & officials from a cross section of Omani industries.

LEVERAGING AI ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS

Sheikh Aimen Ahmed Sultan Al Hosni
CEO, Oman Airports

مطارات عُمان
Oman Airports

TECHNOLOGY'S CRUCIAL ROLE IN AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Beyond routine functions like enhancing security and streamlining passenger processes, technology plays a pivotal role in addressing unforeseen challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Concrete examples, such as the use of facial recognition temperature cameras during the pandemic, underscore the technology-driven efforts to ensure passenger safety. There is also a broader vision for technology to drive efficiency by reducing fuel consumption and contributing to global goals such as achieving carbon net zero by 2050.

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION FOR INDUSTRY PROGRESS

Stronger collaborative knowledge-sharing within the industry can only enhance the potential for organizations to benefit from each other's strengths. The call to action is clear: collaborate, learn, and leverage the impressive capabilities found in neighboring entities. By doing so, the Oman industry can achieve higher efficiency collectively, building on the diverse strengths present in different organizations. The global responses during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the challenges that exist in relation to data sharing and collaboration. Even in the face of a critical pandemic, governments demonstrated reluctance to share information. There is a delicate balance needed between innovation and regulation which must evolve hand in hand. The importance of working together and not stifling creativity with excessive regulations is critical as we look to leverage Artificial Intelligence across Oman's industry.

Hussain Ghalib Al Yafai
CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, Oman

AI IN FINANCE

The financial services sector has made substantial investments in disruptive technologies, which positions it as a key player in adopting and incubating AI solutions. Standard Chartered has been proactive in adopting disruptive technologies, especially AI, in the last decade. The establishment of SC Ventures as a dedicated entity, backed by a $1 billion investment, takes center stage. This entity serves the crucial role of incubating and navigating the intricate landscape surrounding the global rollout of AI innovations. An example was a recent metaverse pilot initiative which delivered a tangible 20% efficiency boost.

COLLABORATION IN REGULATION

There will be challenges when considering the international banking sector and AI regulation.

Collaboration, particularly in highly regulated industries like aviation and finance, is very important. Emphasis must be to engage with regulators early in the innovation process to align frameworks effectively. This goes beyond AI and should be considered for all disruptive technologies, including ESG factors. The aviation industry is highly regulated which presents both challenges and opportunities for innovation. The dynamic nature of decision-making algorithms introduces challenges when considering the scalability of AI. The critical role of regulators must be to help with justifying decisions and avoiding biases.

Reggy Vermeulen
CEO, Port of Duqm

KEEPING DATA ROBUST

Data plays a foundational role in any AI initiative, which requires significant preparation. There are clear challenges associated with managing data from diverse sources like cameras, sensors, and ERP, but the significance of proper data structuring can't be ignored. Poor data quality leads to suboptimal outcomes, so a robust data foundation is imperative for effective AI implementation.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

For security purposes, there is a need for secrecy surrounding port data due to sensitive information that governments aim to safeguard. That of course introduces complexities when balancing transparency and confidentiality in the logistics value chain. Despite this however, there is value in sharing sanitized data and taking a forward-looking stance toward fostering greater openness and collaboration.

DATA DIVERSITY

Oman has a unique advantage to leverage its government-related entities' diverse sectors and data sets. To support Oman's 2040 vision, there is an opportunity to break down silos and promote cross-sector collaboration as a strategic approach to harnessing the full potential of AI for the benefit of Omani industry.

Size of International AI Markets

$320bn
in Middle East region by 2030

$135bn+
in KSA by 2030, equivalent to 12.4% of its GDP

$42bn+
in Egypt by 2030, equivalent to 7.7% of its GDP

14%
of UAE's GDP by 2030.

Igniting Oman's Economic Growth & Diversification

Carsten Sonne-Schmidt
CEO, Digital Energy

DIGITAL ENERGY

AI is a transformative tool that can enhance operational efficiency and drive innovation and diversification if integrated properly across key sectors of Omani industry, such as agriculture, mining, transport, logistics, and tourism. But challenges do exist – there's a need for substantial investment, cross-sectoral coordination, upholding high-quality data standards, and having a clear problem statement to effectively guide AI implementation.

The government's role in facilitating AI adoption should include fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors and ensuring a conducive environment for AI development and implementation. This involves addressing issues related to data sharing, public awareness, and the establishment of regulatory frameworks. Such frameworks are vital for ensuring data privacy and security, which are crucial in the AI ecosystem.

SHIFTING MINDSETS

Cultural and organizational challenges exist in adopting new technologies, particularly in industries that have traditionally had minimal tolerance for failure. We need a new approach that embraces learning from mistakes, an essential element for creating an environment enabling AI innovation. Technology is rapidly advancing and always evolving, so there's a need for continuous learning and adaptation to keep pace with these advancements.

AI has the potential to revolutionize how sectors operate and so we should consider what that future trajectory looks like and its implications. Studying best practise where AI has been successfully implemented can give practical illustrations of its potential and insights into its application in different industries.

Recommendations

Foster Sector-Specific AI Integration

Develop specific and tailored AI strategies for the key economic sectors. Prioritize sectors where AI can have the most significant impact, like agriculture, mining, and logistics, ensuring alignment with Oman's Vision 2040 goals.

Enhance Public-Private Collaboration

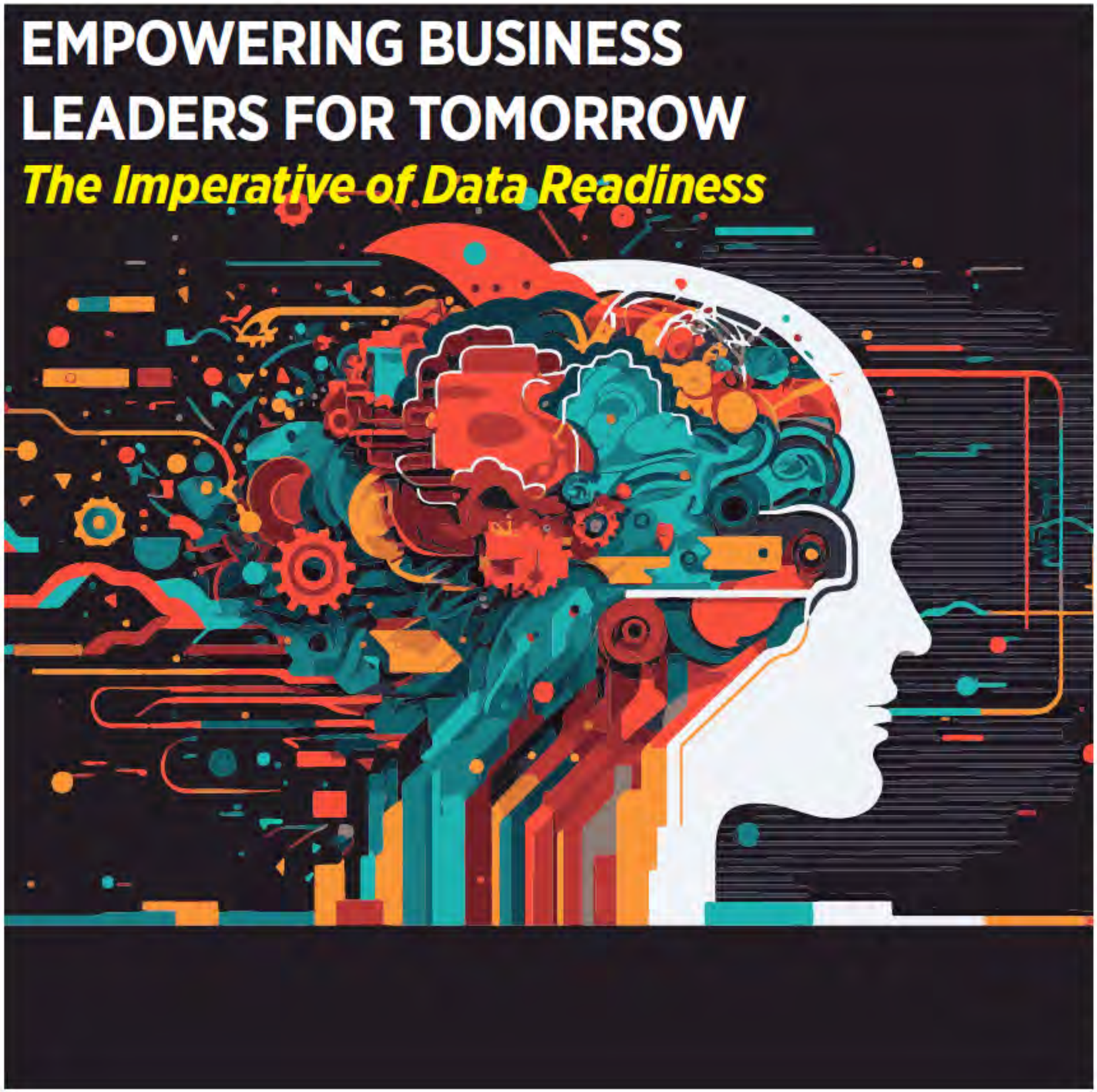
Strengthen partnerships between the government, academia, and private sector to drive AI innovation. Focus on creating a conducive environment for technology transfer, R&D, and nurturing local AI talent.

Establish a Robust Regulatory and Data Framework

Implement comprehensive data governance policies to ensure data privacy, security, and quality. Encourage open data initiatives to foster innovation, while safeguarding against misuse of AI technologies.

EMPOWERING BUSINESS LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

The Imperative of Data Readiness



For Artificial Intelligence to be effective, it requires high quality data to fuel it.

Martyn Cowie
Managing Partner
Tyde Digital

tyde digital

The quality, accessibility, relevance, integration, security, and documentation of data are key aspects that contribute to data readiness. When business leaders have access to high-quality, relevant, and secure data that is well-integrated and documented, they can make informed decisions, drive strategic initiatives, and leverage emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence. Data readiness enables leaders to navigate challenges, stay competitive, and scale organizations effectively, fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making that aligns with broader business objectives.

STRATEGIC FOUNDATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

Data readiness is pivotal in technology implementation, emphasizing a clear strategy, measurable criteria, and consideration for people adoption. A McKinsey study found that 70% of organisations risk failure in technology implementations without defined plans. There are broader reasons for adopting technology, including competitiveness, political stability, talent management, and organizational scaling. Data readiness ensures informed decision-making, aligns technology with organizational goals, and empowers business leaders to navigate challenges and drive success.

DATA READINESS

The triad of people, processes, and technology is essential for achieving comprehensive data readiness, ensuring strategic alignment and a clear understanding of the purpose -'the why' - driving this effort, aiming to maximize the potential of data for operational excellence. To fully leverage the power of Artificial Intelligence, it requires comprehensive preparation and structuring of data for specific purposes and use cases; without doing so, initiatives run the risk of becoming ineffective and subjective when it comes to measuring success.

PEOPLE-CENTRIC AI APPROACH

AI should be about elevating existing people to add more value – not to replace them. Organizations should acknowledge that individuals have a pivotal role to play in the context of Artificial Intelligence. Beyond organizations, educational institutions must focus on shaping the next generation's understanding of AI, building an educational foundation for the future. Technical expertise must be integrated with practical application. There is a need for a harmonious balance between theoretical knowledge and real-world implementation. Providing clear visibility of success criteria to attract and retain talent is extremely important, acknowledging the significance of transparent expectations to foster a skilled and motivated workforce.

COMMITMENT FOR LONG-TERM ADOPTION

Organizations need to commit to strategically implementing AI with the focus of optimizing the delivery of products and services in line with business objectives and not just based on individual opinions. It is crucial to understand the importance of specificity, measurable criteria, and practicality in technology discussions. Leaders should focus on tangible applications and outcomes, aligning technology implementation with the daily workflows and needs of the workforce.

THE POWER OF INNOVATION

Bert Baeck, CEO, Timeseer.AI

NECESSITY OF DATA READINESS

Data readiness is a crucial prerequisite for successful AI implementation. Most AI projects stumble at the proof-of-concept stage due to inadequate data preparation. For AI to mature and be truly transformative, data must be high-quality, reliable, fit for purpose, and well-governed. Companies now are stepping back to focus on their data infrastructure, ensuring data quality and governance. This foundational step is vital for exposing data to a broader audience while maintaining its integrity. The future of AI depends on building upon this layer of high-quality data.

DATA BEDROCK OF AI FUTURE

The trajectory of AI's evolution hinges on the quality of underlying data. Companies that recognize and act upon the need for robust data governance and quality assurance will lead the AI transformation. The future of AI is not just about technological advancement but also about the meticulous preparation and management of the data that fuels it.

Dr. Haider Al Lawati
Senior Manager AI, Oman Data Park

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AI IN DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

AI's role in data infrastructure is crucial for the future of industries. Effective AI deployment requires a deep understanding of customer needs, clear problem statements, and a robust, secure infrastructure to enable the transformative journey.

NAVIGATING THE AI JOURNEY

Trust and collaboration are pivotal in the journey towards AI adoption. As AI is still a developing field, organizations must adopt a flexible approach, ready to adapt and learn from trial and error. The success of AI in any organization hinges on its ability to understand customer needs, ensure data security, and navigate the ethical and practical challenges posed by AI technologies. By working closely with customers to understand their unique requirements, AI solutions can be tailored to address specific industry challenges. This approach ensures that the AI-driven transformation is not only technologically advanced but also aligns with the strategic goals and business plans of each customer.

Dr. Zeinab Zohny
Founder and CEO, Zenn AI

HARNESSING AI TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES

AI has the potential to address significant global challenges. By applying mathematical algorithms and machine learning techniques, AI can provide solutions to problems previously deemed unresolvable. AI's ability to solve critical global problems extends beyond the realm of pure technology. It represents a fusion of scientific principles and computational power to create solutions that have a real-world impact. This approach exemplifies the potential of AI to make a significant difference in areas like environmental conservation and resource management.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

For successful utilisation of AI, it is imperative that it is applied in practical and impactful ways. One example is developing AI-driven tools for forecasting in industries like natural gas production and food supply and waste, which directly impact environmental and economic outcomes. These applications demonstrate AI's capacity to not only advance technology but also contribute meaningfully to societal and environmental issues.

Ghaith Al Darmaki
Group CTO, ASYAD Group

TRANSFORMING LOGISTICS

AI technologies are revolutionizing supply chain. By investing in data lakes and integrating with global platforms, logistics companies can enhance efficiency and adapt to rapidly changing consumer behaviours, especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. The key to success lies in balancing immediate operational needs with long-term AI-driven strategies. This involves enhancing existing systems for efficiency while also investing in AI for incremental improvements across the value chain. By aligning with major players like Amazon, logistics companies can ensure resilience and reliability in their operations. However, the challenge remains in navigating global regulations while prioritising business value and innovation. The future success of logistics will depend on how effectively companies can manage their data, balance innovation with regulation, and remain agile in a fast-paced, AI-driven environment.

Dua Al Toobi
Head of Transformation & Culture
Commercial Bank of Dubai

BALANCING INNOVATION AND REGULATION

The banking sector is an excellent example of the need to effectively balance between innovation and regulation. Despite regulatory constraints, banks must innovate within these boundaries to enhance operational efficiency, leveraging AI for fraud detection, customer service, and operational improvements, while ensuring data protection and ethical AI use. The future of banking lies in harnessing AI's potential within this framework of ethical and secure data practices.

Oman's Golden Opportunity in Generative AI

Khalid Al Hosni
CEO & Chief Data Scientist, K.A. Consultants LLC

Artificial Intelligence is here to stay, and its growth will create a huge demand for a more capable ecosystem. Most industry stakeholders are today aware of what AI is, but we are at the beginning of practical utilization, and hence there's a need for education and skills development in the field.

EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

Integrating AI education into academic curricula, as well as offering specialized training programs for professionals is one way forward. Such initiatives would aim to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that the workforce is prepared for the rapid advancements in AI. Additionally, these programs could focus on developing a deeper understanding of generative AI, its potential uses, and ethical considerations.

BOOSTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Encouraging startups, businesses, and academic institutions to experiment with AI applications in various sectors could lead to groundbreaking developments and solutions tailored to local needs. This could involve setting up incubators, funding research projects, and creating collaborative spaces where ideas can be shared and developed. Such an environment would not only catalyse the practical utilization of AI, but also position Oman as a hub for AI innovation in the region.

COOPERATION ON BEST PRACTICE

Through strategic partnerships and international collaborations with AI experts, research institutions, and tech companies, Oman can gain access to cutting-edge technologies, expertise, and best practices. These collaborations can facilitate the transfer of knowledge, foster cross-border innovation, and help build a robust AI ecosystem that is globally competitive. Such partnerships can also aid in addressing the current limitations in AI adoption, as they can provide the necessary resources, training, and support to overcome barriers and accelerate the deployment of AI solutions across various sectors in Oman.

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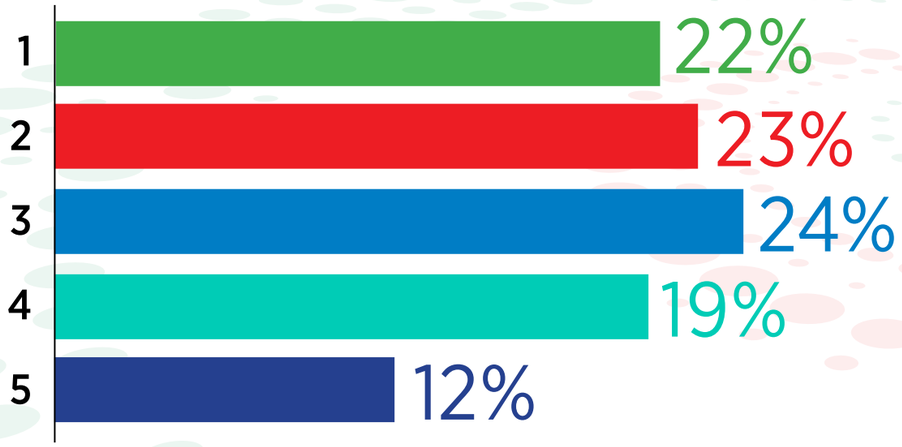
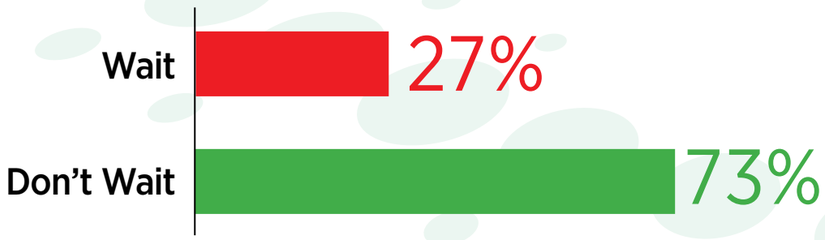
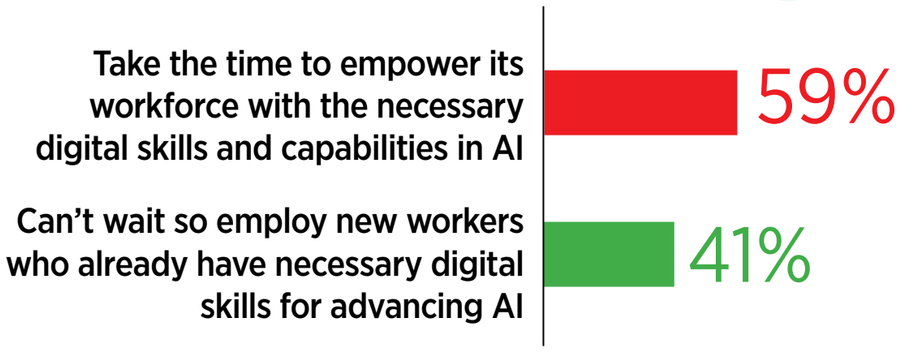
How would you score your company's readiness to adopt and extract value from AI today – score 1 to 5 with 5 representing high-level readiness?



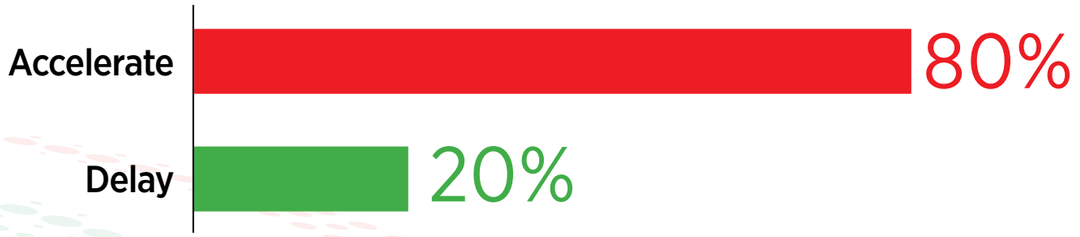
Should CEOs wait for laws & regulations before adopting AI strategies?



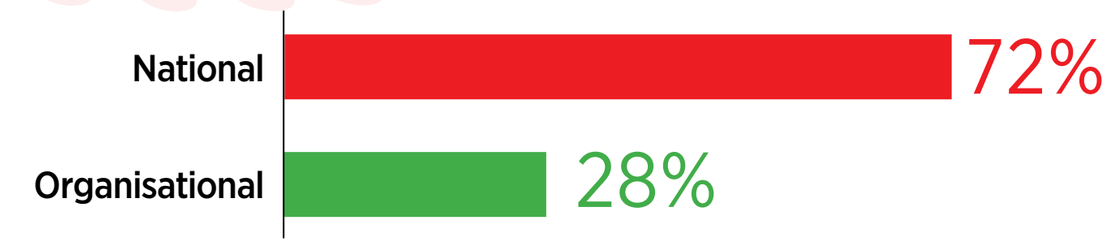
What should CEOs prioritize when seeking to build their AI capacity?



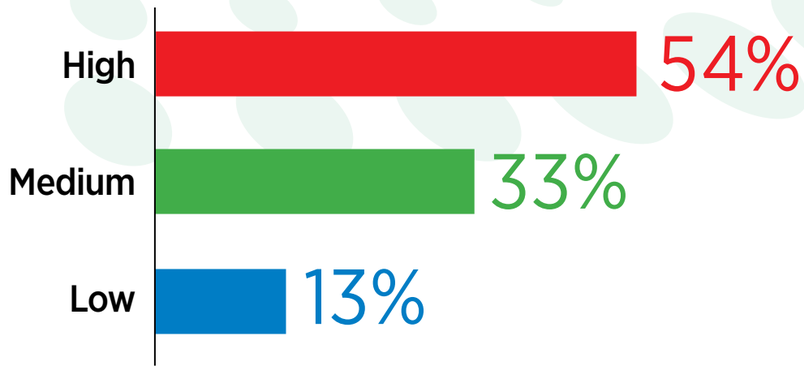
Will prioritizing Public-Private Partnerships accelerate or delay advancement of AI as a driver of the National Economy?



Should AI ethics be governed on a National or organizational level?



How important is trust in AI for your company to implement?



**Survey was conducted on Nov. 1st 2023 with 300 executives & officials from a cross section of Omani industries.*

The CCED Oman Student Awards 2023

For The Advancement of Post-Graduate Education

The CCED Oman Student Awards for the Advancement of Post-Graduate Education aims to celebrate those students that have made the commitment to move beyond being consumers of knowledge, and become creators of knowledge, which is the critical ingredient required for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Walter Simpson
Managing Director, CCED

"CCED has a core objective to contribute to building local and national talent. We believe it is our responsibility to invest within the communities we work in while generating business that can bring value to Oman. We believe our technical excellence is built on the ability and potential of its people. We are committed to nurturing talent at all levels of the organisation."

Winners

2023– PhD

"I'm honoured and glad for choosing me as a recipient of the CCED Award 2023 for my research achievements during my PhD studies. This award is a massive motivation to continue my scientific contribution and quest to serve my beloved country."

Dr. Sara Hamed Al Araimi
PhD in Biology
Sultan Qaboos University

2023 - Masters

"With heartfelt gratitude, I received this prestigious award, which not only recognizes academic excellence but also promotes the sharing of innovative ideas within the energy sector. It's a remarkable opportunity to further our academic and industrial journey."

Eng. Salim Ahmed Said Al Rashdi
MSc in Maintenance Management
Glasgow Caledonian University

Oman Industry AI Forum 2024 TOP 10 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure Data is Robust, Confidential, Diverse
2. Enhance Public-Private Collaboration & Partnership
3. Establish Robust Regulatory and Data Framework
4. Invest in AI Education & Skills (Upskilling/Reskilling)
5. Foster a Culture of Entrepreneurship & Innovation via Hubs & Incubators
6. Prioritize Data Readiness and Compatibility Across Sectors
7. Apply AI Solutions Pragmatically and in a Timely Manner for Best Impact
8. Collaborate & Communicate with Global AI Community on Best Practice
9. Adopt a People-centric approach, with Ethical and Safety Considerations Prioritised
10. Foster Collaboration Between Academia and Industry via Internships & Forums

***NB: The Top 10 Recommendations were harvested from the fourteen sessions hosted at the one-day workshop forum on Nov. 1st, 2023.*

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