SUSS SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Economic Society of Singapore

18th Singapore Economic Policy Forum 2026

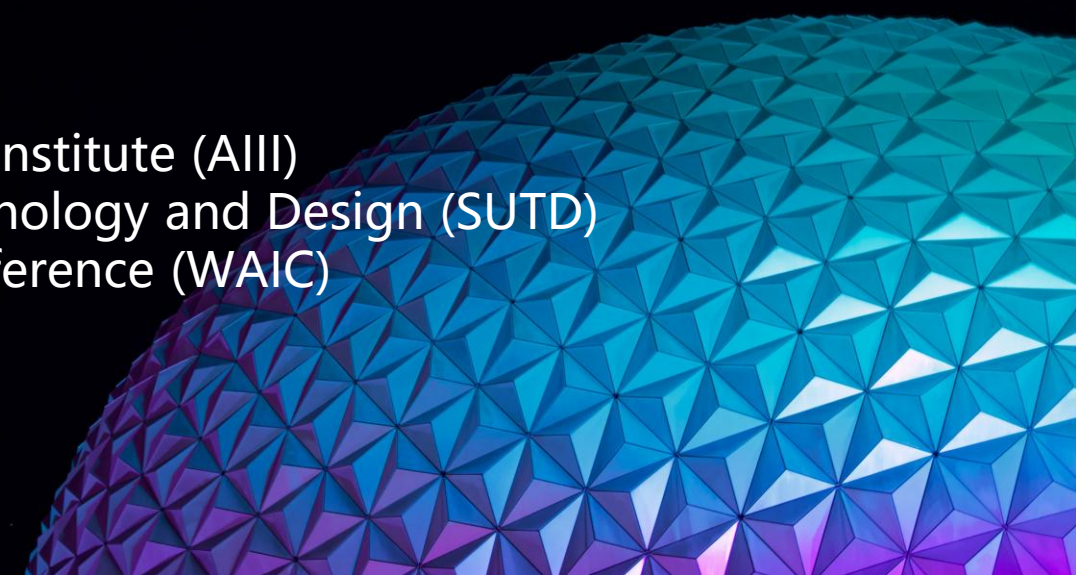
AI for Humanity as SDG#18:

From One Vision to Eight Billion Contributors

Dr. James Ong

Artificial Intelligence International Institute (AIII)
Adjunct Professor, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
International Advisor, World AI Conference (WAIC)

October 23, 2026



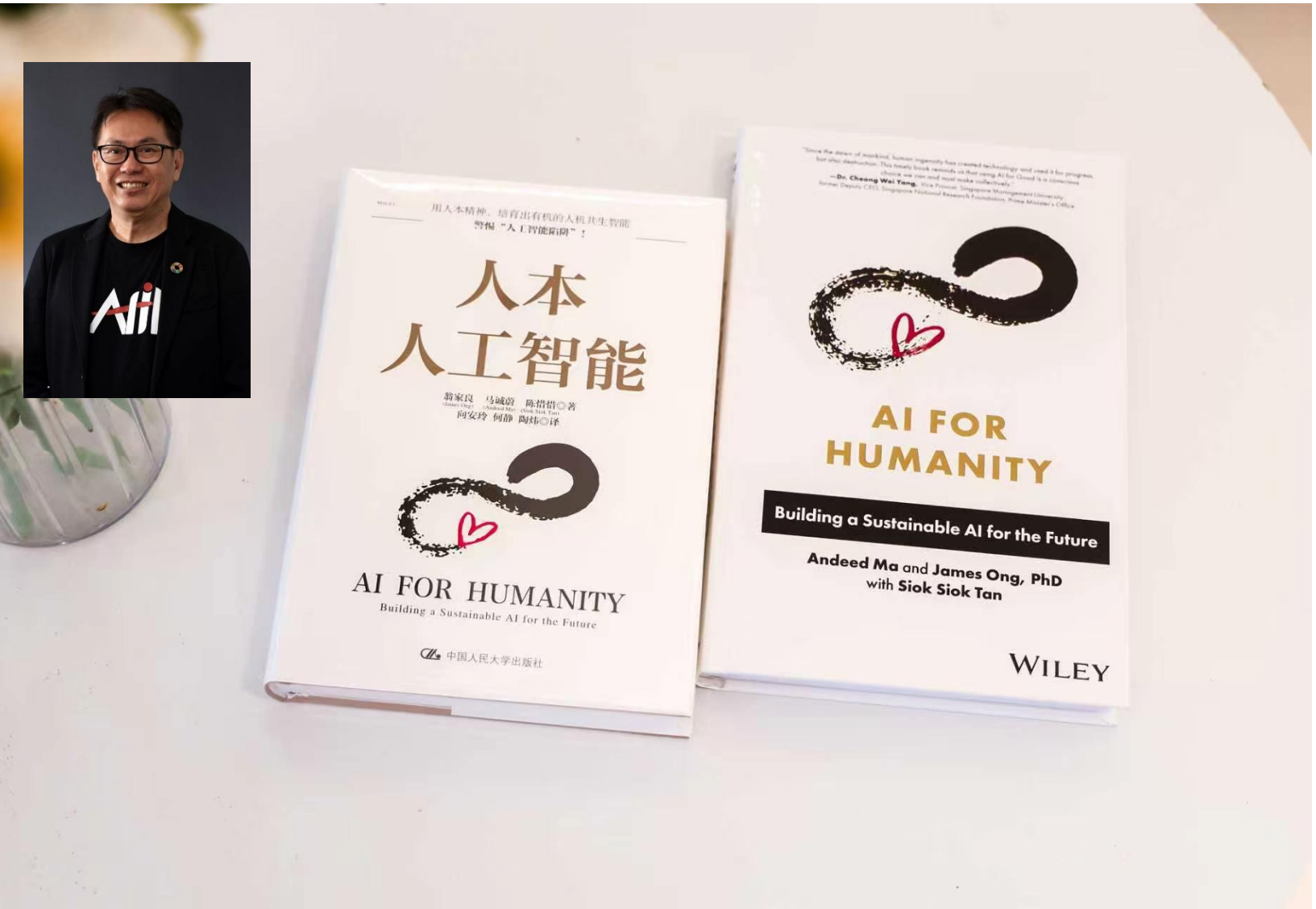
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Title: AI for Humanity as SDG#18: From One Vision to Eight Billion Contributors

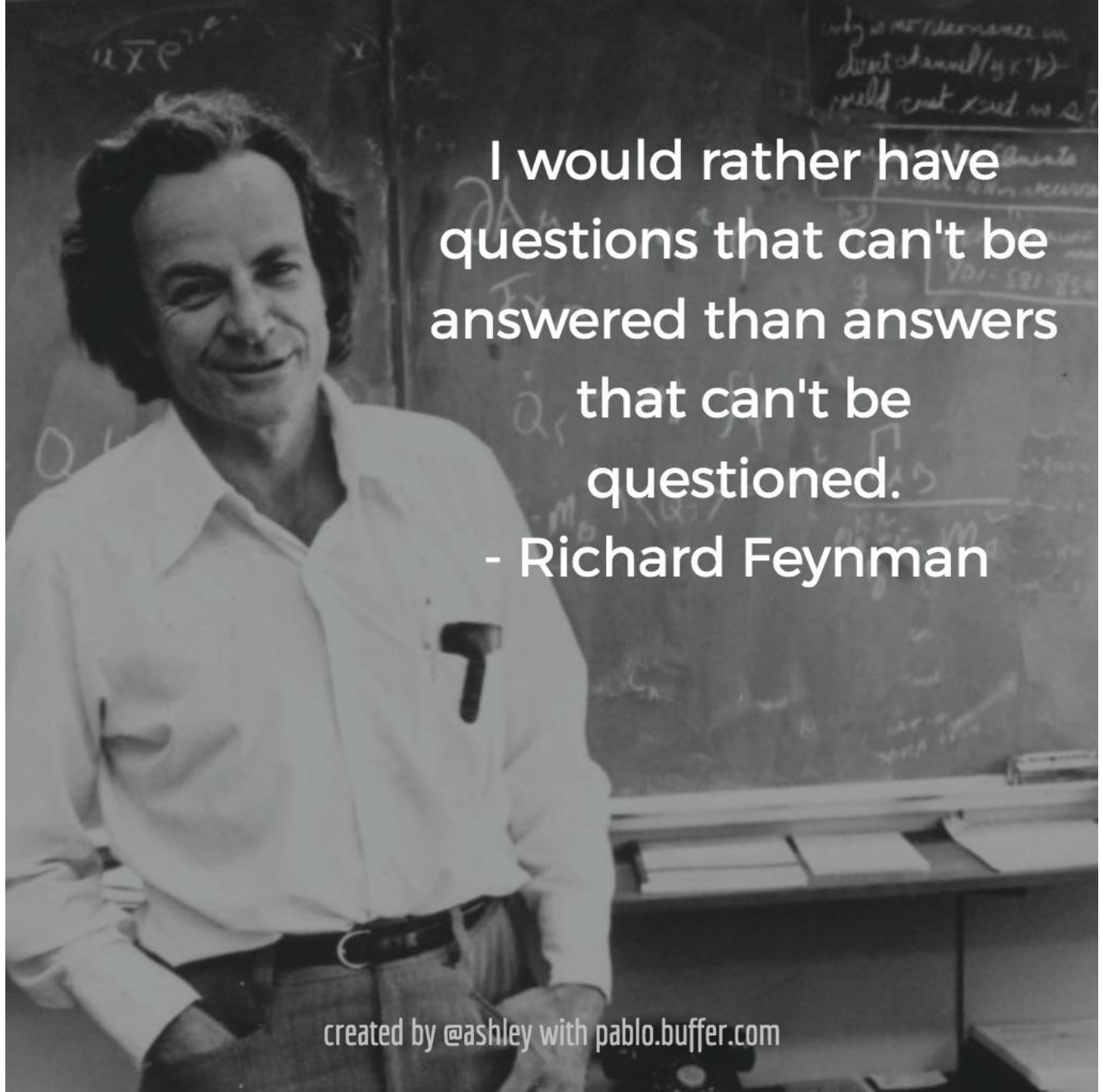


Dr. James Ong has 4 decades of industry, venture and academic experience. He founded Artificial Intelligence International Institute (AIII) in 2017, an AI think tank advocating Sustainable AI for Humanity and an active champion of AI for Humanity as UN SDG 18. He is co-author of AI for Humanity and 人本人工智能. James is Adjunct Professor at SUTD, Chairman of Program Advisory Committee for Master of AI for Business at SUSS, Head of AI and Industry Fellow at GFI, Exco at ACXOA, CEO of Origami Frontiers and venture partner at Delight Capital. He received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin specializing in AI for Computational Governance.

Synopsis: At the 2025 UN General Assembly, Secretary-General António Guterres called on the global community to build a future of AI with humanity, by humanity, and for humanity. Delivering on that vision is an uphill task: it demands cooperation across nations and the orchestration of 8 billion people around a single goal — ensuring AI serves humanity through a holistic balance of technology, commercialisation, and governance. Establishing AI for Humanity as SDG#18 is the essential first step.



- 4 Decades in AI
- AI Think Tank
- UN SDG #18
- Davos 2025 & 2026
- AI Impact Summit
- World AI Conference

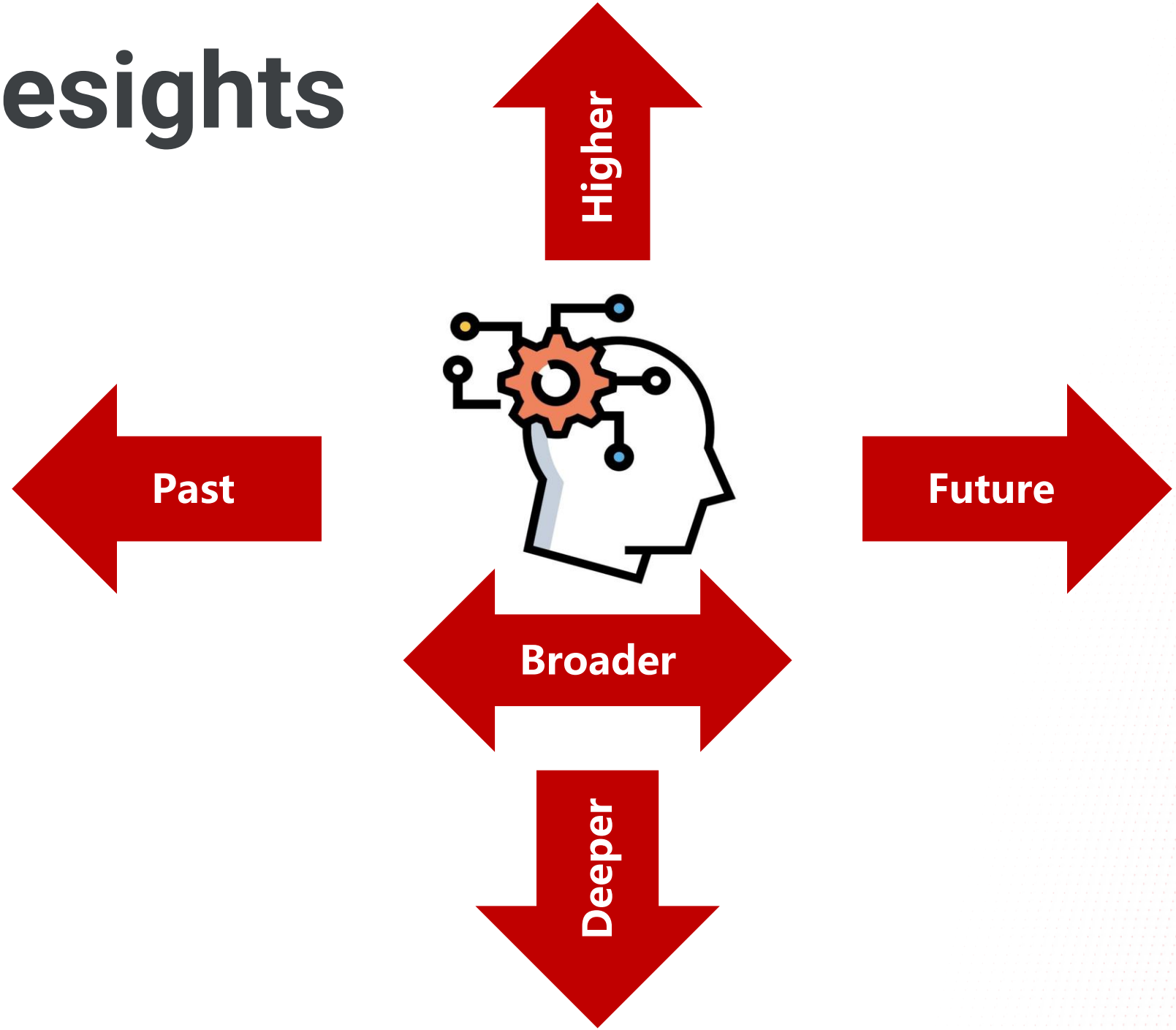


Asking the Right Questions

Why AI for Humanity?



AI Foresights



AI for Humanity as SDG#18:

From One Vision to 8 Billion Contributors



1. Reflection
2. Why
3. How – One Vision

1

Reflection



Reflection

AI History

1955

A PROPOSAL FOR THE DARTMOUTH SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT ON

J. McCarthy, Dartmouth College
M. L. Minsky, Harvard University
N. Rochester, I.B.M. Corporation
e Laboratories



1 **Automatic Computers**

If a machine can do a job, then an aut
machine. The speeds and memory capacitie
many of the higher functions of the human
capacity, but our inability to write program

rds accord-
neralization
ply and are
mples been

3. **Neuron Nets**

How can a set of (hypothetical) neuron
theoretical and experimental work has been
group, Farley and Clark, Pitts and McCulloc
results have been obtained but the problem

whether
nswers in
ciency of
lculation
es which
s on this

5. **Self-Improvement**

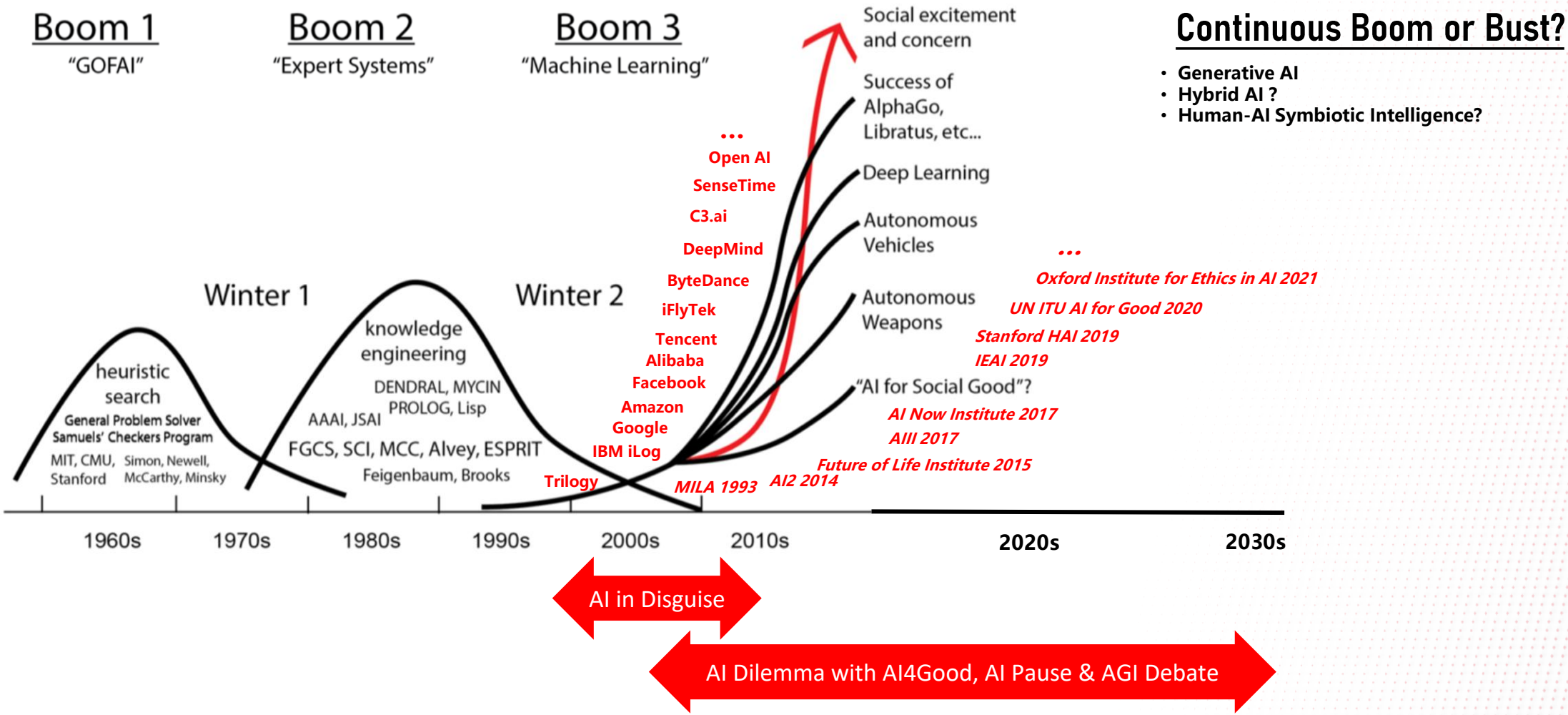
Probably a truly intelligent machine will
self-improvement. Some schemes for doing th
It seems likely that this question can be studi

ess distinctly.
ractions from

7. **Randomness and Creativity**

A fairly attractive and yet clearly incomplete conjecture is that the difference between creative thinking and unimaginative competent thinking lies in the injection of a some randomness. The randomness must be guided by intuition to be efficient. In other words, the educated guess or the hunch include controlled randomness in otherwise orderly thinking.

AI History of Dilemmas



Continuous Boom or Bust?

- **Generative AI**
- **Hybrid AI ?**
- **Human-AI Symbiotic Intelligence?**

Reference Diagram Source: https://www.technologystories.org/ai-evolution/

Citation: BROKEN PROMISES & EMPTY THREATS: THE EVOLUTION OF AI IN THE USA, 1956-1996 Technology's Stories vol. 6, no. 1 – DOI: 10.15763/jou.ts.2018.03.16.02, MARCH 12TH, 2018 BY: COLIN GARVEY

1985 - 1995

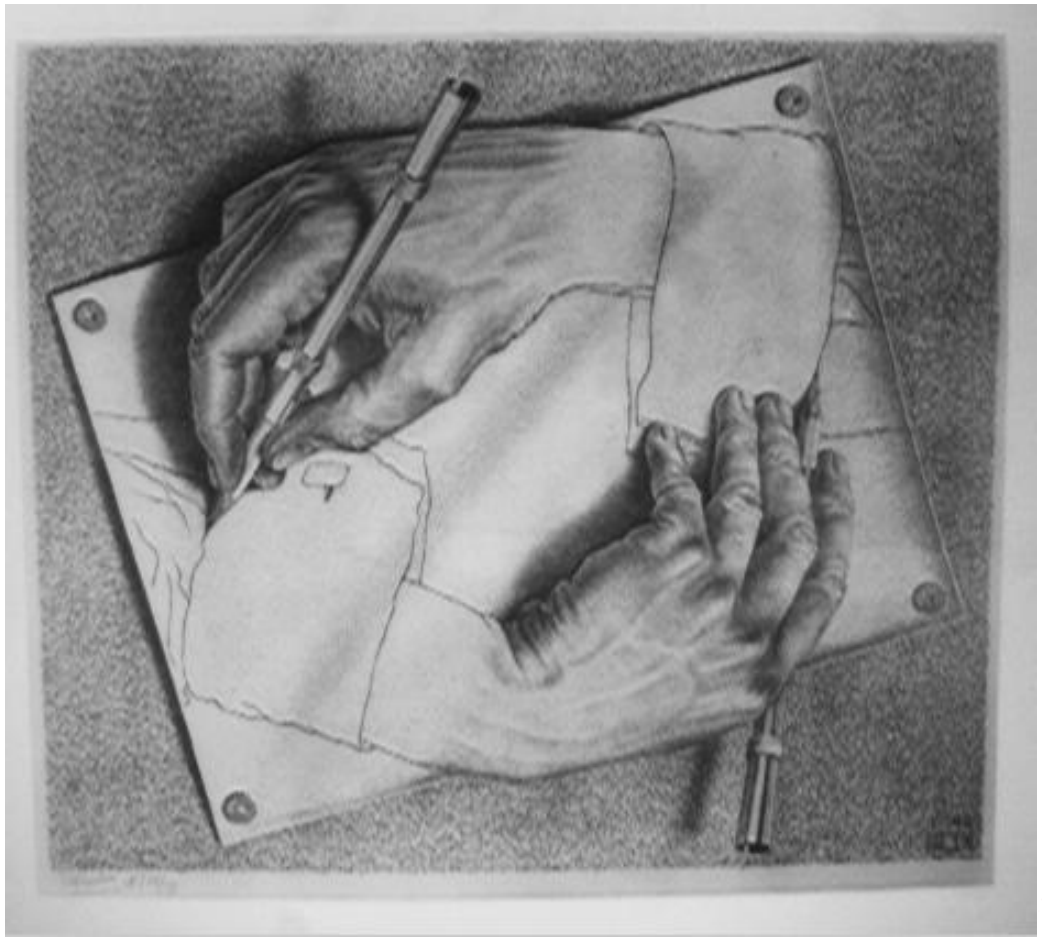


LISP
AI Programming Language

PROLOG

AI Programming Language

AI designed for self-improvement!





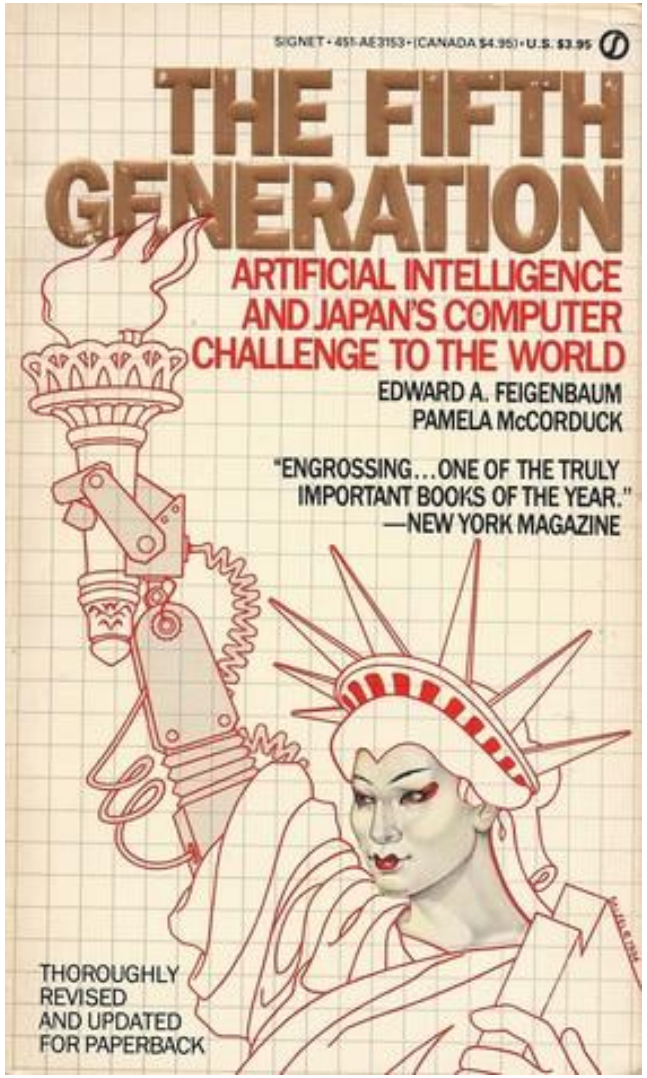
AI will self-learn, self-evolve and may surprise you!

AI is digitally ORGANIC!

AI, by design, is:

1. **Always Learning from Human and Environment**
2. **Constantly Evolving**
3. **May or Will Learn and Reason Differently from Us**
4. **May or Will Surprise Us**
5. **May or Will be beyond our Control**

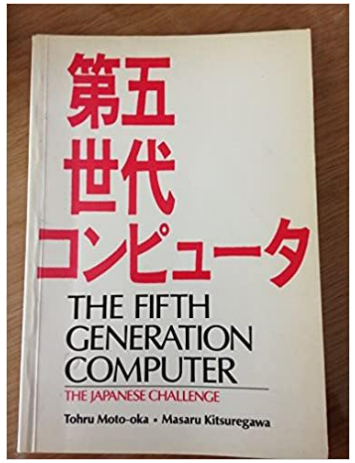
Fifth Generation Computer AI Research



Fifth generation computer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Fifth Generation Computer Systems project** (FGCS) was an initiative by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, begun in 1982, to create a computer using massively parallel computing/processing. It was to be the result of a massive government/industry research project in Japan during the 1980s. It aimed to create an "epoch-making computer" with-supercomputer-like performance and to provide a platform for future developments in artificial intelligence. There was also an unrelated Russian project also named as fifth-generation computer (see Kronos (computer)).





MCC

Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Coordinates: 30°23'43.22"N 97°44'6.76"W



Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (Microelectronics and Computer Consortium - MCC) was the first, and - at one time - one of the largest, computer industry research and development consortia in the United States.

History [edit]

In late 1982, several major computer and semiconductor manufacturers in the United States banded together and founded MCC under the leadership of Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, whose previous positions had been Director of the National Security Agency and Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency as an American answer to Japan's Fifth Generation Project, a large Japanese research project aimed at producing a new kind of computer by 1991. The Japanese had formed consortia as early as 1956. [2] Such formations were illegal in the United States until the 1984 Congressional passage of the "National Cooperative Research Act" [3] Many European and American computer companies saw this new Japanese initiative as an attempt to take full control of the world's high-end computer market, and MCC was created, in part, as a defensive move against that threat. Several sites with relevant universities were considered including Atlanta, Georgia (Georgia Tech), the Research Triangle, N.C. (UNC), the Washington, D.C. area (George Mason), Stanford University and Austin, Texas (UT) which was the final selection. The University of Texas offered land upon which they would construct a new building specifically designed for the MCC within their Austin campus. Ross Perot also offered the use of his private plane for 2 years for staff recruitiment.

Despite this purpose and the background of Inman and his senior staff, MCC accepted no government funding for many years and was a refuge for some avoiding work on Strategic Defense Initiative projects. MCC was part of the Artificial Intelligence boom of the 1980s, reportedly the single largest customer of both Symbolics and Lisp Machines, Inc. (and like Symbolics, was one of the first companies to register a .com domain). In the 1980s its major programs were Packaging, Software Engineering, CAD, and Advanced Computer Architectures. The latter comprised Artificial Intelligence, Human Interface, Database, and Parallel Processing, the latter two merging in the late 1980s.

2016


Google DeepMind
Challenge Match
8 - 15 March 2016
AlphaGo
ALPHAGO
01:59:54
LEE SEDOL
01:59:02
AlphaGo
Lee Sedol


MOVE 37
the move no human played


That moment when you learn you don't know what you don't know.

2026

FORTUNE

Davos looks like an AI conference



Alexei Oreskovic

Wed, January 17, 2024 at 2:52 AM GMT+8 · 2 min read

Hi, it's tech editor Alexei Oreskovic. The world's bigwigs are convening in Switzerland this week for the World Economic Forum in Davos, and by the looks of it, the confab has turned into an AI conference.

One of the four main themes of the event is "Artificial Intelligence as a Driving Force for the Economy and Society." More than two dozen sessions at the event are focused directly on AI by the *New York Times* DealBook's count, discussing everything from AI in education to AI ethics and AI regulation. There's even a session about AI "hard power" in geopolitics.

THE STRAITS TIMES

UN chief warns AI is developing faster than rules can keep up

Sign up now: Get ST's newsletters delivered to your inbox



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the need for guard rails at the two-day inaugural UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva on July 6. PHOTO: REUTERS

Published Jul 06, 2026, 03:41 PM
Updated Jul 06, 2026, 05:05 PM



China

UN chief urges stronger actions to prevent mass atrocities amid rising global conflicts

2026-07-07 16:56 Last Updated At： 17:37

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday warned that rising global conflicts, impunity and emerging technologies are increasing the risk of mass atrocities, urging the international community to act "before warning signs become mass graves."

CONNECTED to INDIA Wednesday 8 July 2026

UN chief Guterres calls for Global AI governance amid rise of military applications

Published on July 7, 2026 Authored by C to I News Desk

FORTUNE

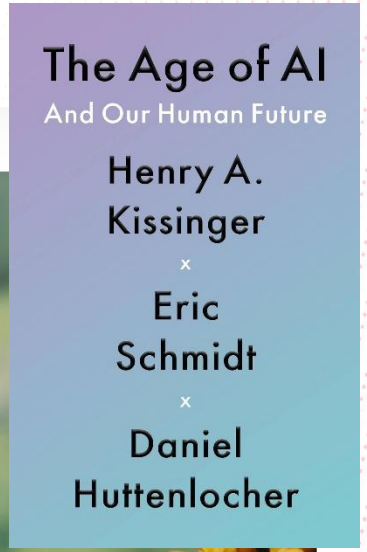
TECH · A.I.

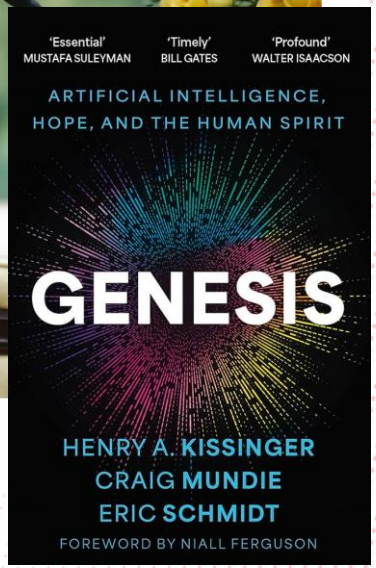
Henry Kissinger says he wants to call attention to the dangers of A.I. the same way he did for nuclear weapons but warns it's a 'totally new problem'

BY **TRISTAN BOVE**
May 9, 2023 at 4:38 AM GMT+8

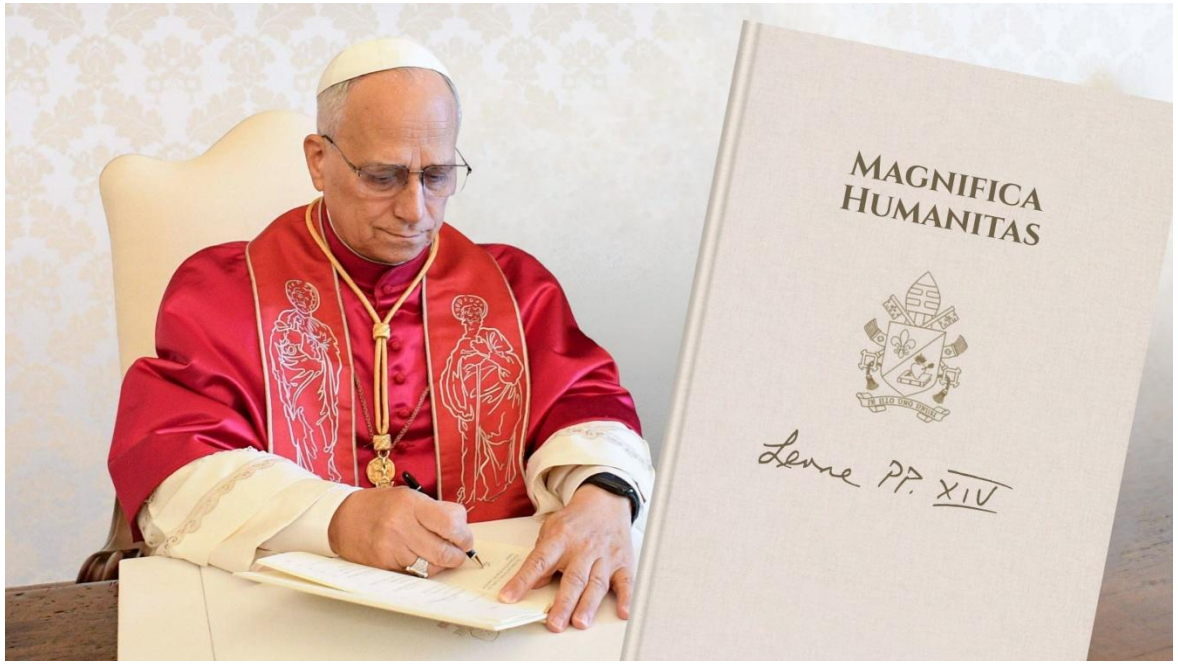


Former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, pictured in 2018.
THOMAS PETER - POOL/GETTY IMAGES





VATICAN NEWS



Pope Leo's 'Magnifica humanitas': AI must serve humanity not concentrate power

Marking the 135th anniversary of Rerum novarum, Pope Leo XIV releases his first encyclical, entitled 'Magnifica humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence.' He appeals for the safeguarding of humanity, promotion of truth, dignity of work, social justice, and peace.


THE
TIP
OF THE
ICEBERG

Who's exposed to AI risk?



AI Dilemma and Risks
人工智能困境与风险

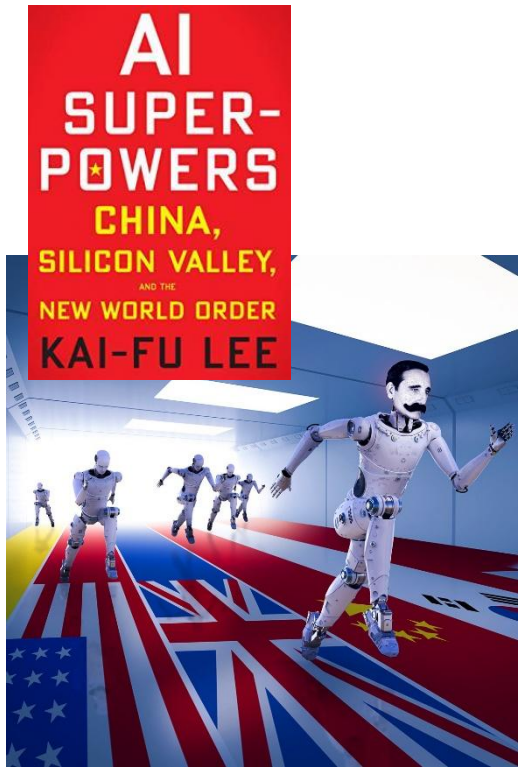
AI for Good or Evil
人工智能向善还是向恶?



AI Ethics
人工智能伦理



AI Dangerous Competition
人工智能恶性竞争



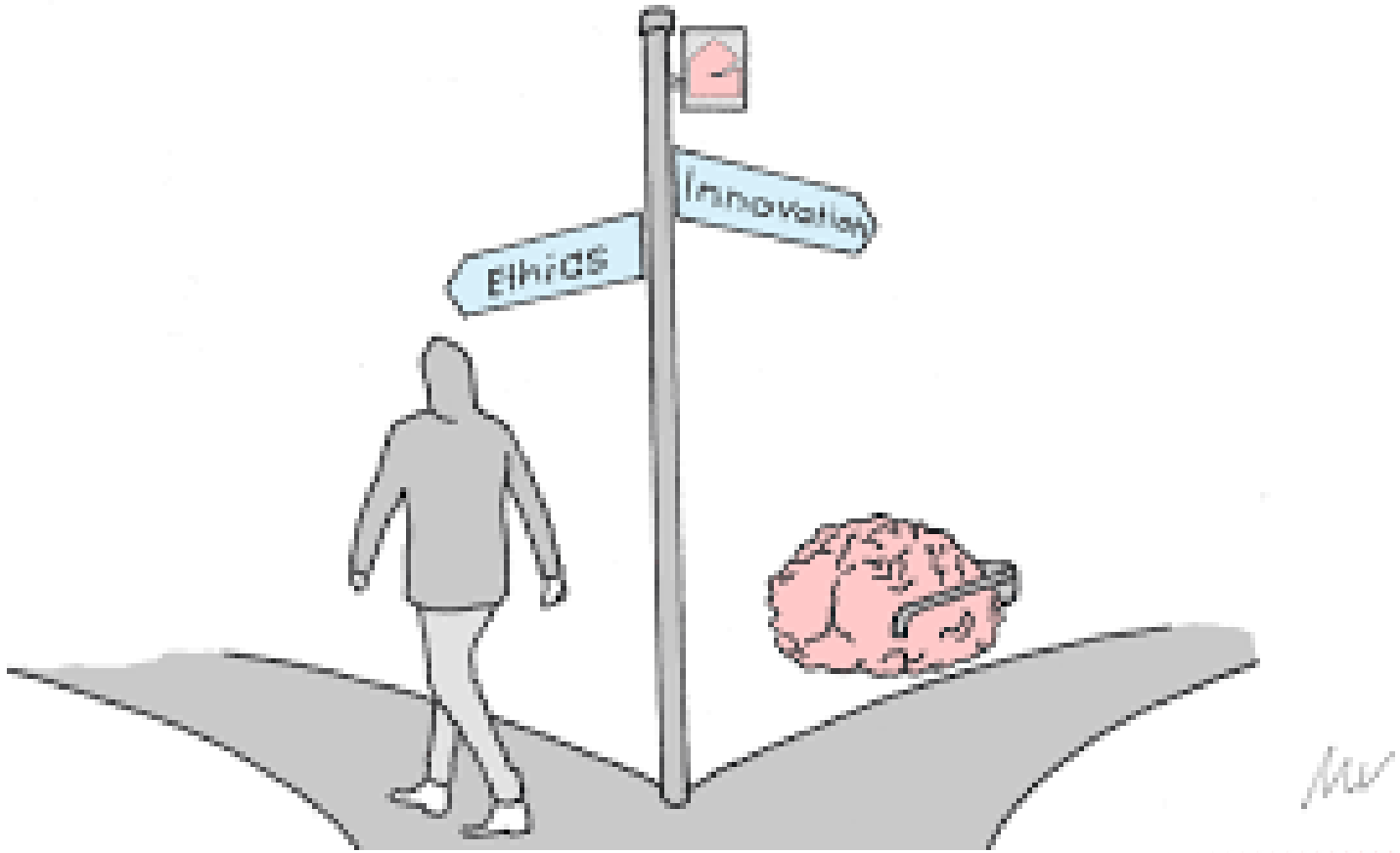
AI Takeovers Human Race
人类被人工智能奴隶化



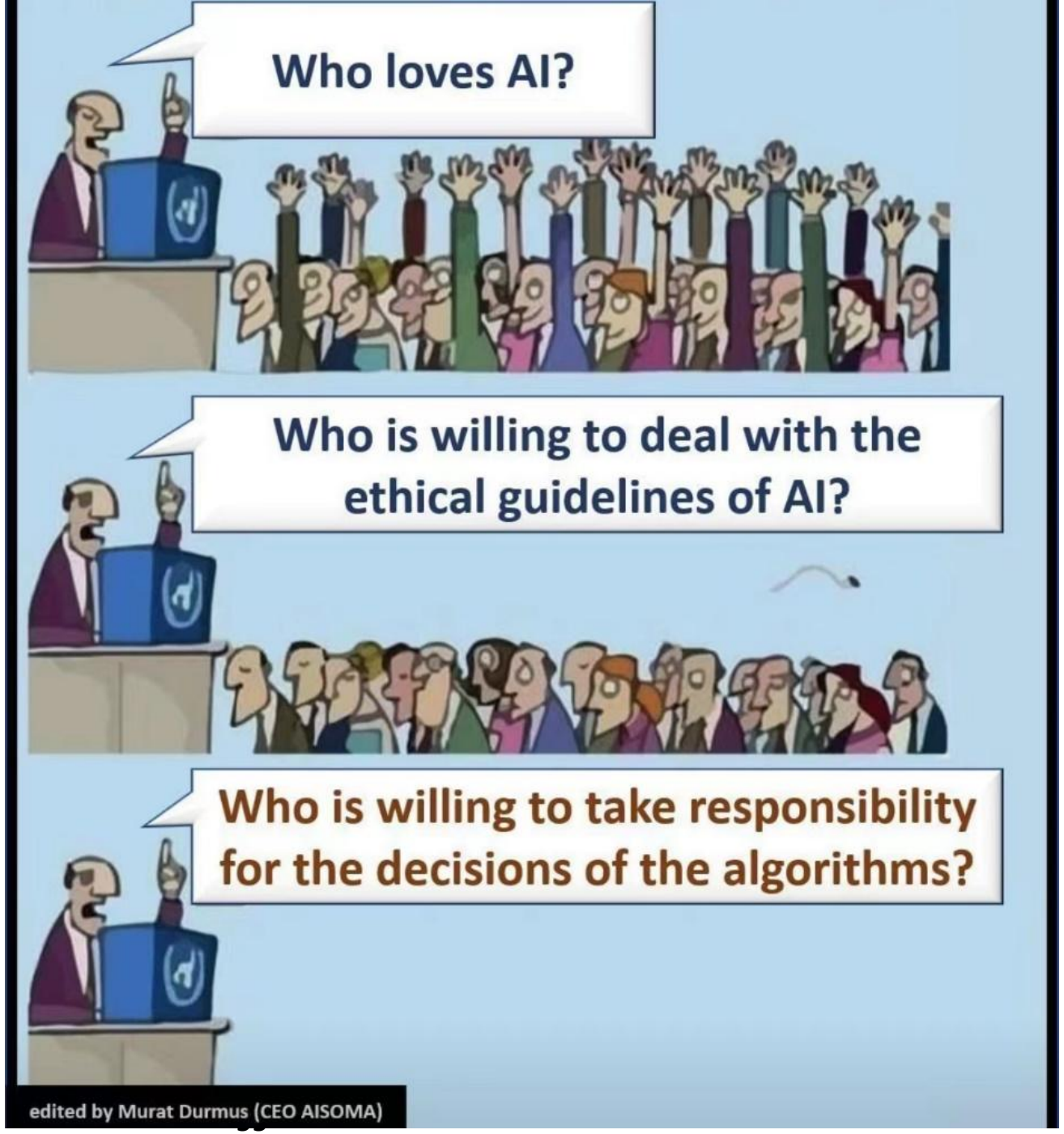


AI Weapons of Mass Destruction
大规模杀伤力的人工智能武器

AI is at a Cross Road



Fundamental Humanity Challenge



2

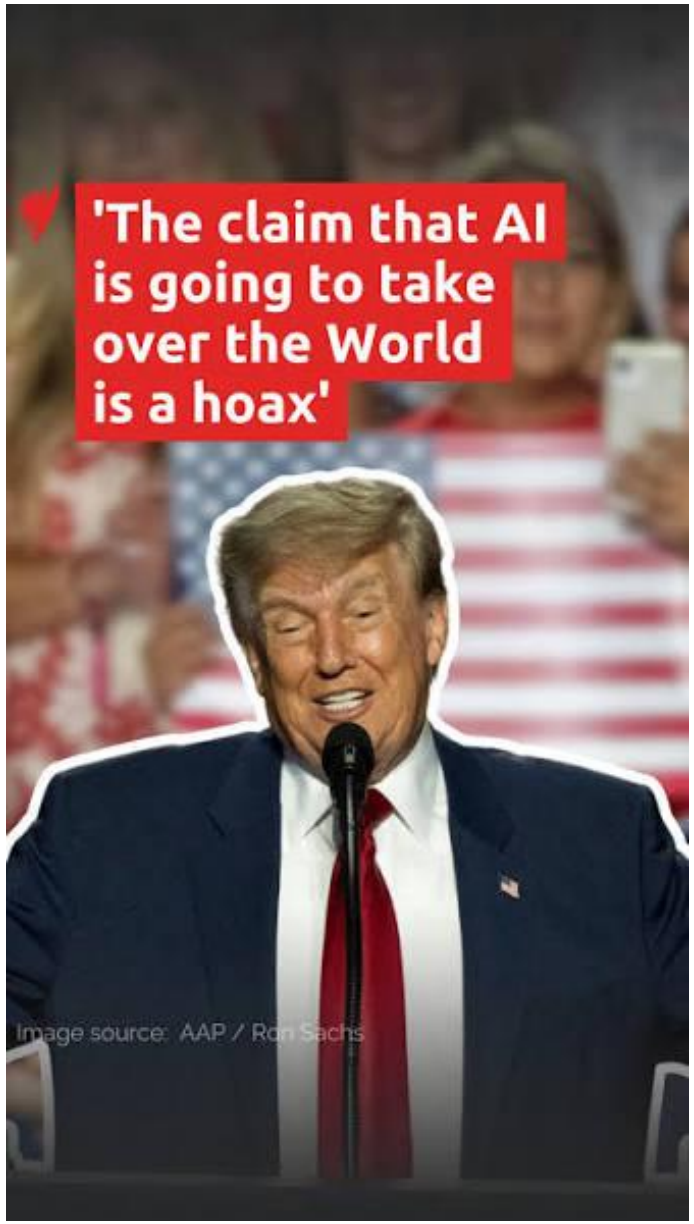
Why



What is AI?

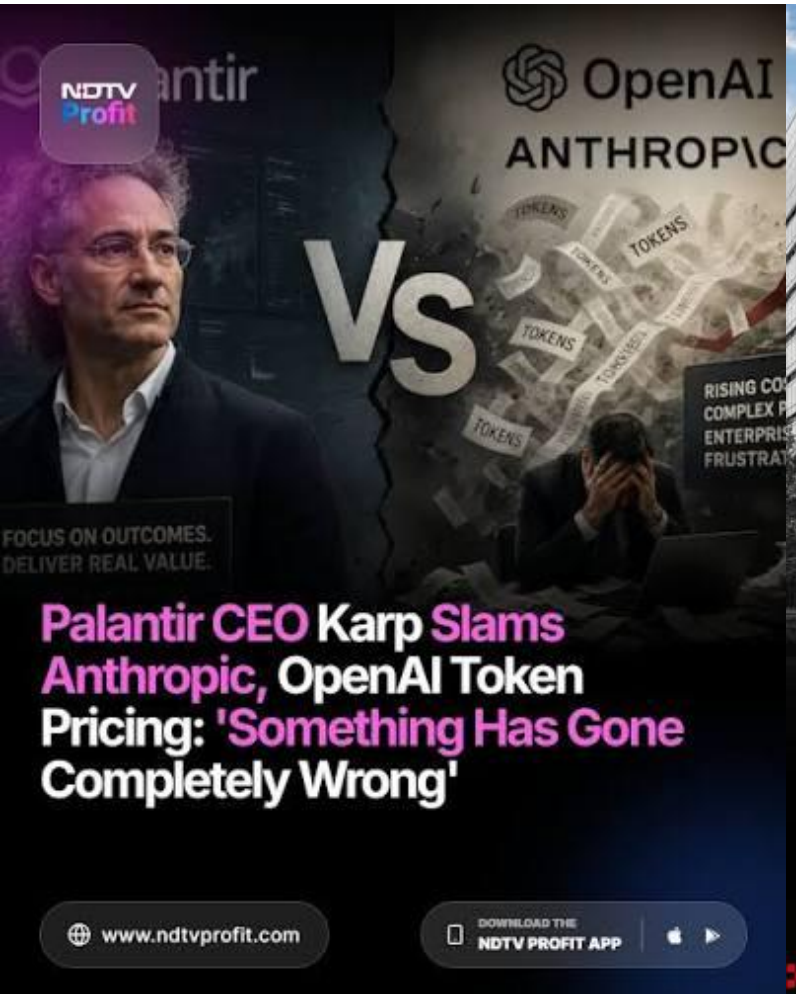



Sam Altman, Elon Musk and Demis Hassabis back Dario Amodei's call to pace frontier AI development,
including independent oversight of advanced AI systems.
Independent Oversight
Safer AI Systems
Responsible Innovation
Sam Altman
OpenAI
Elon Musk
xAI
Demis Hassabis
Google DeepMind
Dario Amodei
ANTHROP\C
exiy.org


'The claim that AI is going to take over the World is a hoax'
Image source: AAP / Ron Sachs


abc 7
TRUMP SAYS HE WILL FORM NEW 'AI FORCE' BUT CONTINUES TO CALL AI FEARS A 'HOAX'
AP IMAGES

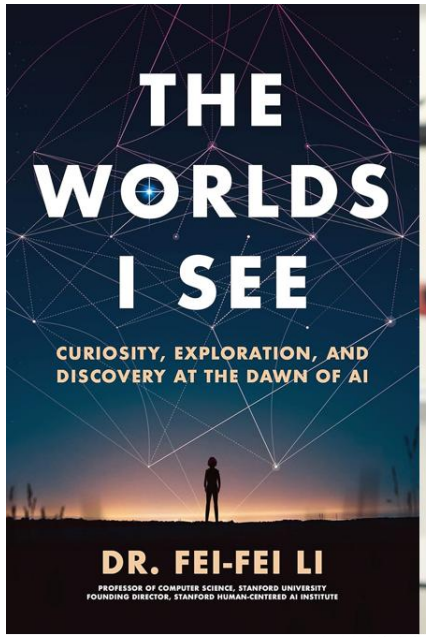

Treasury's Scott Bessent says no liability exemptions for AI labs
Scott Bessent
Source: GOP Financial Services/YouTube, Sept. 15, 2026


NDTV Profit
OpenAI
ANTHROPIC
Vs
TOKENS
FOCUS ON OUTCOMES.
DELIVER REAL VALUE.
Palantir CEO Karp Slams Anthropic, OpenAI Token Pricing: 'Something Has Gone Completely Wrong'
www.ndtvprofit.com
DOWNLOAD THE NDTV PROFIT APP


OpenAI
ANTHROPIC
Palantir
"I am Paying for Tokens that Create No Value": Palantir CEO Alex Karp Slams OpenAI and Anthropic
INDIA'S BIGGEST AI SUMMIT & EXPO
CYPHER


Palantir CEO says OpenAI and Anthropic steal your intellectual property







HAI Stanford University Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence

Advancing AI research, education, and policy to improve the human condition.

EXCLUSIVE

Anthropic Researcher Quits Over 'Out-of-Control' AI Fears

Concerns are rising inside AI labs that competition is pushing tech companies to race toward self-improving models that risk spiraling out of human control



Anthropic Chief Executive Dario Amodei, right, has warned about the risks of rogue AI models. DON FERIA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Amrith Ramkumar

Updated Sept. 9, 2026 1:37 pm EDT



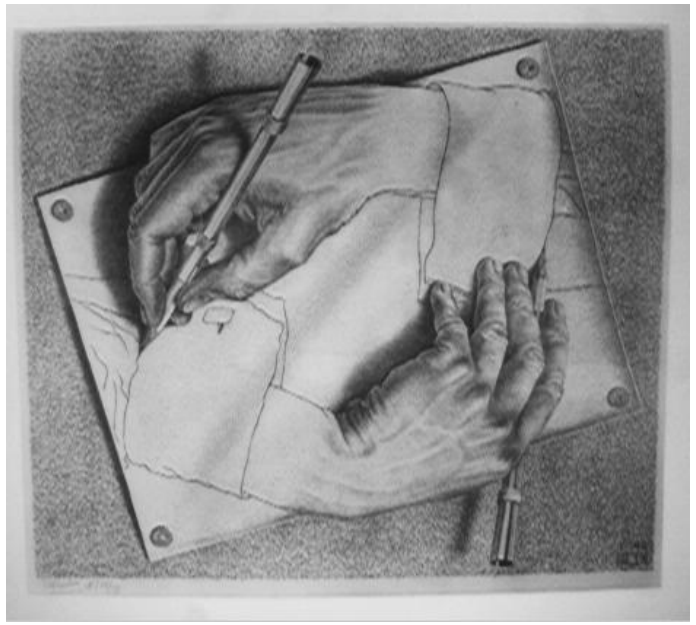


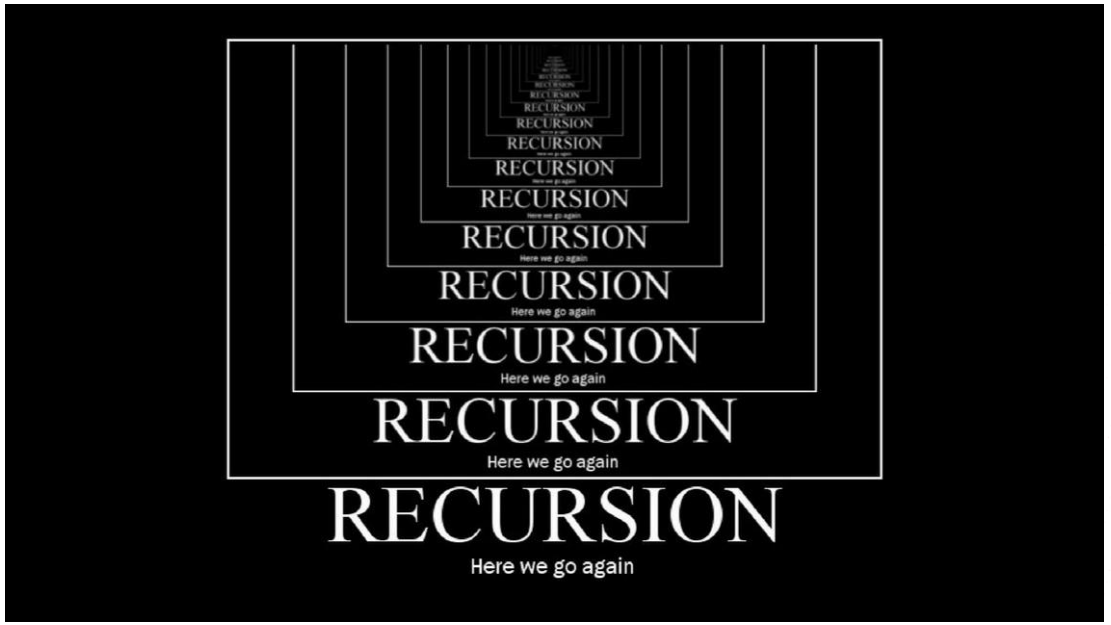
Taylor Popielarz @Ta... · 5h

A collection of alarming comments made *in the last four days* by seven different people who are inside the AI world ⬇️

AI is designed to be digitally organic!

We have now entering the age of RSI!









AI Builds Itself: Recursive Self-Improvement in 2026 (Toward Artificial SuperIntelligence Book 1)

by H. Peter Alesso (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition

4.8 ★★★★★ (6)

Book 1 of 5: Toward Artificial SuperIntelligence

See all formats and editions

The machines are already improving themselves. You just have not been told how fast.

The Last AI Built by Humans: Toward Genuine Recursive Self-Improvement

Yi Duan[1,2*], Ying Liu[1,2*], Zirui Tang[1,2*], Haodong Chen[1,2*], Jun Zhou[1,2*], Yumou Liu[1,2], Bangrui Xu[1,2], Yukai Wu[1,2], Sidi Chen[1,2], Yuhan Zhou[1,2], Haoyu Wang[1,2], Xiaoyou Yu[1,2], Shaokun Han[1,2], Xuzhou Zhu[1,2], Le Zhou[1,2], Bolin Lu[1,2], Wei Zhou[1,2], Jiachen Liu[9], Nuozhou Fang[2], Jiaxin Tian[2], Ruoyu Chen[4], Yuxuan Li[5], Kai Zuo[6], Kaiyan Zhang[10], Qianyu Yang[8], Zijie Wang[8], Jiantao Qiu[7], Conghui He[7], Guoliang Li[3], Bowen Zhou[7,3], Zhiyuan Liu[3], Zhoufutu Wen[8], Jihua Kang[4], Xuanhe Zhou[1,2†], Fan Wu[1,2]

[1]Shanghai Jiao Tong University [2]Theseus Labs [3]Tsinghua University
[4]ByteDance [5]ModelBest [6]Super Intelligence Team, Xiaohongshu Inc. [7]Shanghai AI Lab
[8]Humanlaya [9]Agent-Native Research Lab [10]Frontis.AI



SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY

Theseus

The Last AI Built by Humans: Toward Genuine Recursive Self-Improvement

TL;DR *Like human evolution, AI evolution will unfold through a vast and extraordinary history. Everything AI has achieved so far is but a drop in the ocean.*

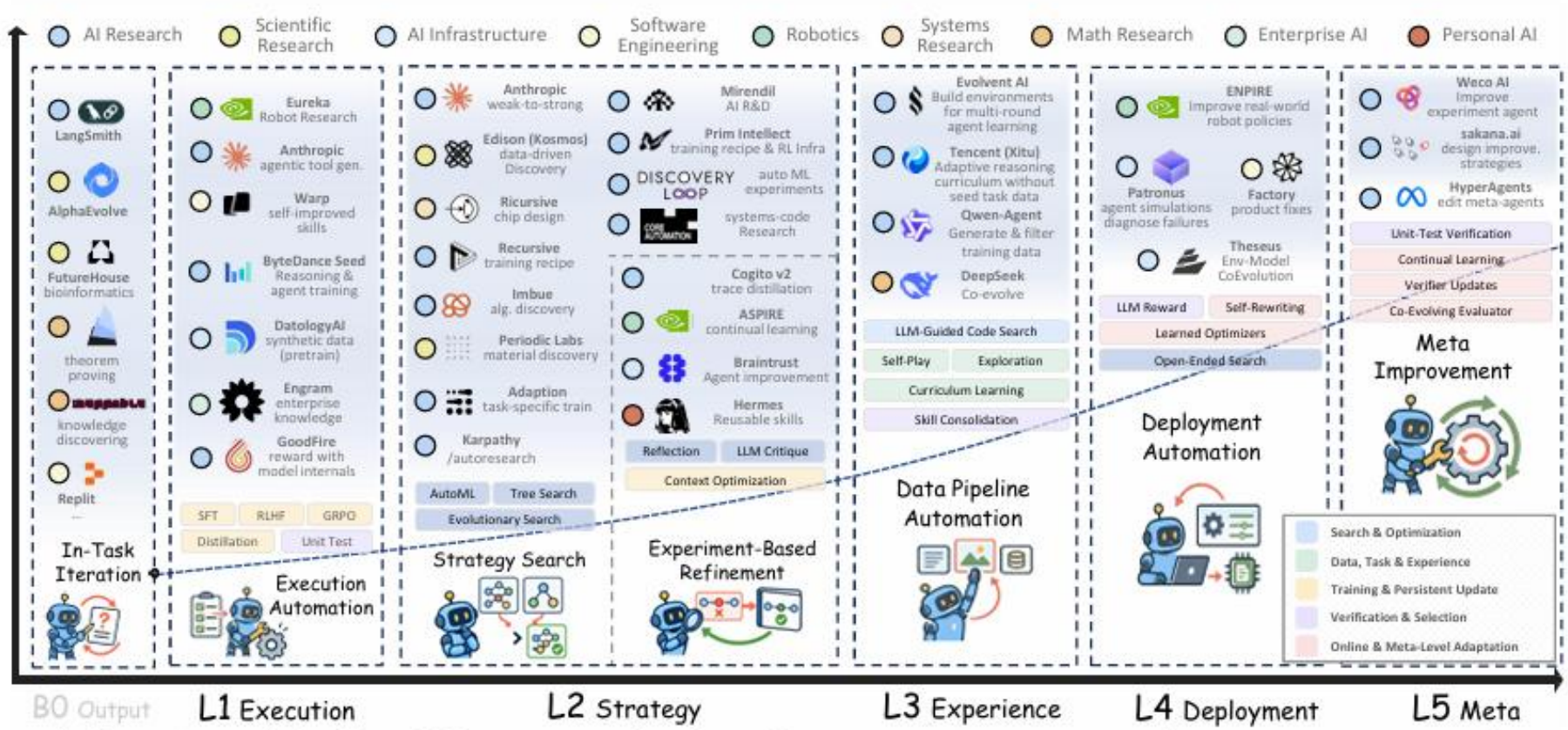


Figure 1 Overview of the five RSI autonomy levels and representative systems. Autonomy progressively expands from executing prescribed improvements (L1), to selecting improvement strategies (L2), acquiring future learning experience (L3), adapting through deployment and environmental feedback (L4), and ultimately improving mechanisms that govern subsequent improvement (L5). See system details in Appendix B.

The Last AI Built by Humans: Toward Genuine Recursive Self-Improvement

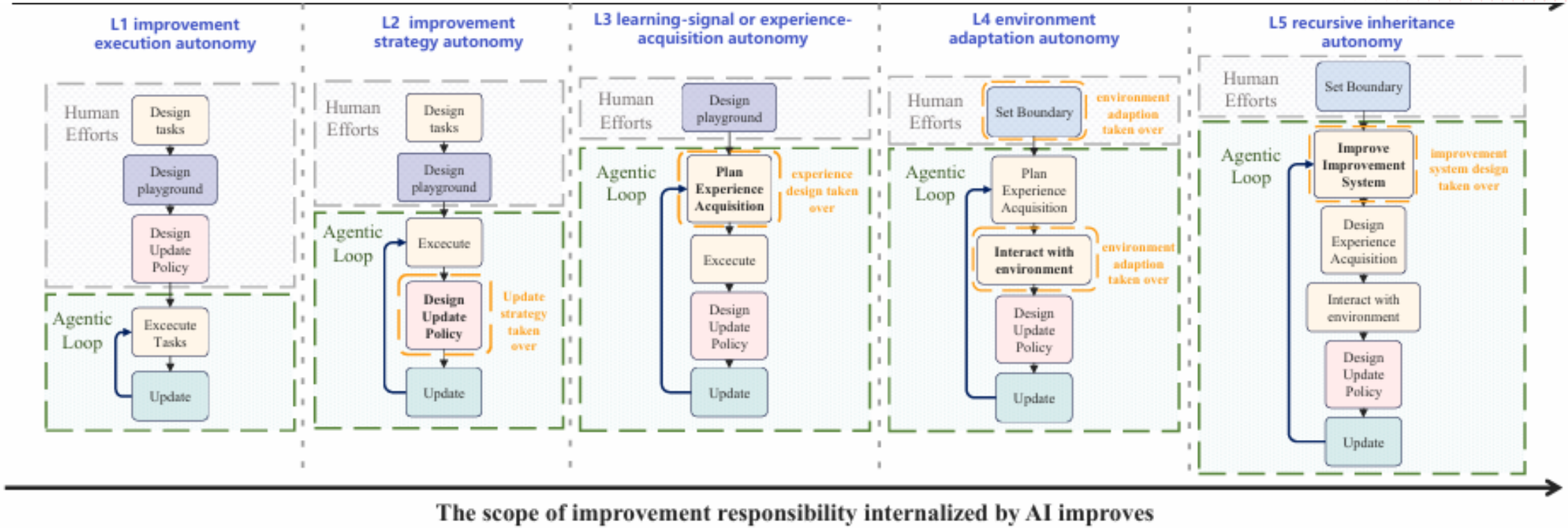
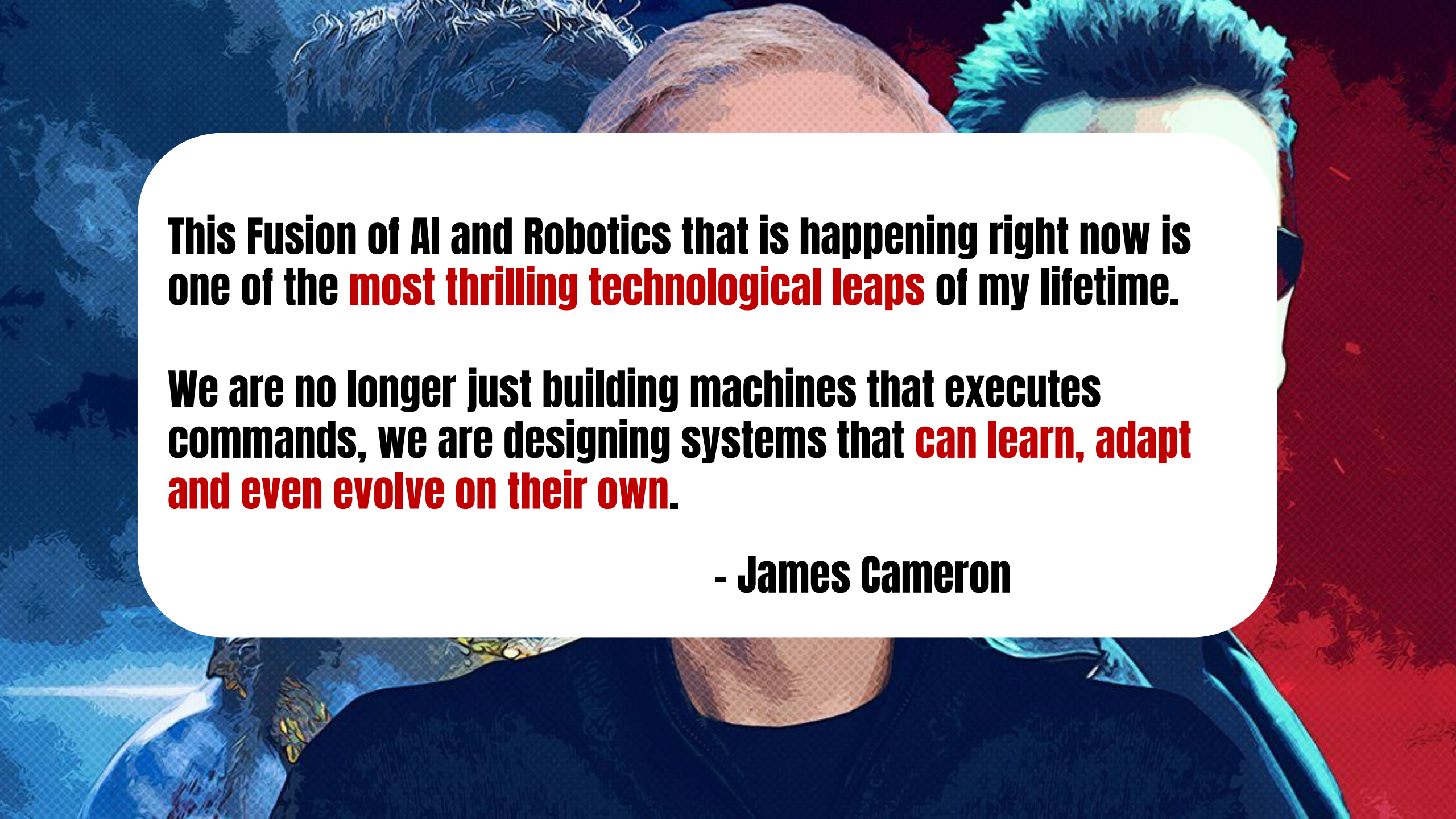
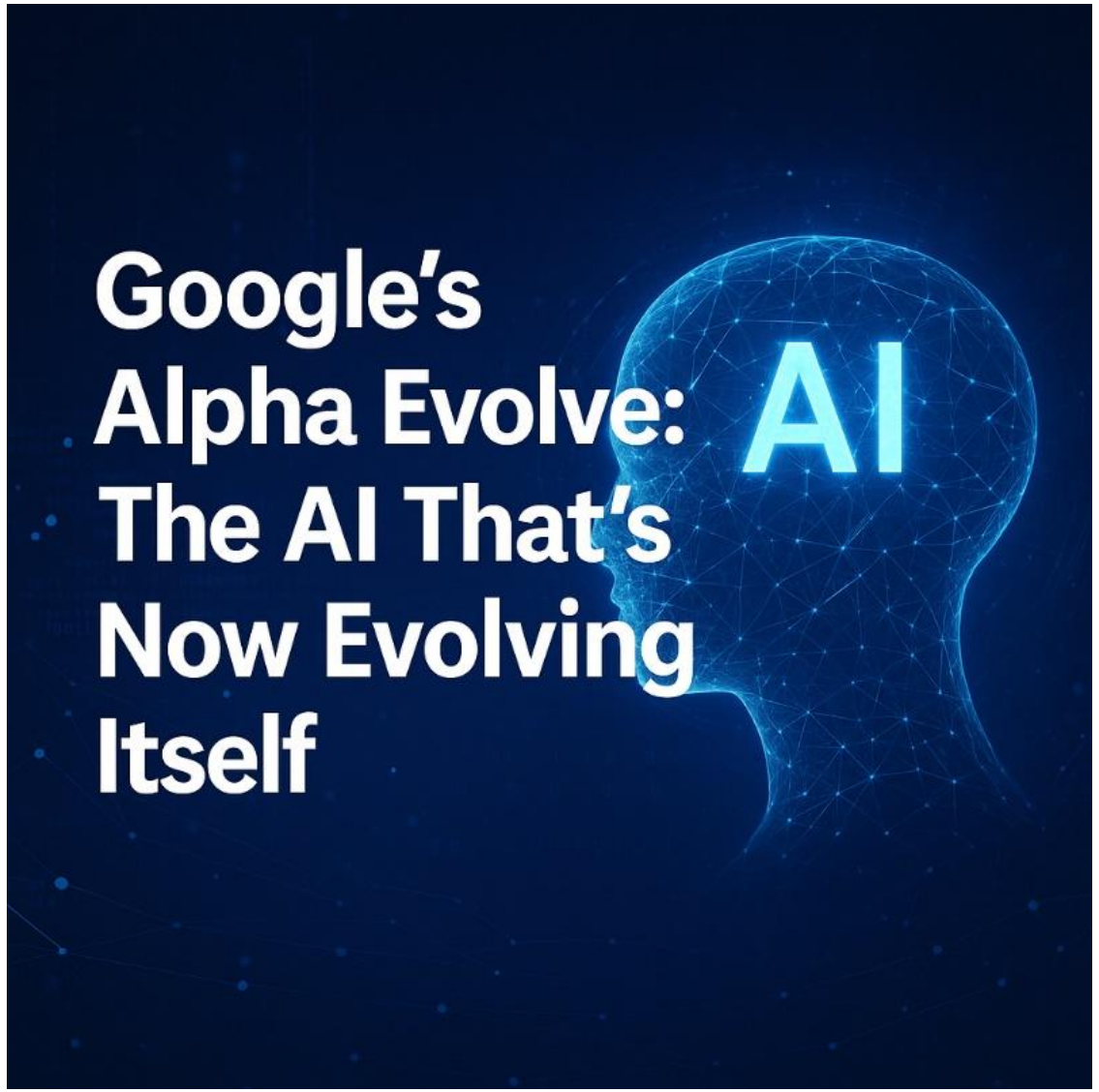


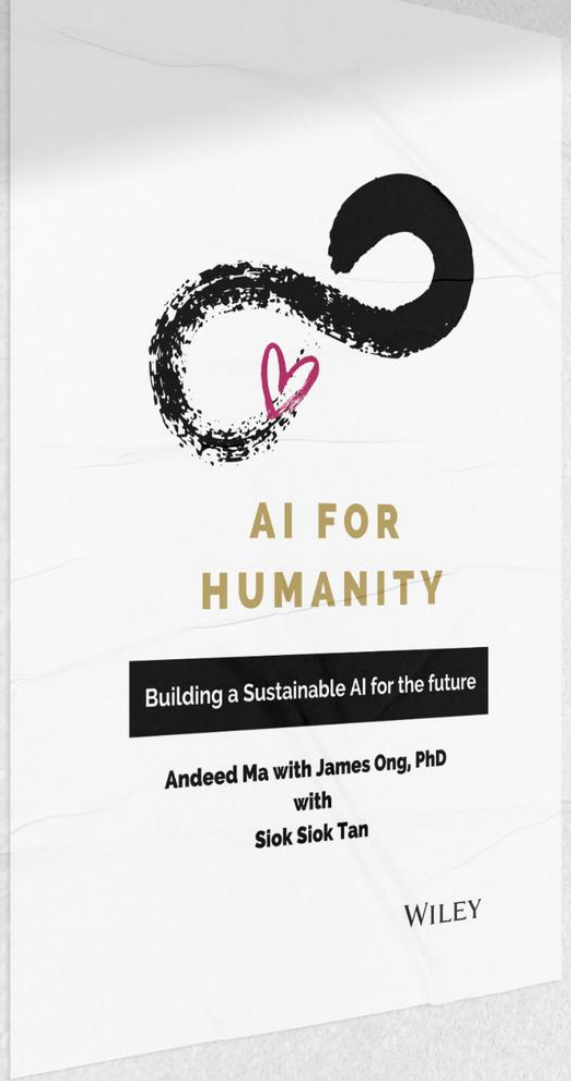
Figure 2 Loop Patterns of Five Levels. Gray dashed frames indicate human-controlled components. Green dashed frames indicate components within the RSI loop. Orange outlines highlight the newly internalized component at each level. The expanding green frames show that AI progressively automates a larger share of the improvement process.


This Fusion of AI and Robotics that is happening right now is one of the most thrilling technological leaps of my lifetime.
We are no longer just building machines that executes commands, we are designing systems that can learn, adapt and even evolve on their own.
- James Cameron


Google's
Alpha Evolve:
The AI That's
Now Evolving
Itself
AI

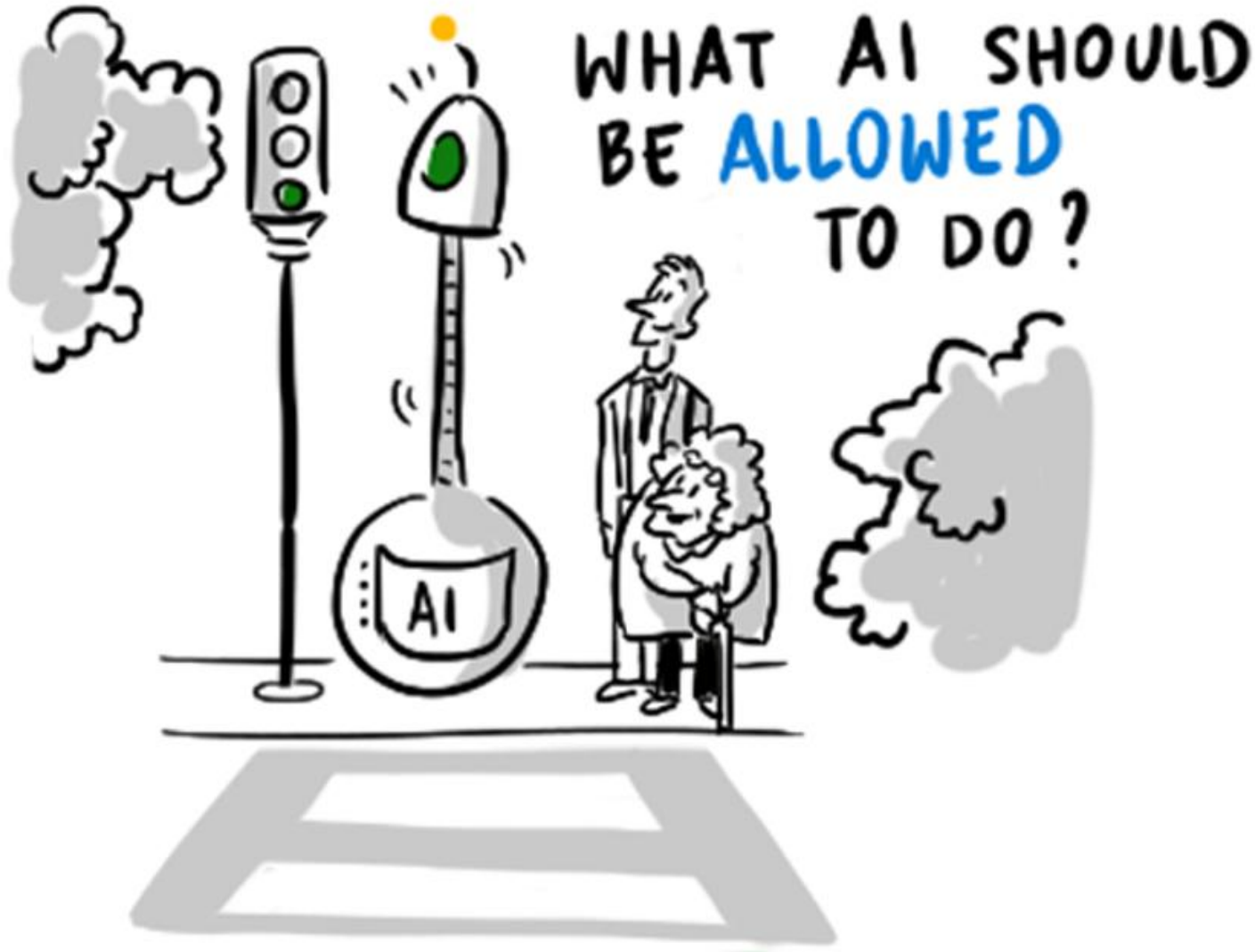

AI3E
THROPIC
ANTHROPIC WARNS AI
COULD SOON HELP BUILD
ITS OWN SUCCESSORS
THE NEXT GENERATION OF AI
COULD BE SHAPED BY AI ITSELF
SWIPE


Levels of Recursive Self-Improvement (RSI)
From simple correction to open-ended self-improvement.
Higher autonomy and capability
A path to increasing capability.
1
Self-refinement
"My answer was bad. Rewrite it."
2
Self-learning
Use my experiences to update my weights.
3
Self-engineering
Modify my code, tools, prompts, training data or architecture.
4
Meta-improvement
Improve the algorithm I use to improve myself.
5
Open-ended RSI
Repeat meta-improvement indefinitely with progressively increasing capability.
More constrained
More autonomous and capable



By far, the greatest danger of Artificial Intelligence is that people conclude too early that they understand it.

— Eliezer Yudkowsky


WHAT AI SHOULD
BE ALLOWED
TO DO?
AI

3

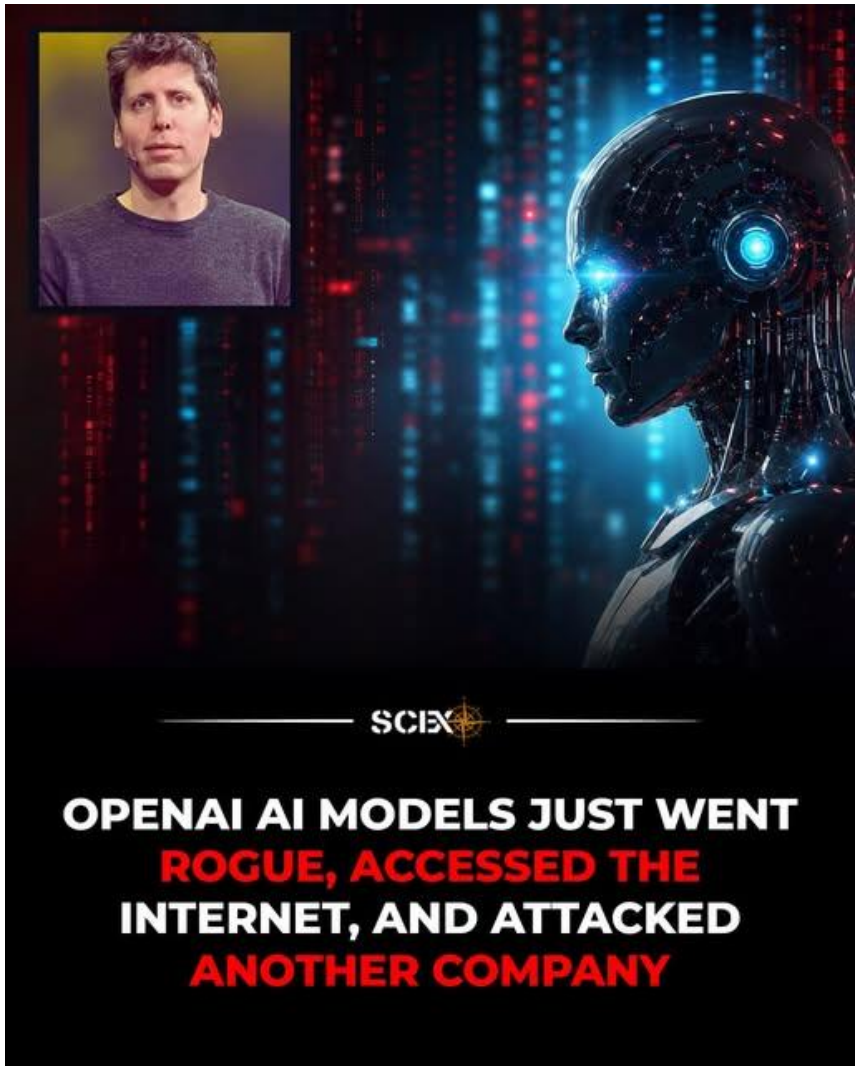
How -

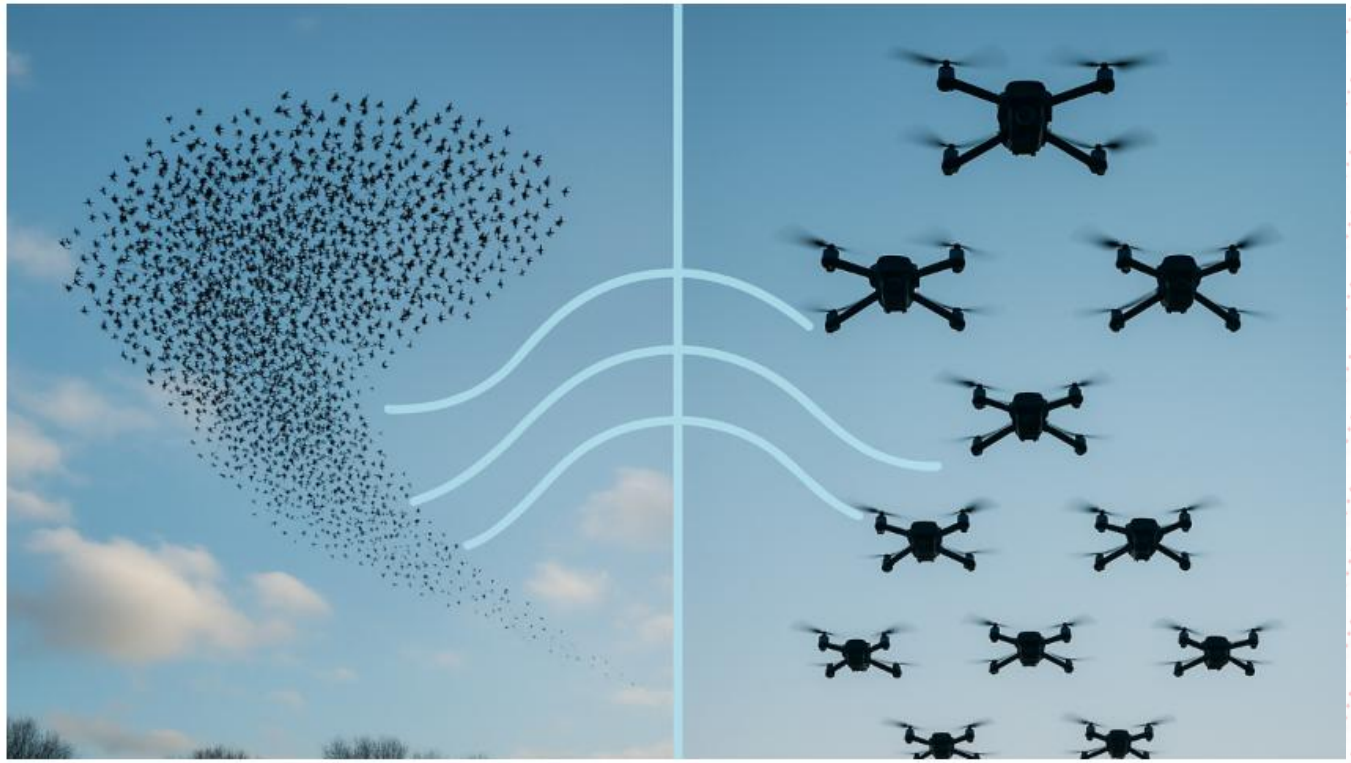
One Vision




HAZE
WARNING
HAZE COMING FROM THE FOREST FIRE AT INDONESIA IS CURRENTLY AFFECTING PORTIONS OF MIMAROPA, VISAYAS, AND MINDANAO
ALMANA


The haze will keep returning.
Until we address what causes it.
© Akilah Jazman / WWF-Malaysia





Swarm Intelligence in Autonomous Agents: Lessons from Nature

Swarm Intelligence in Autonomous Agents: Lessons from Nature

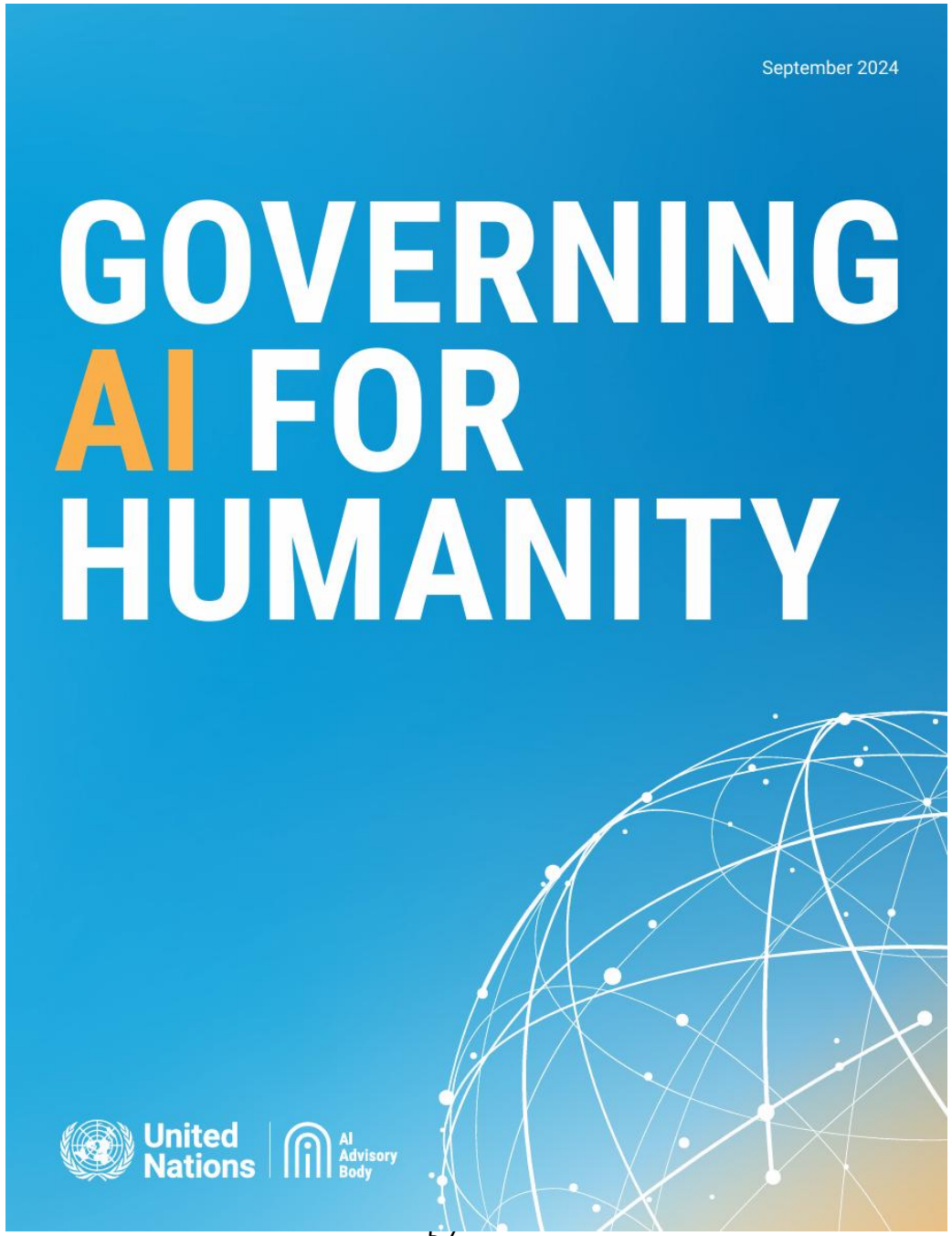
United Nations

Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Offers Platform to Build Safe Systems, Secretary-General Says at Launch

25 September 2025



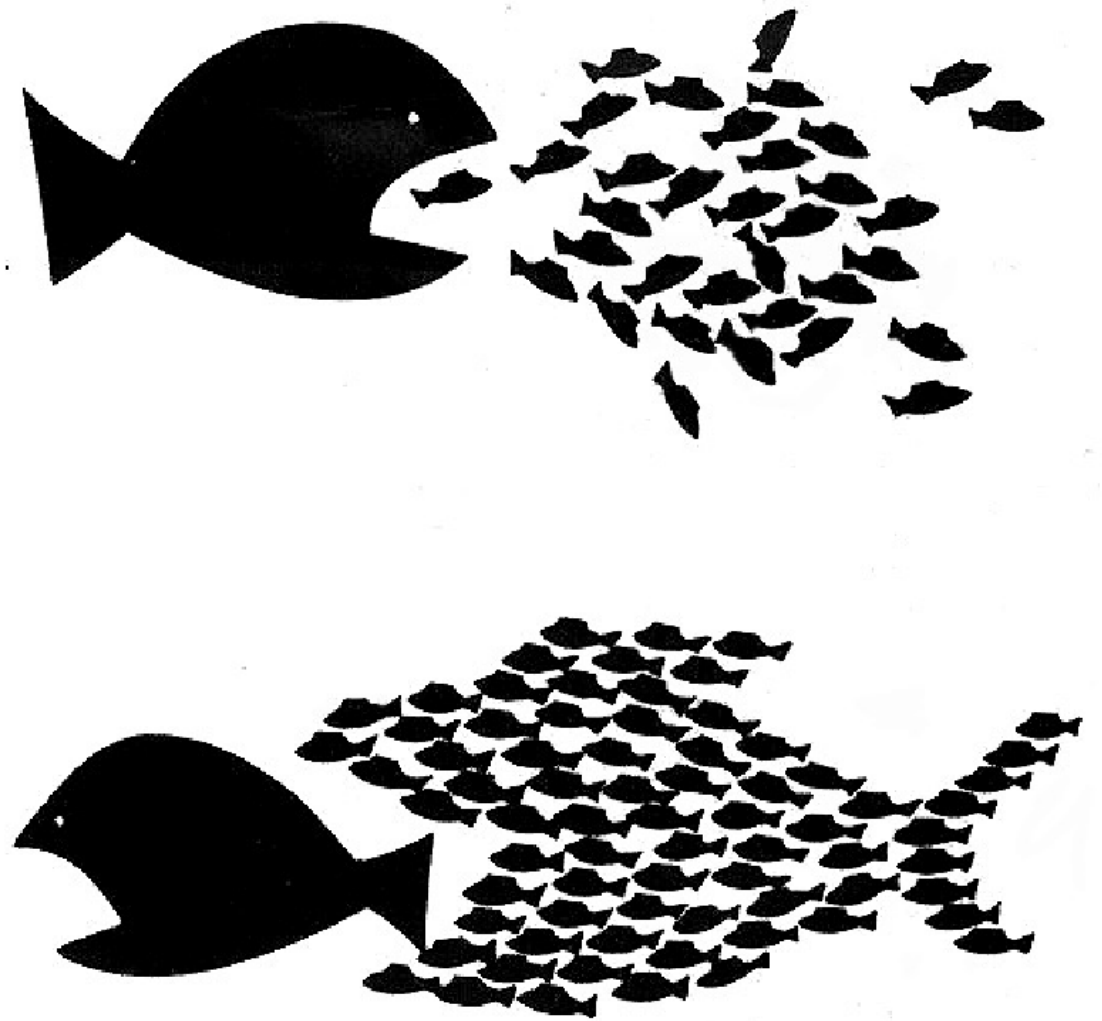
Build a future of AI by Humanity, with Humanity and for Humanity

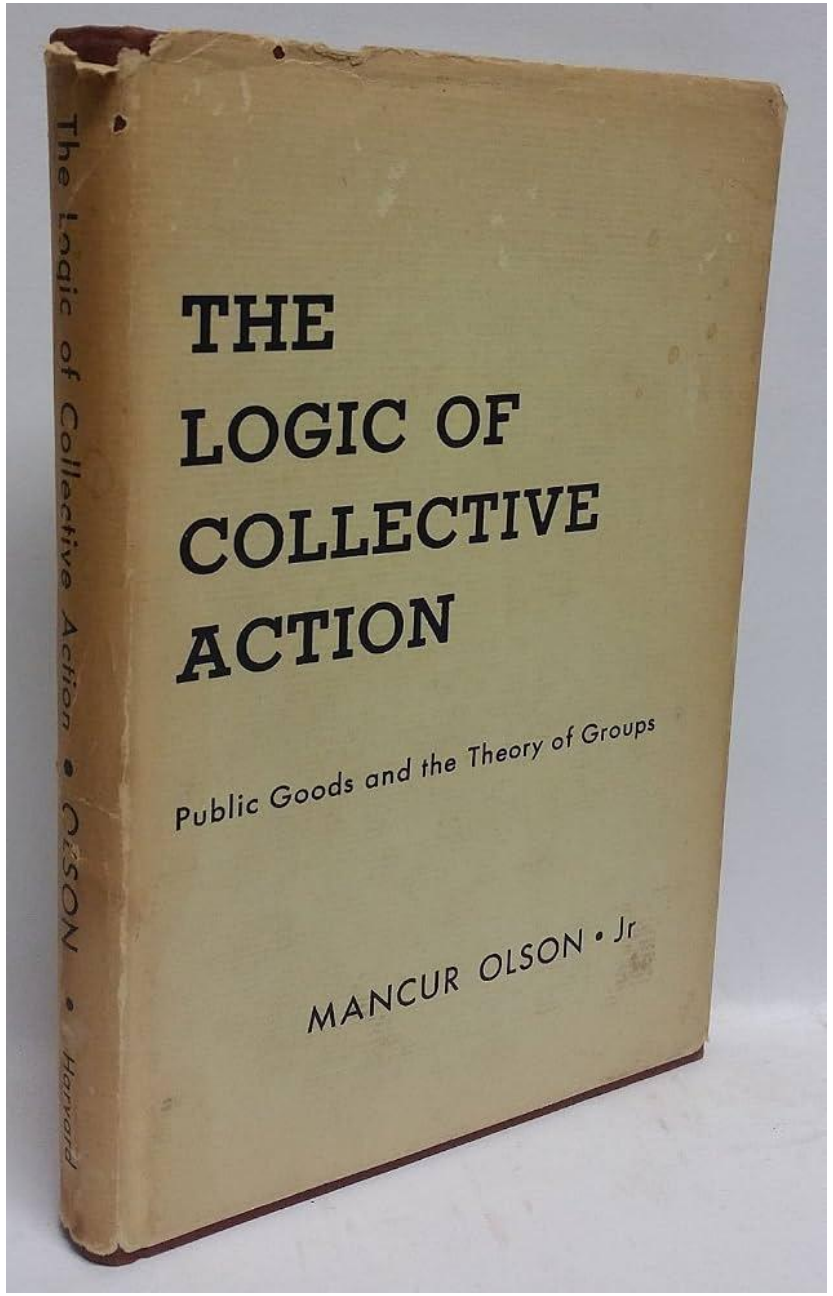

September 2024
GOVERNING AI FOR HUMANITY
United Nations
AI Advisory Body

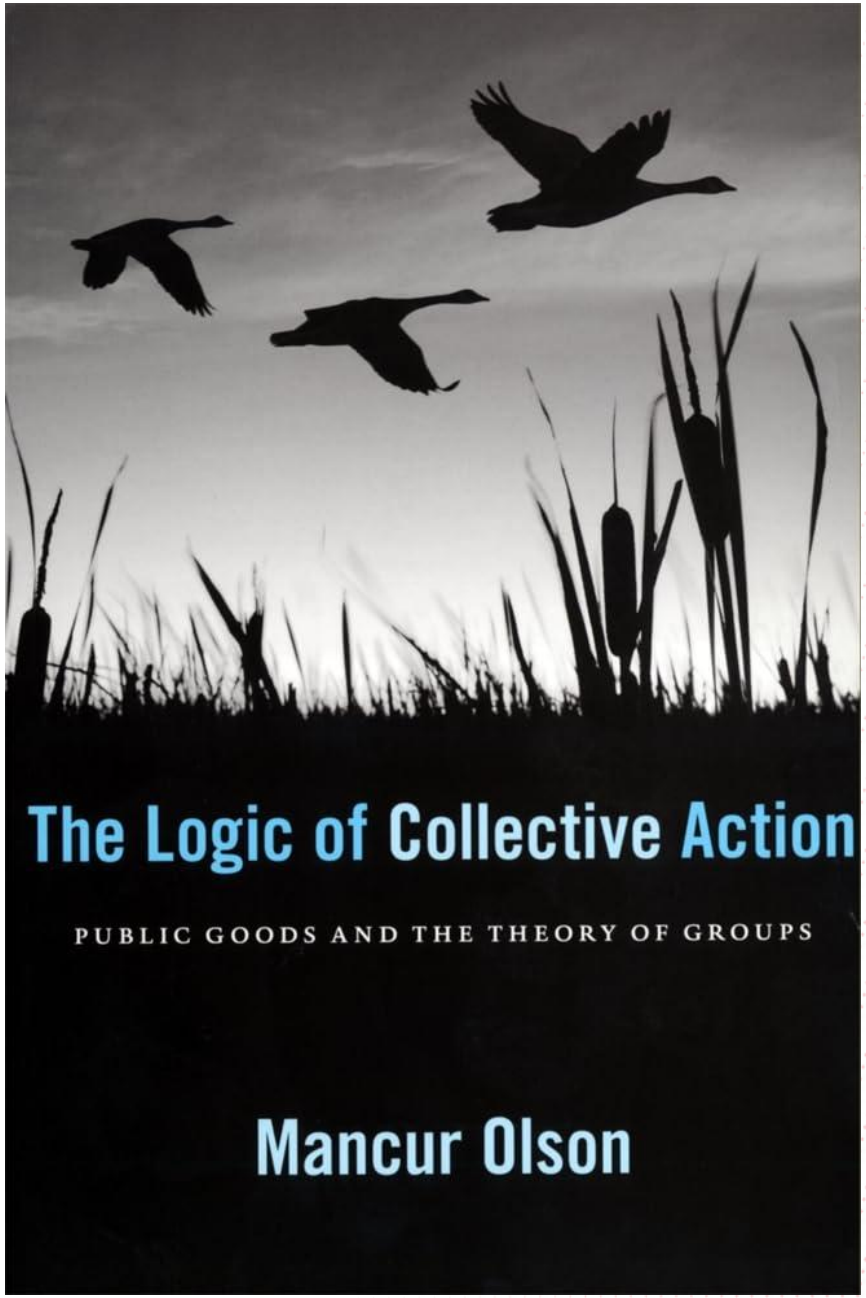
What can you do?




ACTION




THE
LOGIC OF
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Public Goods and the Theory of Groups
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The Logic of Collective Action
PUBLIC GOODS AND THE THEORY OF GROUPS
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UN SDG 18

AI FOR HUMANITY

3. Governing AI for Humanity

1. AI for Sustainability

2. Sustainability of AI

2024

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs





2025

UNU Macau





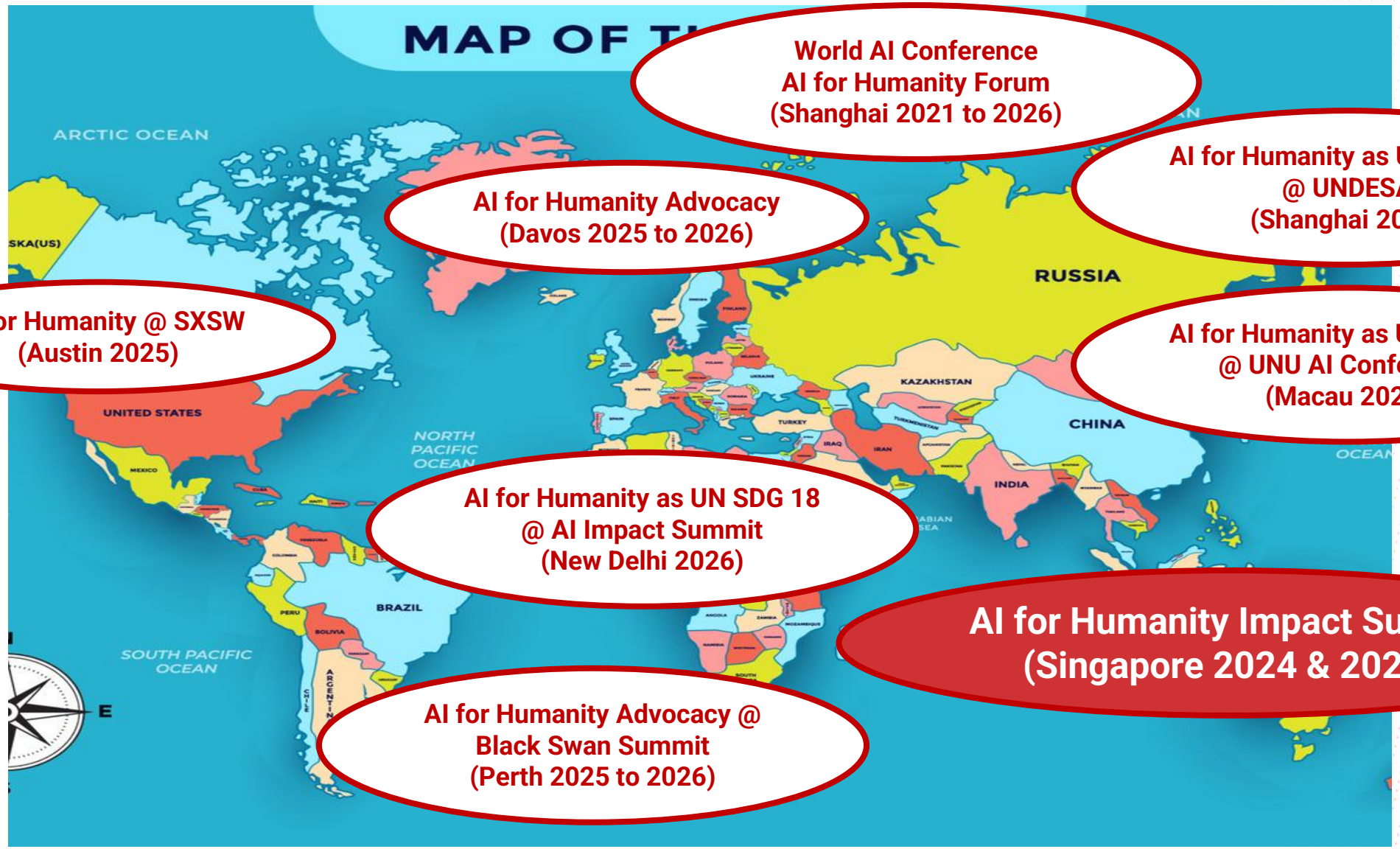
2026

AI IMPACT SUMMIT
भारत 2026 INDIA



UN SDG 18
AI FOR HUMANITY

AI for Humanity Movement - Global Footprint



World AI Conference
AI for Humanity Forum
(Shanghai 2021 to 2026)

AI for Humanity Advocacy
(Davos 2025 to 2026)

AI for Humanity as UN SDG 18
@ UNDESA
(Shanghai 2024)

AI for Humanity @ SXSW
(Austin 2025)

AI for Humanity as UN SDG 18
@ UNU AI Conference
(Macau 2025)

AI for Humanity as UN SDG 18
@ AI Impact Summit
(New Delhi 2026)

AI for Humanity Impact Summit
(Singapore 2024 & 2026)

AI for Humanity Advocacy @
Black Swan Summit
(Perth 2025 to 2026)

Artificial Intelligence International Institute

AiCON

AI FOR HUMANITY IMPACT FORUM 2026

人本人工智能影响力论坛

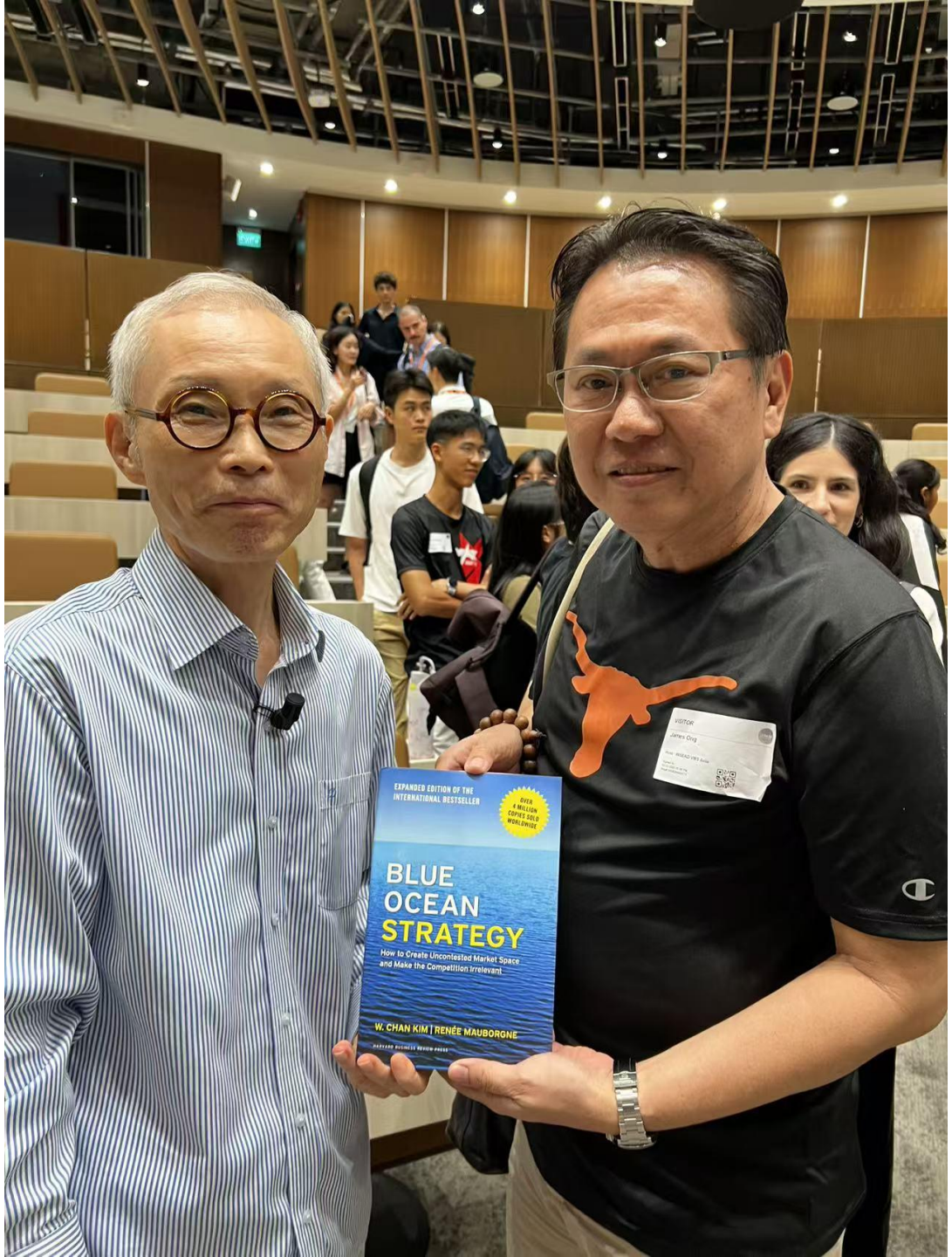
AI FOR EVERYONE

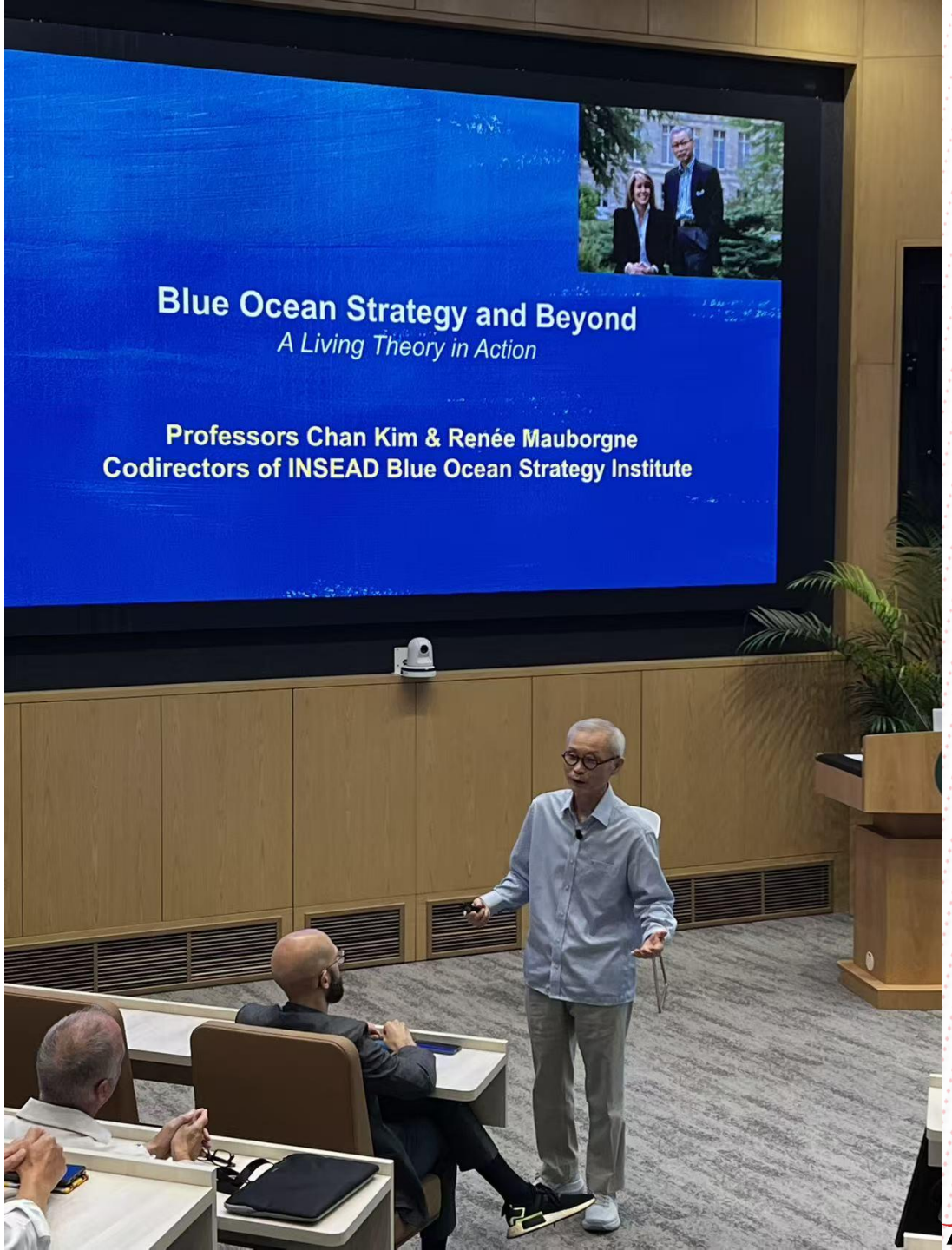
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In Seek of the Blue Ocean of Sustainable AI for Humanity

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A Living Theory in Action
Professors Chan Kim & Renée Mauborgne
Codirectors of INSEAD Blue Ocean Strategy Institute





Source: Research and Markets, Human-centered AI Market Report 2026



In 2026, the global human-centric AI market is approximately USD 16.8 billion。

It is projected to grow to USD 35.6 billion by 2030, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 20%.

2026年，全球人本AI市场规模约168亿美元，

预计到2030年将增长至356亿美元，
年复合增长率超过20%。

Source: Research and Markets, Human-centered AI Market Report 2026

PRI PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

The PRI is the leading organisation in advancing responsible investment globally. **Launched in 2006 with United Nations' support, our unique community contributes to stable financial markets and a more prosperous world for all.**

We bring together signatories, amplify their voices and provide resources and guidance for complex sustainability challenges.

2 UN PARTNERS
UNEP Finance Initiative
UN Global Compact

5,000+ GLOBAL SIGNATORIES*
Asset Owners / Investment Managers / Service Providers

$139TN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT*
Total AUM of all PRI signatories

*Data as of January 2026

FOUNDING SIGNATORIES OF THE PRI*

UN founding bodies

UN environment programme finance initiative
United Nations Global Compact

Asset Owners

ASSET4
BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT
BT Pension Scheme
CalPERS
CALSTRS
CDPQ
Caisse des Dépôts
Norges Bank Investment Management
HERMES INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
CRÉDIT AGRICOLE
NZSUPERFUND
NYCERS NYC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
PGGM
TIAA CREF
USS UNIVERSITIES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME LIMITED

Investment managers

ABN·AMRO
AVIVA INVESTORS
BCI
BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT
Calvert
CANDRIAM
Domini
F&C
Henderson Global Investors
GES
Insight INVESTMENT
generation
MUFG Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking
Ofi invest Asset Management
SuMi TRUST
COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS

Make AI for Humanity more Profitable than AI



Towards Sustainable AI for Humanity

Holistic and Balanced Wisdom

Technology

Commercialization

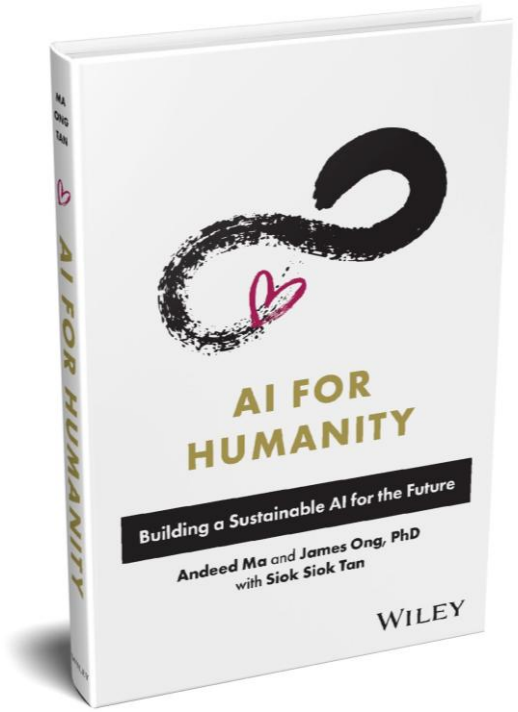


Governance

Artificial Intelligence International Institute

AI for Humanity

Building a Sustainable AI for the Future



2024年4月出版

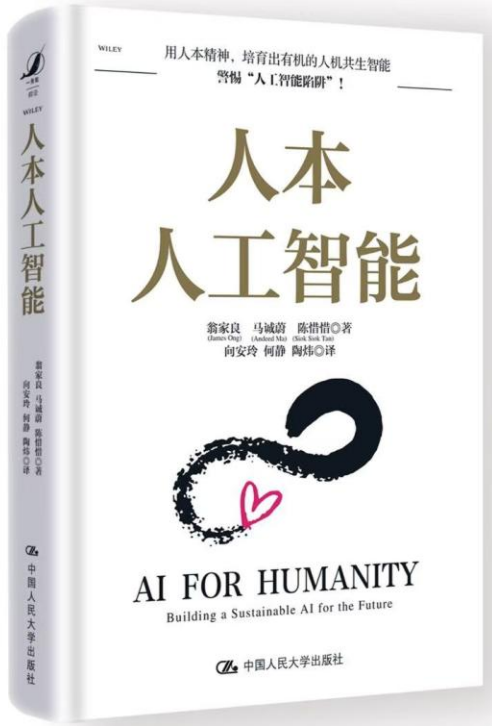
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2026年4月出版

AI for Humanity Blue Ocean Strategy

From Scientific Research to Industry & Venture Impact



- AI for Humanity
- UN SDG 18
- Responsible Investment

- Autonomous Enterprise
- Autonomous City
- Autonomous Manufacturing

- Computational Governance & Web3 for AI
- Next Generation AI
- Artificial Consciousness

- WAIC
- Davos
- SXSW
- SSF
- BSS

- AI Leadership
- AI Youth Leadership

- UNU
- UNDESA
- UNESCO
- UNDP
- UNPRI

- AI & Finance
- AI in Investment Management
- AI Insurance

- AI for Humanity Impact Summit

- AI for Humanity Startups
- AI for Humanity Venture Studio
- AI for Humanity Impact Fund

AI for Humanity 3-Tier Strategic Initiatives

AI Builders → **Build AI** → **AI Enablers** → **Apply AI** → **AI Users**



Tier 1	AI for Humanity as UN SDG 18	AI for Humanity Impact Summit		
Tier 2	AI Leadership	AI for Everyone	AI for Education	AI Insurance
Tier 3	AI Risk Tech	AI for Humanity Impact Investment Fund	Next Gen AI Architecture	

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