

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AI DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION

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The Philippines' AI Task Force is comprised of the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and other sectors that focus on science and technology, commerce and agriculture, and medicine. The goal is to establish the Philippines as an AI powerhouse in Asia; hence, the government and the education sector have partnered to develop an AI roadmap (Barros et al., 2023). To achieve this, research and adoption of AI in the educational field must be given attention.

At present, the Philippine government's readiness' to adopt and regulate AI in all its sectors is still in the process of development. The Philippines was placed 54th out of 181 nations in the Government AI Readiness Index 2022, a report that assesses a government's readiness to use AI in delivering public services (Rogerson et al., 2022). In comparison to the Government AI Readiness Index 2021, this is 20 places higher. These numbers might look affirmative but looking at the Generative AI Global Interest Report 2023, the Philippines exhibits the highest monthly search volume for AI tools among all countries, with a rate of 5,052 searches per 100,000 individuals. Notably, the searches predominantly revolve around text-based artificial intelligence (AI) applications (Navarro, 2024). These functionalities are primarily used in education. This could be an implication that AI is widely used by students and teachers alike. With the Filipino's immersion in various AI-based tools, in comparison with the country's current state of readiness to adopt AI, there is a need for expediting the pace of research in the said field.

In summary, the Philippines is at a pivotal point in its development becoming an AI powerhouse in Asia. Government agencies, especially academic institutions should be

working together demonstrate a strong commitment to creating a healthy AI ecosystem. Even while the nation's standing in the Government AI Readiness Index has improved, indicating significant progress has been made, there is still a critical need to close the gap between public interest and practical execution. The large number of searches for AI-related terms suggests a high level of public interest. The Philippines can reach its full potential and take

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