

Artificial Intelligence Meets the Liberal Arts:

New Turing Institute and Fulbright University Vietnam to join forces to create AI-first Innovative Programs.

[Ho Chi Minh City, September 12, 2023] – Fulbright University Vietnam (Fulbright) and New Turing Institute (NTI) announced their intent to create the “New Turing Institute @ Fulbright,” a new academic initiative dedicated to education, research, entrepreneurship, and policy in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

New Turing Institute, a Silicon Valley-inspired organization devoted to strengthening AI capacity in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, will become an academic institution of Fulbright University Vietnam, with dedicated faculties who will teach and conduct research, as well as an AI advisory board composed of world-class AI experts from academia and industry.

The New Turing Institute @ Fulbright reflects Fulbright University Vietnam’s recognition of the transformative power of AI. Fulbright president Dr. Scott Fritzen said: “Artificial Intelligence is already changing our world and will continue to do so in ways we cannot even begin to anticipate. Our mission of educating the next generation of Vietnamese innovators and leaders requires that we incorporate AI into our teaching programs. As a liberal arts institution, we believe there is particular value in blending cutting-edge science with critical thinking, problem solving, and ethical decision-making.”

According to Dr. Fritzen, “The combination of the New Turing Institute with Fulbright makes great sense. We are both independent, nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving Vietnam. We at Fulbright greatly admire the high-quality training programs that NTI offers. We look forward to working with our New Turing colleagues to maintain and expand their suite of training programs and integrate AI, Machine Learning, and related subjects into our undergraduate and graduate programs.”

Dr. Thang Luong, a co-founder of New Turing Institute and a research scientist at Google DeepMind, said: “New Turing Institute is thrilled to join forces with Fulbright University Vietnam to create an AI-first undergraduate major and a world-class AI research lab. We have known Fulbright University Vietnam’s founding team for many years and have strong confidence in the leadership. With strong financial and infrastructural support from Fulbright as well as its determination in offering innovative



educational opportunities in AI and Computer Science, we are confident in achieving these ambitions together.”

Dr. Thuc Vu, a co-founder of New Turing Institute and a successful serial entrepreneur with a PhD in AI, said: “New Turing Institute will benefit from Fulbright’s expertise in the liberal arts and public policy as well as the university’s robust operating system and talented student body, which will help New Turing thrive and grow.”

New Turing Institute @ Fulbright will focus on four AI-first pillars including:

- *Education* – Creating Vietnam’s first undergraduate major in AI for Fulbright students. In parallel, NTI @ Fulbright will continue offering foundational and advanced short courses in AI and related fields for independent learners.
- *Research* – Building a world-class AI lab with an initial focus on AI safety for Large Language Models and Generative AI. In the near future, NTI @ Fulbright will expand its research agenda into areas such as drug discovery, chip design, and robotics.
- *Entrepreneurship* – Providing activities that mentor and support young entrepreneurs, including connecting them to NTI @ Fulbright’s Silicon Valley innovation networks.
- *Policy* – Exploring the policy framework and capacities in Vietnam and beyond that will be necessary to ensure the country can benefit from AI.

Dr. Ngan Dinh, Fulbright’s Dean of Undergraduate Studies said: “Students at Fulbright are eager to learn about AI, Machine Learning, and related fields. By joining forces with New Turing Institute, we will be able to offer Fulbright students unique and challenging learning opportunities. All students will have the chance to acquire foundational knowledge in AI, and students who wish to dive deeper will be able to major in AI. Our students will also benefit from and contribute to The New Turing Institute @ Fulbright by participating in research projects and internships with companies.”

New Turing Institute @ Fulbright will support the continued emergence of AI-centered start-ups in Vietnam’s burgeoning tech sector. Ms. Vu Van, a successful entrepreneur, and a co-founder of New Turing Institute said: “Vietnam’s tech sector is small but dynamic with great potential. The New Turing Institute @ Fulbright will support the next generation of AI entrepreneurs through boot camps, mentorship opportunities, and promoting connectivity with global innovation hubs like Silicon Valley.”

In keeping with Fulbright University Vietnam’s commitment to public policy, The New Turing Institute @ Fulbright will organize workshops, seminars, and executive programs for policymakers aimed at increasing awareness of AI’s implications for the public sector. Fulbright president Dr. Fritzen, a public policy scholar, said: “AI has tremendous potential to benefit the public sector, ranging from improving the effectiveness of government services to predicting the impact of climate change. But like other powerful technologies, without well-designed policies and a robust governance framework, AI can present significant risks.”

For Fulbright University Vietnam, the creation of The New Turing Institute @ Fulbright reflects a foundational commitment to computer science, engineering, and technology. Dr. Quoc Le, a leading AI scientist at Google DeepMind, said “Since I joined the Fulbright Board of Trustees in 2017, we have sought ways to turn Fulbright’s status as a young university without a long-standing, traditional computer science program into an advantage. By joining forces with New Turing Institute and launching Vietnam’s undergraduate major dedicated to AI, Fulbright can leapfrog legacy programs and be an innovator in Vietnam and the region.”

About Fulbright University Vietnam

Founded in 2016 on the promise of Vietnamese-American partnership, Fulbright University Vietnam is Vietnam’s first independent, not-for-profit, liberal arts university. Globally integrated but deeply embedded in Vietnamese society, Fulbright is dedicated to providing world-class undergraduate and graduate education. By adapting the latest advancements in institutional design, teaching, learning, technology and other fields, Fulbright endeavors to establish itself as an innovative, globally relevant Vietnamese institution. Fulbright is committed to serving Vietnamese society through rigorous research and civic engagement.

About New Turing Institute

New Turing Institute (NTI) is a social enterprise that aims to nurture and inspire the next generation of AI talents in Southeast Asia and beyond. NTI brings in Silicon-Valley expertise and world-class experts to build a thriving deep-tech ecosystem in SEA revolving around 3 core pillars: education, entrepreneurship, and research. NTI is the successor of VietAI, a non-profit organization founded in 2018, that has built an AI community of over 24,000 members and trained over 1000 high-quality AI engineers for Vietnam.

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