Trends of AI Laws Research Organization in Taiwan

Li-Ching Chang  
CEO of International AI and Law Research Foundation; Distinguished Professor of National University of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Abstract: In respond to the legal issue that artificial intelligence (AI) brings, countries all over the world established AI laws research center in succession. AI Laws Research Center of National University of Kaohsiung College of Law and International AI and Law Research Foundation were established in 2018 and 2019, respectively, and have both played the role in providing research information and assist in solving AI legal issues.

Key words: AI law, National University of Kaohsiung AI Laws Research Center, International AI and Law Research Foundation.

1. Preface

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) has gradually grown to mature; many countries are diligently implementing AI in different fields. Observing this trend, we could foresee that AI will play significant roles in all aspects of human life, including country’s administration, administration of justice, as well as medical technology, transportation, education, entertainment, and science development.

Therefore, we should not neglect the effects that AI brings. If we can predict that AI could change the possibility of our lifestyle, the legislation should respond to the situation as well. The implementation of AI in the information science field has been perceived as the fourth wave of industrial revolution, which will drastically change our economy, society, culture, and lifestyle. This developing trend will inevitably lead to changes in the labor force, industrial structure, and professional ethics. They will lead to many controversies in legislation. For instance, if an autonomous car gets involved in a traffic collision, how should we resolve the civil, criminal, and administrative liability? The legal system and solutions we have nowadays will encounter tremendous challenges in the future.

To respond to the legal issues that AI brings, countries from all around the world have established AI laws research institutions in succession. To address this occurrence, National University of Kaohsiung (NUK) kept ahead and reorganized the previous “Biomedical Technology Research Center” into “Biomedical Technology and AI Laws Research Center” (https://www2.nuk.edu.tw/bmailaw/) as an expansion establishment. We hope to integrate academic and practical experts all over the country to collaborate in research in order to be in line with international practice and expand influence. In addition to the “Biomedical Technology & Artificial Intelligence Laws Research Center” in National University of Kaohsiung, many entrepreneurs focused on the development of AI and co-donated to establish “International Artificial Intelligence and Law Research Foundation” (https://www.intailaw.org) in the early 2019. They hope to connect government-industry-university-institute, and contribute in Taiwan’s legislation towards AI’s development. The foundation had invited me to join as the executive director. The legal registration process is completed and is officially operating.

2. Biomedical Technology & Artificial Intelligence Laws Research Center

2.1 Origin and Mission

Biomedical technology can bring benefits to human health; the development of AI can bring breakthrough
to technology. Besides protecting rights, legislation also plays a vital role in controlling risks. Biomedical and AI’s techniques and laws are now in a pivotal position worldwide. Biomedical technology is blooming; the innovation through AI technique, such as using robots to perform surgery, has become a must-learn skill for surgeons. It is predictable that the relation of biomedical, AI, and law will be much closer in the future. The increase of medical affairs, bio-technology related controversies, the liability of AI and human’s decision making and controlling will become the focus of biomedical technology and AI laws research in the future.

The college of law of National University of Kaohsiung tries to create correlations between biomedical technology and AI laws. We integrate civil resources and promote diligently the academic interflow between biomedical technology and AI laws research, specifically expanding reorganizations and established the “Biomedical Technology and AI Laws Research Center” in late 2018. The aim of this center is not only to engage in research on the related specification of biomedical technology, but also to conduct interdisciplinary interflow, facilitate academic and practical research, and elevate the building of related legislation system.

The research content of this center not only centers on the issues of biomedical technology and AI’s legal affairs, it mainly focuses on the interdisciplinary research of legislation system. That is, it focuses specifically on civil and criminal liability, protection of intellectual property, administration management, and legal disputes that future industries could potentially encounter while developing. The establishment of this center is to provide industries with consultation and suggestions of applicable law, and offer government references for policy making.

2.2 Organization and Professional Work

2.2.1 Research Members

This center is formed by researchers that are interested in AI law affairs. I serve as the current director and coordinate the affairs of the center and devote to promoting AI law related events. I mainly research on the criminal disputes and related controversies of Intellectual Medication. I have been invited to the quarter of Microsoft (Seattle) to attend the seminar of AI law ethics, and participate in an International Conference on AI Related Law, which was held in Germany to publish research result. Vice director of the center is Prof. Evelyn Y.T Chen, who assists in the center’s professional work. Other researchers include Prof. Kuo-Lien Hsieh, who conducts in-depth studies on AI issues in Europe; Prof. Po-Han Chou focuses on controversies on intellectual properties; and Prof. Hui-Ling Shao has further research on the debates of autonomous cars.

2.2.2 Goals

Contrary to research on AI Law, this center’s main mission is: (1) interdisciplinary research of AI and law; (2) AI law’s theory and practice; (3) publishing research results and building a database for AI legislation’s academic material; (4) assist in AI laws development and policy suggestion; (5) promotion for other AI legislation related events.

2.2.3 Research and Development

In order to align with international practice, this center collaborated with International Artificial Intelligence and Law Research Foundation and held two international conferences in December, 2018. Guests that attended included AI laws research expert Prof. Eric Hilgendorf from University of Würzburg, Germany, Prof. Jiang Su from Peking University, Lawyer Takayuki Matsuo from Japan, General Manager of Microsoft Taiwan Vincent Shih, and other significant members from government-industry-university-institute in Taiwan. The discussion of the international conference has brought positive feedback.

After this international conference, the law consultant of Audi, and committee of European Commission, Prof. Hilgendorf, initiates to form an
international AI law league. The current members of
the league include research institutions from Germany,
Japan, China, Taiwan, United States of America,
Korea, Singapore, Turkey, and other countries in the
world. I am Taiwan’s representative to join the
international AI law league. As the league is formed
by experts from various countries, the communication
and exchange of information can deepen the research
on AI.

This center’s research and development specifically
presents in the below projects:

(1) publish academic papers: publish monographs
and academic papers, and have speaking
engagements;

(2) international participation: holding academic
conference. Represented Taiwan to attend
international AI laws league in 2019, and participated
in the AI’s Ethics and Data Protection Workshop held
by the headquarters of Microsoft (Seattle);

(3) social participation: serving as the director of
International Artificial Intelligence;

(4) talent cultivation: offered “AI Generation’s
Challenge and Reaction” courses with over 200
people participating in 2018-2019.

3. International Artificial Intelligence and
Law Research Foundation

Moreover, International Artificial Intelligence and
Law Research Foundation, which is established in
early 2019, has vital relations with Biomedical
Technology & Artificial Intelligence Laws Research
Center; therefore, there is a purpose of introducing
them together. At the preparation stage, the research
center has maintained contact with the foundation and
co-hosted academic events. After the foundation is
established, they appointed me as the director. In the
future, the two organizations will keep working
together to promote the connection between
government-industry-university-institute to research
on AI law and make contributions to Taiwan’s AI
legislation.

3.1 Foundation’s Establishment and Purpose

To connect with the platform of international law of
AI, in the late 2018, with the sponsorship and support
of many enterprises, Biomedical Technology &
Artificial Intelligence Laws Research Center of NUK
and seniors of
government-industry-university-institute began to
discuss and prepare to establish International Artificial
Intelligence and Law Research Foundation. The
purpose of establishing the foundation is to assist
Taiwan’s enterprise in solving legal issues, give
assistance to departments of government to revise the
legislation, and represent our country to exchange
with other countries on law issues that AI causes. The
vision of the foundation is to create an AI law
interflow platform and bring up the general mood of
research on AI. The establishment of the foundation
has connected academic and practical experts and
interdisciplinary scholars and experts to conduct
integrated research, and speculate the legal issues that
may occur in AI’s development.

The foundation is nonprofit. The aim to establish
this foundation is to provide the interflow of law and
AI, promote laws research of theory and practice,
elevate related legislation, and commit to the
cultivation of talent. Therefore, this foundation will
publish research on autonomous cars, smart finance,
smart medical, cloud and big data, smart
manufacturing, and intellectual property.

3.2 Foundation’s Mission and Organization

The goals of the foundation are: (1)
interdisciplinary exchange and research for law and
AI; (2) hold academic events for AI legislation; (3)
publish and edit law and AI related books and
periodicals; (4) promote communication and
collaboration of theory and practice of law and AI; (5)
assist the country in facilities and policies for AI
related legislation; (6) other related affairs according
to the foundation’s purpose. The foundation will hold
international conferences annually and exchange visits
of scholars, in order to keep in line with the newest legal trends.

International Artificial Intelligence and Law Research Foundation has set up the following research sections: autonomous cars research section, smart finance research section, smart medical research section, cloud and big data research section, smart manufacturing research section, and intellectual property research section. Through each section’s research on AI laws, new types of law issues that AI brings could be resolved.

3.3 Foundation’s International Interflow and Future Prospects

The members of the foundation are more dynamic; therefore, they have an advantage on holding international interflow events. For instance, the seminar that this foundation hosts could invite more significant scholars, experts, and association from all over the world. On the other hand, the foundation could also assist their own members to go abroad and attend international academic seminars. For the research on AI laws, the foundation can predominate the international trend, their researchers can be acquainted with pioneers and authorities of the AI laws research, and promote related research in the country.

This foundation will continue to host international academic seminars. With this, Taiwan can often maintain in leading position, and provide instant and beneficial suggestions for enterprise and government.

4. Conclusion

The development of AI technology has already attracted high attention, so it is predictable that AI’s research and development and the use of AI will bring impact to different aspects of human life. Legislation must respond in advance to avoid chaos in the future. The establishment of Biomedical Technology & Artificial Intelligence Laws Research Center of National University College of Law and International Artificial Intelligence and Law Research Foundation has taken action in time to react to the trend. On this account, not only could it bring up the general mood of AI laws research, but it could also connect experts and scholars and form an interdisciplinary integration, and proceed in learning comprehensively about the impact that AI technology may bring to the legislation, in order to provide consultants to enterprise and government.

As mentioned previously, the manpower and finance resources of International Artificial Intelligence and Law Research Foundation are both abundant to attend international conferences. Due to the fact that I serve as the director of the foundation, the operation has been complementary with the Biomedical Technology & Artificial Intelligence Laws Research Center of NUK. With the cooperation and support of the two organizations, they have become closely associated. It is worth looking forward to seeing the two research institutions work together and bear fruitful achievements, and bring overall benefits to the society.

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