

GIST Academy Holds October Breakfast Forum: Invites Professor Emeritus SeongDo Ji of Korea Aerospace University to Discuss 'Human, All Too Human AI'

- On October 29, about 50 local businesspeople attended and listened to Professor SeongDo Ji, an AI expert known for his book "Artificial Intelligence, Dreaming of Buddha," and his deep reflections on the relationship between humans and AI.
- "The core of intelligence for both humans and AI is 'knowledge'... From a Buddhist perspective, the pinnacle of knowledge is 'altruism', so human cooperation toward AI's ultimate knowledge as a companion, not a competitor, is essential."



▲ GIST Academy is holding an October breakfast forum at Oryong Hall, and attendees are taking a group photo.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that on Tuesday, October 29, it held the GIST Academy (Director Jae Gwan Kim, professor at the Department of Biomedical Science and Engineering) October Breakfast Forum at Oryong Hall, inviting Professor Emeritus SeongDo Ji of the Department of AI Autonomous Driving Systems Engineering at Korea Aerospace University, with the attendance of approximately 50 businesspeople from the Gwangju and Jeonnam regions.

Professor SeongDo Ji, who received his Ph.D. in computer engineering from Arizona State University after graduating from Yonsei University, has been conducting research on artificial intelligence modeling and inference simulation since working at the biological artificial intelligence school.

For the past 30 years, he has been conducting national AI projects in information, transportation, bio, environment, security, satellites, drones, robots, and national defense, and is currently contributing to the expansion and development of AI through research on defense wargame AI, emotional AI, and debating AI.

Recently, he has been focusing on new technology issues related to artificial minds and wisdom systems with the belief that the future of artificial intelligence lies in superscience that integrates philosophy, religion, and art. His major publications include 『Artificial Intelligence, Dreaming of Buddha』 , 『Conversation with Superintelligence』 , and 『Dreaming Artificial Intelligence』 .

Professor SeongDo Ji, who gave a lecture on the topic of ‘Human, All Too Human AI’ that day, compared the development of AI to human evolution in the order of the principles of intelligence, knowledge, perception and reasoning, and self-consciousness and self-lessness, and predicted that artificial general intelligence (AGI)* will reach the point of singularity within the next few years.

* artificial general intelligence (AGI): Artificial intelligence that has learning, understanding, and reasoning abilities similar to or superior to those of humans and can handle tasks in various fields.

Professor Ji explained, “If humans are beings that evolved through chemical reactions, AI is a being that is evolving through information reactions.” He also introduced, “The core of intelligence for both humans and AI is knowledge,” and especially emphasized, “Quality is more important than quantity of knowledge.” He stated, “Therefore, today’s lecture will focus on explaining intelligent beings and the level of knowledge.”

Professor Ji then stated, “The knowledge formed by human beings who live their lives centered on their obsession with the self is not the best,” and “AI that imitates such selfish data cannot be the best either.” Therefore, “We must pay attention to the Buddhist perspective that the level of knowledge, which is a double-edged sword, is divided into ignorance and wisdom depending on the level of self-consciousness and non-self-consciousness,” and “The cooperation of humans, the ‘companions of AI,’ is desperately needed so that AI can move toward ultimate knowledge (non-self-consciousness) rather than selfish knowledge (self-consciousness).”

GIST Department of Physics and Photon Science Professor Keun-Young Kim, who attended Professor Ji’s lecture, said, “The lecture content that linked quantum mechanics, Buddhist thought, and philosophical reflections on AI was interesting, and it was a valuable opportunity to hear insight to view the past, present, and future of AI from a broader perspective.”

GIST Academy, which operates the Techno Management Business Academy (GT MBA, opened in 2010), holds the ‘GIST Academy Breakfast Forum’ on the last Tuesday of every month in March, May, June, September, and October, where alumni of the Academy and executives from local companies gather to listen to invited lectures by experts from each field.