

AI Days – The Latest in Artificial Intelligence Project Overview

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<http://tokyolectures.org/ai-days>

Short Description

The *AI Days* serve the purpose of a “show case” for universities and institutes around the globe, where they can demonstrate their current research, development, and teaching activities in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Thanks to videoconferencing and live streaming technology, a world-wide audience can participate interactively, and a recording of the presentations will be available online. The two full-day events are intended as a means to convey the ideas and concepts of Artificial Intelligence to a broad audience in an exciting and entertaining way. We strongly encourage not only research and teaching staff, but also students to present their work.

Overview

From October 2003 to February 2004, a videoconference-based lecture series on Modern Artificial Intelligence was delivered by Prof. Rolf Pfeifer (director, AI Lab, Institute of Informatics, University of Zurich) from the University of Tokyo to universities in Beijing, Jeddah, Lodz, Warsaw, Munich, and Zurich. The so-called “AI Lectures from Tokyo”¹ were intended to deliver a platform for intercultural communication and to help building a global AI community, while employing fully-interactive videoconference (VC) technology and teaching principles in novel ways. This lecture series was quite a success among the participating students, researchers, and institutes, and many asked for a follow-up event.

¹<http://tokyolectures.org>

So now, we are happy to announce a new project: Instead of having a lecture series, there will be two full-day events on December 14 and 21, 2005, so that universities all over the globe have the opportunity to present their current activities related to Artificial Intelligence.² By using a similar set-up as with the “AI Lectures from Tokyo”, the *AI Days* not only allow the audience (e.g. students, research institutes, interested private individuals) to get an overview of the state-of-the-art in AI, as taught and researched in distant institutions, but also to interact – ask questions, discuss issues, provide other forms of feedback – with the leading scientists in the field.

We think science is an ideal tool for communication, and that the exciting topics of Artificial Intelligence are well suited to attract institutes and individuals from a variety of backgrounds. The *AI Days* therefore also serve the purpose of fostering communication and common understanding among different (research) cultures. For this, we strongly encourage not only research and teaching staff, but also students from all over the world to present their projects.

Like the “AI Lectures from Tokyo”, the *AI Days* are an experiment in the usage of presence technology in the context of *edutainment* – that is, the combination of profound scientific content and entertainment in order to make the events more appealing to a broad audience.

World-wide videoconferences nowadays do not pose major technical difficulties anymore; one of the main issues, however, is of course the time difference between remote nations. Since we hope that universities from all over the globe will participate, the *AI Days* last about 8–9 hours each (in Zurich, that is). This means that for example Japanese and American universities most probably will not participate at the same time, but the whole conference will be recorded and made available on the projects’ website³.

Program

The full-day events are partitioned into 10–12 segments of approximately 45 minutes, each of which consists, for example, of

- short hello, sound and video test, introduction [1–2 minutes]
- presentation, live (preferred) or pre-recorded [20–25 minutes]
- discussion with other participating sites, questions [5–10 minutes]
- coffee break (can be used to connect/disconnect from the event) [5–10 minutes]

²In the previous scheme, it was not possible for American universities to participate because of time difference.

³<http://tokyolectures.org/ai-days>

Each institute is free in choosing form and content of their contribution – an individual or group presentation, video, etc. However, as the *AI Days* are meant to be interactive, pre-produced movies may not be desirable unless they are short enough to allow discussions with the participating sites after screening. Live presentations, which may be interrupted by other participating sites in case of questions, are highly preferred.

In order to help us organize the schedule, we kindly invite you to register with us as soon as possible, indicating which date and time⁴ you prefer as an “active” participant in the videoconference (“passive” participants who watch the events only via the live-stream do not need to register).

For technical information, please refer to the separate document, “Technology Overview”.

Contact

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⁴Depending on the number of participants, some sites may be allocated more time if necessary.