

AI MO INNOVATION CONSULTANTS (SMC-PVT) LTD.

“A Boutique Digital Transformation Consultancy”



# RECENT POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND LAWS RELATED TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACROSS THE CENTRAL ASIA

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## RECENT POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND LAWS RELATED TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACROSS THE CENTRAL ASIA

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Artificial Intelligence as technology is developing fast in Central Asian Region. In Post COVID World, it is expected to change the people's lives by improving healthcare (e.g. making diagnosis more precise, enabling better prevention of diseases), increasing the efficiency of state institutions (e-governments), contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, improving the efficiency of production systems through predictive maintenance, increasing the security of Central Asian, and in many other ways that we can only begin to imagine. At the same time, Artificial Intelligence (AI) entails a number of potential risks, such as opaque decision-making, gender-based or other kinds of discrimination, intrusion in our private lives or being used for criminal purposes. Against a background of fierce global competition, a solid Central Asian approach is needed, building on a Centralized AI Policy for Central Asia proposed by Ammar Younas. To address the opportunities and challenges of AI, the Central Asia must act as one and define its own way, based on Asian values, to promote the development and deployment of AI.

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## KAZAKHSTAN

On January 31, 2017, the President of Kazakhstan announced five priority points for the third stage of the country's modernization.<sup>3</sup> The first point of the program envisages accelerated technological modernization. The following steps are planned under this point:

Cultivate new industries created with the use of digital technologies and develop the country's prospective sectors such as 3D-printing, e-commerce, mobile banking, and digital services

Significantly increase the productivity of labor through widespread introduction of automation, robotics, AI, and exchange of "big data".

The realization of this agenda will be aided by the implementation of the following projects in the AI sector:

Creation of an international techno park of IT start-ups (Astana Hub)

Creation of model factories based on Industry 4.0 technologies

Development of open platforms (Open API), Big Data, and AI

Development of telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband internet access

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<sup>3</sup> Speech, President Nursultan Nazarbayev, State of the Nation Address, Third Modernization of Kazakhstan: Global Competitiveness (Jan. 31, 2017), [http://www.akorda.kz/en/addresses/addresses\\_of\\_president/the-president-of-kazakhstan-nursultan-nazarbayevs-address-to-the-nation-of-kazakhstan-january-31-2017](http://www.akorda.kz/en/addresses/addresses_of_president/the-president-of-kazakhstan-nursultan-nazarbayevs-address-to-the-nation-of-kazakhstan-january-31-2017), archived at <https://perma.cc/L8ZB-5R6W>.

## Implementation of Smart City components<sup>4</sup>

It is envisaged that the following IT and research centers will be the flagships for the development of AI in Kazakhstan:

Nazarbayev University

Astana International Financial Centre

Astana International Technology Park of IT Startups

Additionally, Alatau Park of Innovative Technologies will undergo substantial reforms.<sup>5</sup>

In 2018, Government of Kazakhstan approved a program called “Digital Kazakhstan” which is a significantly complex program, aiming at the elevation of living standards of country’s residents by using digital techniques. The major goals of the Program have accelerated economy growth of the Republic of Kazakhstan and have upgraded the living standards, as well as have created conditions for transition on a fundamentally new pathway – future digital economy.

Program implementation will be carried out in the period of 2018-2022 in five key directions:

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<sup>4</sup> Digital Kazakhstan: Current State of Affairs and Prospects for Future, PRIME MINISTER OF KAZAKHSTAN (Mar. 10, 2018), <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/all/tsifrovoy-kazahstan-realii-i-perspektivi-16155>, archived at <https://perma.cc/Z89U-2UWU>.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation of Artificial Intelligence: Europe and Central Asia, Library of Congress. [https://www.loc.gov/law/help/artificial-intelligence/europe-asia.php#\\_ftnref206](https://www.loc.gov/law/help/artificial-intelligence/europe-asia.php#_ftnref206)

1. “Digitization of the economy branches – reorganization of the RK economy traditional branches using groundbreaking technologies and possibilities, which increase labour productivity and lead to the capitalization growth.
2. “Transition to the digital state” – state infrastructure transformation to provide services for population and business, anticipating their demands.
3. “Implementation of the digital Silk Way” – development of a high speed and security infrastructure of the transfer, storage and processing of data.
4. “Evolution of the human capital assets” – transformational changes, comprising creative society formation and transition to the new realities – knowledge-based economy.
5. “Innovative ecosystem formation” – creation of the conditions for technological entrepreneurship development with stable relations between business, academic domain and state, as well as introduction of innovations into industry.<sup>6</sup>

At the Forum “Digital Almaty” on January 31, 2020 Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Askar Mamin stated: ‘Realizing the strategic need for the use of AI, in Kazakhstan we are implementing a set of measures aimed at developing the system of innovations on as a whole.’<sup>7</sup> Accelerated adaptation of Artificial Intelligence technologies is one of the priority

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<sup>6</sup> Digital Kazakhstan, <https://digitalkz.kz/en/about-the-program/>

<sup>7</sup>Askar Mamin: Artificial intelligence has potential in Kazakhstan, [https://forbes.kz/process/technologies/askar\\_mamin\\_ekonomicheskij\\_effekt\\_ot\\_primeneniya\\_ii\\_mojet\\_sostavit\\_ok\\_olo\\_25\\_mlrd/](https://forbes.kz/process/technologies/askar_mamin_ekonomicheskij_effekt_ot_primeneniya_ii_mojet_sostavit_ok_olo_25_mlrd/)

development tasks of our countries. The use of Artificial Intelligence will help to optimize many areas of our economies<sup>8</sup>.' A national cluster of artificial intelligence in Kazakhstan is being planned to create.

Prime Minister also said, "On the basis of Nazarbayev University, together with the World Bank, they will create a national cluster of artificial intelligence with their own laboratories, a research data processing center and a scientific park for the development of artificial intelligence." He also added that the first steps have been taken in Kazakhstan to introduce artificial intelligence for the development of an innovative ecosystem. Kazakhstan agreed with the World Economic Forum to launch the fourth industrial revolution on the basis of the AIFC Center by the end of the year. Moreover, new technologies will also be applied in the government's Smart Data Ukimet database.

In May 2020, At the initiative of the Consulate General of the Republic of Kazakhstan in San Francisco, with the support of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, an agreement was signed between Semey Medical University and XLabs on the use of artificial intelligence to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The goal of the project is to collect and analyze data on the spread of the disease; analysis of data on the epidemiological situation of other countries and Kazakhstan; machine analysis of management tactics for patients with CVI; automatic comparative analysis of measures taken to prevent the spread of CVI; development of more

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<sup>8</sup> Kazakhstan to create a national cluster of artificial intelligence - prime minister, <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/economy/20200131/12705994/kazakhstan-klaster-iskusstvennyi-intellekt.html>

effective methods for preventing the spread of the disease among the population of Kazakhstan.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Artificial intelligence will be used to combat COVID-19 in Kazakhstan,  
<https://profit.kz/news/57294/Iskusstvennij-intellekt-budet-primenyatsya-dlya-borbi-s-COVID-19-v-RK/>

## TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan hasn't introduced a formal policy or regulations to integrate Artificial Intelligence.

In 2018, a non-profit Organisation named as TajRupt prioritized artificial intelligence in the work of organization with an aim to make Tajikistan as regional AI research hub and entrepreneurship by 2025. It plans to integrate the AI into agriculture, manufacture, financial services, healthcare and other areas.

There are three areas emerged as the founding pillars of TajRupt.AI – Central Asia's first artificial intelligence research center. TajRupt.AI seeks to concurrently address these areas in the following way:

**Education:** high school and undergraduate students talented in STEM fields will receive educational training in computer science in an after-school format similar to TajRupt's curriculum. Students with a background in computer science will be educated in the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and data science.

**Applied research:** university students – both at undergraduate and graduate levels – majoring in computer science will be able to conduct specialized research on applying AI in social sectors such as education and healthcare. The tools of machine learning and deep learning will be prioritized in the process of applied research.

**Entrepreneurship:** students will be trained through an entrepreneurial curriculum to commercialize technological products through an



incubator space and mentorship resources. One specific area of focus will include the establishment of local ventures providing global companies outsourcing services for AI-related programming work, replicating the success of eastern European countries in becoming hubs for IT outsourcing in the past two decades.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> In Khujand, a local hub for social mobility creates better future for lower-income youth, CAAN, <https://caanetwork.org/archives/15965>

## TURKMENISTAN

Turkmenistan is working on many technologically advanced projects but still haven't introduced AI regulations and Laws. However, it has very well-developed intellectual property laws including Regulations of Algorithms, Electronic Computer Programs, Databases and Topographies of Integrated Circuits since 1995.

Turkmenistan became the member of WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) in 1991 and has IP Regulatory body with the name of "State Service for Intellectual Property of Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan".<sup>11</sup>

On October 22-23, 2019, the third Silk Road Forum was held in Tbilisi, in which the delegation of Turkmenistan headed by the Chairman of "Turkmenemiryollary" Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Communication of Turkmenistan also participated. The forum discussed many issues along with AI integration and development.<sup>12</sup>

Some private enterprises such as Bilytica are providing AI solutions in Turkmenistan.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> WIPO, [https://www.wipo.int/members/en/details.jsp?country\\_id=170](https://www.wipo.int/members/en/details.jsp?country_id=170)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mfa.gov.tm/en/news/1688>

<sup>13</sup> Bilytica, <https://www.bilytica.com/pk/tableau-qlikview-microstrategy-power-bi-cognos-blockchain-turkmenistan-ashgaba-turkmenabat/>

## KYRGYZSTAN

The very first perspectives of digitisation appeared back in 2013 with the establishment of the Council on Information and Communication Technologies under the Government of Kyrgyzstan. The council was empowered to develop constructive and effective strategies of technological implementation, particularly concerning the introduction of e-government in the country. In addition, in November 2014, Kyrgyz officials approved the introduction of electronic governance between 25 state agencies to allow paperless data exchange. It was supposed to vastly increase the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within the executive branch, and improve transparency in the inter-structural movement of information and other services. The ultimate goal was to fight and eradicate corruption.<sup>14</sup>

In 2017, Taza Koom 2040 (“Pure Society” or “Clean Society”) project was introduced as Kyrgyz Republic’s “human-centered” initiative to transform the country into a digital economy with digitally literate citizens, while incorporating new and expansive technologies. Taza Koom 2040, announced by former President Almazbek Atambayev and was part of the National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2040. The ambitious project was also one of three projects encompassing the Forty Steps to New Era for 2018-2023. The initiative had two overarching goals: develop human capital and create an innovation-friendly environment to build an open and transparent state. It was

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<sup>14</sup> Ella Alkanova, Kyrgyzstan: On the Path to Creating a Digital Society, <https://iaccseries.org/blog/kyrgyzstan-on-the-path-to-creating-a-digital-society/>

expected that the Taza Koom will also increase regional connectivity and form the core of Kyrgyzstan's digital economy.<sup>15</sup>

Besides government, many private and non-governmental actors are also involved in the development of AI based technologies in Kyrgyzstan. On January 18-19, 2019 Bishkek hosted the "AI for Government" hackathon (Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration and Services), organized as part of the "Young Inventors" program. This event was facilitated by The Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic, American Councils for International Education (ACPRYAL / ACCELS), American University of Central Asia (AUCA) and Neobis Club with financial support from the US Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic. The participant of this event presented the integration of AI in the spheres such as Medicine, Economy and Finance, Education and Big Database for governmental organizations. In 2019, The President of the Kyrgyz Republic inaugurated the Conference on Digital Transformation in Central Asia (DTCA) on October 4 in Bishkek. This three-day international Conference was jointly hosted by the University of Central Asia (UCA), State Committee for Information Technology and Communications, and the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic. Technology professionals, government officials, educators, and researchers discussed the latest approaches to solving intriguing challenges in the fields of data collection and analysis, digitising government services, management (public and private enterprise), cyber

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<sup>15</sup> Samantha Brletich, Kyrgyzstan's Taza Koom Project Highlights Development Challenges – Analysis, <https://www.eurasiareview.com/24022018-kyrgyzstans-taza-koom-project-highlights-development-challenges-analysis/>

security, and the increasing role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education and research.<sup>16</sup>

On 15 February 2019 the Government of Kyrgyzstan passed a decree on implementation of the Concept of digital transformation "Digital Kyrgyzstan 2019-2023", approved by the decision of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic dated December 14, 2018 No. 2. This decree stipulates approved five-year strategy for Sanarip Kyrgyzstan to achieve the long-term sustainable development goals in the digital space, including AI.<sup>17</sup>

Under the framework of The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (Turkmenistan as a guest attendee ) participated in the seventh meeting of the Special Working Group on Modern Information and Telecommunications Technologies in the SCO Member States in Bishkek on 17-18 October 2019. The cooperation concept was designed to expand cooperation between the SCO Member States in digitalization, information and communication technologies and innovation. Information security, robotics, the internet of things, big data handling and artificial intelligence are among its priorities.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> UCA, President Highlights Digital Transformation Goals for Kyrgyzstan, <https://ucentralasia.org/Resources/Item/2368/EN>

<sup>17</sup> Aziz Soltobaev, Expert Report, Digital skills and entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan, UNDP Project: Digital skills and opportunities for youth employment towards digital economy in the Kyrgyz Republic. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/library/poverty/digital-skills-and-opportunities-for-youth-employment-towards-di.html>

<sup>18</sup> <http://eng.sectsco.org/news/20191018/590011.html>

On May 20, 2020 The State Committee for Information Technology and Communications reported Kyrgyzstan launches service for data separation for Artificial Intelligence. <sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> [https://24.kg/english/151981\\_Kyrgyzstan\\_launches\\_service\\_for\\_data\\_separation\\_for\\_artificial\\_intelligence/](https://24.kg/english/151981_Kyrgyzstan_launches_service_for_data_separation_for_artificial_intelligence/)

## UZBEKISTAN

The legal aspect of AI related issues started taking shape in 2018, when ‘Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Measures for the Development of the Digital Economy in the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 04.07.2018 , № 07/18/3832/1452’ was passed. It aimed to develop the integration of Blockchain technologies (distributed data registry technologies), Artificial Intelligence, utilization of the capabilities of Supercomputers, as well as activities related to Crypto-Assets. The Decree aimed to give a practical impact on the strategy of smooth entrance of all above mentioned areas into legal practice.<sup>20</sup>

Moreover, most recently the draft (project) decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the strategy for the development of artificial intelligence in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2021-2022" was presented for the comments till 26 of July. This project aims to create an online database in the state language, which will be regularly updated on the basis of structured data to obtain information in the field of artificial intelligence by the population. It covers:

- basic concepts of AI;
- the scope of AI;
- news in the area of AI;
- short free online courses in the state language;

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<sup>20</sup> Resolution President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to develop the digital economy in the republic of Uzbekistan, <https://lex.uz/docs/3806048>

- AI strategy;
- an online platform for the exchange of innovative ideas.<sup>21</sup>

In addition, the project intends to develop a concept for the systematic development of educational areas STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and research activities in the country until 2030. It is envisaged to develop a draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on the establishment of the National Center for Research and Development of Artificial Intelligence at the Scientific and Practical Center for the Implementation of Innovative Developments under the Ministry of Innovative Development.

In March 2019, in a conference organized by University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ammar Younas proposed the idea of an Uzbek Centered AI Policy.<sup>22</sup> In his presentation, he said, “The immediate and first step for Uzbekistan is to officially consider the question of drafting an Artificial Intelligence Policy for the country. This should be done by involving stakeholders from all the domains. It should be kept on the highest strategic priority of the political and legal strategy of the country.”

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<sup>21</sup> DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN, Strategy for the development of artificial intelligence in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2021-2022 ID-19838, <https://regulation.gov.uz/ru/document/19838>

<sup>22</sup> Younas, Ammar, Sustaining Innovative Economy in Fourth Industrial Revolution: A Whitepaper of Uzbek Centered Artificial Intelligence Policy (February 01, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3533410> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3533410>



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