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Tashkent Emerges as an AI Hotspot as Uzbekistan Launches New Innovation Cluster



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Uzbekistan is stepping up its drive to become a leading technology and artificial intelligence center in Central Asia with the launch of a new AI cluster at the Tashkent University of Information Technologies (TUIT) named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi. This initiative integrates high tech computing infrastructure, AI Research and Application, hands-on training, prototyping and start up incubation within a single campus. The new house is expected to rise the country's ability to train skilled experts, conduct local research in the field of artificial intelligence, and develop solutions based on technology that can be applied to different areas of the economy, including government, business, education, industry and others.



On 9th July 2026, the AI cluster was officially launched, marked by the participation of government leaders, technology industry professionals, academics and researchers, as well as university leaders and students. The event was attended by Digital Technologies Minister Sherzod Shermatov along with top officials of the Presidential Administration and Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, which are actively engaged in digitalisation and the introduction of artificial intelligence in the country. The government's intention to use AI to accelerate the country's digital transformation and create a technology-led economy is evident in their participation.

The new facility is equipped with the latest computing system. The GPU cluster is powered by cutting-edge GPUs, and the high-performance and versatile servers can manage heavy AI tasks efficiently. The infrastructure is essential for training machine-learning models and processing large data sets, which can be a challenging task when implementing cutting-edge AI systems. The

new resources will allow students and researchers to work on the creation of AI models, processing large data sets, machine learning, computer vision, data analysis, and many other high-tech applications, without being solely dependent on the cloud.

The university has also created dedicated spaces designed to connect academic education with practical innovation. The new AI cluster includes an AI Laboratory, an AI Prototyping Room, and an AI Lecture Room, giving students and researcher's areas for experimentation, technical training, research projects, and the development of prototypes. The facilities are expected to support projects involving artificial intelligence, 3D design, the Internet of Things, machine learning, and startup development. This practical approach is significant because demand for AI professionals is expanding rapidly worldwide, and universities are increasingly expected to provide students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with direct experience of the tools and systems used in the technology industry.



The launch also accompanied by the presentation of several start-up projects and scientific developments, and the introduction of the AI module of the ServSig project. By bringing together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and technology specialists, the cluster could provide a pathway for innovative ideas to move from university research into prototypes and eventually commercial products.



The innovation centers of the universities can also offer technical expertise and computing facilities for young entrepreneurs and facilitate interaction between industry and academia. This is particularly critical for Uzbekistan,

which is seeking to create technology market and offer more opportunities for young people in more complex digital professions.

The development of the AI infrastructure at TUIT is part of a wide-ranging digital transformation in Uzbekistan. New technologies, artificial intelligence, innovation and technology education have become an increasingly pivotal component of the government's economic agendas for the country. Investments in digital infrastructure and technical education are directed towards developing a larger pool of workers for advanced technology fields like software engineering, artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, robotics, cloud computing and more. A key part of this is to build stronger universities that are able to feed into the research, engineering and entrepreneurship pipeline to create a sustainable technology ecosystem.



The steps taken by the governments of Central Asian countries are also part of a wider transformation taking place throughout the region as governments race to create digital economy and win technology investment. The government of Kazakhstan has intensified its own AI and digital-technology initiatives, and the government of Uzbekistan has been ramping up the development of artificial intelligence, digital government, technology education, and innovation. Expansion of AI infrastructure at the universities will provide opportunities for the countries in the region to build solutions that are more attuned to local languages, public services, businesses and social needs. It can also help to promote more partnerships between universities and technology firms of the Central Asian region, as the countries strive to create regional specialists instead of depending solely on foreign experts and technologies.

It is of particular importance to educate the workforce in the area of technology in the country that is actively developing digitalization in the economy. Training the country's workforce in the field of technology is particularly important for Uzbekistan as it is developing digitalization in the economy. As AI tools become increasingly important for businesses, both locally and globally, a

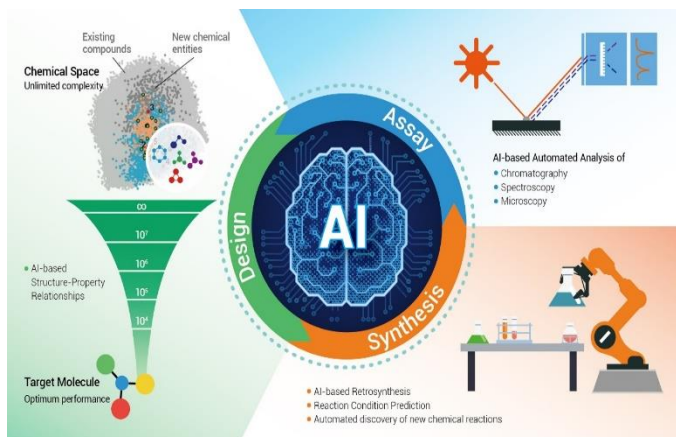


growing number of engineers, programmers, researchers and data specialists can help get these tools to market for domestic businesses and develop new technology-based businesses. Applications of AI can be as varied as Agriculture, Healthcare, Financial Services, Manufacturing, Logistics, Education, Public Administration and Energy. But getting these benefits won't be done just with computers. The quality of education, the level of funding for scientific research, the availability of reliable scientific data, international scientific cooperation, a close relationship between universities and industry, as well as career prospects of graduates in the country's technology industry will also play a key role in the long-term progress.

The new TUIT cluster is more than just the opening of a new university building. It is a part of the efforts of Uzbekistan to form an educational environment for the development of education, science, entrepreneurship and advanced technologies. The linkage could be strengthened by the increased integration of classroom teaching with the real-life technological development, through access to modern computing facilities and specialised facilities for researchers. In the meantime, start-up driven innovation centres could be provided that provide students and researchers with a broader perspective on universities as not only places to learn, but also as places to launch new technology businesses and innovative products.

The initiative is also significant from a scientific perspective. Artificial intelligence research increasingly depends on access to powerful computing systems, large datasets, specialist knowledge, and collaboration among researchers from different disciplines. By offering special facilities at the leading technology university, Uzbekistan can provide favorable conditions for young researchers to experiment with the use of AI and to participate in scientific projects. This will allow the country's research capacity to be built up over time and link up the country with universities and technology companies from other countries and research institutions.

The initiative of the government of Uzbekistan to develop AI capacity at TUIT is a positive development because the government is investing in AI as a strategic technology and it is not only a technology, but a society. AI is being increasingly used in various public services, businesses, education, scientific research, and industrial processes. The countries that build up their domestic skills and infrastructure will be better able to deal with these shifts and benefit from the economic opportunity of new technologies.



The long-term impact of the new AI cluster will depend on how effectively Uzbekistan converts infrastructure and educational opportunities into research achievements, successful startups, skilled graduates, and practical applications. Continued investment in computing capacity, teacher and researcher training, international partnerships, and private-sector cooperation will be important if the facility is to reach its full potential. Nevertheless, its launch sends a clear message about Uzbekistan's technological ambitions: artificial intelligence is no longer being treated simply as an emerging field of study, but as a strategic component of the country's plans for digital transformation, innovation, and economic growth.

With the establishment of the AI cluster, TUIT is positioned to play a significant role in developing the technological landscape of Uzbekistan, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience among students and researchers while providing access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources. With the country steadily progressing towards a digital economy, the facility may prove to be a significant centre for nurturing AI skills and locally relevant technologies. In Uzbekistan, the project is part of a strategic approach to becoming a player in creating digital products and digital solutions, and to actively participating in the development of new digital technologies.