



**AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
PERSONS OF THE YEAR 2026**

**AFRICAN LEADERSHIP IMPACT
EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Şakir Yavuz
President & Founder
ATAFOM University International



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REPAIRING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY LEADERS: ATAFOM'S VISION FOR THE DIGITAL FUTURE

The Value of Technology Studies in a Rapidly Evolving Digital World

In an era defined by rapid digital transformation, technology education has become one of the most valuable and impactful academic pathways worldwide. Across industries and societies, technology shapes how we work, communicate, innovate, and address complex global challenges. As digital systems continue to redefine professional and social structures, technological education is no longer a niche specialization—it is a fundamental pillar of modern development.

At ATAFOM University International, technology studies are positioned as a strategic investment in the future. Through its Faculty of Technology, a diverse portfolio of IT-focused courses, and the ATAFOM Language Academy (ALA) IT English Course, the University equips learners with the skills and competencies needed to succeed in an increasingly interconnected and technology-driven world.

Driving Innovation and Progress

Technology lies at the heart of innovation and economic advancement. From software development and digital infrastructure to data analytics, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies, technological expertise enables individuals to create solutions that enhance efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability. Societies with strong technological capacity are better positioned to foster entrepreneurship, support economic growth, and remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Studying technology cultivates not only technical proficiency but also analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability—skills essential in a rapidly changing professional landscape.

Enhancing Global Employability

One of the strongest advantages of technology education is its direct link to employability. Digital competencies are increasingly required across sectors including finance, healthcare, education, governance, logistics, and the creative industries. Employers worldwide seek professionals who can confidently navigate digital tools, manage information systems, and adapt to evolving technological environments.

Technology qualifications also offer exceptional global mobility. Digital skills are transferable across borders, making graduates highly competitive in international labour markets. This aligns closely with ATAFOM University International's vision of education without borders and its commitment to preparing students for global careers.

ATAFOM's Technology Pathways

ATAFOM University International offers two Bachelor's degree programmes within its Faculty of Technology, supported by fifteen specialized IT courses designed to meet current industry needs and emerging technological trends. These pathways combine academic depth with practical relevance, enabling students to translate knowledge into real-world solutions.

Whether pursuing a comprehensive academic degree or targeted professional skills, students benefit from a flexible and application-oriented curriculum that reflects global technological developments.

Language and Technology: A Strategic Combination

Effective communication is essential in today's digital environment. Through the ALA IT English Course, ATAFOM strengthens students' ability to operate professionally in international technological contexts. By integrating language competence with technical education, the University enhances students' capacity to collaborate globally and access international knowledge networks.

Shaping the Future through Technology Education

Technology education extends beyond professional advancement—it contributes to societal transformation. Digital solutions improve access to education, healthcare, governance, and financial services, empowering communities and supporting sustainable development.

By investing in technology education, ATAFOM University International supports the development of skilled, responsible digital professionals who are prepared to lead in a technology-driven world. Through its academic programmes, specialized IT courses, and integrated language training, the University continues to position itself as a forward-looking institution committed to innovation, global relevance, and inclusive progress. In a world shaped by digital transformation, studying technology is more than an academic choice—it is a strategic pathway to opportunity, leadership, and sustainable global development.



Şakir Yavuz

THE 15TH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE PERSON OF THE
YEAR - POTY 2026

“INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT AND NARRATIVE OWNERSHIP.”

A Global Recognition: POTY Awards 2026 in Accra

In February 2026, Accra, Ghana became the focal point of an important international gathering celebrating leadership, innovation, and global impact. The occasion was the prestigious African Leadership Magazine Persons of the Year Awards 2026, an annual event that recognizes individuals and institutions whose work contributes meaningfully to leadership development, sustainable progress, and international cooperation.

The 2026 edition of the awards was particularly significant, as it attracted a diverse group of influential leaders and visionaries from across the world. The gathering served not only as a celebration of achievements but also as a forum for dialogue about leadership, collaboration, and the role of visionary individuals in addressing global challenges.

Among the distinguished personalities recognized at the ceremony was Şakir Yavuz, President and Founder of ATAFOM University International. His recognition reflects years of dedicated work in advancing international education, fostering academic cooperation, and building bridges between institutions across continents.

For ATAFOM University International, the recognition represents far more than a ceremonial honour. It highlights the growing international relevance of the institution's mission to promote accessible, globally connected education systems that encourage knowledge sharing and cross-cultural understanding.

The awards ceremony was held under the distinguished chairmanship of Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of Tanzania, who served in office from 2005 to 2015. Currently serving as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for the African Leadership Magazine Persons of the Year Awards, President Kikwete's involvement underscores the credibility and significance of the event within international leadership circles.

Throughout the evening, the event celebrated individuals whose work has contributed to economic development, governance, innovation, and social progress. It highlighted the importance of leadership that transcends national boundaries and fosters cooperation among nations, institutions, and communities.

Within this context, the recognition of President Şakir Yavuz was particularly noteworthy. His work in establishing and expanding ATAFOM University International has focused on building a global educational ecosystem where institutions from different regions can collaborate, exchange knowledge, and develop innovative academic initiatives.

President Yavuz's leadership has been guided by the belief that education is one of the most powerful instruments for building sustainable and inclusive societies. Through educational collaboration, individuals and institutions gain opportunities to learn from one another, exchange perspectives, and work collectively toward solutions that benefit humanity as a whole.

This philosophy is reflected in ATAFOM's activities and initiatives, which consistently emphasize international engagement and cross-cultural understanding. By bringing together diverse educational stakeholders, the institution fosters an environment where new ideas can flourish and where collaborative projects can address emerging global challenges.

The recognition at the African Leadership Magazine Persons of the Year Awards therefore represents a significant milestone not only for President Şakir Yavuz personally but also for the broader ATAFOM community. It affirms the importance of the institution's vision and highlights the growing influence of its work in international educational networks. Events such as the POTY Awards serve an important purpose in the global leadership landscape. They provide a platform to acknowledge individuals whose dedication and commitment have made a measurable difference in their respective fields. At the same time, they inspire future leaders to pursue innovative approaches and to prioritize collaboration in addressing complex global issues.

For ATAFOM University International, the recognition of its President represents an encouraging affirmation of the institution's mission. Over time, ATAFOM has steadily expanded its network of collaborations, academic programs, and educational initiatives, positioning itself as an active participant in the global conversation about the future of higher education.

Looking ahead, the recognition in Accra is expected to further strengthen ATAFOM's international presence and encourage new opportunities for cooperation with partners across the globe. It stands as a testament to the impact that visionary leadership and persistent dedication can achieve when guided by a clear and inclusive mission.

The POTY Awards 2026 therefore marked not only a celebration of achievements but also a reaffirmation of the power of education to connect societies, inspire progress, and shape the leaders of tomorrow. For ATAFOM University International and its global community, the moment in Accra will remain a memorable milestone in the institution's continuing journey toward advancing international education and cooperation.



Building Bridges Through Education for Integration:

The Vision, Leadership, and Journey of Şakir Yavuz

Born in 1968 in Erzurum, Türkiye, he gained, through his family's move to Lübeck, Germany, an early understanding of the commitment required to build a future. During his active years as an athlete, his entrepreneurial development began in parallel. Guided by his enduring principle, "The success of every action begins in the head," Şakir Yavuz embodies a leadership model that unites intellect, responsibility, and global vision—building not only institutions, but also bridges between continents, cultures, and generations.

Through the establishment of Perfect Timing Holding, he created an internationally operating corporate network across various future-oriented industries.

With economic success came new opportunities to broaden his focus. What will children and grandchildren remember?

To be recognized as an education visionary, philanthropist, and bridge builder may ultimately carry greater significance than business achievements alone.

"Education for Integration" was born. It is more than a guiding principle—it is the philosophy that shapes the work of Şakir Yavuz as President and Founder of ATAFOM University International. Education is understood as the key to integration, stability, and sustainable development.

With the founding of ATAFOM University International, he initiated an educational model centered on cultural diversity and international access to high-quality education—regardless of origin, faith, language, or economic circumstances.

His objective is to make international educational standards accessible without requiring learners to leave their familiar environment. Through digital structures and flexible learning pathways, the full potential of the digital world is utilized to make global student teams the new standard across diverse fields. Professors become mentors, working together with students to shape the future.

This commitment reflects Şakir Yavuz's conviction that education entails responsibility and that sustainable progress emerges through knowledge, cooperation, and global connectivity.

Andreas Gleisenstein
Vice President
ATAFOM University International



**AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
PERSONS
OF THE YEAR**

...Rewarding Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Development in Africa



**AFRICAN
LEADERSHIP
ORGANIZATION**

**African
Leadership
Magazine**

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...Rewarding Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Development in Africa



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INSPIRE.
CELEBRATE.**

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DEPUTY COMPTROLLER GENERAL,
NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE



DR. BRUNO LINYIRU

DIRECTOR GENERAL,
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AUTHORITY (AFA),
KENYA



Celebrations and Global Day



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

8 TH
MARCH

CELEBRATING WOMEN AROUND THE GLOBE!

On this special day, we celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women around the world. International Women's Day is a reminder of the importance of equality, opportunity, and inclusion in every sphere of society.

At ATAFOM, we honour the women who lead, teach, learn, innovate, and inspire within our global community. Their contributions shape education, strengthen leadership, and drive meaningful change.

Today, we celebrate progress and reaffirm our commitment to empowering women through education without borders.

Happy International Women's Day.
From ATAFOM International.



Mathematics is the universal language that connects science, technology, innovation, and everyday life. On 14 March, we celebrate the power of mathematics to solve problems, inspire discovery, and support global development.

From engineering and finance to digital technologies and research, mathematics remains the foundation of progress in our increasingly digitalized world.

At ATAFOM, we encourage analytical thinking, logical reasoning, and innovation — skills that begin with a strong mathematical understanding.

March 14 (3.14) celebrates the mathematical constant π , the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Happy Pi (π) = 3.14159265358979323846... Day!

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UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION FOR INTEGRATION

ATAFOM[®]
EUROPE
Boundless Education

ATAFOM[®]
LANGUAGE ACADEMY
MAKES IT HAPPEN

ATAFOM[®]
EDUCATION APP
Connect. Learn. Succeed.

Eid Mubarak

May Allah fill your life with peace, happiness, and prosperity; may He always grant you success, guidance, and countless blessings.

Gesegnetes Bayram

Möge Allah dein Leben mit Frieden, Glück und Wohlstand erfüllen; möge Er dir immer Erfolg, Rechtleitung und unzählige Segnungen schenken.

Bayramınız mübarek olsun!

Allah hayatınızı huzur, mutluluk ve bereketle doldursun; size her zaman başarı, hidayet ve sayısız nimet nasip etsin.

www.ATAFOM.university





ATAFOM UNIVERSITY COURSE OFFERINGS

SECOND SEMESTER // SUMMER SEMESTER 2026

BACHELOR COURSE OFFERINGS

SECOND SEMESTER // SUMMER SEMESTER

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26

Welcome to ATAFOM University International

Empowering Global Minds. Building a United Future.

At ATAFOM University International, we believe that true education is a journey that connects hearts, minds, and cultures. More than just academics, we offer an experience that inspires unity, fosters innovation, and cultivates future global leaders.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Şakir Yavuz, our university lives by the motto “Education for Integration.” We’re creating a worldwide community where students from every background come together to learn, grow, and transform their potential into purpose. Our online classrooms are vibrant hubs of diversity, where bold ideas are celebrated, global perspectives are shared, and lifelong friendships begin. Whether you're just starting your academic path, upskilling for career advancement, or seeking intellectual enrichment, ATAFOM offers programs designed for today's world—and tomorrow's challenges. Here, education is more than textbooks and lectures. It's a gateway to meaningful impact in an interconnected world. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and cultural understanding shapes not only careers but character.

Join ATAFOM University International—where learning has no borders, and your global journey begins.

Discover the programs that are redefining international education.

SECOND SEMESTER SUMMER SEMESTER

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26

- ◆ Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication (B.A.) at the Faculty of Arts
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts in International Business Development (B.A.) at the Faculty of Economics
- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (B.Sc.- IT) at the Faculty of Information Technology
- ◆ Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.) at the Faculty of Initial Public Offering

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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-to-atafom2/>

15 IT CERTIFICATION COURSE OFFERINGS:

- ◆ **Basics of Python**
- ◆ **Basics of AutoCAD**
- ◆ **Basics of Graphics Designing**
- ◆ **Basics of Backend Development (Using Django)**
- ◆ **Basics of Blockchain**
- ◆ **Basics of Data Analysis**
- ◆ **Basics of Java**
- ◆ **Frontend Development: Level One: Beginner**
- ◆ **Frontend Development: Level Two: Intermediate**
- ◆ **Frontend Development: Level Three: Advanced**
- ◆ **Frontend Development: Level Four: Expert**
- ◆ **Database and SQL**
- ◆ **Generative AI for Everyone**
- ◆ **Deep Learning and Neural Networks**
- ◆ **Basics of Software Engineering Principles**

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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-now-it-certification-course/>

ATAFOM LANGUAGE ACADEMY COURSE OFFERINGS:

LEARN ENGLISH

ATAFOM LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Communication Made Easy

— Online —

English language courses are available at ATAFOM Language Academy, with options for different proficiency levels, ranging from ALA I to ALA II.

- ◆ ALA-A0 as Pre ALA-A1: Starter
- ◆ ALA-A1: Beginner Level
- ◆ ALA-A2: Elementary Level
- ◆ ALA-B1: Pre-Intermediate Level
- ◆ ALA-B2: Intermediate Level
- ◆ ALA-C1: Upper-Intermediate Level
- ◆ ALA-C2: Advanced Level
- ◆ ALA-BE I: B2 Business English I (Requires minimum language level of ALC-B2)
- ◆ ALA-BE II: C1 Business English II (Requires minimum language level of ALC-C1)
- ◆ ALA-BE III: C2 Business English III (Requires minimum language level of ALC-C2)
- ◆ ALA-IT English



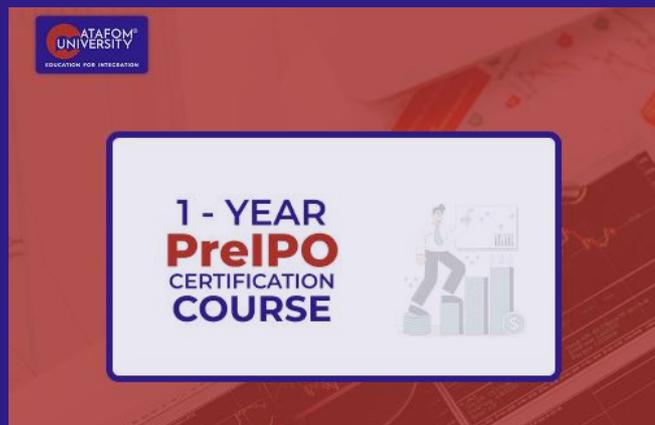
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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/language-academy/>

FACULTY OF INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING CERTIFICATION COURSE OFFERINGS:

The Faculty of Initial Public Offering at ATAFOM University International brings you multiple PreIPO certification programs along with the Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.). The certification programs begin every month. Find your best match here -



At ATAFOM University International, we are committed to providing an education that blends modern innovation with academic excellence. Our goal is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to succeed in today's fast-changing world.

With a strong emphasis on global perspectives and real-world learning, we ensure that our students are not only prepared for their careers but also for leadership in an interconnected society.

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Write to us for any queries: contact@ATAFOM.university

Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-now-preipo-certification-course/>



FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

ATAFOM University International



“The Success Of Every Action Begins In The Head.”

Helped him pave a way to create the university offering an inclusive education. He is firmly convinced that the children of this world with different cultural backgrounds and countries of origin as well as languages should have the same right to education. He has set himself the task of giving young people access to university education of the highest international quality and with equal opportunities, in the conviction that success requires permanent concentration, strong motivation and extreme commitment.

At ATAFOM University International, "Education for Integration" is developed, taught and lived. The team of internationally renowned professional teachers and experienced staff at ATAFOM University International will meet the highest international standards and will do everything possible to meet and exceed all of our students' expectations and educational goals as they embark on undergraduate studies or learn the English language when they enroll in ATAFOM Language Academy.

The digital innovation and knowledge campus of ATAFOM University International - ConiaSoft Online Campus, which accommodates everyone who is willing to learn, makes it possible to create educational bridges between all continents.

Şakir Yavuz

President & Founder,

ATAFOM University International

PRESIDENT'S QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“

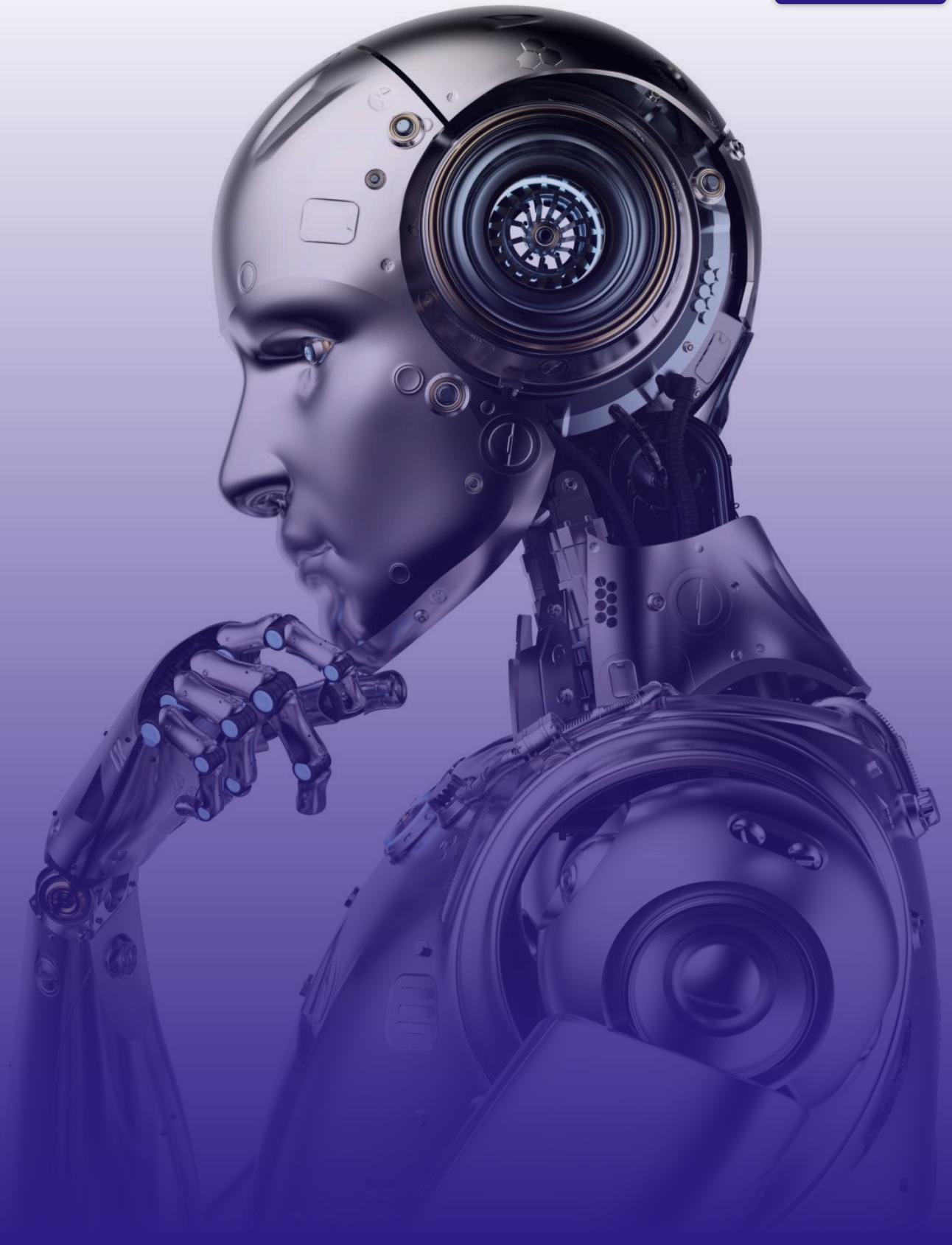
Technology must not divide knowledge, cultures, or societies. Its true purpose is to connect people, expand opportunity, and enable meaningful participation in a global world. At ATAFOM, we believe in Technology for Integration”

— — —

Şakir Yavuz

Founder & President

ATAFOM University International



CONIASOFT AND AI

The Application And Use Of AI Is A Task With A High Level Of Responsibility

The mass dissemination and use of artificial intelligence (AI) has both significant advantages and non-negligible negative effects for private and commercial users. These developments are complex and affect numerous aspects of modern life. When considering the positive and negative effects, it is important to clearly state both the opportunities and the risks.

1. Data Protection And Privacy

Private Users

The concern about data misuse is justified, as many AI systems require large amounts of data, including voice recordings and search behavior. This sensitivity of the collected data poses risks not only for the misuse of personal information, but also for potential surveillance. AI-powered tracking and analytics tools have made it possible to monitor user behavior extensively, whether through social media or smart home devices. In addition, there is often a lack of transparency: users are often unaware of what data is collected, how it is processed or whether it is passed on to third parties.

Commercial

Companies face compliance risks, especially in the EU with strict data protection laws such as the GDPR. Compliance with these laws can make it difficult for AI systems to operate. In addition, there is a risk of losing sensitive data due to data leaks or industrial espionage, especially with commercial AI solutions such as cloud services.

2. Wrong Decisions And Trust Problems

Private Users

A central problem is the lack of traceability. Decisions made by AI systems (e.g. in credit checks or application filters) are often not transparent and act as a "black box", which affects users' trust in the systems. In addition, erroneous recommendations based on misinterpreted data can lead to significant adverse consequences, such as incorrect diagnoses, unfavorable financial decisions, or misleading purchase recommendations.

Commercial

On the part of companies, algorithmic bias can occur when training data contains biases. This can have serious consequences for personnel decisions or customer rating systems. When customers find that AI is acting unfairly or incorrectly, it can lead to a significant loss of trust and thus damage to brand image

3. Economic And Societal Impact

Private Users

Automation through AI is increasingly leading to job losses, especially in areas such as administration, transportation, customer service, and media production. This development creates inequalities, as people without digital skills are disadvantaged in the labour market.

Commercial

For companies, costs and dependence on large AI providers are an important issue. Commercial AI solutions can be costly and difficult to implement, resulting in a dependency on a few major vendors. As a result, innovation is constrained as small and medium-sized enterprises struggle to keep up with the superior resources of large firms, which can ultimately lead to technological monopolization.

4. Ethical And Psychological Aspects

Private Users

AI algorithms can lead to users being locked in filter bubbles through manipulated, personalized content, which negatively affects opinion-forming. The transition to over-reliance on these systems, in turn, leads to a loss of autonomy, as users may limit their own decision-making ability.

Commercial

For companies, ethical dilemmas arise from the use of AI in sensitive areas such as surveillance and human resource management. Questions of responsibility and fairness are becoming more urgent. For ethical reasons, poorly planned use of AI can lead to reputational risks, as such handling can result in public criticism and a loss of brand image

Principles For AI – Development And Use For Coniasoft

- a) In dialogue with users of our software
- b) In dialogue with customers.

1. Data Protection And Privacy

Data Minimization: Only store the data that is absolutely necessary and avoid the storage of sensitive information as far as possible.

Anonymization: Ensuring that personal data is anonymized or pseudonymized to minimize traceability.

Compliance: Follow legal requirements such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Germany or other relevant data protection laws.

Transparency: Clearly informing users about data collection, processing and use. Creation of the possibility to refuse and withdraw consent to data storage.

Security Measures: Implement robust security protocols in the AI application to protect the data from unauthorized access or loss.

2. Minimization Of Wrong Decisions And Trust Problems

Specification for the development of AI algorithms that make comprehensible and transparently explainable decisions so that users can understand the results.

Using Bias Checking: Bias checking, also known as bias analysis or bias assessment, is a process that aims to identify, evaluate, and minimize bias in artificial intelligence (AI) datasets, algorithms, or models.

By conducting the bias check thoroughly, the fairness and equity of AI applications can be improved in order to contribute to strengthening trust in and acceptance of AI technologies.

A) Identification Of Bias

- **Data Analysis:** Examine the datasets used for existing biases that may arise from unequal representation, stereotyping, or historical injustices. Pay attention to factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, etc.
- **Model Evaluation:** Analyze the results of the model to determine whether it systematically makes erroneous or unfair decisions among certain groups of users

B) Reduction Of Bias

- Data sampling through the use of techniques to improve data diversity, e.g. by specifically sourcing additional data from underrepresented groups.
- **Algorithmic Adjustments:** Integration of fairness criteria during the training of the model or use of algorithms specifically designed to reduce bias.

3. Verification And Validation

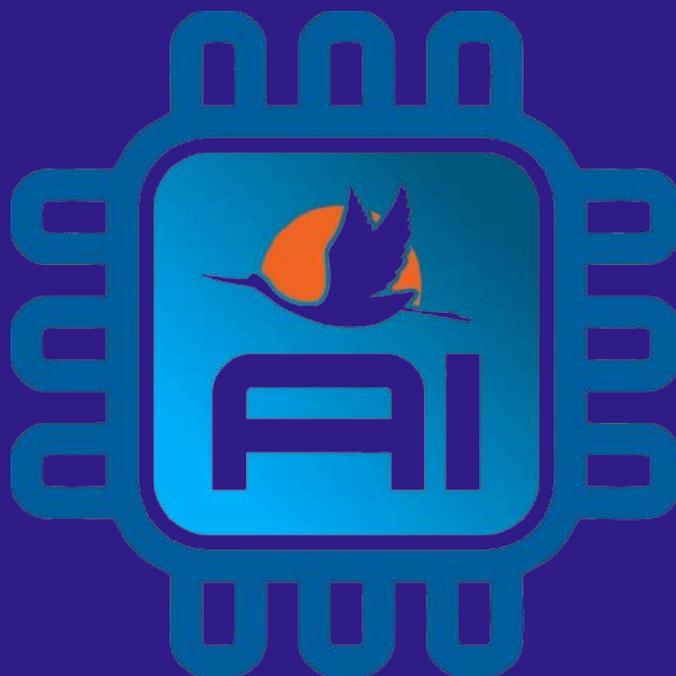
Regular testing and evaluation to verify the fairness of the AI application, including cross-validation to ensure performance remains consistent across different demographics.

Implement mechanisms to collect feedback from users, especially those potentially affected by bias, to continuously learn and improve.

4. Documentation And Transparency

Documentation of bias checks and actions taken.

Developing guidelines on the ethical use of AI and responsibility in dealing with bias.



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ATAFOM UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Claim Education For Integration

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ATAFOM[®] UNIVERSITY

EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 37, MARCH 2026



"The success of every action
begins in the head."

Şakir Yavuz

Founder & President

ATAFOM University International

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