AMD partners Singapore university to launch AI lab

Chipmaker teams up with Nanyang Technological University to set up a S$4.8 million (US$3.5 million) lab aimed at building up local skillsets in data science and artificial intelligence.

By Eileen Yu for By The Way | December 14, 2018 -- 16:47 GMT (00:47 GMT+08:00) | Topic: Artificial Intelligence

AMD and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have jointly set up a S$4.8 million (US$3.5 million) lab aimed at building up local skillsets in data science and artificial intelligence (AI).

The new facility would support the university's undergraduate programme encompassing the two technology areas and enable its students to experience real-world applications, such as the development of software models used in security including identification and motion detection. They also would be able to learn about big data analytics applications often used in large enterprise environments and develop, for instance, clinical support software that used analytics tools to assist medical diagnosis.

Under the partnership, NTU students that worked on research projects and machine learning applications at the lab would be tapping AMD's Radeon Open Compute (https://www.zdnet.com/article/amd-unveils-radeon-instinct-mi60-and-mi50-accelerators-for-ai-and-hpc/) platform, said the two organisations in a statement Friday. The students also would receive training to prepare for supercomputing competitions using the open source software platform for hyperscale computing.

In addition, these undergraduates would have opportunities to experience local and overseas attachment with AMD, whilst NTU would support AMD engineers who were keen to pursue PhD programmes

(https://www.zdnet.com/article/singapore-aims-to-build-up-ai-skills-for-digital-economy/)

Singapore aims to build up AI skills for digital economy (https://www.zdnet.com/article/singapore-aims-to-build-up-ai-skills-for-digital-economy/)

Country's government has introduced initiatives to train 12,000 people in artificial intelligence skillsets, including industry

through the Industrial Post-graduate Programme offered by Singapore's Economic Development Board.

Starting from the university's 2019 academic year, undergraduates would be able to intern at AMD's Shanghai Research and Development Center as well as Singapore Product Development Center.

AMD would provide one of its current generation of server processor (EPYC) and Radeon Instinct MI25 accelerator to support the lab, which it said could be scaled to handle hyperscale workloads.

The chipmaker also would offer its latest server technologies, such as the Radeon Instinct MI60 accelerators, to further support the lab in future. In addition, its AI and machine-learning specialists would work with NTU professors to conduct joint training and workshop sessions for industry professionals.

Dean of NTU's College of Engineering Louis Phee said: "This collaboration with AMD highlights NTU's drive in nurturing strong relations with top industry partners to provide students with industry-relevant education. This will not only give them first-hand insights in solving real-world challenges, but also give them an edge when navigating today's dynamic workplace environment."

Singapore in August announced plans to beef up the country's skillsets in AI (https://www.zdnet.com/article/singapore-aims-to-build-up-ai-skills-for-digital-economy/) with the aim to enrol 12,000 industry professionals and students. It hoped to do so through new initiatives that it said demonstrated how AI technologies could be applied to daily lives as well as enabled professionals to use such tools to boost productivity.

The government earlier had earmarked AI (https://www.zdnet.com/article/singapore-looks-for-answers-to-key-challenges-in-ai-data-science/) as one of four technologies essential in driving Singapore's push to be a "digitally ready" nation (https://www.zdnet.com/article/singapore-government-reaffirms-1-7b-commitment-to-smart-nation-digital-transformation/) and its digital economy.

professionals and secondary school students.

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