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TABLE OF CONTENT

APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND BIG DATA IN THE FIELDS OF FINANCE, ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

BANK RUN AND SILICON VALLEY BANK	1
Lam Dang Xuan Hoa, Ho Minh Khoa, Huynh Vo Nhat Linh	1
BIG DATA AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.....	14
Le Thi Minh, Vo Trung Hau	14
THE EFFICIENCY OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM IN RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE NAM A COMMERCIAL JOINT STOCK BANK	23
Truong Thanh Loc, Tran Ngoc Thanh.....	23
VIETNAM - AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION IN THE NEW NORMAL: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR VIETNAMESE INVESTORS.....	30
Nhu Nguyen Phuc Quynh*, Anh Nguyen Thi Nguyet, Duy Nguyen Anh	30
IMPACTS OF CREDIT GROWTH AND CREDIT RISK ON THE PROFIT OF VIETNAM JOINT STOCK COMMERCIAL BANKS	43
Dao Le Kieu Oanh*, Tran Thi Huong Ngan	43
FACTORS AFFECTING CUSTOMERS' DECISIONS TO USE E-BANKING AT JOINT STOCK COMMERCIAL BANKS IN HO CHI MINH CITY	57
Nguyen Duy Khanh ¹ , Pham Quoc Tham ²	57
HOW CHINA_USA POLITICAL TENSIONS AFFECT STOCK MARKET RETURN OF CHINA AND THE USA? A QUANTILE VAR CONNECTEDNESS APPROACH	70
Hao Wen Chang ¹ , Tsangyao Chang ² and Mei-Chih Wang ³	70
BANKING HUMAN RESOURCES BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AI	92
Nguyen Huynh Chi.....	92
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TRAINING THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT TESTING AND ASSESSMENT – CASE IN ACCOUNTING BRANCH, UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE	102
Thuy Thi Ha	102
ACTIVITIES OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN VIETNAMESE COMMERCIAL BANKS: AN OVERVIEW DURING THE COVID-19 RECOVERY PERIOD.....	109
Nguyễn Thị Quỳnh Châu, Đào Lê Kiều Oanh	109
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR VIETNAM IN ATTRACTIVE FDI IN GLOBAL MINIMUM CORPORATE TAX IMPLEMENTATION	117
Ngo Hoang Thong	117

DIGITAL ECONOMY IN VIETNAM, TRENDS AND POTENTIABILITY

DEVELOPING SMART HOME MODEL FOR APARTMENTS IN HO CHI MINH CITY BASED ON INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) TECHNOLOGY	182
Dang Thanh Thuy ¹ , Nguyen Thanh Dien ²	182
TRANSPARENCY OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION OF CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES IN HO CHI MINH CITY – CASE STUDY OF APPLICATION OF ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING	193
Truong Thanh Loc ^{1*} , Pham Thi Yen Nhi ²	193
FACTORS AFFECTING THE QUALITY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES IN HO CHI MINH CITY	207
Truong Thanh Loc [*] , Dang Nguyen Tuong Han, Nguyen Ngoc Mai Phuong, Nguyen Thi Quynh Huong	207
THE CRITICAL FACTORS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' INTENTION TO USE METAVERSE TECHNOLOGY FOR SUBJECTS RELATED TO IMPORT-EXPORT LEARNING	221
Van Thuy Nguyen Ho, Chau The Huu, Luan Thanh Nguyen [*]	221
CONSUMER PERCEPTION ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT OF LUXURY BRANDS IN VIETNAM AND CHINA MARKETS.....	233
Tran Minh Tu ¹	233
INFLUENCE OF WOM AND EWOM IN MAKING DECISION BUYING GOODS	247
Doan Anh Tu ¹ , Kim Phi Rum ² , Nguyen Pham Hai Ha ³	247
DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN VIETNAM.....	257
Hoang Thi Chinh, Nguyen Hoang Phan	257
BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATION IN MODERN LOGISTICS: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VIETNAM	266
Nguyen Nu Tuong Vi.....	266
FACTORS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN VIETNAM	272
Vo Tien Si	272
LEGAL FRAME FOR THE OPERATION OF THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS UTILIZING THE BLOCKCHAIN PLATFORM IN VIETNAM.....	284
Le Thi Khanh Linh.....	284

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION – COOPERATION – GLOBAL INTEGRATION IN BUSINESS

FACTORS INFLUENCING BUSINESS ACCEPTANCE OF INDUSTRY 4.0 TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS IN DONG NAI PROVINCE.....	291
Thanh-Thu Vo*, Minh-Huong Tang.....	291
DIGITAL ORIENTATION, INNOVATION CAPABILITY AND FIRM PERFORMANCE: A PROPOSAL RESEARCH MODEL	298
Nguyen Van Hau	298
PREDICTION OF STUDENT'S BEHAVIORAL INTENTION TO USE SMART LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: A COMBINED MODEL OF SELF-DETERMINATION THEORY AND TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE	309
Nguyen Thi Hai Binh ¹ , Dao Y Nhi ² , Nguyen Thanh Luan ³ , Dang Quan Tri ⁴	309
THE PEDAGOGICAL IMPACT OF GRAMMARLY ON EFL WRITING COMPETENCY: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION CONTEXT.	323
Nguyen Thi Hong Lien ¹ , Nguyen Truong Gia Minh ² , Nguyen Ngoc Vu ^{3*}	323
FACTORS AFFECTING PURCHASING DECISION OF THE YOUTH ON TIKTOK	336
Ngoc Pham ¹ , Thanh Cong Tran*.....	336
FACTORS AFFECTING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY BEHAVIORS OF WORKERS DIRECT PRODUCTION AT CU CHI POWER COMPANY.....	345
Minh Luan Le, Thi Trang Tran.....	345
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EMPLOYEES' ORGANIZATIONAL CITIZENSHIP BEHAVIOUR.....	355
Nguyen Xuan Hung ¹ , Ha Le Thu Hoai ¹ , Nguyen Huu My Truc ^{2&3} , Pham Tan Nhat ^{2&3}	355
THE INNOVATION CAPACITY - THE ROLE OF LEADERS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM.....	365
Huynh Nhut Nghia	365
PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS ON THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON BUSINESS	376
Ton Nguyen Trong Hien, Bui Tuyet Anh	376
FACTORS AFFECTING BRAND SWITCHING INTENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIETNAM	382
Ly Dan Thanh, Nguyen Phu Quoi, Tran Hoang Nam, Vo Hong Son, Nguyen Ngoc Thuy Tien	382
ENHANCE THE DIGITAL COMPETITIVENESS	398
Tran Quang Canh, Hoang Thi Chinh.....	398

ASSESSING PATIENT SATISFACTION (BRAND) AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT THU DUC CITY HOSPITAL.....	408
Nguyen Hoang Dung ^{1*} , Nguyen Huynh Bao An ² , Van Phuong Trang ²	408
INDUSTRIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES FORM THE FOUNDATION FOR BINH DUONG'S SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	408
Hoang-An Nguyen	417
IMPACT OF ORGANIZATIONAL FAIRNESS ON THE EMPLOYEES' KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM ENTERPRISES IN HO CHI MINH CITY	426
Le Thi Nhu Quynh ^{1,2} , Le Thi Giang ² , Truong Quang Dung ¹	426
THE EFFECT OF PERSONAL MOTIVATION ON THE TACIT KNOWLEDGE SHARING BEHAVIOR OF 5-STAR HOTELS' EMPLOYEES IN HO CHI MINH CITY	440
Le Thi Giang, Nguyen Bach Hoang Phung.....	440
DIGITAL COMPETITIVENESS AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF ENTERPRISES IN THE DIGITAL ERA: THE CASE OF VIETNAMESE ENTERPRISES	453
Diep Nguyen Thi Ngoc ^{1*} , Canh Quang Tran ² , Anh Bach Hoang Ngoc ¹	453
FACTORS INFLUENCING PARENTS' SELECTION OF PRIVATE PRESCHOOLS IN THU DUC CITY	466
Thi-Trang Tran ¹ , Thi-My-Dung Pham ² , Thi-Bich-Diep Le ^{1*}	466

RECOVERY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL TOURISM DESTINATION IMAGE MEASUREMENT SCALE OF AN GIANG	474
Nguyen Vuong Hoai Thao ¹ , Nguyen Quyet Thang ²	474
PROSPECTS OF VIRTUAL REALITY TOURISM APPLICATION IN VIETNAM TOURISM PROMOTION	487
Nguyen Thi Hong Ha, Pham Thi Huong Giang.....	487
PERSONALIZATION TRAVEL TRENDING IN HO CHI MINH CITY IN THE CONTEXT OF POST COVID-19	497
Duong Bao Trung.....	497
IMPACTS OF MEDIA ON CUSTOMERS' DECISION TO CHOOSE FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES POST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	511
Nguyen Thi Bich Van	511
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION APPLICATION TO PROMOTE THE RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF INBOUND TOURISM IN HO CHI MINH CITY	521
Tran Trong Thanh	521
VIETNAM TOURISM AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC	527
Nguyen Hoang Phan ¹ , Hoang Thi Chinh ²	527
NAVIGATING THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DATA MINING AND PRIVACY	537
Pham Thai Hien	537
THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENT SELF-REPORTED GENERAL WELL-BEING AND PERCEIVED SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS, TEACHERS, AND UNIVERSITY	545
Virginia Kelsey ¹ , Đặng Thị Mai Ly ^{2*} , Nguyễn Anh Khoa ² , Nguyễn Văn Tường ²	545

DIGITAL VERSUS NON- DIGITAL

PROVIDING CONVENIENCE TO CUSTOMERS IN THE DIGITAL MARKETING ERA: OBSERVATIONS FROM COMMERCIAL BANKS IN HO CHI MINH CITY	556
Nguyen Quang Trung	556
VIRTUAL REALITY: AN INNOVATIVE TOOL IN TOURISM EXPERIENTIAL MARKETING	564
Thanh Nguyen Ngoc Le ¹ , Khuong Thanh Nguyen ²	564
THEORETICAL CONCEPTS OF STRATEGIC POSITIONING FOR PLACE BRANDING: A CASE STUDY OF DONG THAP PROVINCE	580
Phan Bao Giang.....	580
LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL MARKETING ON VIETNAM'S SMALL AND THE MEDIUM BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SMEs)	587
Lê Kim Nguyên *	587

CHALLENGES FACED BY TEACHERS IN NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

PROPOSE AN ONLINE TEACHING COMPETENCE SCALE FOR UNIVERSITY LECTURERS	596
Duong Thi Kim Oanh*, Dang Thi Dieu Hien	596
EXAMINE USAGE OF LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (LMSS) BY FACULTY STAFF AT UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS (UEF) AND FINANCE WITH EXPANDED TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE MODEL (TAM).....	608
Ha Truong Minh Hieu, Ngo Minh Hai*, Mach Tran Huy.....	608

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AN INDISPENSABLE EVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE CORPORATES

FACTORS AFFECTING THE APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING AT MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE	618
Truong Thanh Loc ^{1*} , Nguyen Thi Thanh Truc ²	618
HRM DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: TAKING A ROAD OF SUCCESSION PLANNING ..	629
Trương Phan Hoàng Anh, Giang Ngọc Anh.....	629
THE IMPLICATION OF CONTACTLESS SERVICE AS A TOOL TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER REVISIT INTENTION	640
Linh, Nguyen Duy Yen*	640
TOURISM BRAND LOVE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: THE ROLE OF ONLINE TOURIST EXPERIENCES, TOURIST-BRAND RELATIONSHIP QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY	651
Thanh Nguyen Ngoc Le	651
CONDUCTING FOCUS GROUPS IN CROSS-CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (SoTL): A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY	662
Punithan Moganathas ¹ , Jenny Hill ² , Andy V.-M. Kok ² , Matt Barr ² , Ruffin Relja ^{2*} , Philippa Ward ² , Duong Tran Quang Hoang ³ , Quynh Phuong Tran ³	662
LEVERAGING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE EVOLUTION IN VIETNAM	677
Nguyen,Tan Dat ¹ , Le,Dinh Thang ²	677

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS

FB-PROPHET MODEL FOR TIME SERIES FORECASTING IN SALES	691
Thanh Cong Tran	691
USING AI CODE IN C# PROGRAMMING	698
Nguyen Ha Giang.....	698
DETERMINANTS OF CONTINUANCE USAGE INTENTION OF MOBILE FOOD ORDERING APPLICATIONS (MFOAS) AMONG VIETNAMESE USERS: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF E- SATISFACTION	705
Lam Hoang Phuong ^{1*} , Nguyen Thi Kim Lien ² , Tien Hung Nguyen ³ , Vinh Long Nguyen ⁴	705
DECODING MARKETING INSIGHT: INSIGHT FROM OUTSIDE.....	718
Hoàng Thị Hằng, Trần Thành Công*	718
DIGITAL DISRUPTION AND DATA SECURITY: HOW FINTECH IS RESHAPING BANKING ...	724
Hoàng Văn Hiếu, Trần Ngọc Thiên Ngân.....	724

TRENDS AND ISSUES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

EFL LEARNERS' ATTITUDES AND LEARNING ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNICATIVE GAME-BASED GRAMMAR TEACHING	736
Nguyen Thi Thanh Huyen ¹ , Tran Quoc Thao ²	736
APPROACHES TO TEACHING L2 LISTENING:.....	749
CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN REAL-LIFE AND CLASSROOM-BASED LISTENING	749
Luu Thi Mai Vy	749
DEFINING ROLES OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY LANGUAGE CLASSROOM	755
Ho Xuan Tien, Duong My Tham.....	755
EFL STUDENTS' ATTITUDES AND LEARNING INVESTMENT IN PORTFOLIO - BASED ENGLISH WRITING LEARNING: A LITERATURE REVIEW	763
Ly Gia Huy ¹ , Tran Quoc Thao ²	763
EXPLORING EFL LEARNER IDENTITIES IN PROJECT-BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING AT A HIGH SCHOOL IN AN GIANG PROVINCE	774
Nguyen Hong Thien ¹ , Tran Quoc Thao ²	774
THE VALUES OF SYNTACTIC COMPLEXITY IN ACADEMIC WRITING: A LITERATURE REVIEW	791
THE ISSUE OF AMBIGUITY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.....	801
Nguyen Dinh Tuan	801
RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES ON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EFL STUDENTS' MOTIVATION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING	812
Huynh Thanh Nhon ¹ , Tran Quoc Thao ²	812
EXPLORING THE INFLUENCE OF WRITING ANXIETY ON VIETNAMESE ESL UNDERGRADUATES' WRITING PERFORMANCE: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY.....	821
Nguyen Ngoc Nguyen, Nguyen Hoang Phan.....	821
THE APPLICATION OF THE "FLIPPED CLASSROOM" MODEL IN TEACHING ENGLISH IN THE VIETNAMESE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT	838
THE USE OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN EFLFLIPPED CLASSROOMS	847
Nguyen Quynh Thao Vy ^{1,*} , Duong My Tham ²	847
INSIGHTS INTO ENGLISH MAJOR STUDENTS' USE OF PHRASAL VERBS IN ACADEMIC WRITING.....	860
Do Thi Thanh Thuy, Tran Quoc Thao	860

LAW IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION

LEGALISING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENTS IN RUSSIA – A WAR TACTIC IN THE CONTEXT OF RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE.....	869
Bui Thi Hong Ninh*	869
MODEL OF ASSET REGISTRATION WORLDWIDE AND LESSONS FOR VIETNAM IN IMPROVING ASSET REGISTRATION LAWS.....	880
Vu Anh Sao ^{1,2} , Nguyen Thi Xuan Mai ²	880
LEGAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) - INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FOR VIETNAM	887
Le Hoang Minh Huy*, Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Dao Trong Duc, Ky Dieu Linh, Bui Thi Thuy Linh, Nguyen Nam Trung.....	887
SOUTH KOREA’S EXPERIENCES ON PROPERTY REGISTRATION LAW - LESSONS FOR VIETNAM	896
Vu Anh Sao, Pham Huynh Bao Oanh.....	896
THE RISE OF REMOTE WORK: LEGAL CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT LAW IN VIETNAM	903
Nguyen Thi Xuan Mai ¹ , Nguyen Thi Ngoc Loan ²	903
CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE EMERGING AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.....	910
Nguyen Thi Thu Trang	910
THE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) CORPORATIONS IN VIETNAM.....	921
Trần Ngọc Thanh ¹	921
CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE ACTIVITIES AND TAX MANAGEMENT ISSUES	933
Le Huynh Phuong Chinh, Ngo Thi Khanh Linh, Pham Ngoc Lan Anh.....	933
EXPERIENCE IN KOREA AND CHINA ON TAX MANAGEMENT FOR CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE ACTIVITIES	941
Duong Anh Son ¹ , Tran Vang Phu ²	941
LEGAL PERSPECTIVE ON REGULATIONS RALATED TO PERSONAL INCOME TAX WHEN EARNING INCOME THROUGH E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS IN VIETNAM, TAKING THE CASE OF INDIVIDUALS DOING BUSINESS THROUGH TIKTOK APPLICATION.....	946
Nguyen Duc Tri ¹ , Hoang Minh Châu ²	946
THE COMPATIBILITY ON THE SCOPE OF MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE (MLA) IN CRIMINAL MATTERS AND THE CONDITIONS OF REFUSAL MLA IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BETWEEN VIETNAMESE LAW AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES WHICH VIETNAM HAS SIGNED.	956

Pham Huynh Bao Oanh.....	956
TAX POLICY FOR E-COMMERCE OF COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO VIETNAM.....	967
Nguyen Thanh Minh Chanh, Ha Thi Van Anh, Pham Lam Tam Nhu	967
LEGAL REGULATIONS FOR ENTERPRISE OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON E-COMMERCE PLATFORM	974
Truong Kim Phung*, Nguyen Hoang Chuong	974
“ROBOT TAX” – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VIETNAM.....	981
Gian Thi Le Na, Pham Phuong Doanh.....	981
WTO APPELLATE BODY REFORM IN THE CONTEXT OF ESCALATING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS.....	988
Nguyen Nam Trung.....	988

IMPACTS OF STATE OWNERSHIP AND BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS ON TAX AVOIDANCE: EVIDENCE IN VIETNAM.....	128
Huyen Ngoc Nguyen, Thanh Dan Bui	128
RUSSIA'S IMPACTS AND SCENES ON BEING BANNED FROM SWIFT	143
Lam Dang Xuan Hoa ¹ , Phan Ngoc Anh ²	143
THE ROLE OF ACCESS TO FINANCE AND THE ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION OF YOUNGERS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PROVINCE, VIETNAM.....	151
Vu Truc Phuc*, Nguyen Dang Hat, Nguyen An Phu, Dao Le Kieu Oanh	151

LEGAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) - INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FOR VIETNAM

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Abstract:

Currently, in the age of the digital revolution, artificial intelligence (AI) plays a crucial role and is widely applied in various fields such as education, healthcare, and transportation. Besides its benefits, the application of AI also carries potential legal risks for the involved parties, such as: (i) whether AI can be considered a natural person; (ii) who bears the responsibility for compensation if AI causes damage; (iii) whether intellectual property produced by AI is eligible for protection; (iv) how to handle cases in which AI violates copyright; and (v) how to protect personal data stored on AI applications.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence; compensation responsibility; author's rights; legal status; personal data.*

1. Introduction

Throughout human development, we have created countless remarkable inventions to improve the quality of life. From illuminating entire cities with the invention of the light bulb, to facilitating faster and more convenient transportation with modern vehicles, and encapsulating almost all of humanity's knowledge into a small handheld device, we have continuously strived to enhance our lives. Even within our homes, we have appliances such as microwaves, electric stoves, refrigerators, televisions, and fans – all these great inventions by humans to provide a better quality of life for everyone. The emergence of these inventions implies that humans must increase their labor productivity to manufacture these devices. As a result, we continue to invent more sophisticated technologies to reduce human labor and effort.

That is the reason for the emergence and explosive development of the digital technology era, in which artificial intelligence plays a pivotal role. Artificial intelligence is now regarded as "a tool opening up a new era for exploring unlimited human challenges" [Russel, S. and Peter, N., 2022] Although it is not difficult to recognize the numerous benefits that artificial intelligence brings to human life, building, operating, and applying artificial intelligence also entail various risks. It requires perfecting a legal system to prevent, control, and address these risks, enabling humans to maximize the benefits that artificial intelligence offers.

This article will clarify (i) The concept of artificial intelligence; (ii) The applications that utilize artificial intelligence; (iii) The parties involved in the process of development, operation, and management of artificial intelligence; and (iv) The legal issues arising during the development, operation, and management of artificial intelligence.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. Definition

*“AI” stands for **Artificial intelligence**, depending on the changes in the development period of AI, their definitions are also different. As follow:*

In 1956, John McCarthy was the first to explain AI that “A science and design for making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs” [McCarthy, J. 2022]. John McCarthy's definition shows us that AI is a sophisticated and intelligent computer program.

However, in 2010, Russell and Norvig have a lot of different explanations and grouped AI into four categories: “Think like a human, act like a human, think rationally and act rationally” [Russel, S. and Peter, N., 2022].

Approaching from another angle, the Oxford Dictionary defines AI as "Artificial intelligence is the research and development of a computer system that can behave intelligently like a human" [Oxford Learner's dictionary].

From the above concepts, we conclude that: “AI is a type of intelligence demonstrated by machines, in contrast to the natural intelligence of humans. AI is used to describe machines or computers that are capable of imitating functions that humans must associate with the mind such as "learning", and "problem-solving”

2.2. Applications of artificial intelligence in life

Nowadays, Artificial Intelligence has been applied in many areas of social life, however, we only present 3 areas with the most potential legal risks; and this is the basis for our analysis in section 4.

2.2.1. Healthcare

Taking care of our health is always a top priority for all activities in life. With modern equipment like today, many lives have been saved. Not only that, AI also contributed significantly to those successes.

One statistic shows that artificial intelligence is widely applied in medical activities including (i) image analysis; (ii) clinical diagnosis support; (iii) AI robot-assisted surgery; (iv) support medicine production; (v) medical records management and databases [Minh,H., 2018].

2.2.2. Education

In 2020, the first robot named Tri Nhan was introduced to Le Hong Phong High School in Ho Chi Minh City for education [Quyen, M., 2020].

Besides the above application, today, with the explosive development of science and technology, there have been numerous examples where AI is applied in education, serving learning and research activities. science, such as:

- ChatGPT is "an automatic language recognition model built by OpenAI", or is considered an: "automatic question and answer application, using machine learning techniques, reinforcement learning from human feedback (Reinforcement Learn from Human Feedback - RLHF)” [Minh, NC., 2023].

- In addition to ChatGPT, there are other applications with similar features to ChatGPT, including (i) Notion AI, which is a tool that uses an innovative AI model to assist users in their work, writing, editing, summarizing and performing other tasks [Linh,KD,. 2023]; (ii) Bing AI, a chat box that helps set up a personal plan, and also works like scientific research. Bing AI can make poetry, writes stories, or shares ideas [Huy, N., 2023].

2.2.3. Transportation

The automotive manufacturing industry always has significant technological advancements, such as the vehicle braking system, which helps enhance safety for passengers by assisting in identifying obstacles during traffic and avoiding collisions. Above all, it's about a car that can drive autonomously. In 2020, we have seen a lot of auto-driving cars such as the BMW 5 Series with semi-automatic mode, the Cadillac CT6, the Volvo XC60,... [Anh, M., 2020].

The term "self-driving car" refers not only to a vehicle that can operate independently but also to vehicles that can be moved thanks to the assistance of a computer system; such as (i) Cruise control; (ii) Antilock Brakes; (iii) Electronic Stability Control; (iv) Blind Spot Detection; (v) Forward Collision Warning; (vi) Lane Departure Warning; (v) Google Maps [NHTSA].

2.3. Parties involved in the process of development, operation, and management of artificial intelligence

The law is established to protect the legitimate rights and interests of individuals and organizations; therefore, when researching the legal issues arising during the process of building, operating, and managing AI, the first step is to identify the parties involved.

- The AI development: Individuals or legal entities with the function of designing, assembling, and completing the structure of an AI.

- The AI operator: Resolution 2020/2014 (ILC) of the European Union defines the AI operator. This definition is divided into two types: "Fronted Operator" and "Backend Operator." The Fronted Operator exercises a level of control over the risks associated with the operation and functions of the AI system and benefits from its activities. On the other hand, the Backend Operator operates on an existing platform, defines the features of the technology, provides data, as well as essential support services, and thus also exercises a level of control over the risks associated with the operation and functioning of the AI system.

- The AI manager: AI management is typically under the purview of governments, as they will establish the most appropriate mechanisms to regulate AI as a form of assets continuing on an existing platform, defining the features of the technology, providing data, as well as essential support services, and thus also exercising a level of control over the risks associated with the operation and functioning of the AI system [Twaig, O-R., 2020].

- The AI data provider: An entity that supplies data to an AI system, not necessarily the one who developed it.

- The AI user: Artificial Intelligence is a product created by humans to meet certain criteria and serve human needs.

3. Result and Discussions

3.1. Legal status of Artificial Intelligence

Legal status can be understood as the position of the legal subject concerning other legal subjects based on legal provisions. Particularly, legal subjects are understood as subjects with rights and obligations as prescribed by law, established by law, and protected under current regulations.

Legal status has major theoretical value, considering not only the role of the subject's legal status in legal relations but also in other networks of rules governing human behavior [Claudio Novelli, Giorgio Bongiovanni and Giovanna Sartor]. Most countries nowadays admit two types of legal status: First, the legal status of natural people; Second, the legal status of the subjects who are given rights and obligations by the law (organizations, legal entities).

3.1.1. Artificial intelligence has the legal status of natural humans

Currently, some countries admit the legal status of artificial intelligence “like a human”. such as Saudi Arabia or Japan, India, ... by admitting citizenship or granting residence permits to robots.

Some specific examples such as a robot named Sophia. This is also the world's first female robot - with a nationality of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia) [Nguyen, N., 2017]. In Japan, The chatbot named Shibuya Mirai is also provided a residence permit under a special regulation (Cuthbertson, 2017) [Truc, P., 2017]. Saudi Arabia's recognition of Sophia's citizenship and Japan's issuance of a residence permit to the Shibuya Mirai chatbot has caused many controversial legal issues.

The actions of the governments of Saudi Arabia and Japan have opposed the citizenship criteria which they introduced in 2018 to determine citizenship. Similarly, Japan's action was also contrary to the law regarding the procedure for granting a residence permit in the country at that time [The Nationality Law of Japan 2018].

Although granting AI status to have “human” rights, it will contribute to creating a mechanism to deal with problems that arise when damage occurs. This will help bring the AI system under the jurisdiction of both Civil and Criminal courts. In the event of serious consequences, the competent authority can decide to punish through disabling, blocking, or even completely destroying AI. However, the recognition of AI as human in Saudi Arabia and Japan creates unfair treatment and creates a legal vacuum. AI has no humanity, no ethics and cannot be held legally responsible on its own. Granting separate rights and obligations to AI can help AI creators and avoid liability. The recognition of AI's status as human is inappropriate and ineffective.

In Vietnam, the Civil Code 2015 stipulates that only individuals and legal entities can establish legal status. Because these are subjects with full capacity to participate in legal relations. AI cannot have an individual personality like humans because it is a product of technology, works by machines and has no humanity. Giving AI the same legal status as humans introduces legal risks and may create opportunities for stakeholders to evade legal liability.

3.1.2. Artificial intelligence is a subject that is given rights and obligations by law

Besides the countries that consider AI as a person, there are also countries such as Russia and Germany, that consider AI as a subject that is given rights and obligations by law.

Sberbank has introduced robot lawyers to represent individuals in lawsuits, and Glavstrah Control has also used robots to resolve insurance disputes [Atabekov, A. and Yastrebov, O., 2018]. However, the legal status of AI is still limited compared to the legal status of individuals or organizations. The German civil law, in Article 164, Article 278, Article 831, provides for "the status of a legal subject in part based on certain legal possibilities [Schirmer, J-E.].

According to the analysis that has been mentioned, the authors believe that Vietnam can build the legal status for AI based on the provisions of the German Civil Law. The public authority may require the registered owner to qualify with the competent authority and impose an insurance sum to bind liability. This will open up development opportunities for AI and promote the national development strategy on AI.

3.2. Liability to compensate for damage caused by artificial intelligence

Liability for damages for products made by artificial intelligence can be complex and needs to be determined on a case-by-case basis. The authors will present the liability to compensate for damage caused by artificial intelligence in 2 specific aspects; (i) Medical; and (ii) Transportation.

3.2.1. Medical

The application of AI in scientific and technical research brings many benefits. However, the issue of liability is still a question without an exact answer. In this field, when using AI gives incorrect results, who will be legally responsible?

In 2018 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, an AI System was used to predict a patient's probability of death. But after implementation, the system sent false reports about the possibility of death of hundreds of patients. This incident has raised questions about the liability of AI manufacturers and suppliers in the event that these technologies cause harm to patients [Kalaichandran, A., 2019].

According to the provisions of the law of the French Republic, the medical examiner is only responsible for errors and consequences that cause damage during the procedure. Prevention, diagnosis, or patient care. According to clause 1 of Article 1142-1 of the French Public Health Law, doctor will be "responsible only if fault and consequential damage are caused when performing an act of prevention, diagnosis or care of the patient". This regulation does not recognize the fault of doctors and it is very difficult to determine the fault of doctors in the process of medical examination and treatment. However, the French Council of State believes that this provision can be applied to regulate issues related to civil liability caused by medical AI.

In Vietnam, the 2009 Law on Medical Examination and Treatment has the same approach as the French Public Health Code. The person who is assigned the task of medical examination is obliged to examine, diagnose, prescribe treatment methods, prescribe drugs in a timely and accurate manner, and take responsibility for medical examination and diagnosis, and specifying methods. treatment and prescription drugs. At the same time, the medical examination must be based on the results of clinical examination, and subclinical examination, combined with factors of medical history, family, occupation, and epidemiology, and performed in a timely, objective manner. prudent and scientific. In particular, the diagnosis and treatment must ensure scientific principles as the basis for doctors to apply AI technology.

A notable difference between Vietnamese law and French law is the element of error. As analyzed, the error factor in the examination, diagnosis, and use of AI helps to determine the responsibility of the relevant doctor [Hoi, NV., 2017]

3.2.2. Transportation

One of the most popular applications of Artificial Intelligence today in the field of transportation is Automated Vehicles (AV), commonly known as self-driving cars. Self-driving cars are expected to significantly reduce accidents and make traffic safer, with more than 94% of traffic accidents due to human error. At the same time, the use of self-driving cars can reduce traffic congestion, driving costs, and CO2 emissions. However, when the use of self-driving cars leads to accidents, with the current legal regulations, it is difficult to determine the liability, as well as the person responsible for compensation.

On March 18, 2019, in the US in the State of Arizona, an Uber self-driving car running on autopilot caused an accident that killed a woman who was walking across the street. Uber's automatic braking system was disabled, preventing the car from stopping in time, and the driver of the car was not paying attention to the driver. Relatives of the victim sued Uber, after which Uber settled the case with a non-disclosure agreement [Levin, S. and Wong, JC., 2018].

So the question is who will be legally responsible? The vehicle owner or self-driving car manufacturer? In order to clarify the liability for damages of the cases, the authors have studied and analyzed several regulations of countries in the world and Vietnam.

In the United States, there is no uniform federal regulation of product liability. However, to create a certain similarity in the states, the US Department of Commerce enacted the Model Uniform Products

Liability Act (MUPLA). At the same time, in May 1997, the American Law Institute (ALI) completed the Third Amendment to Product Liability [Victor E. Schwartz., 1998]. According to the above legal documents, the liability for compensation caused by self-driving cars is determined in two forms: (i) tort liability; (ii) strict liability. The subject of product liability may be the manufacturer of the final product, the manufacturer of the components, the participants in the supply chain of the product (the seller, the reseller, the supplier) and anyone engaged in product repair or modification.

According to the legislation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the driver of the vehicle is strictly liable for any damage caused by the vehicle (regardless of whether at fault or not). Unless the damage is due to force majeure or the vehicle is stolen.

In Vietnam, self-driving car technology is only at the research and testing stage, so Vietnam currently does not have a specific legal framework for this type of vehicle. We can refer to the current regulations of Vietnam regarding liability in car accidents.

About liability for compensation for damage in road traffic, although Vietnam does not have a specific legal framework for self-driving cars. However, one can refer to the regulations regarding liability regarding the use of highly hazardous sources.

According to the Law on Road Traffic 2008 (Clause 18, Article 3), cars are classified as motor vehicles. According to the 2015 Civil Code, motor vehicles are a source of extreme danger for which the owner is responsible for compensating for damage caused by the source of extreme danger. If the owner has assigned it to another person to possess and use, this person must compensate, unless otherwise agreed. If the source of extreme danger is illegally possessed or used, the person who is illegally possessing or using the source of extreme danger must be responsible for compensating for damage. If the owner or the person possessing or using the source of extreme danger is at fault in allowing the source of extreme danger to be illegally possessed or used, they must jointly compensate for the damage.

About the responsibility with the product, according to the provisions of Article 60, Law on Quality of Products and Goods of Vietnam 2007, if the accident and damage to road users are determined to arise from a defect in the autopilot system, then The manufacturer must be responsible to the self-driving car user/driver for such defect.

3.3. Intellectual property rights to a product created by artificial intelligence

3.3.1. Copyright protection for products created by Artificial Intelligence

In Australia, in the case of *Acohs Pty Ltd v Ucorp Pty Ltd* (2012) [CCH iKnow], the Court also stated that a work created by computer intervention cannot be protected by copyright because it is not protected by copyright. created by humans.

Copyright is defined as “the right of an organization or individual to a work they create or own. Copyright arises from the time the work is created and expressed in a certain material form” [Vietnamese IP Law 2005., amended, supplemented in 2009, 2019, 2022]. Up to now, there is no specific legal document specifying who is the author of works created by GPT chat. However, there are still a few points of view regarding identifying the author of these works such as:

- Chat GPT is considered the copyright owner
- Chat GPT is not the copyright owner
- Both GPT Chat and the user will be identified as co-owners of copyright for the work created by this superintelligence

In fact, there have been cases where the courts of many countries around the world have admitted the possibility of authorizing copyright protection of works created from AI. For example, a Court in Shenzhen, China decided that an article created by AI is protected by Copyright Law [Wan, Y., 2021].

In some countries, the law does not recognize copyright for works that are not created by humans. In the United States, in "Copyright Compendium: What Can Be Protected", regarding the conditions of authorship, the US Copyright Office makes the following view: The United States Copyright Office will grant copyright protection to an original work, if the work is created by a human, the document also states: "The Office will refuse to protect a claim demand if one considers that people do not create works" [Compendium: Copyrightable Authorship., 2021].

Therefore, in some countries around the world, copyright has not been recognized for works created by AI, so the handling of violations in this legal issue has not been clarified yet.

In Vietnam, *The 2005 Intellectual Property Law* provides for the protection of intellectual property rights, including copyright. However, this Law does not specifically mention copyright protection for artificial intelligence (AI) and products created by AI such as ChatGPT.

Overall, this is a legal issue that deserves attention and consideration. Based on the above views, it can be seen that copyright protection for works created from artificial intelligence is necessary and it is need to have an appropriate method to protect the interests of related subjects. . The point of view of the author group of the article also agrees with the above opinion and believes that the law on copyright should have specific provisions on this issue.

3.3.2. The issue of legal liability when artificial intelligence infringes the copyright of another subject's work

Artificial intelligence is capable of infringing copyright by itself in the course of performing its tasks.

An example of this is the case of Goldman v. Breitbart News Network [Goldman v. Breitbart News Network, LLC] in the United States. In this case, the Court found that the defendant had built software capable of taking copyrighted images on a third-party server and then displaying them to users on the network. Such distribution and display by artificial intelligence infringes the copyright of the images because it is an unfounded act of copying and spreading.

Regarding the issue of liability when artificial intelligence infringes copyright, the current US copyright law does not have provisions to resolve legal issues when artificial intelligence performs an infringement. Artificial intelligence cannot hold the copyright to any kind of work, and others cannot sue artificial intelligence for damages. Therefore, there must be an alternate party that can hold the copyright and also be liable for piracy caused by artificial intelligence.

Vietnamese law does not have a provision to deal with the issue of copyright-protected data by artificial intelligence. As for the use of copyrighted data for machine learning, among the acts listed by IP in Article 25, the Law allows subjects to self-reproduce a copy for scientific research purposes. commercial purposes. This provision facilitates the process of machine learning training, if copying a copy for artificial intelligence training and not for commercial gain, it can be considered not infringing copyright. This reproduction does not require permission and does not require payment of royalties or remuneration.

Based on the above practical cases, the authors recommend that the Vietnamese law should identify who is responsible for acts of infringing upon privacy. In it, the end user or programmer is considered to have created, directed, and benefited from artificial intelligence, so the responsibility for the acts of artificial intelligence will be assumed by them.

3.4. Protect user data when using applications from artificial intelligence

The using of applications from artificial intelligence need user data. For example, self-driving cars, medical devices, or GPT chats when you want to use them all have to leave personal data. So is all this data safe and secure?

In recent years, there have been many cases with risk issues because user data is widely posted for sale on private groups. Invasion of privacy is also a legal issue that needs to be solved.

To update regulations on personal data protection, the European Union has issued the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to strengthen the responsibilities and obligations of organizations and businesses in collecting data, import and use and protect personal data. Compared to the 1995 Data Protection Directive, GDPR uses terms related to the Internet (Internet, social networks, websites, links, etc.). However, there is no mention of artificial intelligence, nor is there a term associated with concepts such as intelligent systems, autonomous systems, automatic theory and inference, machine learning or big data. This reflects the fact that GDPR focuses on challenges facing the Internet - which were not considered in the Data Protection Directive of 1995 - rather than on new issues related to artificial intelligence, which are only recently recognized. attracted attention in recent years. Nevertheless, many of the provisions in the GDPR are still relevant for artificial intelligence.

Nowadays, Vietnam's protection of user data when using artificial intelligence is regulated in a number of laws related to personal information protection and information security. Specifically, the Law on Protection of Personal Information 2019 stipulates principles and regulations on the protection of personal information and requires organizations and individuals to be responsible for protecting users' personal information. In addition, the 2018 Law on Cybersecurity also stipulates the protection of information safety on the network, and agencies, organizations and individuals are responsible for protecting information and ensuring the safety of information systems.

However, the enforcement of these regulations has not been fully and effectively implemented, especially in the context of rapidly developing artificial intelligence. The protection of user data needs attention and respect from organizations, businesses and artificial intelligence developers to ensure the rights and information security of users.

4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that artificial intelligence brings many benefits to humans and society. However, the application of AI sometimes poses legal risks and violates the rights of users. Currently, there is no clear law that ensures these risks are adequately addressed. Therefore, there is a need for consensus and efforts from legislators and data management organizations to ensure that AI is used appropriately and safeguards the rights of users and other relevant parties.

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