

Opening Speech Script

Speaker: Haoran Zhang (Executive Chairman, Meta Platforms Inc.)

Guest of Honor, Distinguished Speakers, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us this morning and welcome to the 18th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the ICAI. On behalf of the committee of conference, I hereby extend our unfeigned appreciation for your attendances out of your busy schedules. That many of you travelled long distances serves to remind us all just how important our work is.

The very happening of this incredible event today could not be possible without the local government of Nanjing, Jiangsu Artificial Intelligence Association, and Southeast University. I, therefore, thank all of them for their indispensable effort in putting together this conference.

Over the years, ICAI has served as a pioneer in promoting the development of AI and its associated sub-fields. Today, ICAI is widely recognized as one of the most authoritative platforms for AI research.

For years, AI researchers have been committed to breaking the gap between reality and virtuality. (And) Metaverse was a preliminary fantasy to that vision. Recent advancements in AI technologies enable us to refocus on the idea of Metaverse, which was proposed decades ago. This is why this year's ICAI is themed "Metaverse: Look Back and Prospects", hoping to deliver the latest concepts and technology of Metaverse.

ICAI this year comes with three plenaries presented by famous researchers and experts in the industry, followed by multiple sessions for you to share innovative ideas with colleagues and peers.

To close with, I wish the total success and splendor for the 18th ICAI, and all of you a memorable experience in the following two days.

Thank you all.