Opening Presentation

Dongchul Cho President, Korea Development Institute

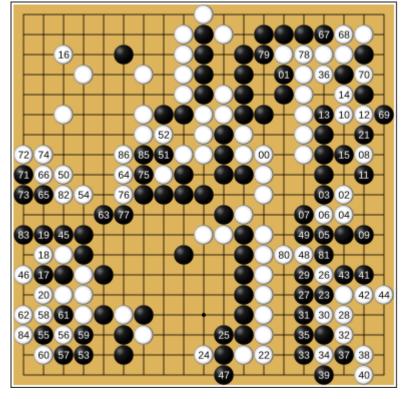
KDI-Brookings Joint Seminar on "Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Inequality and Global Economic Convergence" Oct 22, 2024



AlphaGo vs. Sedol Lee

The event that ignited AI revolution, March 2016.

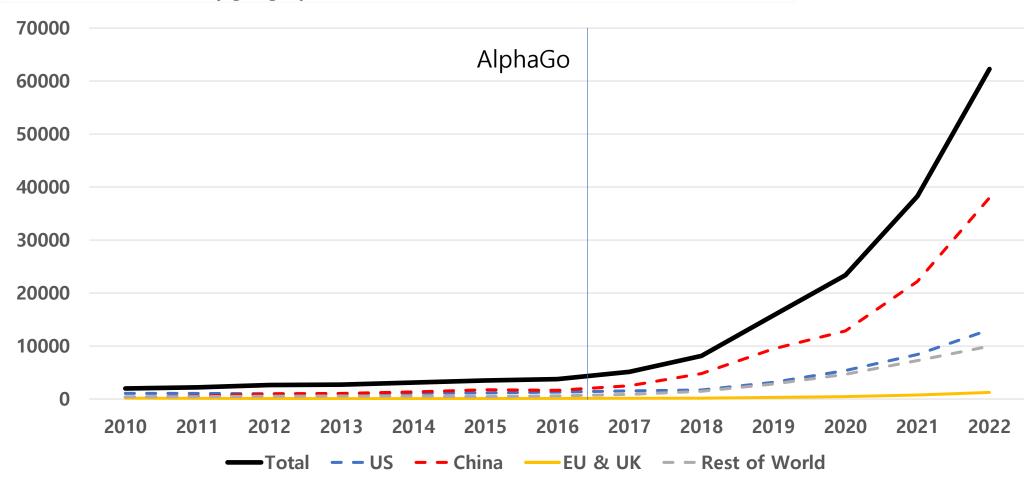




Source: https://www.ytn.co.kr/ In/0107

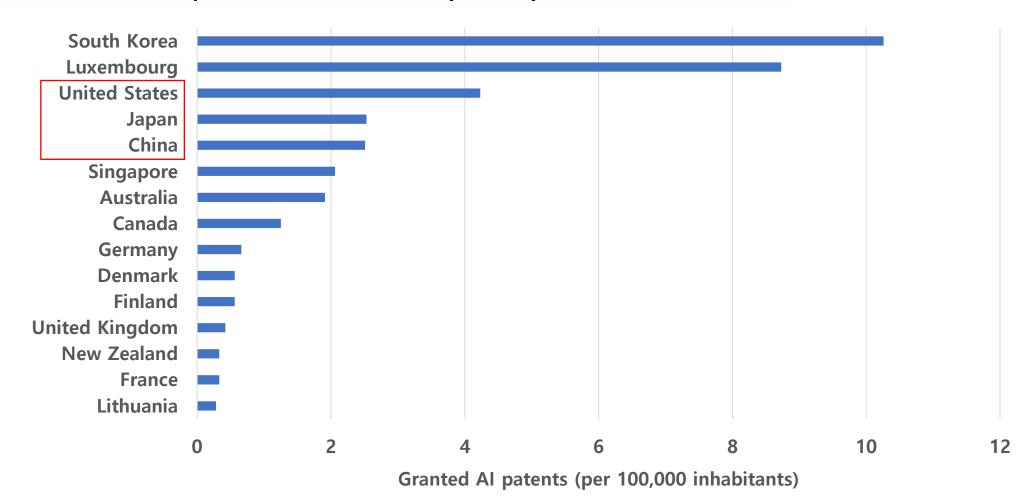
Evolution of Al Patent



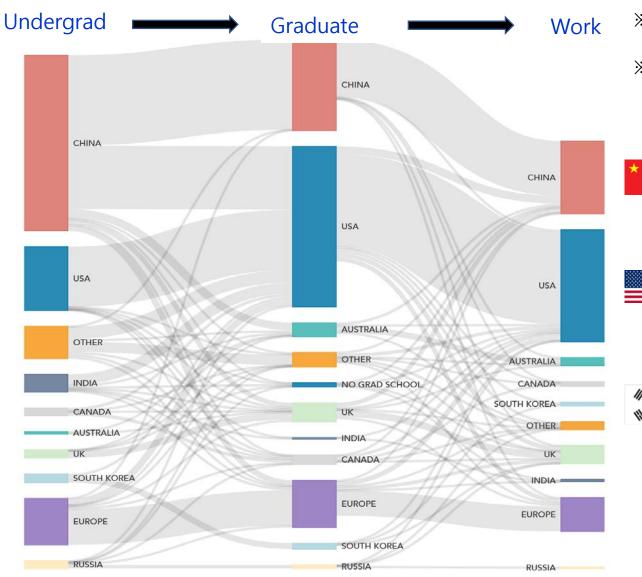


Evolution of Al Patent

Granted AI Patents per 100,000 inhabitants by country, 2022



Top Al talent's movements from their studies to work today



- "Top-tier AI researchers" defined as paper authors accepted at NeurIPS 2022
- 867 researchers of randomly sampled 186 papers out of the total 2,761 papers selected in 2022



- Al talent pool is growing.
- Significant talent drain to the U.S.



- The largest destination for AI talent.
- High reliance on international expertise.



• A significant portion of researchers move to the U.S. after their bachelor's degrees.

Source: MacroPolo. (2023). The global AI talent tracker. https://macropolo.org/digital-projects/the-global-ai-talent-tracker/

Al's Impact on Global Inequality

Al's rapid advancement is concentrating talent and innovation in a few regions, risking deeper global inequality rather than fostering convergence.

Against Convergence?

Talent:

- The vast majority of AI talent remains clustered in a few key regions (U.S., China ...)

Innovation:

- The uneven distribution of innovation deepens global inequalities by limiting the spread of Al's economic benefits.

• Adoption:

- Al's adoption, especially in automation and process optimization, is progressing unevenly across countries, potentially widening the digital divide.