NASSCOM'S COE – DSAI AND FUTURESKILLS LAUNCHES
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A one of its kind comprehensive program to enhance the capabilities of Faculty in AI through industry participation and accelerating AI learning at the undergraduate level.

Bangalore, 09 April 2019: The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), today launched the **'AI Foundation for Faculty Development'** program through its Centre of Excellence for Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (CoE DS&AI) and FutureSkills platform. Broadening its resolve to democratize AI learning, the Faculty Development Program offers a comprehensive and a well curated schedule. It aims to provide the faculty in AI with the necessary exposure to real-life business problems by working closely with industry experts and providing access to latest tools and technologies in the AI space.

The program will be delivered as an integrated platform consisting of 125 hours of learning including approximately 100 hours of self-paced online learning in areas of Predictive Modelling, Programming Languages, Time Series Forecasting, Machine Learning, Optimization Techniques, Visualization, Natural Language Processing and Image & Video Analytics. This online component will be delivered through the NASSCOM FutureSkills platform which brings together the best-in-class global learning and content providers to offer learners free and deep learning content in emerging technologies such as AI. Upon successful completion of the online learning, the participating faculty will be required to undergo 25 hours of hands-on, lab-based training by industry experts and academic partners on cutting-edge business problems. Post the hands-on lab based training, the participants will be certified by NASSCOM.

The objective of this initiative is to develop an eco-system of world-class faculty in the AI Space, which translates into world-class talent who are ready to be absorbed by the industry in to their workforce. The program will be launched initially for technical colleges and universities of Karnataka and will expand across the country eventually. As part of this program, NASSCOM CoE – DSAI aims to upskill nearly 2000 faculty members in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Deep Learning through multiple interventions and impact nearly 25,000 undergraduates pursuing AI related courses.

Expressing his thoughts on the initiative, **Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary for Industries, IT, BT & ST, Government of Karnataka**, said *"In order to catalyze innovation and excellence in data science and artificial intelligence, there is an urgent need to invest in talent development. Globally, there is a shortage of AI talent. Such investments in enhancing the capacities of faculty and young talent will enable Karnataka to become a global powerhouse in AI. The Faculty Development Program in AI will pave the way for a nationwide development of faculty in AI, ML, and advanced deep learning impacting the future talent the industry seeks to recruit and provide an equal opportunity to all".*

Sharing his delight on the launch of the program, **Amit Aggarwal, CEO Future Skills, NASSCOM** *said "As adoption of Automation and Artificial Intelligence builds momentum across the world, millions of people worldwide will have to upgrade their skills. The skills that were once relevant are no longer going to be effective enough for a dynamic career. Addressing the skills gap requires a calibrated approach and reskilling of faculty is one of the critical drivers for this change. Through this programme, we hope to co-create a faculty development ecosystem that strengthens our ability to prepare our students for the jobs of future."*

Mohanakrishnan, Head – CoE DSAI *said, AI is fast transforming our lives, industries and society. The Faculty Development Programs aims to catalyse knowledge of faculty in AI with technology insights and a practical, in-depth understanding of real business problems & application across industries."*

In the recent times, artificial intelligence has emerged from the confines of scientific labs and found various uses to impact our everyday life. It is expected that the data science and artificial intelligence industry in India (IT and non-IT industries) will be worth US $16 billion by 2025. As per a recent study by NASSCOM, there is a likely shortage of ~2,38,000 data science & artificial intelligence professionals over the next three years in the country.

About CoE - DS & AI

The Centre of Excellence for Data Sciences and Artificial Intelligence (CoE-DS&AI) is established by the Government of Karnataka on a public-private partnership model with NASSCOM as its program and implementation partner. The CoE aims to position Karnataka as one amongst the top five global AI innovation centers over the next five years.

About FutureSkills

NASSCOM FutureSkills is an industry driven learning eco-system to get India accelerated on the journey to building skills and becoming the global hub for talent in emerging technologies. FutureSkills portal is designed as a resource for the IT-ITeS industry to enable discovery, continuous learning and deep skilling in 10 emerging technologies across 166+ skills in 70 job roles. The programme aims to reskill 1 million professionals along with skilling 1 million potential employees and students in the industry over a period of 5 years.

About NASSCOM

NASSCOM® is the premier trade body and the chamber of commerce of the IT-BPM industries in India. NASSCOM is a global trade body with more than 2100 members, which include both Indian and multinational companies that have a presence in India. NASSCOM's member and associate member companies are broadly in the business of software development, software services, software products, consulting services, BPM services, e-commerce & web services, engineering services and animation and gaming. NASSCOM's membership base constitutes over 95% of the industry revenues in India and employs over 4 million professionals.

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