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University of Warsaw Rector Calls for Stronger Human Peer Review Amid AI Threat

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Alojzy Nowak, Rector of the University of Warsaw, has called for stronger human oversight of academic research amid the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), arguing that “a certain degree of regulation is necessary” to prevent AI from running out of control.

In an interview with The Nikkei, Nowak said that universities and research institutions should establish rules to strengthen human peer review of academic papers and books.

The University of Warsaw, known for its advanced research in mathematics and algorithms, has become one of Europe’s leading centers for developing AI talent. At research institutions in various countries, however, risks such as plagiarism associated with the use of AI tools in writing academic papers have become increasingly apparent.

“Human verification of AI-generated content is clearly insufficient,” Nowak said. He acknowledged that AI could provide significant labor-saving benefits at a time of population decline, but argued that in fields such as research and medicine, there is a need to increase rather than reduce the number of human safeguards, including academic peer reviewers.

Regarding the impact of AI on employment, Nowak said the debate is similar to discussions that have repeatedly accompanied technological innovations such as the Industrial Revolution. “Humans will not be replaced entirely,” he said. “New types of employment will also emerge.”

In advanced fields such as AI and battery production, Nowak said, “There is considerable potential for Japan and Poland to cooperate in defense and security-related areas, including drone production.” He emphasized that Poland is incorporating Ukraine’s drone technologies and battlefield experience, gained through its ongoing war against Russia, into its own capabilities.

Alojzy Nowak is a prominent Polish economist. After serving as dean of the University of Warsaw’s Faculty of Management, among other positions, he became Rector of the university in 2020.