

I am Hironori Kasahara, IEEE Computer Society President 2018 and a professor at Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Waseda University.

First of all, I would like to thank Professor Toshie Takahashi that organized this wonderful event “Global AI Narratives Tokyo” and all participants including distinguished international researchers from the United Kingdom and Korea.

There are many different feelings for robots and AI depending on countries. In Japan, robots with AI are friends and live together helping human beings like famous “Manga” and “Animation” Astro-Boy and Doraemon.

Especially, Manga Astro-Boy, or in Japanese ATOM, was started from 1952. In the story, ATOM was created instead of a son of Dr. Temma, who was killed by a car accident, on April 7 in 2003 in Takadanobaba, here the home town of this Waseda University.

ATOM was a robot having AI with feeling like a human, an atomic energy generator, a jet engine for flying. However, Dr. Temma sold ATOM to Circus since the ATOM’s body did not grow like a human boy. Dr. Ochanomizu helped ATOM and created his family like parents and elder brother and younger sister. ATOM always helped human beings and sometimes fight against evil robots. In an original story, he died to help human beings. So, every robot hero in Japan obey laws of Robotics like Asimov’s Law.

In Waseda University, Prof. Ichiro Kato started development of WABOT-1, a human type robot with two arms, two legs and man-machine conversation system in 1970. Since then, there are a lot of humanoid developments, like Musician Robot, or WABOT-2, that played Electron, or keyboards for hands and legs, with Orchestra in Tsukuba Expo. 1985. It could read musical score automatically and communicate with humans by voice, TWENDY-ONE, an elderly care robot by Prof. Shigeki Sugano, a president of SICE, Flute and Clarinet Playing robots and two legs walking robots by Prof. Atsuo Takanish, a president of Japan Robotics Society, and so on. All robots in Waseda University have been safe for humans and obeyed the law of robotics. If you can find a time to visit Waseda University robot research teams, it must be interesting. Please enjoy robots at Waseda University.

Thank you very much again for participating in this event and making interesting discussions.