

# **“The Future of AI is Here”**

**By**

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**Being the Vice Chancellor’s address at  
the AI graduation ceremony for the  
University students, organized by  
Techmindset on Saturday, April 26, 2025**

This morning we are gathered at the threshold of a remarkable history— an era where the future of artificial intelligence isn't just a distant dream. It is happening now. The future of AI is here. I therefore congratulate our heroes and heroines for taking the bull by the horn and by registering the name of University of Ilorin in the global map of artificial intelligence.

Over the past few decades, AI has evolved from simple rule-based systems to complex networks capable of learning, reasoning, and even creating. We see AI in our smartphones, in healthcare, in finance, in education, in the way we travel, shop, in our homes, how we relate with ourselves and how we communicate. It's not a concept reserved for science fiction anymore — it's woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. Today's event has actually demonstrated that AI is not a scientific dream but a reality for all. It is indeed dictating how we relate and how we develop at the micro and macro levels. The importance of this phenomena transition has been accommodated in our curriculum in the University of Ilorin.

In realisation of the importance of this new paradigm shift in the knowledge industry, the University of Ilorin collaborated with Tech Mindset Africa to put this training in place. I am happy we are concluding the first cohort and the second cohort is currently ongoing. Our champions should seize this opportunity created to further hone their skills and see how they can get more of their colleagues involved in this emerging field of knowledge. The future waits for nobody but the future is always available for the daring, the doer and the one who has positioned him or herself. The future is not far, it is here! It is imperative to stress that more than ever, AI is diagnosing diseases earlier and more accurately than ever before. It's helping farmers grow more food sustainably. It's assisting scientists in decoding the mysteries of the universe. It's enabling businesses to operate smarter and more efficiently. It's empowering artists, musicians, and writers to explore creativity in ways never imagined.

But as we embrace this new reality, we must also recognize the responsibilities it brings. The future of AI must be a future built on trust, transparency, and ethics. We must ensure that AI serves humanity — not replaces it, not controls it, but serves it. This means designing systems that are fair, that respect privacy, that are inclusive and accountable.

The opportunities are limitless, but so are the challenges. Bias in algorithms, job displacement, security threats — these are real issues we must confront with courage and collaboration. It is up to us — researchers, engineers, leaders,

policymakers, and citizens — to shape the future of AI with wisdom and compassion.

The future of AI is not something that will happen to us. It is something we are building together, right now, in this very moment. And it is filled with hope, potential, and the chance to create a better world for all.

Because the future of AI is here — and it is ours to shape, the University of Ilorin is already working on ethical policy that will drive the use and application of AI so that we can together build, own and operate.

I want to appreciate Joan Mbesya, the CEO of Tech Mindset Africa and Prof. Rasheed Jimoh, our Director of COMSIT for pulling this through. I also thank the Acting Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Alex Akanmu and of course I appreciate the ever dynamic and responsible students of the University of Ilorin under the able leadership of the smart President, Victor Agezeh. I also put on record the efforts of Mr. Ismail Eleburuike, the CEO of SchoolTry who linked us with Tech Mindset Africa.

I am looking forward to meeting all these daring and forward looking champions as the University will follow up with them to ensure that the skills acquired are put to positive use. The University will continue to provide opportunities and support for the group to practice their skills. The future is here indeed.

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