From Vision to Impact: A National Leap in AI

Tajikistan has emerged as a pioneer of leapfrog AI in Central Asia. The *Artificial Intelligence Council (AIC)*, established under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, is coordinating nationwide AI efforts – from mass talent preparation, to launch of the region's first green AI compute cluster. With adoption of National AI Strategy *(NAIS-2040)* – the first of its kind in the region – Tajikistan has set an ambitious goal of deriving *5% of GDP* from AI by 2040 (with 1% of GDP benchmark by 2026).

The AI Academy, launched in 2019, has become the cornerstone of Tajikistan's talent development pipeline. In partnership with local industry and international organizations, it has trained hundreds of AI engineers to date – laying the foundation for a hallmark "Introduction to AI" mandatory school subject in pilot mode with a target of covering 4,000 schools and 2 million students nationwide by 2028.

Dozens of AI startups spanning across fintech, govtech and deeptech have emerged in Tajikistan, with the country's national AI champion *zypl.ai* expanding its footprint to over 20 markets globally – from the US to the UAE and Indonesia. This traction has attracted funding from the world's leading venture capital investors such as *Prosus* ($120B Netherlands-based holding) and *Carbide Ventures* (Silicon Valley) into Tajikistan's AI industry. Our AI journey has also brought relocation of leading AI researchers from abroad to conduct frontier AI research & development (R&D) with a base in Tajikistan, resulting in the first globally recognized AI patent for *'zGAN'* synthetic data generator published on Cornell's ArXiv.

Tajikistan's AI industry has attracted partnerships with the world's leading AI companies, including *Scale AI* (US), *Mistral AI* (France), *Perplexity AI* (US), *G42's Presight* (UAE) and the *Advanced Technology Research Council* (UAE). Joint initiatives range from development and commercialization of fine-tuned LLMs, to cross-sector AI deployments. These initiatives are now unified under *Area AI* – a special economic zone for the full AI supply chain in Tajikistan that will provide substantial 25-year preferences, from tax and customs exemptions to legal extraterritoriality and complete AI self-regulation.

AI R&D Edge

Tajikistan's AI ecosystem emphasizes robust research and development through local innovation and international partnerships. The country's leading applied AI lab, *zehnlab.ai,* has spearheaded outlier-centric, multimodal AI architectures applied in computer vision and natural language processing. In June 2025, the local AI R&D community reached a major milestone with the unveiling of *SoroLLM*, the country's first national large language model pretrained with inclusion of advanced synthetic data. SoroLLM is a 27B parameter model trained on >100,000 localized instructions and benchmarked at high accuracy in Tajik – outperforming larger models such as LLaMA-3.3–70B and Qwen2.5–72B. The model has set a state-of-the-art approach to building national LLMs for *underrepresented* languages globally.

Pioneering AI Self-Regulation at the UNGA

Tajikistan has emerged as a global pioneer in innovative, responsible AI governance. On 25 July 2025, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted [resolution](link) A/79/L.94 titled *"The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Creating New Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Central Asia"* initiated by Tajikistan. The resolution embeds two key components: establishment of the *Regional Center for AI* in Dushanbe, and recognition of mechanisms for *AI self-regulation* introduced in Central Asia.

The Regional Center for AI will play a crucial role in advancing Central Asia's regional strides in AI, including joint R&D and data sharing initiatives, promotion of startups, common AI compute grid and regulatory alignment balancing innovation with oversight. This outward-looking approach amplifies regional progress and positions Tajikistan as a constructive voice in shaping the global AI agenda.

Green AI Compute

Tajikistan is one of the world's greenest and most affordable geographies for AI compute. With *98%* of electricity generated from renewables – primarily hydropower – and *60 G*W of untapped continuous hydro generation potential (sufficient to serve the entire global AI compute demand), the country is building green AI infrastructure at scale. Existing hydro resources are further complemented by solar energy projects presently under development across Tajikistan.

The roadmap put in place by the Government of Tajikistan includes unlocking *1 GW* of renewable energy for AI compute by 2030 – prospectively transforming the country into a major global AI compute hub. In June 2025, the *President of Tajikistan, H.E. Emomali Rahmon* inaugurated [*darya.ai*](link) – Tajikistan's first AI compute cluster with 2 MW capacity derived from hydropower. The cluster is already extending AI compute resources for both pretraining and inference to AI startups and researchers across Central Asia.

Area AI: The World's First AI Freezone

Combination of enabling environment, talent pipeline, AI software exports and R&D edge has attracted global AI investors to Tajikistan. Forming an international investment consortium, *zypl.ai* has taken the initiative to launch Area AI – a special economic zone assembling the full scope of AI development and deployment in Dushanbe. Structured as an Investment Agreement, Area AI has incorporated AI self-regulation as a foundational principle and includes five zones:

- Zone 1: AI Academy & AI Factory – Providing nationwide pipeline of AI talent in Tajikistan with employment opportunities catered toward local and global AI companies;
- Zone 2: Applied AI Hub – Supporting export-oriented growth of local AI startups, as well as attracting regional headquarters of the world's leading AI companies;

- Zone 3: AI R&D Labs – Hosting foundational model research, multimodal AI R&D and synthetic data sandboxes;
- Zone 4: Green AI Compute Clusters – Deploying 1 GW of green energy for AI compute offtake along with regional AI compute grid proposition;
- Zone 5: Regional AI Center – Hosting Central Asia's joint hub for region-wide AI policy harmonization in line with UNGA resolution A/79/L.94.

AI Conf 2025: Launchpad for the New Era of AI

The "AI Beyond Heights" conference will take place on *24-25 October 2025* in Dushanbe in the backdrop of Tajikistan's scenic mountains. Organized by the Government of Tajikistan in the context of UNGA resolution A/79/L.94, the conference will gather over 100 leaders from 20+ countries, including ministers, policymakers, AI pioneers, investors, and global organizations. With opening remarks by the *Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Qohir Rasulzoda*, the agenda includes cutting-edge keynotes, thematic panel sessions and signing ceremonies. Major partnerships planned for announcement include:

- *Area AI:* formalization of Investment Agreement between the Government of Tajikistan and consortium of AI investors to launch the world's first AI freezone;
- *Center for AI Excellence:* unveiling of Central Asia's first Center for AI Excellence targeting AI deployments across sectors by a leading global AI company in partnership with zypl.ai;
- *Project RumiLLM:* co-development for a multilingual LLM covering Farsi, Tajik and Russian languages by a leading European AI company and zehnlab.ai;
- *Project Soro:* expansion of AI in education program to 100 schools nationwide with collaboration between a leading international organization, global AI partner and Tajikistan's AI industry to deliver AI-driven personalized learning and instructor co-pilots across all schools by 2028;
- *Project AI-GOV:* announcement of nationwide public sector deployment of frontier AI instruments including agentic AI browser, AI for licensing automation and SoroLLM for communications by a leading American AI company and Tajikistan's AIC;
- *Project AI Oxus:* scaling darya.ai's AI compute cluster to deliver managed services with 1,000+ GPUs for startups, companies and governments across Central Asia.

For official delegations and public sector leaders attending, the conference offers strategic benefits:

- *High-Level Networking:* With participants spanning ministers, AI CEOs, researchers, and international agencies, AI Conf Dushanbe creates an unparalleled networking environment. Visiting delegations will engage in direct dialogue with peers and global AI experts to exchange best practices, discuss joint initiatives and forge relationships that may extend beyond the event.

- *Collaboration Opportunities:* The conference actively facilitates new collaborations through B2B and G2G meetings and signings. Delegations can explore bilateral agreements or pilot projects with the region's AI institutions and companies. Furthermore, delegates will connect with multilateral initiatives to align broader efforts across the full spectrum of AI collaboration.

- *Regional and Global AI Policy:* visiting delegates will help shape the emerging narrative on responsible AI in developing contexts. The dialogues on emerging AGI will feed into international processes where all voices ought to matter. This opens the door for future organization of 'AI Beyond Heights' conference as an arena for discussions on global AI policy through a lens of the developing world.

Invitation to Attend

In this light, the Government of Tajikistan kindly invites your esteemed delegation to join AI Conf Dushanbe 2025 and join a landmark, historical moment in the domain of AI. Your participation will not only affirm our shared commitment to harnessing AI for sustainable development, but also pave the way for tangible partnerships. We encourage visiting delegations to consider areas of mutual interest that could be formalized during the event – including partnership avenues with Tajikistan's burgeoning AI industry.

With a clear vision, an integrated strategy, and global goodwill, Tajikistan is poised to scale new heights in AI – and we believe this journey is best undertaken in partnership with forward-looking governments and organizations around the world. We look forward to welcoming you in Dushanbe this October, charting a *collective future in AI* that is innovative, inclusive, and internationally connected.