# Us must boost AI literacy and incident reporting to lead global technology revolution



The rapid global advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies has ignited both opportunities and challenges for the United States in securing its economic security and geopolitical influence. As noted by a recent commentary in Fortune, the emergence of sophisticated AI models globally—including OpenAI’s GPT-4.5 and China's "AI Tigers" such as DeepSeek and Baichuan—underscores a competitive arena where technological leadership could translate into substantial economic growth and strategic leverage.

According to Chinese sources, China’s AI industry reached a valuation of $70 billion in 2023, while worldwide private investment in AI exceeded $150 billion last year. This surge illustrates that AI is more than a technological race; it is integral to national economic strength and global positioning. However, the United States faces two significant hurdles that could impede its ability to lead: low AI literacy among its population and policymakers, and the absence of systematic mechanisms to learn from AI-related failures through incident reporting.

The concept of AI literacy is critical in this context, defined as the capacity to recognise, comprehend, and effectively interact with AI systems in daily life. At present, only about 30% of U.S. adults have this capability. Strategic initiatives aimed at raising AI literacy would enable Americans to engage confidently with AI and participate actively in an AI-powered economy. The commentary emphasises that this is not merely a technological issue but also one of economic security, suggesting that businesses must prioritise AI literacy as a form of risk management to detect potential issues promptly and implement safeguards effectively.

Parallel to the call for AI literacy is the proposal for enhanced governance through the establishment of incident reporting mechanisms akin to the aviation industry’s “black box” system. In aviation, mandatory and voluntary reporting of safety incidents has fostered a culture of continuous improvement, significantly advancing safety standards over time. The commentary suggests a similar approach for AI—an infrastructure to capture data on AI failures to facilitate learning and prevent recurrence. This system would not only serve public protection but also yield economic benefits by helping companies avoid costly errors and strengthen their products.

Implementing such mechanisms necessitates a balanced approach. Regulatory frameworks must avoid overburdening innovation while ensuring accountability and meaningful oversight. The potential for public-private partnerships is highlighted, drawing parallels to established collaborative models in cybersecurity that balance government and industry efforts to protect shared interests.

The article stresses the importance of coordinated efforts between federal and state governments and industry stakeholders to develop standards that encourage innovation and safety simultaneously. Companies investing in AI literacy and incident tracking systems stand to gain a competitive edge, with stronger resilience and market leadership prospects.

Drawing historical analogies, the commentary compares AI's transformative potential to that of electricity and commercial aviation, both of which unfolded over decades before becoming foundational to modern life and economic growth. For instance, commercial aviation took nearly two decades to scale after the first powered flight in 1908 and half a century to establish comprehensive safety standards. Today, the aviation industry contributes $1.8 trillion to the U.S. economy, whereas AI is forecasted to have even greater economic impact. Estimates vary, with projections ranging from a modest 0.55% to 1.56% GDP growth over ten years (MIT, 2018) to a potentially transformative 7% increase predicted by Goldman Sachs, and IDC’s forecast of AI adding $4.9 trillion to the global economy by 2030.

The commentary underscores that America must not only participate in this AI revolution but lead it by setting standards and reaping economic benefits. Past U.S. efforts, such as executive orders in 2019 and 2020 during the Trump administration, demonstrated federal commitment to AI leadership, a focus that continues with recent executive orders and mandates. Achieving and sustaining this leadership depends on a workforce equipped with AI skills, consumer engagement, and governance frameworks that encourage progress while mitigating risks.

The authors propose two key initiatives: launching a national campaign to improve AI literacy across the population and creating incident reporting mechanisms for AI system failures. These measures seek to shift the U.S. approach from reacting to AI developments to proactively guiding its trajectory. In doing so, the commentary anticipates that America can harness the full potential of AI technologies, from advancing healthcare diagnostics and personalised education to boosting overall productivity.

In essence, the commentary in Fortune identifies AI literacy and systematic incident learning as foundational pillars for U.S. economic competitiveness and innovation leadership in the coming years. It calls for collaborative government and industry efforts to build a robust AI governance model that balances innovation and safety, thereby enabling Americans to benefit from AI’s transformative impact while maintaining global leadership in technology and economic growth.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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