

A.I. and my future

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What do you want to do in the future? Well, I want to work in a ground crew or as a flight attendant in some airline.

But nowadays, it is hard to imagine what my future job will be like because AI is changing these jobs so much.

Today, I'm going to talk about "AI". And the airline industry. AI is short for Artificial Intelligence.

My hometown is in Fukushima and I came to Okinawa 8 years ago. I frequently go back and forth by plane.

One day, I remember I went through Haneda Airport. When I headed to the check in counter to get my boarding ticket, I was very surprised because there was a row of baggage drop-off machines and there were only 1 or 2 staff. Whereas the previous time there had been at least 10 staff at the check in counter. But this time there were no queues. So, I realized that these machines can save time. I imagine AI will evolve more and more in the future.

When that happens, it will take our place at work and many of us will lose our jobs.

I searched on the internet about AI and got some information. You might think AI will happen in the distant future but it's not true. AI is short coming very soon to our everyday lives, with a huge impact.

In 2014, a company called Detroit from the UK, announced that "35% of UK jobs could be replaced by robots in the next 20 years." Also, according to a report by Oxford University, in the next 10 to 20 years, about 350 occupations in the United States may disappear because of AI.

So if airlines use more AI and robots in the future, how can people like me get a job? Well, it's not all bad news. – Robots don't have feelings. But we do. So, maybe airlines will still need people like us. Let me tell you a personal story.

My aspiration to work for an airline started from my memorable experience. I still remember my first flight alone – from Okinawa back to Fukushima in the summer of 2012. I was just 11 or 12 years old. I was very afraid that the plane might crash, so I was sleepless all the way to

Haneda Airport. On board, a flight attendant came over to me to soothe my anxiety, saying, "You are so brave, boarding the plane alone by yourself!" She gave me a handful of candies, so that I could have them on the train, later. Then I had a safe and comfortable trip back to Fukushima. I appreciated what she had done for me. I still keep that heart-warming memory in my mind.

I think AI will be used at the airport more and more. But, Can AI be considerate to humans? AI doesn't have feelings. In a few years, AI will be able to read our faces more easily. But it won't be able to care about people, like the flight attendant cared about me. That's why I think AI can't take our place at work.

So in the future, check in counters will be staffed by robots. But In the airplane, there will still be people like me working as flight attendants. So I hope to welcome you on aboard, someday.

Thank you.