Ministry of Information Affairs (MIA) announces launching of MobileMate
The first Mobile Sign language translator for people with hearing disabilities

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain 15th September 2021: Today at an event, Ministry of Information Affairs announced development of a novel product named MobileMate, a companion mobile application that is useful to support hearing-impaired people as real time translator for sign language and from sign language to text and voice. MobileMate is a real-time solution for Sign language, developed by a group of students in the Cloud Innovation Center at University of Bahrain, powered by AWS and sponsored by Tamkeen.

Today, hearing-impaired people do not feel included in the community or engaged in discussions or communication. Currently, hearing impaired people lack mature solutions on their mobile that facilitates communication with other people in their daily simple activities like communicating with taxi drivers, or while shopping or engaging in a simple discussion. To exclude hearing-impaired people who are important part of the community has a significant effect on their knowledge, self-development and feeling part of the community.

MIA is launching MobileMate, a unique solution applying innovative mobile technologies powered by Amazon AI and ML to provide real time translation from voice and text to sign language and from sign language to voice and text. The real time sign language translation is utilizing an API gateway and accessed by AWS Amplify, stored on DynamoDb, Amazon S3, and visualized through a 3D model and AI and sagemaker M/L dataset that is derived from American Sign Language (ASL).

The solution will help hearing-impaired people to feel included in the community, and with the advanced mobile technology, they are entering a new area of information and communication, which was not accessible to them before. MobileMate is built on top of a many advanced artificial intelligence technologies that help Hearing-Impaired people to communicate with other people as if they speak and understand their language.

The hearing-impaired person will carry his /her mobile device and activate the MobileMate application to start communicating with other people either by typing text that can be voiced out or by sign language that translated to voice and text. The other main functionality is when a person speak out in English language, the application with show the voice transcribed to text and also shows an avatar translating to sign language on the mobile screen.

Ministry of Information Affairs in Bahrain will be the very first ministry to tap into sign language translation by providing two other prototypes VoiceMate and PoseMate. VoiceMate is a sign language translator to voice and text, while PoseMate is translator from Sign language to Voice. MobileMate is an advanced step

that combines both Prototype (VoiceMate and PoseMate) to provide an exceptional experience on the mobile.

There is huge benefit when applying MobileMate, is providing a mobile application that is handy and easy to use for communicating with other people. MobileMate make it the Hearing-Impaired people stay and correctly informed, with easier day to day need of connecting with people while shopping, or when riding a taxi or simply engage in a discussion with other people.

QUOTES TO BE ADDED LATER

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