Dear Editor,

I am writing with great concern about the heated discussion surrounding the use of humanoids. With the aid of sophisticated humanoid development, there is no doubt that numerous advantages will emerge through this service. However, the development of humanoids has also sparked debates on ethical and safety issues, which require our attention.

With their outstanding ability to learn, humanoids are designed to be a massive part of our daily lives. Spanning from household chores to various industries, it's certain that they will revolutionise our lives. Firstly, they can provide an ample labour force for certain services. The "one child" policy, which was once considered ideal, from the last century has led to serious consequences.

The drastically growing ageing population has put an enormous burden on China's senior and medical services. To make it even worse, the ageing population fails to provide an adequate labour force, exacerbating the current situation. However, humanoids could eradicate this situation by performing basic tasks such as serving meals or even changing clothes. Besides, this significantly reduces the chances of human error and improves the quality of service. Moreover, humanoids can get repetitive and mundane tasks done, allowing a higher supply of labour that focuses on specific professions, saving time and capital. With a fully automatic production line, program-inputted humanoids may work incessantly with high accuracy. This remarkably improves efficiency and productivity and saves money on salaries. Staff will have a lower workload; hence, they may be involved in innovation and invention. In some extreme cases, such as a wildfire or a rescue mission, humanoids could take up the role of firefighters. Possessing physical strength, they can spare time to change gears. Besides, they do not face physical limitations in extreme environments. With the above factors, it lowers the chance of casualties.

Though the perks of humanoids sound compelling, we must not overlook the sugar-coated threats. Humanoids are programmed; they lack self-consciousness. They cannot make reasonable, flexible decisions based on the current situation regarding ethical dilemmas. For example, according to the First Law of Robotics, a robot must protect a human's life. However, if the person has a 'DNR' badge, it will conflict with the robot's programme: Should the robot rescue the patient, or should it respect its wishes?

On the other hand, the service of humanoids has also raised safety concerns. An unexpected system crash, a minor bug, or a single wrong programme might transform all these submissive, obedient robots into safety hazards. Mistakes are inevitably going to happen occasionally. However, when life matters, who is going to take the blame? For instance, uncrewed automatic cars are the norm right now. Yet when a fatal car crash happens, who is responsible for the accident? Countless ethical debates immediately arise, which require our full attention.

The unprecedented sophistication of humanoids is expected to enhance national security. National security involves many different aspects, such as military and agriculture. Humanoids can replace mandatory conscription, which reduces population loss in military conflicts and preserves the labour force. Humanoids could be our best companions or our worst enemies. We can build an idealistic society with humanoids' assistance with the appropriate use.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong