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TECH & SCIENCE

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI

A chatbot programmed to be a seven-year-old boy has become the first AI bot to be granted official residence in Tokyo, Japan.

Shibuya Mirai is the latest resident of Shibuya, a Tokyo ward with a population of around 224,000 people, despite only existing as a chatbot on the Line messaging app.

The ward's decision to make Mirai—meaning 'future' in Japanese—an official resident is part of a project aimed at making the local government more familiar and accessible to locals. The chatty seven-year-old is designed to listen to the opinions of Shibuya residents.

"His hobbies are taking pictures and observing people," Shibuya Ward said in a statement seen by the AFP news agency. "He loves talking with people. Please talk to him about anything."

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