

# AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Vong Sokchearavy  
Say Vithya Arthur



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**Prompt:** Smog and Sustainability: Phnom Penh's Fight Against Air Pollution.

**Photo Credit:**

01/06

## 1. AI empowering Cambodia's education, social development

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

Cambodia is leveraging AI to address challenges such as limited access to quality education, healthcare, and digital infrastructure. The Cambodian Chinese Evolution Researchers Association and the Cambodian Foundation for Educational Social Development Association are working together to promote AI training, expand internet access, and develop ethical AI guidelines. AI is also transforming healthcare, agriculture, and environmental conservation, enabling smarter public services and sustainable development. With sustained investment, strategic collaboration, and AI-driven policies, Cambodia is positioning itself as a leader in digital transformation, ensuring AI serves as a catalyst for inclusive growth and long-term development.



Source: Unsplash

Reference:

Ben, S. (2025, March 27a). AI empowering Cambodia's education, social development. *Khmer Times*.  
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501660389/ai-empowering-cambodias-education-social-development/>

## 2. STI Day 2025 opens with launch of four initiatives

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: Unsplash

Cambodia's 3rd National Science, Technology, and Innovation Day (STI Day 2025) highlighted the country's growing focus on AI-driven development with the launch of four key initiatives. Under the theme "Growing Talents for STI," the event brought together researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to discuss AI's role in transforming sectors like healthcare, business, and tourism. Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea and Minister Hem Vandy emphasized the importance of human capital in building a knowledge-based economy and ensuring responsible AI integration. Key initiatives unveiled included a National R&D Management System Blueprint in collaboration with South Korea's STEPI, a Business Intelligence System (BIS) funded by Japan to support SMEs, an AI-based screening program for diabetic retinopathy to enhance early disease detection, and a Digital Travel Platform for real-time crowd control and policy updates. The NCSTI's partnership with UN-ESCAP also reinforces Cambodia's efforts to develop a national AI strategy. With AI at the core of STI Day 2025, Cambodia is making significant strides toward a more innovative, inclusive, and tech-driven future.

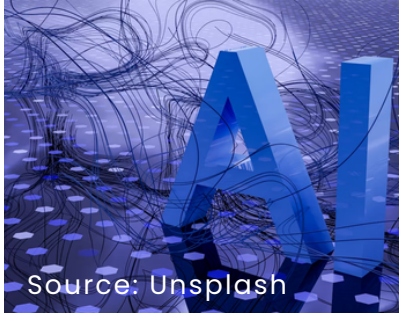
Reference:

Ben, S. (2025, March 27b). STI Day 2025 opens with launch of four initiatives. *Khmer Times*.  
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501660448/sti-day-2025-opens-with-launch-of-four-initiatives/>



### 3. Military AI caught in tension between speed and control

Source: [Computer Weekly](#)



The integration of AI into military operations offers significant advantages in efficiency, decision-making, and deterrence, but it also introduces a fundamental tension between speed and human control. While AI can help defense organizations navigate complex battle scenarios and optimize logistics, its rapid decision-making capabilities risk reducing human oversight, leading to automation bias and ethical concerns, particularly with lethal autonomous weapons.

Experts debate whether AI will enhance accountability by applying laws of war more effectively or undermine it by lowering the threshold for violence. Some advocate for rapid AI adoption to maintain strategic advantage, while others warn against overreliance on an evolving technology that may reshape warfare in unpredictable ways.

Reference:

Skelton, K. K. (2025, March 26). Military AI caught in tension between speed and control. *Computer Weekly*.  
<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/366621215/Military-AI-caught-in-tension-between-speed-and-control>

### 4. Industry figures call for further investment in AI to boost UK economy

Source: [Guernsey Press](#)



The UK government is ramping up AI investment, but industry leaders are urging even greater support to keep pace with global competitors. Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced a £3.25 billion Transformation Fund in her spring statement, with a focus on AI adoption in the public sector and defence.

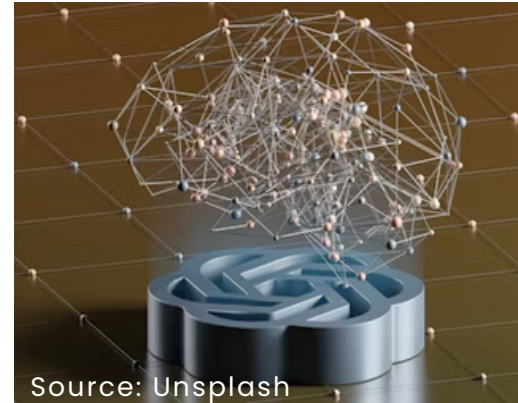
This aligns with the AI Opportunities Action Plan, which aims to position the UK as a global AI superpower. However, industry figures like Feargus MacDaeid, co-founder of AI legal tech firm Definely, argue that more structured policies, increased funding for research, and government-backed innovation are needed to maintain a competitive edge.

MacDaeid emphasized that AI is at a “generational tipping point,” comparable to the rise of the internet 30 years ago. He called for less focus on regulation and more on fostering AI-driven productivity and economic growth. The message is clear: while the UK government is recognizing AI’s potential, industry leaders want bolder action to maximize its impact.

## 5. U.S. blacklists over 50 Chinese companies in bid to curb Beijing's AI, chip capabilities

Source: [CNBC](#)

The U.S. has added over 50 Chinese companies to its export blacklist, aiming to curb China's advancements in AI and high-performance computing. The restrictions, enacted under the Trump administration, bar American firms from supplying these entities without government approval. The Commerce Department cited national security concerns, particularly regarding China's military modernization and quantum technology capabilities. Among the blacklisted firms are subsidiaries of Inspur Group and suppliers to Huawei. The move intensifies U.S.-China tensions, following previous Biden-era semiconductor controls and rising tariffs. China condemned the sanctions, while experts note that U.S. officials are increasing efforts to prevent Chinese access to restricted technologies.



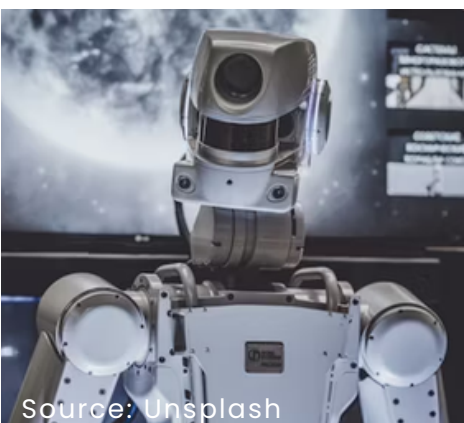
Source: Unsplash

Reference:

Bao, A. (2025, March 26). U.S. blacklists over 50 Chinese companies in bid to curb Beijing's AI, chip capabilities. *CNBC* <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/03/26/us-blacklists-50-chinese-companies-in-bid-to-curb-beijings-ai-chip-capabilities.html>

## 6. Indianapolis recognized for integrating AI into city government operations

Source: [WishTV.Com](#)



Source: Unsplash

Reference:

Zulkosky, D. (2025, March 25). Indianapolis recognized for integrating AI into city government operations. *WishTV.Com*. <https://www.wishtv.com/news/politics/indianapolis-smart-cities-ai-commission/>

Indianapolis has received a Smart Cities North America Award from the International Data Corp. (IDC) for integrating AI into city operations. The initiative, launched by the city's AI Commission in December 2023, was proposed by Republican Minority Leader Michael Paul Hart to enhance government functions. Early AI applications include using cameras to identify potholes while ensuring privacy. The city plans to train employees on generative AI, hire a chief privacy officer and chief data officer, and implement Microsoft Co-Pilot for efficiency. The IDC praised Indianapolis for its careful and responsible approach to AI adoption.

## 7. China Floods the World With AI Models After DeepSeek Success

Source: [Yahoo Finance](#)



Source: FREEPIK

### Reference:

Rai, S. & Sun, Y. (2025, March 26). China Floods the World With AI Models After DeepSeek Success. *Yahoo Finance*.  
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/china-floods-world-ai-models-144650368.html>

China's AI industry has surged following DeepSeek's breakthrough in developing a powerful model at a fraction of the cost of Western counterparts. Major Chinese tech companies, including Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent, and Meituan, have rapidly launched open-source AI models, challenging industry leaders like OpenAI and Google. This wave of cost-effective AI solutions is pressuring Western companies to rethink their pricing and business models, with OpenAI considering open-sourcing some of its technology. The shift also poses potential financial challenges for Nvidia, as cheaper AI development could reduce demand for its high-cost chips. China's AI expansion signals a broader effort to set global standards and claim a larger share of the market.

## PUBLICATIONS

### AIF Insights No. 5 (2025) | Medium is the Message: AI is the Medium?

Source: [AI Forum](#)

### Reference:

Ros, S. (2025, March 17). *Medium is the Message: AI is the Medium?*. AI Forum.  
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/?publication=aif-insights-no-5-2025-medium-is-the-message-ai-is-the-medium>

Artificial Intelligence is the driving force of innovation and technological advancement, greatly contributing to economic growth. With the rise of this transformative technology, there are some challenges regarding developing legal frameworks and policies, particularly in the area of AI-related intellectual property issues. Therefore, the legal implications concerning Intellectual Property and AI at the national (Cambodia), regional (ASEAN), and global level will be discussed in this article without intending to analyze the law in detail but rather to give a comprehensive overview of the present situation and how it may be applied to this new field.

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1. Ben, S. (2025, March 27a). AI empowering Cambodia's education, social development. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501660389/ai-empowering-cambodias-education-social-development/>
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7. Rai, S. & Sun, Y. (2025, March 26). China Floods the World With AI Models After DeepSeek Success. *Yahoo Finance*. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/china-floods-world-ai-models-144650368.html>
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