

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Prompt: Human Rights Day is observed every 10 December to honor the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 a landmark commitment by the UN to uphold dignity, freedom, and equality for all.

Photo Credit: ChatGPT

01/09

1. Cambodia embraces industrial AI innovation, scientists told ការលើកឡើងរបស់អ្នកវិទ្យាសាស្ត្រប្រទេសកម្ពុជាទទួលយកនវានុវត្តន៍បច្ចេកវិទ្យា បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ក្នុងវិស័យឧស្សាហកម្ម

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

At the Tengchong Scientists Forum in Yunnan, Cambodia reaffirmed its commitment to industrial innovation powered by responsible and inclusive AI. Undersecretary Hul Seingheng highlighted Cambodia's push to integrate AI into industrial modernization, stressing the need for ethical, human-centric AI governance. He emphasized closing the skills gap through stronger STEM and AI literacy, and called for joint applied AI research, technology transfer, and global cooperation. Cambodia aims to use AI to diversify its economy under frameworks like the STI Roadmap 2030, supported by close collaboration with China.

Reference:

Ben, S. (2025, December 8). Cambodia embraces industrial AI innovation, scientists told. *Khmer Times*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501802945/cambodia-embraces-industrial-ai-innovation-scientists-told/>



Source: iStoke

2. China to prioritize innovation, AI in 2026 economic agenda ប្រទេសចិននឹងផ្តោតសំខាន់បំផុតទៅលើនវានុវត្តន៍ និងបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) នៅក្នុង ផែនការសេដ្ឋកិច្ចរបស់ខ្លួនសម្រាប់ឆ្នាំ២០២៦

Source: [China Daily](#)



Source: iStoke

China's 2026 economic agenda will put AI and frontier innovation at the center of national development. The government plans to use AI to upgrade industries, strengthen technological self-reliance, reduce dependence on foreign tech, and drive new growth sectors such as robotics, smart manufacturing, EVs, and 6G. Overall, China is shifting toward an AI-driven, innovation-based growth model to boost industrial resilience and global competitiveness.

Reference:

Yu, C. (2025, December 9). China to prioritize innovation, AI in 2026 economic agenda. *China Daily*.
<https://www.chinadailyasia.com/hk/article/625068>

3. Myanmar delegates study AI technology in Nanning

គណៈប្រតិភូមីយ៉ាន់ម៉ា ទៅសិក្សាបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI នៅទីក្រុងណានីង

Source: [The Global New Light of Myanmar](#)



Source: iStoke

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya visited Nanning, China, on 6 December to study AI-driven technologies. They learned about AI-powered healthcare systems—such as multilingual online medical consultations—and toured major institutions including the China-ASEAN AI Innovation Centre. Officials showcased AI chip production and how AI is being applied across ASEAN in areas like education, healthcare, tourism, public services, and the economy. The visit also included the China-ASEAN Information Harbour, where they explored digital platforms under the Digital Silk Road initiative.

Reference:

Myanmar News Agency. (2025, December 10). Myanmar delegates study AI technology in Nanning. *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-delegates-study-ai-technology-in-nanning/>

4. Singapore: ASEAN Universities Adapt to the AI-Driven Era

សិង្ហបុរី៖ សាកលវិទ្យាល័យអាស៊ានសម្របខ្លួនទៅនឹងយុគសម័យជំរុញដោយ បច្ចេកវិទ្យាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: [OpenGov Asia](#)



Source: iStoke

ASEAN university leaders met in Singapore to discuss how to integrate AI into education responsibly. They emphasized boosting AI literacy for faculty and students, improving data privacy and cybersecurity, and using open-source AI models due to limited infrastructure. While AI is transforming teaching and research, universities also face challenges like unequal access to AI tools and declining student well-being. The overall message: AI is unavoidable, and institutions must adapt while preserving human connection and academic integrity.

Reference:

OpenGov Asia. (2025, December 8). Singapore: ASEAN Universities Adapt to the AI-Driven Era. <https://opengovasia.com/singapore-asean-universities-adapt-to-the-ai-driven-era/?c=kh>

5. Cambodia Convenes the First National AI for Education Conference, transforming RAM recommendations into national action

កម្ពុជារៀបចំសន្និសីទថ្នាក់ជាតិលើកទី១ ស្តីពីបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត(AI)សម្រាប់វិស័យ
អប់រំ ដោយបញ្ចូលអនុសាសន៍ RAM ទៅជាសកម្មភាពជាតិ

Source: [UNESCO](#)

Cambodia's first National AI for Education Conference marked a major step in turning its AI Ethics Readiness Assessment into action. Leaders emphasized ethical, inclusive AI use in schools, stronger teacher training, and evidence-based governance. A key milestone was the launch of the Research Center on AI for Education (RAIE) at CADT to drive national AI research and capacity-building. The event highlighted Cambodia's commitment to responsible AI adoption through multisectoral collaboration.

Reference:

UNESCO. (2025, December 11). *Cambodia Convenes the First National AI for Education Conference, transforming RAM recommendations into national action*. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/cambodia-convenes-first-national-ai-education-conference-transforming-ram-recommendations-national>



6. Elon Musk teams with El Salvador to bring Grok chatbot to public schools

លោក Elon Musk និងរដ្ឋាភិបាលប្រទេស El Salvador សហការនាំយកកម្មវិធី
Grok Chatbot បញ្ចូលទៅក្នុងសាលារៀនរដ្ឋ

Source: [The Guardian](#)



Elon Musk's xAI is partnering with El Salvador to deploy its Grok chatbot in over 5,000 public schools, reaching more than 1 million students in an "AI-powered education program." The move aims to integrate AI into curricula, though Grok is controversial for spreading extremist and conspiratorial content. This follows global trends where AI chatbots are introduced into schools, such as OpenAI in Estonia and Meta in Colombia, raising questions about content reliability, ethics, and educational impact.

Reference:

Kerr, D. (2025, December 11). *Elon Musk teams with El Salvador to bring Grok chatbot to public schools*. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/dec/11/elon-musk-el-salvador-grok>

PUBLICATIONS

**AIF Insights No. 35
(2025) | From
Medicine to Meaning:
A Buddhist Journey
through Being,
Knowing, and Acting
in AI**

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2025, October 10). *From Medicine to Meaning: A Buddhist Journey through Being, Knowing, and Acting in AI*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/?publication=aif-insights-no-35-2025-from-medicine-to-meaning-a-buddhist-journey-through-being-knowing-and-acting-in-ai>

From Medicine to Meaning: A Buddhist Journey through Being, Knowing, and Acting in AI explores how Buddhist philosophy reframes the discourse on artificial intelligence through an ontology of interdependence, an epistemology of the Middle Way, and an ethics of compassion. Moving beyond Western notions of autonomy and binary logic, the essay situates AI within a relational framework grounded in dependent origination (paṭiccasamuppāda) and non-self (anattā). It argues that intelligence should be understood not as independent agency but as a process arising from interconnected causes and conditions. Drawing on the Four Brahmavihāras—loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity—the paper proposes a model of “compassionate design” where moral intention replaces mechanical compliance. The author’s intellectual evolution from medicine to education and history mirrors a shift from empirical control to contemplative wisdom. Ultimately, the essay contends that the true innovation in AI lies not in computation but in consciousness—inviting humanity to design intelligent systems guided by mindfulness, wisdom, and compassion.

PUBLICATIONS

AIF Insights No. 36 (2025) | Khmer Gatilok and Relational Ethics: A Cultural Lens for AI Morality

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2025, October 31). *Khmer Gatilok and Relational Ethics: A Cultural Lens for AI Morality*. AI Forum.

<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-36-2025-khmer-gatilok-and-relational-ethics-a-cultural-lens-for-ai-morality/>

This essay examines the Khmer ethical system of Gatilok as a culturally grounded framework for AI ethics. Unlike Western approaches that prioritize universal principles, Gatilok emphasizes relational, situational, and long-term moral reasoning rooted in Theravāda Buddhist concepts such as intention (cetanā), karma (kamma), and social harmony (sampheap). Through stories, proverbs, and oral traditions, Gatilok teaches that ethical behavior depends on context, relationships, and the consequences of actions over time. Applying these insights to AI governance highlights the importance of relational accountability, participatory oversight, culturally sensitive datasets, and long-term impact assessments. By integrating Gatilok into AI design and policy, this perspective encourages ethically aware, contextually appropriate, and culturally responsive AI systems that respect local values and foster social cohesion.

The Khmer Path Beyond AI explores how a mistranslation of “artificial intelligence” in Cambodia opened a deeper conversation about the difference between intelligence and wisdom. The article argues that while modern AI focuses on computation and efficiency, Khmer Buddhist thought offers a path that centers mindfulness, discernment, and compassion. It suggests that Cambodia’s philosophical heritage can inspire a shift from building smart machines to cultivating wise technologies grounded in ethical awareness and human flourishing.

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2025, November 11). *Artificial Wisdom: The Khmer Path Beyond AI*. AI Forum.

<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-37-2025-artificial-wisdom-the-khmer-path-beyond-ai/>

AIF Insights No. 37 (2025) | Artificial Wisdom: The Khmer Path Beyond AI

Source: [AI Forum](#)

PUBLICATIONS

AIF Insights No. 38 (2025) | Science as Shield: How Small States Survive Through Cyber, AI, Math, and Physics

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2025, December 17). *Science as Shield: How Small States Survive Through Cyber, AI, Math, and Physics*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-38-2025-science-as-shield-how-small-states-survive-through-cyber-ai-math-and-physics/>

This article argues that for small states, survival in an era shaped by great power rivalry, war economy dynamics, and artificial intelligence depends on scientific depth rather than size or rhetoric. It contends that mathematics, physics, and cyber capability form the core pillars of industrial capacity, technological sovereignty, and national security. Drawing on earlier Cambodian policy papers and contemporary global trends, the analysis shows how neglecting these foundations leads to structural dependence, strategic vulnerability, and silent erosion of sovereignty, especially as AI amplifies existing scientific inequalities. The article concludes that science is no longer a long-term development goal but an immediate strategic necessity, and that for small states, building robust scientific ecosystems is the decisive condition for autonomy and survival in the modern international system.

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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-36-2025-khmer-gatilok-and-relational-ethics-a-cultural-lens-for-ai-morality/>
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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/publications/aif-insights-no-38-2025-science-as-shield-how-small-states-survive-through-cyber-ai-math-and-physics/>