

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

[HTTPS://AIFORUM.MY.CANVA.SITE/LINKTREE](https://aiforum.my.canva.site/linktree)

Vong Sokchearavy
Say Vithya Arthur
Sar Sorpheavathana



Friday, December 19, 2025
ISSUE NO. 58



Prompt: Cambodia Needs Peace 🇰🇲 United in one spirit and one voice, Cambodians call for peace with sincere hearts, sharing this message with the world.

1. Education minister highlights urgent need to adopt AI រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងអប់រំបានសង្កត់ធ្ងន់ថា យើងចាំបាច់ត្រូវចាប់ផ្តើមប្រើប្រាស់ប្រព័ន្ធបញ្ញា សិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)



Source: Moeys Cambodia

Cambodia's Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron warned that failing to adopt AI could leave the country further behind developed nations, urging universities to embrace AI quickly but responsibly. He highlighted AI's role in education, agriculture, industry, and economic growth, while cautioning against misuse in academia, such as AI-written dissertations. The ministry is pushing for ethical AI use, new assessment methods, and skills like critical thinking and problem-solving to ensure AI strengthens learning and supports Cambodia's Vision 2050.

Reference:

Vong, O. (2025, December 18). Education minister highlights urgent need to adopt AI. *The Phnom Penh Post*. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/education-minister-highlights-urgent-need-to-adopt-ai>

2. Israel joins US-led Pax Silica alliance to shape global AI economy ប្រទេសអ៊ីស្រាអែលបានចូលរួមក្នុងសម្ព័ន្ធភាពថ្មីមួយដែលដឹកនាំដោយសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក មានឈ្មោះថា "Pax Silica" ដើម្បីរៀបចំសេដ្ឋកិច្ចបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ពិភពលោក

Source: [Jewish News Syndicate](#)

Israel has joined the U.S.-led Pax Silica alliance, a strategic initiative aimed at shaping the global AI-driven economic order by securing the full AI value chain—from critical minerals and semiconductor chips to data centers and AI infrastructure. By aligning leading AI and advanced-technology nations, the initiative seeks to strengthen resilient supply chains, protect sensitive technologies, and ensure economic and security prosperity in the AI era, highlighting AI as a core pillar of future global power, innovation, and industrial competitiveness.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Jewish News Syndicate. (2025, December 14). Israel joins US-led Pax Silica alliance to shape global AI economy. <https://www.jns.org/israel-joins-us-led-pax-silica-alliance-to-shape-global-ai-economy/>

3. Phnom Penh declared no-drone zone

សេចក្តីណែនាំពីរដ្ឋបាលរាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ស្តីពីការហាមឃាត់ការប្រើប្រាស់អាកាសយាន
គ្មានមនុស្សបើក (ជ្រូន) គ្រប់ប្រភេទ ក្នុងភូមិសាស្ត្ររាជធានីភ្នំពេញ

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

Phnom Penh has declared a total drone ban amid heightened security tensions with Thailand, warning that unauthorised UAV use will face legal action. The move reflects growing concern over AI-enabled drones, which can be used for surveillance, targeting, and data collection, potentially exposing sensitive military and civilian information. Authorities are tightening monitoring and urging public reporting to prevent technology-driven security threats during the ongoing conflict.

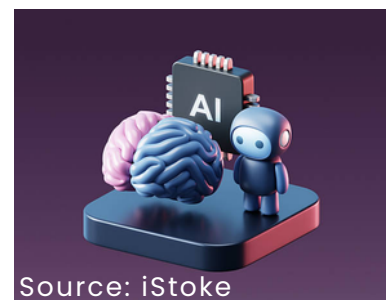
Reference:

Van, R. (2025, December 18). Phnom Penh declared no-drone zone. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501810387/phnom-penh-declared-no-drone-zone/>

4. Cambodian Delegation Completes AI Training in China to Bolster Digital Economy

មន្ត្រីកម្ពុជាចំនួន ៥ រូប បានចូលរួមវគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាលអំពីបច្ចេកវិទ្យាបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត
(AI) នៅប្រទេសចិន

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

A Cambodian delegation from the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation completed a two-week AI training programme in China, reinforcing Cambodia's push to integrate artificial intelligence into its digital economy and industrial development. The programme strengthened officials' capacity in AI fundamentals, machine learning and practical applications across manufacturing, e-commerce and supply chains, while also addressing AI ethics and regional digital cooperation, underscoring AI's strategic importance for boosting productivity, innovation and Cambodia's long-term economic growth toward higher-income status.

Reference:

Khmer Times. (2025, December 14). *Cambodian Delegation Completes AI Training in China to Bolster Digital Economy*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501807484/cambodian-delegation-completes-ai-training-in-china-to-bolster-digital-economy/>

5. How China built its 'Manhattan Project' to rival the West in AI chips

ប្រទេសចិនបានបង្កើត "ម៉ាស៊ីនកំរូ" មួយប្រភេទដែលគេហៅថា EUV Lithography នៅក្នុងមន្ទីរពិសោធន៍សម្ងាត់មួយនៅទីក្រុងសិនជិន(Shenzhen)

China has secretly built a prototype EUV lithography machine—the critical technology needed to produce advanced AI chips—as part of a state-led effort likened to a “Manhattan Project.” Developed in Shenzhen by former ASML engineers and coordinated by Huawei, the machine can generate EUV light but has not yet produced working chips. Beijing aims for AI-grade chip production by 2028–2030, potentially reducing reliance on Western supply chains despite U.S. export controls. If successful, the project could reshape global AI competition, military technology, and semiconductor geopolitics.

Reference:

Potkin, F. (2025, December 17). How China built its 'Manhattan Project' to rival the West in AI chips. *Reuters*.
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/how-china-built-its-manhattan-project-rival-west-ai-chips-2025-12-17/>



Source: iStoke

6. Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon vows AI innovation to support economic growth

រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីវិទ្យាសាស្ត្រកូរ៉េខាងត្បូង ប្តេជ្ញាប្រើបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI ដើម្បីជួយឱ្យសេដ្ឋកិច្ច រីកចម្រើន

Source: [Yonhap News Agency](https://www.yonhapnews.co.kr)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Boram, K. (2025, December 18). Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon vows AI innovation to support economic growth. *Yonhap News Agency*.
<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20251217008300320>

South Korea's Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon pledged to drive AI-led innovation as a core engine of economic growth, aiming to make Korea a global AI powerhouse. The government plans to expand AI infrastructure, secure world-class AI models, and apply AI across key industries such as shipbuilding, defense, bio, and culture, targeting a 3% growth rate through close collaboration with major conglomerates like Samsung, SK, Hyundai, and LG.

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.

News References

1. Vong, O. (2025, December 18). Education minister highlights urgent need to adopt AI. *The Phnom Penh Post*.
<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/education-minister-highlights-urgent-need-to-adopt-ai>
2. Jewish News Syndicate. (2025, December 14). *Israel joins US-led Pax Silica alliance to shape global AI economy*. <https://www.jns.org/israel-joins-us-led-pax-silica-alliance-to-shape-global-ai-economy/>
3. Van, R. (2025, December 18). Phnom Penh declared no-drone zone. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501810387/phnom-penh-declared-no-drone-zone/>
4. Khmer Times. (2025, December 14). *Cambodian Delegation Completes AI Training in China to Bolster Digital Economy*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501807484/cambodian-delegation-completes-ai-training-in-china-to-bolster-digital-economy/>
5. Potkin, F. (2025, December 17). How China built its 'Manhattan Project' to rival the West in AI chips. *Reuters*.
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/how-china-built-its-manhattan-project-rival-west-ai-chips-2025-12-17/>
6. Boram, K. (2025, December 18). Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon vows AI innovation to support economic growth. *Yonhap News Agency*.
<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20251217008300320>

Publications References

1. 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>
2. 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/>
3. 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/>
4. 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/>