

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Vong Sokchearavy
Say Vithya Arthur
Sar Sorpheavathana



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Prompt: Cambodia marks the 46th anniversary of Victory Day (Jan 7), honoring the 1979 overthrow of the Khmer Rouge and celebrating the nation's journey from genocide to peace, resilience, and progress.

Photo Credit: ChatGPT

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1. The economics of superintelligence

សេដ្ឋកិច្ចនៃបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត

Source: [The Economist](#)



Source: iStoke

In its 26 July–8 August 2025 issue, The Economist presents AI as a cognitive general-purpose technology, effective from reconstructing ancient texts to reshaping entire economies. The key takeaway is that AI delivers the greatest value when combined with human judgment, rewarding societies that embed AI within institutions while retaining human oversight.

Reference:

The Economist. (2025, July 26–August 8). *Deus ex machina; The economics of superintelligence*.
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/07/24/the-economics-of-superintelligence>

2. Singapore's GDP Grew by 5.7 Per Cent in the Fourth Quarter of 2025 and by 4.8 Per Cent in 2025

ផលិតផលក្នុងស្រុកសរុបរបស់សិង្ហបុរីកើនឡើង ៥.៧ ភាគរយនៅត្រីមាសទីបួន ឆ្នាំ 2025 និងអាចកើន 4.8 ភាគរយពេញមួយឆ្នាំ

Source: [Ministry of Trade and Industry](#)

On 2 January 2026, Singapore reported 5.7% GDP growth in Q4 2025 and 4.8% for the full year, driven largely by a strong manufacturing rebound. Growth in electronics manufacturing, fueled by rising demand for AI-related semiconductors and servers, highlights AI's increasing role as a key driver of Singapore's economic expansion and technological competitiveness.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Ministry of Trade and Industry. (2026, January 2). *Singapore's GDP Grew by 5.7 Per Cent in the Fourth Quarter of 2025 and by 4.8 Per Cent in 2025*. <https://www.mti.gov.sg/newsroom/singapore-s-gdp-grew-by-5-7-per-cent-in-the-fourth-quarter-of-2025-and-by-4-8-per-cent-in-2025/>

3. China to crack down on AI firms to protect kids

រដ្ឋាភិបាលចិនបានចេញច្បាប់ថ្មីយ៉ាងតឹងរ៉ឹងដើម្បីបង្កើនការត្រួតពិនិត្យក្រុមហ៊ុន
បច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI ទាំងអស់ត្រូវមានទំនួលខុសត្រូវខ្ពស់ចំពោះសុវត្ថិភាពកុមារ។

Source: [British Broadcasting Corporation](#)



Source: iStoke

China plans to tighten regulation of AI by proposing strict new rules to protect children and address safety risks, including limits on chatbot use, guardian consent, and mandatory human intervention in cases involving self-harm or violence. Issued by the Cyberspace Administration of China, the draft rules reflect growing concern over AI's social impact amid the rapid rise of chatbots such as DeepSeek, highlighting China's push to balance AI innovation with stronger safeguards and state oversight.

Reference:

Chia, O. (2025, December 30). China to crack down on AI firms to protect kids. *British Broadcasting Corporation*.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8dydlmenvro>

4. GDT goes AI, launches 'Beauramei' to boost taxpayer services

អគ្គនាយកដ្ឋានពន្ធដារដាក់ឱ្យប្រើប្រាស់កម្មវិធី AI ថ្មីឈ្មោះ «Beauramei»
ដើម្បីជួយសម្រួលដល់សេវាកម្មអ្នកបង់ពន្ធ

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

Cambodia has advanced AI adoption in public services with the launch of Beauramei, an AI chatbot by the General Department of Taxation, to provide Khmer-language tax guidance. The initiative highlights how AI can improve efficiency, reduce administrative burdens, and support better taxpayer compliance as part of Cambodia's broader digital government and revenue modernisation efforts.

Reference:

Nhean, C. (2026 January 5). GDT goes AI, launches 'Beauramei' to boost taxpayer services. *Khmer Times*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501820903/gdt-goes-ai-launches-beauramei-to-boost-taxpayer-services/>

5. Nvidia sounds out TSMC on new H200 chip order as China demand jumps, sources say

ក្រុមហ៊ុន Nvidia បានទាក់ទងទៅ TSMC ដើម្បីដាក់បញ្ជាទិញឈីប H200 ថ្មី
ខណៈដែលតម្រូវការប្រទេសចិនមានការកើនឡើងខ្លាំង

Source: [Reuters](#)

Rising AI demand in China is reshaping global chip supply, as Nvidia has approached TSMC to expand production of its H200 AI chips after Chinese firms placed orders exceeding 2 million units for 2026. The surge highlights China's urgent need for advanced AI computing power despite regulatory uncertainty, underscoring AI chips as a strategic bottleneck amid geopolitical controls and intensifying global competition in AI infrastructure.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Reuters. (2025, December 31). *Exclusive: Nvidia sounds out TSMC on new H200 chip order as China demand jumps, sources say.*
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/nvidia-sounds-out-tsmc-new-h200-chip-order-china-demand-jumps-sources-say-2025-12-31/>

6. MPTC launches 'TranslateKH' second-generation app ក្រសួងប្រៃសណីយ៍ និងទូរគមនាគមន៍ (MPTC) បានដាក់ឱ្យដំណើរការកម្មវិធីបក ប្រែ TranslateKH ជំនាន់ទីពីរ

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

Cambodia has strengthened AI-driven public services with the launch of the second-generation TranslateKH app by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. Powered by AI, deep learning, and large language models, the platform delivers faster and more accurate Khmer-English translations, highlighting how AI is supporting digital transformation, accessibility, and language inclusion in government services.

Reference:

Ravindran, S. (2026, January 5). MPTC launches 'TranslateKH' second-generation app. *Khmer Times*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501821136/mptc-launches-translatekh-second-generation-app/>

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.

This paper examines how Gatilok parables, a classical Khmer moral tradition, can inform contemporary debates on AI ethics and governance. Drawing on six well known stories, it treats these parables as moral case studies rather than folklore, highlighting themes of authority without wisdom, silenced questioning, and ethical failure rooted in unchecked desire. The analysis shows clear parallels between these narratives and modern AI systems that rely on institutional prestige, technical opacity, and voluntary ethics frameworks without enforcement. By reframing AI governance through Gatilok's ethical grammar, the paper argues for designs that make power accountable, systems contestable, and moral insight visible, especially for societies in the Global South that often receive AI technologies developed elsewhere. It concludes that ethical AI requires not only technical safeguards but also moral architectures that encourage listening, restraint, and responsibility.

AIF Insights No. 39 (2025) | Gatilok Ethics for AI

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Chhem, K. R. (2025, December 22). *Gatilok Ethics for AI*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-39-2025-gatilok-ethics-for-ai>

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 1 (2026) | TRUE INTELLECTUALS vs PSEUDO- INTELLECTUALS

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

AI Forum Cambodia. (2025, January 1). *TRUE INTELLECTUALS vs PSEUDO-INTELLECTUALS*. AI Forum. <https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-1-2026-true-intellectuals-vs-pseudo-intellectuals>

This public guide by AI Forum Cambodia explains the difference between true intellectuals and pseudo intellectuals in the age of generative AI, where fluent writing has become easy but genuine thinking remains rare. It argues that machines can produce text, but only humans can produce understanding, judgment, and responsibility. Pseudo intellectuals rely on AI, jargon, and smooth language to appear knowledgeable, while avoiding uncertainty and accountability. True intellectuals, by contrast, use AI as a tool to support deeper thinking, accept limits to their knowledge, and write to clarify and benefit society rather than to impress or dominate. The guide is written for the public, educators, and policymakers as a simple framework to protect education, public debate, and ethical governance in an era where words are abundant but meaning is not.

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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/>
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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-39-2025-gatilok-ethics-for-ai>
6. AI Forum Cambodia. (2025, January 1). *TRUE INTELLECTUALS vs PSEUDO-INTELLECTUALS*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-1-2026-true-intellectuals-vs-pseudo-intellectuals>