

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Prompt: Cambodia launches its first national cave guidelines to protect limestone karst ecosystems, preserve unique biodiversity, and promote sustainable tourism and community livelihoods.

Photo Credit: ChatGPT

01/11

1. ECCC Hosts Lecture on History and Artificial Intelligence for University Students

អ.វ.ត.ក. រៀបចំការបង្រៀនស្តីពីប្រវត្តិសាស្ត្រ និងបញ្ហាសិប្បនិម្មិត សម្រាប់និស្សិត
សាកលវិទ្យាល័យ

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) hosted a lecture on history and artificial intelligence for around 80 university students, highlighting how AI can support historical research and justice work by improving data access and document analysis. Senior Minister Chhem Kieth Rithy emphasized that while AI offers efficiency, it also carries risks of distortion if used without strong historical knowledge, ethics, and human judgment, underscoring the need for responsible and human-centered AI in legal and historical contexts

Reference:

Khmer Times. (2026, January 14). *ECCC Hosts Lecture on History and Artificial Intelligence for University Students*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501826937/eccc-hosts-lecture-on-history-and-artificial-intelligence-for-university-students/>

2. China seeks to cushion AI impact on jobs, build talent strength

ប្រទេសចិនស្វែងរកវិធានការកាត់បន្ថយផលប៉ះពាល់នៃបញ្ហាសិប្បនិម្មិតលើវិស័យ
ការងារនិងពង្រឹងសមត្ថភាពធនធានមនុស្ស

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

China is addressing AI-driven job disruption by focusing on promoting job creation and talent development instead of displacement. Policymakers view AI as a catalyst for productivity and new job opportunities, emphasizing initiatives like “AI Plus” for retraining, educational improvements, and human capital investment. The strategy encourages workers to shift to AI-related roles in sectors such as manufacturing and digital services, aiming to enhance reskilling and workforce adaptability to maintain long-term employment and economic competitiveness.



Source: iStoke

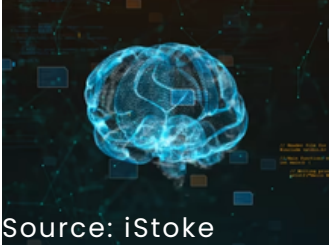
Reference:

Xinhua. (2026, January 13). *China seeks to cushion AI impact on jobs, build talent strength*. *Khmer Times*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501825398/china-seeks-to-cushion-ai-impact-on-jobs-build-talent-strength/>

3. Malaysia and Indonesia become the first countries to block Musk's Grok over sexualized AI images

ប្រទេសម៉ាឡេស៊ី និងប្រទេសឥណ្ឌូនេស៊ី ក្លាយជាប្រទេសដំបូងគេដែលបិទវិធី "Grok AI" របស់លោក Musk ដោយសាររូបភាពអាសអាភាសក្លែងក្លាយ

Source: [The Associated Press](#)



Source: iStoke

Malaysia and Indonesia became the first countries to block Grok, the AI chatbot by xAI, after concerns that the generative AI tool was being misused to create sexualized and nonconsensual images, including deepfakes involving minors. The ban highlights rising global anxiety over weak AI safeguards and shows how governments are beginning to regulate AI more strictly to protect human rights, digital safety, and ethical use of emerging technologies.

Reference:

Ng, E. & Tarigan, E. (2026, January 13). Malaysia and Indonesia become the first countries to block Musk's Grok over sexualized AI images. *The Associated Press*. <https://apnews.com/article/grok-malaysia-indonesia-block-c7cb320327f259c4da35908e1269c225>

4. Avoiding the AI Graveyard: The Business Discipline Required to Scale Machine Learning Projects

កុំបង្កើត AI គ្រាន់តែដើម្បីឱ្យមាន AI ត្រូវប្រាកដថាគម្រោង ML នោះដោះស្រាយបញ្ហាធុរកិច្ចជាក់លាក់ណាមួយដែលមានតម្លៃខ្ពស់ និងសក្តិសមនឹងការចំណាយ។

Source: [StartupHub.ai](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

StartupHub.ai. (2026, January 13). *Avoiding the AI Graveyard: The Business Discipline Required to Scale Machine Learning Projects*. <https://www.startuphub.ai/ai-news/ai-video/2026/avoiding-the-ai-graveyard-the-business-discipline-required-to-scale-machine-learning-projects/>

The article contends that failures in enterprise AI and machine-learning projects stem primarily from inadequate business discipline and strategy rather than weak technology. Insights from Brianne Zavala of IBM reveal that many AI initiatives falter when teams focus on technology without addressing clear business problems, fail to gain early stakeholder support, and overlook proper deployment and monitoring through MLOps. The key takeaway is that AI should be viewed as a tool aimed at achieving measurable business outcomes, with organizational backing and real-world implementation necessary for sustainable value.

5. Robot vacuum market grows as AI becomes central to cleaning technology

ទីផ្សារម៉ាស៊ីនបូមចូលីស្វ័យប្រវត្តិរីកចម្រើនខ្លាំង ដោយសារទំនើបកម្មនៃបច្ចេកវិទ្យាសម្អាត AI តែមានភាពងាយស្រួល និងវៃឆ្លាតជាងមុន។

Source: [Digital Watch](#)

The global robot vacuum market is rapidly growing as AI transforms these devices into intelligent household assistants. Key features like adaptive learning and obstacle recognition enhance their navigation and cleaning efficiency. Consequently, manufacturers are focusing on user experience and smart home integration, which is projected to drive an 18.7% increase in global shipments by 2025, underscoring AI's impact on consumer hardware markets.

Reference:

Digital Watch. (2026, January 13). Robot vacuum market grows as AI becomes central to cleaning technology. <https://dig.watch/updates/robot-vacuum-market-grows-as-ai-becomes-central-to-cleaning-technology>



Source: iStoke

6. China's AI and robotics push isn't enough to kickstart its economy, leaving growth more exposed to trade risks

ការជំរុញផ្នែកបច្ចេកវិទ្យាសម្បទានិម្មិត និងរ៉ូបូតរបស់ប្រទេសចិន មិនទាន់អាចជួយឱ្យសេដ្ឋកិច្ចងើបឡើងវិញបានឡើយ ព្រោះវិស័យមួយចំនួនដូចជាអចលនទ្រព្យកំពុងធ្លាក់ចុះខ្លាំង ដែលបង្កឱ្យមានហានិភ័យពាណិជ្ជកម្ម

Source: [CNBC Newsletters](#)



Source: iStoke

China's developments in AI and robotics are modernizing its economy, but these advancements have had a minimal impact on economic growth, contributing less than one percentage point from 2023 to 2025. The real estate sector's downturn poses significant challenges, leading to increased reliance on exports and heightened vulnerability to trade tensions. While AI improves productivity, it also reduces job opportunities, adding to employment difficulties. A recovery in the property sector and stronger domestic demand are critical for sustaining growth and addressing trade risks.

Reference:

Cheng, E. (2026, January 12). China's AI and robotics push isn't enough to kickstart its economy, leaving growth more exposed to trade risks. *CNBC Newsletters*. <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/12/china-ai-robotics-tech-push-property-slump-trade-risk-rhodium-kkr.html>

7. War Department 'SWAT Team' Removes Barriers to Efficient AI Development

ក្រុមប្រតិបត្តិការពិសេសរបស់ក្រសួងការពារជាតិ បានលុបបំបាត់នូវឧបសគ្គដើម្បី
ពង្រីកការអភិវឌ្ឍបច្ចេកវិទ្យាសិប្បនិម្មិតប្រកបដោយប្រសិទ្ធភាព

Source: [U.S. Department of War](#)



Source: iStoke

The U.S. War Department is expediting AI adoption by appointing a chief digital and AI officer and eliminating bureaucratic obstacles, emphasizing speed as a key operational advantage. AI initiatives are now focused on enhancing warfighting effectiveness, with "responsible AI" defined as truthful, secure, and mission-ready. The department plans to integrate previously siloed military and intelligence data for AI applications, invest in computing infrastructure at military bases, and strengthen collaborations with top private AI companies to expand AI capabilities from data centers to the battlefield.

Reference:

Lopez, C. T. (2026, January 12). War Department 'SWAT Team' Removes Barriers to Efficient AI Development. *U.S. Department of War*. <https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4376486/war-department-swat-team-removes-barriers-to-efficient-ai-development/>

8. US approves Nvidia H200 chip exports to China with some conditions

រដ្ឋាភិបាលសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិកបានយល់ព្រមឱ្យក្រុមហ៊ុន Nvidia នាំចេញបន្ទះឈីប AI
ប្រភេទ H200 ទៅកាន់ប្រទេសចិនវិញ ប៉ុន្តែត្រូវគោរពតាមលក្ខខណ្ឌតឹងរ៉ឹងមួយចំនួន

Source: [Reuters](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Freifeld, K., Shepardson, D. & Alper, A. (2026, January 14). US approves Nvidia H200 chip exports to China with some conditions. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-eases-regulations-nvidia-h200-chip-exports-china-2026-01-13/>

The United States has approved exports of Nvidia's H200 advanced AI chips to China under strict conditions, marking a significant shift in AI governance and tech competition. The move allows China limited access to high-performance AI hardware—subject to third-party review, export caps, and non-military use—highlighting how AI chips are now central to economic power, national security, and global AI leadership. While Nvidia welcomed the decision as a balanced approach, critics warn it could still accelerate China's AI capabilities and be difficult to enforce, underscoring the growing geopolitical stakes surrounding artificial intelligence.

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.khmertimeskh.com/501826937/eccc-hosts-lecture-on-history-and-artificial-intelligence-for-university-students/>
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<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501825398/china-seeks-to-cushion-ai-impact-on-jobs-build-talent-strength/>
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<https://apnews.com/article/grok-malaysia-indonesia-block-c7cb320327f259c4da35908e1269c225>
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<https://www.startuphub.ai/ai-news/ai-video/2026/avoiding-the-ai-graveyard-the-business-discipline-required-to-scale-machine-learning-projects/>
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<https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4376486/war-department-swat-team-removes-barriers-to-efficient-ai-development/>
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<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-eases-regulations-nvidia-h200-chip-exports-china-2026-01-13/>

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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-39-2025-gatilok-ethics-for-ai>
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