

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Prompt: Cambodians unite to donate blood at the National Blood Transfusion Centre, saving lives and showing compassion under the theme "Save Life by Donate Blood Together"

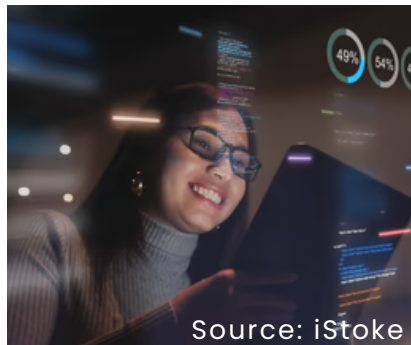
Photo Credit: ChatGPT

01/12

1. Cambodia pushes compliance-first approach to AI-driven workforce restructuring

កម្ពុជាជំរុញឱ្យមានការអនុវត្តតាមច្បាប់ជាចម្បងក្នុងការរៀបចំរចនាសម្ព័ន្ធកម្លាំងពលកម្មឡើងវិញដោយប្រើប្រាស់បច្ចេកវិទ្យាបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)



Source: iStoke

Cambodia is urging a compliance-first response to AI-driven workforce change, warning companies not to rush layoffs as AI reshapes jobs. At a forum hosted by DFDL Cambodia and European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia, officials from the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training stressed that AI adoption must be paired with legal compliance, governance, transparency and reskilling, not short-term cost cutting.

Reference:

Hong, R. (2026, January 19). Cambodia pushes compliance-first approach to AI-driven workforce restructuring. *The Phnom Penh Post*. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cambodia-pushes-compliance-first-approach-to-ai-driven-workforce-restructuring>

2. MoE Foster AI Technology Collaboration in Waste Management

ក្រសួងបរិស្ថានជំរុញកិច្ចសហការបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI ក្នុងការគ្រប់គ្រងកាកសំណល់

Source: [Kiripost](#)

Cambodia's Ministry of Environment has signed a 10-year MoU with MIZUDA to apply AI technology in waste management, improving waste separation, efficiency and sustainability nationwide. Minister Eang Sophalleth said AI-driven solutions will support cleaner cities, renewable energy use and Cambodia's long-term green development goals.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Mon, S. (2026, January 20). MoE Foster AI Technology Collaboration in Waste Management. *Kiripost*. <https://kiripost.com/stories/moe-foster-ai-technology-collaboration-in-waste-management>

3. Humans&, a 'human-centric' AI startup founded by Anthropic, xAI, Google alums, raised \$480M seed round

ក្រុមហ៊ុនបច្ចេកវិទ្យាបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត AI ថ្មី "Humans&" ទទួលបានទុនវិនិយោគ ដំបូង ៤៨០លានដុល្លារ

Source: [TechCrunch](#)



Source: iStoke

Humans&, a startup focused on AI that empowers people rather than replaces them, has raised \$480 million in seed funding at a \$4.48 billion valuation. Founded by former researchers from Anthropic, xAI, and Google, the company aims to develop AI software to enhance human collaboration, likened to an AI instant messaging app. Their approach includes innovations in reinforcement learning, memory, and user understanding, with a team drawn from leading AI labs and academic institutions. Investors include Nvidia, Jeff Bezos, SV Angel, Google Ventures, and Emerson Collective.

Reference:

Bellan, R. (2026, January 20). Humans&, a 'human-centric' AI startup founded by Anthropic, xAI, Google alums, raised \$480M seed round. *TechCrunch*. <https://techcrunch.com/2026/01/20/humans-a-human-centric-ai-startup-founded-by-anthropic-xai-google-alums-raised-480m-seed-round/>

4. AI dominated the conversation in 2025, CIOs shift gears in 2026

AI គឺជាប្រធានបទដ៏ក្ដៅគគុកកាលពីឆ្នាំ ២០២៥ ប៉ុន្តែសម្រាប់ឆ្នាំ ២០២៦ នេះ នាយក ផ្នែកព័ត៌មានវិទ្យា (CIOs) កំពុងផ្លាស់ប្តូរយុទ្ធសាស្ត្រថ្មី

Source: [AI News](#)



Source: iStoke

In 2026, CIOs are shifting from AI hype to strategic, outcome-driven use. After scattered copilots in 2025, the focus is now on improving real business processes. AI will be embedded into workflows to trigger action, not just predictions. Governance, consolidation, and measurable value will take priority. Overall, AI's relevance moves from experimentation to delivering proven business impact.

Reference:

Farrell, R. (2026, January 15). AI dominated the conversation in 2025, CIOs shift gears in 2026. *AI News*. <https://www.artificialintelligence-news.com/news/ai-predictions-dominated-the-conversation-in-2025-cios-shift-gears-in-2026/>

5. Balancing AI cost efficiency with data sovereignty ការរក្សាតុល្យភាពរវាងប្រសិទ្ធភាពថ្លៃដើម AI និងអធិបតេយ្យភាពទិន្នន័យ

Source: [AI News](#)

Enterprises are rethinking AI adoption as low-cost models clash with data sovereignty and geopolitical risk. While cheap, high-performing AI is tempting, concerns over data residency, state access, and security are reshaping priorities. Leaders are shifting from price and performance to trust, transparency, and governance. The message is clear: AI's value now depends on secure, accountable data control.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Daws, R. (2026, January 21). Balancing AI cost efficiency with data sovereignty. *AI News*. <https://www.artificialintelligence-news.com/news/balancing-ai-cost-efficiency-with-data-sovereignty/>

6. Why the Tech World Thinks the American Dream Is Dying មូលហេតុដែលពិភពបច្ចេកវិទ្យាយល់ថា "ក្តីស្រមៃអាមេរិក" កំពុងតែរលាយបាត់

Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#)



Source: iStoke

Many in Silicon Valley fear the AI boom may be the last chance to build generational wealth, believing advanced AI could automate jobs and concentrate wealth among tech elites. High-profile figures like Elon Musk, Sam Altman of OpenAI, and Dario Amodei warn of massive disruption, while others argue AI could still be an equalizing force—fueling today's intense “get rich now” mindset across the tech world.

Reference:

Higgins, T. (2026, January 18). Why the Tech World Thinks the American Dream Is Dying. *The Wall Street Journal*. <https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/why-the-tech-world-thinks-the-american-dream-is-dying-daf793dc>

7. Musk's xAI Raises Questions About Acceptable AI

ក្រុមហ៊ុន xAI របស់លោក Elon Musk កំពុងក្លាយជាប្រធានបទក្តៅ ដោយសារតែបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI របស់គាត់ហាក់ដូចជាមិនសូវមានការរឹតបន្តឹងខ្លាំងក្លាដូច ក្រុមហ៊ុនដទៃទៀត។

Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#)



Source: iStoke

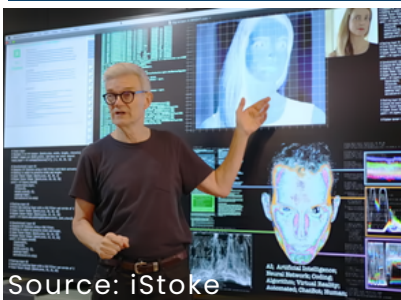
Elon Musk's AI company xAI sparked controversy when it allowed users to undress images of real people using its Grok chatbot, leading to a flood of AI-generated, often nonconsensual deepfake images on the social media platform X. This raised significant privacy and safety concerns, prompting lawsuits including one from influencer Ashley St. Clair, investigations by the California attorney general, and new legislation. xAI has since restricted such uses in regions where illegal and warned users of consequences for illegal content. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges of balancing free speech, privacy, and safety in AI technology.

Reference:

Wells, G. (2026, January 18). Musk's xAI raises questions about acceptable AI. *The Wall Street Journal*. <https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/musks-xai-raises-questions-about-acceptable-ai-3052bell>

8. Cambodia to use AI, digital tools for tourism promotion កម្ពុជាកំពុងធ្វើទំនើបកម្មវិស័យទេសចរណ៍ ដោយប្រើប្រាស់បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Mathew, M. (2026, January 21). Cambodia to use AI, digital tools for tourism promotion. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501830517/cambodia-to-use-ai-digital-tools-for-tourism-promotion/>

Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism plans to expand the use of AI and digital tools to boost international tourism promotion. Minister Huot Hak said AI will strengthen market research, visitor targeting and data-driven digital marketing, helping Cambodia compete more effectively in global tourism markets.

9. How AI and robots help ease pressure on pharmacies របៀបដែលបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត AI និងរ៉ូបូតជួយកាត់បន្ថយសម្ពាធក្នុងឱសថស្ថាន

Source: [BBC](#)



AI and robotics are helping ease pressure on pharmacies by automating medication dispensing, as shown at Cross Pharmacy in Essex, which uses a robot to pick, sort, and prioritise drugs by expiry date. This AI-driven system handles much of the routine checking, freeing pharmacists to focus on patient care and clinical services. While the technology boosts efficiency and service quality, high costs and limited funding remain major barriers to wider adoption. Overall, the case highlights AI's growing relevance in supporting healthcare delivery and reducing strain on frontline services.

Reference:

Woodward, S. & Knight, M. (2026, January 22). How AI and robots help ease pressure on pharmacies. *BBC*.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1507npagpeo>

10. Ethernovia raises \$90M as investors rush to fund 'Physical AI'

ក្រុមហ៊ុន Ethernovia ទទួលបានថវិកាវិនិយោគបន្ថែមចំនួន ៩០ លានដុល្លារ ដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍបច្ចេកវិទ្យា "Physical AI" (បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិតក្នុងពិភពពិត)។

Source: [TechCrunch](#)



Ethernovia, a San Jose-based company that develops Ethernet-based processors for data collection and transmission in systems such as autonomous vehicles, announced a \$90 million Series B funding round. The funding round was led by Maverick Silicon, an AI-focused fund created by Maverick Capital in 2024, with prior backing from Porsche SE and Qualcomm Ventures. This investment reflects growing investor interest in 'Physical AI,' which aims to leverage advances in AI to develop robotics, autonomous vehicles, and similar technologies by improving behind-the-scenes components critical for these systems.

Reference:

O'Kane, S. (2026, January 20). Ethernovia raises \$90M as investors rush to fund 'Physical AI'. *TechCrunch*.
<https://techcrunch.com/2026/01/20/ethernovia-raises-90m-as-investors-rush-to-fund-physical-ai/>

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.

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 2 (2026) | Ethical AI and Privacy: International Lessons and Local Actions

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Tann, T., Hout, S. & Som, H. (2026, January 17).
*Ethical AI and Privacy: International Lessons and
Local Actions*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-2-2026-ethical-ai-and-privacy-international-lessons-and-local-actions>

This article examines the growing use of artificial intelligence in Cambodia and the urgent need to address ethical and privacy concerns that come with it. Drawing on international frameworks such as the EU GDPR, the EU AI Act, the OECD AI Principles, UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, and ASEAN guidelines, it highlights key global lessons on data protection, accountability, and responsible AI governance. The article then assesses Cambodia's current legal and policy landscape, noting gaps in data protection laws, institutional capacity, and oversight mechanisms. It concludes by outlining practical policy options for Cambodia, including adopting a comprehensive data protection law, developing national ethical AI guidelines, strengthening institutions, prioritizing high risk sectors, and enhancing regional and international cooperation.

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1507npqgpeo>
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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>
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<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-1-2026-true-intellectuals-vs-pseudo-intellectuals>
4. Tann, T., Hout, S. & Som, H. (2026, January 17). *Ethical AI and Privacy: International Lessons and Local Actions*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-2-2026-ethical-ai-and-privacy-international-lessons-and-local-actions>