

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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

Vong Sokchearavy
Say Vithya Arthur
Sar Sorpheavathana



Friday, January 30, 2026
ISSUE NO. 64



Prompt: The Cambodian Cycling Federation will host its first-ever bicycle race at Morodok Techo Stadium on May 19, featuring road and mountain bike events with over 300 expected riders, aiming to grow cycling's popularity and keep the national stadium active as a major sports venue.

Photo Credit: ChatGPT

1. From deepfakes to grooming: UN warns of escalating AI threats to children

ពីការភ្លែងបន្លំរូបភាព (Deepfakes) ដល់ការលួងលោមតាមអនឡាញ៖
អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិព្រមានពីការគំរាមកំហែងនៃ AI ដល់កុមារ

Source: [United Nations](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Lennon, C. (2026, January 26). From deepfakes to grooming: UN warns of escalating AI threats to children. *United Nations*. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166827>

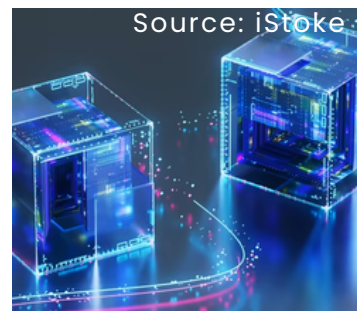
The UN has issued a warning that AI is worsening online threats to children, facilitating grooming, deepfakes, cyberbullying, and large-scale sexual exploitation through behavioral analysis and explicit content generation. A noticeable increase in tech-facilitated abuse has been observed, highlighting the inadequacy of current AI systems and social media in ensuring child safety. The UN calls for enhanced AI governance, a child-centered design approach, and collective responsibility among governments, tech firms, educators, and parents, emphasizing the necessity for improved AI literacy and safeguards to protect children's rights and wellbeing.

2. Students question Singapore polytechnics' use of AI in open house publicity materials

និស្សិតចោទសួរអំពីការប្រើប្រាស់ AI ក្នុងកម្មវិធីផ្សព្វផ្សាយរបស់សាលា
ពហុបច្ចេកទេស (Polytechnic) នៅប្រទេសសិង្ហបុរី

Source: [Asia News Network](#)

Students in Singapore are concerned about the use of generative AI in polytechnic open house publicity, questioning its authenticity and alignment with school values. Institutions like Temasek Polytechnic and Nanyang Polytechnic have incorporated AI-enhanced visuals, but students argue this undermines real talent and misrepresents campus culture. This raises broader issues regarding AI governance in education, as students seek clearer boundaries, transparency, and an emphasis on human creativity and accountability in representing institutional identity.



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Chan, G. & Wee, M. (2026, January 23). Students question Singapore polytechnics' use of AI in open house publicity materials. *Asia News Network*. <https://asianews.network/students-question-singapore-polytechnics-use-of-ai-in-open-house-publicity-materials/>

3. ICC Dispute Resolution Library integrates Jus Mundi AI tool បណ្តាញស្វែងរកស្រាយវិវាទរបស់ ICC បញ្ចូលបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI របស់ Jus Mundi

Source: [International Chamber of Commerce](#)



Source: iStoke

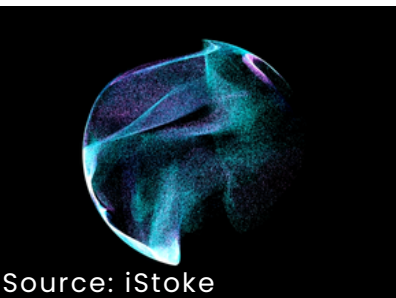
The integration of the ICC Dispute Resolution Library into Jus AI enhances AI-driven legal research by enabling practitioners to query ICC materials. This collaboration introduces structured reasoning and source-linked transparency, transforming dispute resolution research from manual retrieval to quicker, more precise AI-assisted decision support, while maintaining authority, trust, and data security.

Reference:

International Chamber of Commerce. (2026, January 26). *ICC Dispute Resolution Library integrates Jus Mundi AI tool*. <https://iccwbo.org/news-publications/news/icc-dispute-resolution-library-integrates-jus-mundi-ai-tool/>

4. OpenAI launches Prism, a new AI workspace for scientists OpenAI បានដាក់សម្ពោធប្រព័ន្ធ Prism ដែលជាកន្លែងធ្វើការបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI workspace) ថ្មីមួយសម្រាប់អ្នកវិទ្យាសាស្ត្រ

Source: [TechCrunch](#)



Source: iStoke

OpenAI has launched Prism, a free AI-powered scientific workspace that integrates GPT-5.2 directly into the research and writing process, signaling a deeper shift toward human-AI collaboration in science. Rather than replacing researchers, Prism acts as an intelligent assistant—helping assess claims, refine academic prose, search prior literature, manage LaTeX, and visualize diagrams within a single workflow. By embedding advanced AI reasoning into everyday scientific tools, Prism reflects a broader trend where AI is becoming core research infrastructure, accelerating discovery through productivity, context awareness, and tighter integration with how scientists actually work.

Reference:

Brandom, R. (2026, January 27). OpenAI launches Prism, a new AI workspace for scientists. *TechCrunch*. <https://techcrunch.com/2026/01/27/openai-launches-prism-a-new-ai-workspace-for-scientists/>

5. NBC, AMRO discuss economic outlook, payments and AI

ធនាគារជាតិនៃកម្ពុជា និង AMRO ផ្លាស់ប្តូរទស្សនាទានអំពីស្ថានភាពសេដ្ឋកិច្ច កត្តាប្រឈម និងការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រព័ន្ធទូទាត់

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

The meeting between the National Bank of Cambodia and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office highlighted AI and digital technology as key enablers of Cambodia's financial modernization. Discussions emphasized how AI applications and advanced digital payment systems can strengthen financial inclusion, improve efficiency, and support economic resilience, while Cambodia's digital payments model was praised as a regional benchmark. The dialogue underscores AI's growing role in shaping monetary policy, financial innovation, and regional cooperation as Cambodia prepares for future economic and technological challenges.



Reference:
Sum, M. (2026, January 27). NBC, AMRO discuss economic outlook, payments and AI. *Khmer Times*.
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501834164/nbc-amro-discuss-economic-outlook-payments-and-ai/>

6. China Spring Festival Goods Fair Blends Tradition with AI Innovation

ពិព័រណ៍ទំនិញបុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំចិន បញ្ចូលគ្នាបានយ៉ាងល្អរវាងប្រពៃណី និងនវានុវត្តន៍ AI ដ៏ទំនើប។

Source: [XinhuaNet](#)



Reference:
Xinhua. (2026, January 28). China Spring Festival Goods Fair Blends Tradition with AI Innovation. *XinhuaNet*.
<https://english.news.cn/20260128/40aaa442d38342cd999179f4a0bd80bd/c.html>

China's Spring Festival Goods Fair shows how AI is moving from labs into everyday cultural life, blending traditional Lunar New Year shopping with smart appliances and AI-powered robots. The event highlights how AI-driven consumer technologies are reshaping retail experiences, boosting efficiency, personalization, and engagement while coexisting with long-standing cultural practices. It reflects China's broader push to embed AI into daily consumption, demonstrating that frontier technologies can modernize tradition rather than replace it.

7. China and ASEAN Enter a Pivotal Year, With Trade, AI and the South China Sea in Play

នៅដើមឆ្នាំ ២០២៦ នេះ បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) បានក្លាយជាផ្នែកដ៏សំខាន់ក្នុងទំនាក់ទំនងរវាងចិន និងអាស៊ាន រួមជាមួយការធ្វើសមាហរណកម្មពាណិជ្ជកម្ម និងសន្តិសុខតំបន់

Source: [China Global South Project](#)



Source: iStoke

As 2026 begins, AI is becoming a key element in China-ASEAN relations, alongside trade integration and regional security. The shift under CAFTA 3.0 emphasizes digital economy collaboration, particularly in AI-enabled e-payments and green tech, moving from tariff-based trade to technology-focused integration. The Digital Silk Road is also prioritizing AI, with new institutions aimed at aligning data governance and innovation standards. However, the advancement of AI-driven cooperation is closely linked to geopolitical stability, notably concerning the South China Sea Code of Conduct, marking 2026 as a critical year for the intersection of AI, economic integration, and regional security.

Reference:

Heyi, C. (2026, January 26). China and ASEAN Enter a Pivotal Year, With Trade, AI and the South China Sea in Play. *China Global South Project*. <https://chinaglobalsouth.com/analysis/china-and-asean-enter-a-pivotal-year-with-trade-ai-and-the-south-china-sea-in-play/>

8. Israel building the foundations of a sovereign AI system ប្រទេសអ៊ីស្រាអែលកំពុងកសាងមូលដ្ឋានគ្រឹះនៃប្រព័ន្ធបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ឯករាជ្យរបស់ខ្លួន

Source: [Jewish News Syndicate](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Spiro, J. (2026, January 28). Israel building the foundations of a sovereign AI system. *Jewish News Syndicate*. <https://www.jns.org/israel-building-the-foundations-of-a-sovereign-ai-system/>

Israel is transitioning from a “Startup Nation” to a “Systems Nation” by establishing a national AI infrastructure that emphasizes sovereignty, productivity, and strategic independence. Under Prime Minister Netanyahu, investments focus on a national AI stack encompassing compute infrastructure, talent, capital, and policy to lessen reliance on foreign powers. Initiatives like the Telem Program aim to keep AI research and intellectual property within the country. This approach positions AI capabilities and data control as essential to national sovereignty, akin to military strength, fostering growth and resilience while reducing dependence on external aid.

9. AI spending wasn't the biggest engine of U.S. economic growth in 2025, despite popular assumptions

ការចំណាយលើបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) មិនមែនជាកម្លាំងចលករដ៏ធំបំផុតនៃកំណើនសេដ្ឋកិច្ចអាមេរិកក្នុងឆ្នាំ ២០២៥ ដូចការស្មាននោះទេ

Source: [CNBC News](#)



Source: iStoke

New analysis by MRB Partners highlights that AI's contribution to U.S. GDP growth in 2025, while significant, was secondary. The main driver of growth was consumer spending, with AI-related investments accounting for only 20-25% after imports of AI hardware are considered. This underscores that although AI plays a meaningful role in growth, particularly through software and computing, the U.S. economy is primarily fueled by robust domestic consumption.

Reference:

Singh, P. (2026, January 26). AI spending wasn't the biggest engine of U.S. economic growth in 2025, despite popular assumptions. *CNBC News*. <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/26/ai-wasnt-the-biggest-engine-of-us-gdp-growth-in-2025.html>

10. Utah bill requires AI companies to share safety plans for children and the public

ច្បាប់ថ្មីនៅរដ្ឋ Utah តម្រូវឱ្យក្រុមហ៊ុន AI បង្ហាញផែនការសុវត្ថិភាពសម្រាប់កុមារ និងសាធារណជន

Source: [Utah News Dispatch](#)



Source: iStoke

Utah lawmakers are advancing a bill aimed at enhancing AI transparency and child safety, requiring AI companies to disclose safety plans, risk assessments, and child protection measures. Supported by Rep. Doug Fiefia and actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt, the proposal addresses AI risks as a public-interest concern, arguing that the market has outstripped safety measures. Rather than regulating algorithms, the bill focuses on transparency, accountability, and reporting AI incidents involving children, reflecting a broader trend of state-level initiatives in AI governance amid minimal federal oversight.

Reference:

Cabrera, A. (2026, January 27). Utah bill requires AI companies to share safety plans for children and the public. *Utah News Dispatch*. <https://utahnewsdispatch.com/2026/01/27/utah-bill-requires-ai-companies-safety-plans-for-children/>

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.

News References

1. Lennon, C. (2026, January 26). From deepfakes to grooming: UN warns of escalating AI threats to children. *United Nations*.
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166827>
2. Chan, G. & Wee, M. (2026, January 23). Students question Singapore polytechnics' use of AI in open house publicity materials. *Asia News Network*.
https://asianews.network/students-question-singapore-polytechnics-use-of-ai-in-open-house-publicity-materials/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
3. International Chamber of Commerce. (2026, January 26). *ICC Dispute Resolution Library integrates Jus Mundi AI tool*. <https://iccwbo.org/news-publications/news/icc-dispute-resolution-library-integrates-jus-mundi-ai-tool/>
4. Brandom, R. (2026, January 27). OpenAI launches Prism, a new AI workspace for scientists. *TechCrunch*. <https://techcrunch.com/2026/01/27/openai-launches-prism-a-new-ai-workspace-for-scientists/>
5. Sum, M. (2026, January 27). NBC, AMRO discuss economic outlook, payments and AI. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501834164/nbc-amro-discuss-economic-outlook-payments-and-ai/>
6. Xinhua. (2026, January 28). China Spring Festival Goods Fair Blends Tradition with AI Innovation. *XinhuaNet*.
<https://english.news.cn/20260128/40aaad42d38342cd999179f4a0bd80bd/c.html>
7. Heyi, C. (2026, January 26). China and ASEAN Enter a Pivotal Year, With Trade, AI and the South China Sea in Play. *China Global South Project*.
<https://chinaglobalsouth.com/analysis/china-and-asean-enter-a-pivotal-year-with-trade-ai-and-the-south-china-sea-in-play/>
8. Spiro, J. (2026, January 28). Israel building the foundations of a sovereign AI system. *Jewish News Syndicate*. <https://www.jns.org/israel-building-the-foundations-of-a-sovereign-ai-system/>

News References

9. Singh, P. (2026, January 26). AI spending wasn't the biggest engine of U.S. economic growth in 2025, despite popular assumptions. *CNBC News*.
<https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/26/ai-wasnt-the-biggest-engine-of-us-gdp-growth-in-2025.html>
10. Cabrera, A. (2026, January 27). Utah bill requires AI companies to share safety plans for children and the public. *Utah News Dispatch*.
<https://utahnewsdispatch.com/2026/01/27/utah-bill-requires-ai-companies-safety-plans-for-children/>

Publications References

1. 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/>
2. 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>
3. 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>
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>