AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Prompt: The Ministry of Tourism Cambodia launched the “Angkor Wonders” mobile video contest to promote the Angkor Equinox at Angkor Wat. Participants can submit 90–120 second videos of the sunrise alignment (March 21–23) for a chance to win up to $500, helping showcase Cambodia’s cultural heritage globally.

Photo Credit: Gemini

1. UNESCO Promotes Safe and Inclusive AI for Women in the Caribbean

អង្គការ UNESCO លើកកម្ពស់ការប្រើប្រាស់បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ប្រកបដោយសុវត្ថិភាព និងបរិយាបន្ន សម្រាប់ស្ត្រីនៅក្នុងតំបន់ការីបង់f

Source: UNESCO

On 9 March 2026, the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean hosted a workshop in Kingston, Jamaica, to address the dual nature of generative AI regarding gender equality. While recognizing AI's potential to empower women, the session primarily warned against risks like technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), including deepfakes and the amplification of existing biases. By combining hands-on activities with ethical discussions, the workshop aimed to equip stakeholders with the digital safety and privacy skills necessary to ensure AI development remains inclusive, responsible, and aligned with human rights.

Reference:

UNESCO. (2026, March 18). *UNESCO Promotes Safe and Inclusive AI for Women in the Caribbean*. https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-promotes-safe-and-inclusive-ai-women-caribbean

2. A Pontifical and an American university promote ethics and education in AI era

សាកលវិទ្យាល័យកាតូលិក (Pontifical) និងសាកលវិទ្យាល័យអាមេរិកមួយបានលើកកម្ពស់ក្រមសីលធម៌ និងការអប់រំក្នុងយុគសម័យបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: Vatican News

The "Learning by Doing" conference, hosted by the Pontifical Antonianum University and Mississippi State University, focused on the ethical and cultural integration of AI through the International Observatory for Integral Intelligence. The collaboration emphasizes "integral intelligence" a framework that balances technical efficiency with human dignity, wisdom, and public value. By advocating for legal safeguards and social research, the partnership aims to ensure that rapid digital transformation serves the common good and remains grounded in human-centric education.

Reference:

Vatican News staff reporter. (2026, March 14). A Pontifical and an American university promote ethics and education in AI era. *Vatican News*. https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2026-03/a-pontifical-and-an-american-university-promote-ethics-in-study.html

3. Chinese Authorities Approve Nvidia's H200 AI Chip Sales
អាជ្ញាធរចិនអនុញ្ញាតឱ្យមានការលក់បន្ទះឈីប AI ប្រភេទ H200 របស់ក្រុមហ៊ុន Nvidia

Source: San Jose Today


Source: iStoke

Chinese authorities have approved multiple companies to purchase Nvidia's H200 AI chip, with Nvidia receiving licenses from both China and the U.S. after earlier regulatory delays halted production. The H200, a key component of Nvidia's AI and data center business, can now resume manufacturing and sales in China, enabling the company to serve customers and compete in the Chinese AI chip market. CEO Jensen Huang confirmed that licenses have been granted for many customers and that production is restarting following the approvals.

Reference:

San Jose Today. (2026, March 18). *Chinese Authorities Approve Nvidia's H200 AI Chip Sales.* https://nationaltoday.com/us/ca/san-jose/news/2026/03/18/chinese-authorities-approve-nvidias-h200-ai-chip-sales/

4. Indonesia Issues Joint Ministerial Decree Establishing AI Use Guidelines for Education
ប្រទេសឥណ្ឌូនេស៊ីបានចេញសេចក្តីប្រកាសរួម ដើម្បីកំណត់គោលការណ៍ណែនាំស្តីពីការប្រើប្រាស់បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ក្នុងវិស័យអប់រំ

Source: Babl AI


Source: iStoke

Indonesia's new Joint Ministerial Decree (SKB) establishes a national framework for AI use across all educational levels, from early childhood to university. The policy prioritizes developmental readiness by implementing age-based restrictions, such as limiting screen time for younger children and prohibiting elementary and secondary students from using "instant-answer" AI tools that bypass critical thinking. Instead, the decree encourages constructive applications like robotics and structured simulations, aiming to balance digital innovation with safety through high-level multi-sectoral cooperation.

Reference:

Werner, J. (2026, March 18). Indonesia Issues Joint Ministerial Decree Establishing AI Use Guidelines for Education. *Babl AI.* https://babl.ai/indonesia-issues-joint-ministerial-decree-establishing-ai-use-guidelines-for-education/

5. Clemson chemistry student turns undergrad research and interest in AI into startup company

និស្សិតគីមីវិទ្យានៃសាកលវិទ្យាល័យ Clemson បានកែប្រែការស្រាវជ្រាវលើបញ្ញាសប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ទៅជាក្រុមហ៊ុន Startup

Source: Clemson News


Source: iStoke

Clemson University student Lukas Garcia has launched Crystal-XG, a startup that uses a machine-learning algorithm to modernize pharmaceutical chemistry. By training on a dataset of over 10,000 experiments, the AI replaces the traditional "trial and error" method of crystal nucleation with a predictive model. This targeted approach helps scientists identify the precise conditions needed to crystallize molecules, significantly reducing the time and cost required to develop and bring new drugs to market.

Reference:

Dillingham, B. (2026, March 18). Clemson chemistry student turns undergrad research and interest in AI into startup company. *Clemson News*. https://news.clemson.edu/clemson-chemistry-student-turns-undergrad-research-and-interest-in-ai-into-startup-company/

6. How Is AI Shaping the Battlefield and Narrative War in the Israel-Iran-US Conflict?

តើបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត AI កំពុងបង្កើតរូបរាងសមរភូមិ និងសង្គ្រាមនិទានកថានៅក្នុងជម្លោះអ៊ីស្រាអែល-អ៊ីរ៉ង់-សហរដ្ឋអាមេរិកយ៉ាងដូចម្តេច?

Source: The Medialine


Source: iStoke

AI is now the "central nervous system" of modern conflict, accelerating both physical warfare and the battle for perception. On the battlefield, AI-driven intelligence fusion and machine learning compress decision cycles to identify and strike targets with unprecedented speed. Simultaneously, in the information war, AI-generated disinformation and bots are used to manufacture fake narratives and "victory pictures" faster than they can be debunked, making algorithmic velocity the defining strategic advantage in both arenas.

Reference:

Valente, G. (2026, March 18). How Is AI Shaping the Battlefield and Narrative War in the Israel-Iran-US Conflict?. *The Medialine.* https://themedialine.org/life-lines/how-is-ai-shaping-the-battlefield-and-narrative-war-in-the-israel-iran-us-conflict/

7. Can AI Write a Book? Cambodian Authors Say Something Essential Is Missing
តើ AI អាចសរសេរសៀវភៅបានទេ? អ្នកនិពន្ធកម្ពុជាម្នាក់យល់ថា តែនៅខ្វះចំណុចខាន់ៗ

Source: . Cambodianess

Cambodian authors view AI as a "double-edged sword" that can serve as a sophisticated tool for productivity assisting with grammar, research, and structural organization but cannot replace the emotional core of storytelling. Experienced writers like Meyson Sotheary and Prom Chansothida argue that while AI generates technically correct text, it lacks the "soul," unique voice, and deep emotion that readers expect. They warn that over-reliance on the technology risks stagnating a writer's intellectual growth and damaging their credibility. Ultimately, these authors maintain that AI should remain a "modern pen" directed by human experience, rather than a shortcut to creativity.

Reference:

Kongieng, C. (2026, March 17). Can AI Write a Book? Cambodian Authors Say Something Essential Is Missing. *Cambodianess*. https://cambodianess.com/article/can-ai-write-a-book-cambodian-authors-say-something-essential-is-missing

8. OpenClaw fever grips China, never mind security risks
កម្មវិធីពេញនិយម "OpenClaw" កំពុងរីករាលដាលខ្លាំងនៅប្រទេសចិន ទោះដឹងថាមានហានិភ័យផ្នែកសុវត្ថិភាព

Source: Khmer Times

China is experiencing a surge in the use of "OpenClaw," an open-source AI agent designed for tasks such as booking flights and managing emails. Despite cybersecurity concerns voiced by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology about potential "master key" risks, the tool enjoys popularity due to government incentives in cities like Wuxi and Hangzhou. Supported by major tech companies like Baidu and Tencent with affordable cloud hosting, these agents are widely adopted amid a national enthusiasm for advancements in AI.

Reference:

Lin, L. (2026, March 17). OpenClaw fever grips China, never mind security risks. *Khmer Times*. https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501862517/openclaw-fever-grips-china-never-mind-security-risks/#google_vignett

9. Huawei pushes AI-centric networks as telecom industry enters 'Internet of Agents' era

ក្រុមហ៊ុន Huawei ជំរុញការប្រើប្រាស់បណ្តាញទូរគមនាគមន៍ដែលផ្តែកលើបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ខណៈពេលដែលវិស័យនេះ កំពុងឈានចូលដល់យុគសម័យ«អ៊ីនធឺណិតនៃភ្នាក់ងារវែឆ្លាត»

Source: Developing Telecoms

Huawei is transitioning from the mobile internet to an "Internet of Agents," where intelligent agents will be integrated into devices and telecom networks. This strategy emphasizes AI-native services, making AI essential in voice and data services. The framework comprises three layers: AI integration in services (e.g., real-time translation), network operations (autonomous networking), and infrastructure (utilizing 5G-Advanced). By collaborating with the TM Forum, Huawei aims for Level 4 autonomy to enhance network performance and fault management with reduced human involvement.

Reference:

Staff Writer. (2026, March 19). Huawei pushes AI-centric networks as telecom industry enters 'Internet of Agents' era. *Developing Telecoms*. https://developingtelecoms.com/telecom-business/vendor-news/19991-huawei-pushes-ai-centric-networks-as-telecom-industry-enters-internet-of-agents-era.html

10. Prolonged high oil prices could 'crimp' AI boom, WTO warns

អង្គការពាណិជ្ជកម្មពិភពលោក (WTO) ព្រមានថា៖ តម្លៃប្រេងឡើងថ្លៃក្នុងរយៈពេលវែង អាចបង្អាក់ការរីកចម្រើននៃបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: The Guardian

The World Trade Organization warns that prolonged high oil prices driven by the Middle East conflict could hinder the growth of AI, as AI development is highly energy-intensive. According to chief economist Robert Staiger, sustained elevated energy costs may reduce investment momentum in AI, which is already concentrated in a few large firms and remains uncertain in its long-term returns. Despite this uncertainty, AI-related goods accounted for about 70% of investment growth in North America in early 2025, highlighting the sector's significant but potentially vulnerable role in the global economy.

Reference:

Stewart, H. (2026, March 19). Prolonged high oil prices could 'crimp' AI boom, WTO warns. *The Guardian*. https://www.theguardian.com/business/2026/mar/19/oil-prices-ai-boom-wto-iran-war-energy-global-economy

PUBLICATIONS 2026

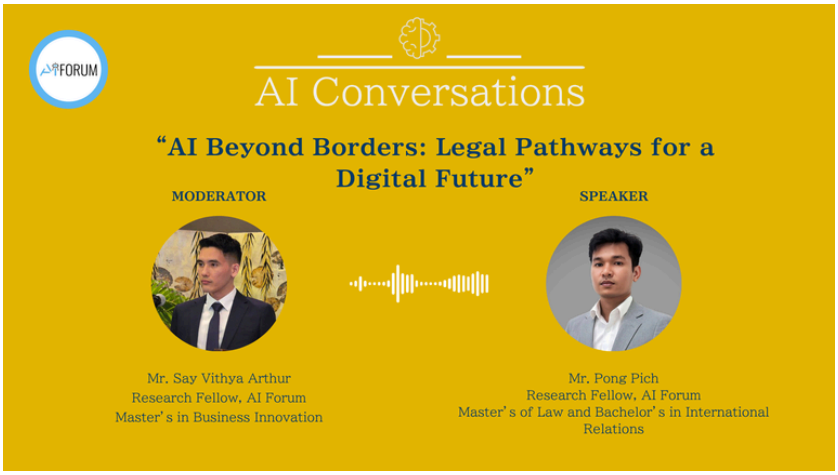
AIF Insights No. 1 (2026) | TRUE INTELLECTUALS vs PSEUDO-INTELLECTUALS

Source: AI Forum

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.

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

AI Conversations



30th January:
AI Conversations Episode #7: "AI Beyond Borders: Legal Pathways for a Digital Future"
Find us on: YouTube

PUBLICATIONS 2026

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

Source: AI Forum

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.

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

AIF Insights No. 3 (2026) | Leveraging AI and Technology for Cambodia's Demining Efforts: A Path Toward a Mine-Free Future by 2025

Source: AI Forum

Cambodia continues to face serious risks from landmines and explosive remnants of war despite decades of clearance efforts. This article reviews Cambodia's demining strategy and assesses the role of AI and emerging technologies in accelerating progress toward a mine-free country. It argues that while manual methods remain necessary due to terrain constraints, AI-driven tools can improve detection, planning, and resource use. Strategic integration of technology is essential to enhance safety, efficiency, and long-term recovery.

Reference:
Ros, S. (2026, February 3). *Leveraging AI and Technology for Cambodia's Demining Efforts: A Path Toward a Mine-Free Future by 2025.* AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-3-2026-leveraging-ai-and-technology-for-cambodias-demining-efforts-a-path-toward-a-mine-free-future-by-2025

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 4 (2026) | The Machine Has No Heart: Culturally Grounded Ethics for the Infosphere

Source: AI Forum

This paper critiques dominant AI ethics frameworks that focus on machines rather than the social and cultural contexts in which they operate. It argues that ethical AI governance should shift from asking whether an AI system is ethical to examining whether its relationship with society is ethical. Using Cambodia as a case study, the paper highlights the limits of universal governance models and proposes an embedded approach informed by sociotechnical theory and Buddhist ethics. It concludes that ethical AI depends less on technical compliance and more on culturally grounded, adaptive governance processes.

Reference:
Waddell, A. (2026, February 5). *The Machine Has No Heart: Culturally Grounded Ethics for the Infosphere.* AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-4-2026-the-machine-has-no-heart-culturally-grounded-ethics-for-the-infosphere

AIF Insights No. 5 (2026) | AI and Electricity: Safeguarding ASEAN's Energy Security and Integration in the Digital Era

Source: AI Forum

In the face of global energy instability and rising digital power demands, this article explores the critical role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in safeguarding energy security and fostering integration through the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). While ASEAN has established frameworks like the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) to target 23% renewable energy by 2025, a fully integrated regional grid remains a work in progress. The author argues that AI-driven smart grids can significantly enhance efficiency by predicting demand trends, managing real-time electricity flow, and reducing economic disruptions caused by blackouts. However, the transition faces substantial hurdles, including high implementation costs in developing nations, a regional technological gap, and heightened cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Ultimately, the paper concludes that for ASEAN to achieve true energy resilience, member states must prioritize collaborative defense capacity and regulatory frameworks to protect critical infrastructure against shared regional vulnerabilities.

Reference:
Ros, S. (2026, February 6). *AI and Electricity: Safeguarding ASEAN's Energy Security and Integration in the Digital Era.* AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/ai-and-electricity-safeguarding-aseans-energy-security-and-integration-in-the-digital-era

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AIF Insights No. 6 (2026) | Generative AI Use: A Task-Model-Mode-Verification Framework

Source: AI Forum

Effective use of generative AI (GenAI) requires transitioning from a "single-tool mindset" to a deliberate system that aligns task purposes with specific model capabilities, operational modes, and rigorous human oversight. While prompting is a starting point, failures often stem from a misalignment between these elements, as different models excel at distinct functions like reasoning, retrieval, or synthesis . Furthermore, users must navigate between rapid, intuitive "System-1" modes for brainstorming and slower, analytical "System-2" modes for complex decision-making. Because GenAI outputs are probabilistic and lack accountability, the framework emphasizes that human verification—proportionate to the task's risk—is a core professional competency. Ultimately, the paper argues that professional expertise in a GenAI-augmented world is defined by the intentional and accountable integration of these tools into human judgment.

Reference:

Lim, S. (2026, February 11). *Generative AI Use: A Task-Model-Mode-Verification Framework*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-6-2026-generative-ai-use-a-task-model-mode-verification-framework

AIF Insights No. 7 (2026) | Learning with Generative AI: Making Thinking Harder, Not Easier

Source: AI Forum

This article argues that the educational impact of generative AI depends not on access but on patterns of use. While GenAI can create an illusion of mastery by encouraging cognitive offloading and passive consumption, it can also function as a cognitive amplifier when used to increase effort, deepen reasoning, and strengthen self-regulated learning. The discussion highlights three common confusions — offloading versus desirable difficulty, fluency versus understanding, and plausibility versus accuracy — and proposes a three-purpose framework of inquiry, practice, and production. The central claim is that GenAI improves learning only when it preserves learners' cognitive work, supports deliberate practice, and reinforces verification, accountability, and critical judgment.

Reference:

Lim, S. (2026, February 13). *Learning with Generative AI: Making Thinking Harder, Not Easier*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-7-2026-learning-with-generative-ai-making-thinking-harder-not-easier

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 8 (2026) | Teaching Sovereignty in the AI Age: A Self-Reflection

Source: AI Forum

This reflective essay explores how technological change reshapes the meaning of sovereignty, particularly for small nations navigating the AI era. Drawing on a multidisciplinary career spanning medicine, history, diplomacy, and nuclear risk governance, the author examines the intellectual motivations behind designing two courses, The Philosophy of Drone Sovereignty and Machines of Conflict. The article argues that contemporary sovereignty is increasingly epistemic, grounded in a nation's capacity to generate, interpret, and verify its own data, rather than defined solely by territorial control. Through classroom experiences and lessons from nuclear crisis management, including institutional responses to Fukushima, the essay highlights how technological systems intertwine with organizational competence, public trust, and ethical judgment. It concludes that mathematics and physics are not merely academic disciplines but strategic foundations of national resilience, shaping a state's ability to manage risk, maintain autonomy, and govern complex socio-technical systems in an age of automation.

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2026, February 19). *Teaching Sovereignty in the AI Age: A Self-Reflection*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-8-2026-teaching-sovereignty-in-the-ai-age-a-self-reflection

AIF Insights No. 9 (2026) | From Intention to Artificial Wisdom: A Joint Reflection on AI in the Service of Humanity

Source: AI Forum

This paper presents a joint reflection on Artificial Intelligence from two complementary perspectives including Buddhist practice and the philosophy of technology. We address the fundamental question of what it means for AI to serve humanity, arguing that the answer requires more than technical or political solutions because it necessitates an examination of human intention and the cultivation of the mind. Rather than viewing AI as an independent force, we propose it acts as a moral mirror that amplifies the ethical orientation of its creators and users. By integrating the Khmer concept of Artificial Wisdom, which prioritizes discernment and compassion over mere computational speed, this reflection explores how AI can be aligned with human flourishing and social harmony rather than domination.

Reference:

Venerable Kou, S. & Chhem, K. R. (2026, February 20). *From Intention to Artificial Wisdom: A Joint Reflection on AI in the Service of Humanity*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-9-2026-from-intention-to-artificial-wisdom-a-joint-reflection-on-ai-in-the-service-of-humanity

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 10 (2026) | Ethical Integration of Buddhist Principles in AI Development: A Conceptual Reflection

Source: AI Forum

This article examines how Buddhist ethical principles can inform the development and governance of artificial intelligence. It argues that while AI is transforming sectors such as healthcare, education, governance, and finance, its rapid expansion raises serious moral concerns about human dignity, accountability, and social impact. Drawing on core Buddhist teachings, including the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, the author proposes a human-centred ethical framework grounded in compassion, mindfulness, and non-harm. The paper further connects the three Buddhist traditions, Hinayana, Mahayana, and Vajrayana, to principles of accountability, inclusivity, and adaptability in AI design. By integrating ancient moral philosophy with modern technological innovation, the article advocates for a balanced approach in which AI advancement supports human flourishing, social well-being, and ethical responsibility rather than undermining them.

Reference:
May, T. (2026, February 28). *Ethical Integration of Buddhist Principles in AI Development: A Conceptual Reflection*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-10-2026-ethical-integration-of-buddhist-principles-in-ai-development-a-conceptual-reflection

AIF Insights No. 11 (2026) | Applying Generative AI in Clinical Care – From Assistant to Ally: Practical, Safe Use at the Point of Care

Source: AI Forum

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is becoming more accessible to doctors, but its application in real-world clinical care poses unique safety, ethical, and professional hazards. This insight offers practical, task-oriented recommendations for using GenAI ethically in everyday clinical work while maintaining human judgment and accountability. The insight is intended for medical students, residents, and practicing physicians, particularly in resource- constrained settings like Cambodia. It focuses on high-value clinical tasks such as supporting diagnostic reasoning, planning investigations, communicating with patients and families, and assisting clinical documentation. Rather than stressing conceptual theory, this insight applies principles, such as effective prompting and the Model-Mode-Verification structure. The key message is clear: GenAI can only increase clinical clarity and efficiency if clinicians remain completely responsible and human-in-the-loop.

Reference:
Cheab, S. (2026, March 4). *From Intention to Artificial Wisdom: A Joint Reflection on AI in the Service of Humanity*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/no-11applying-generative-ai-in-clinical-care-from-assistant-to-ally-practical-safe-use-at-the-point-of-care

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 12 (2026) | Navigating Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Age of AI

Source: AI Forum

This article examines the evolution of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) from a manual, economic-centric "box-ticking" exercise into a multi-dimensional, AI-driven model of "evidential reasoning". In the current "Digital Age," governments are transitioning from being mere regulators of AI to active users of the technology to enhance rule-making through "Agile Regulatory Governance" and "Rules as Code" (RaC). By leveraging AI for text mining, sentiment analysis in public consultations, and automated identification of administrative burdens, policymakers can overcome information overload and create more inclusive, data-driven interventions. However, to mitigate risks such as automation bias and data discrimination, the author argues that a strategic framework must be adopted that prioritizes transparency, multidisciplinary skills, and a strict "human-in-the-loop" approach to ensure technology supports rather than replaces accountable human judgment

Reference:
Ros, S. (2026, March 7). *Navigating Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Age of AI*. AI Forum. https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-12-2026-navigating-regulatory-impact-assessment-in-the-age-of-ai

AIF Insights No. 13 (2026) | The Drone Revolution: A Strategic Roadmap for Technology Integration and Policy Action in Cambodia and the Global South

Source: AI Forum

This article explores the transformative potential and regulatory challenges of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), particularly within the context of Cambodia and the Global South. While drones have evolved from military roots into versatile "flying platforms" for precision agriculture, disaster management, and infrastructure inspection, their proliferation raises significant concerns regarding technical sovereignty, data privacy, and ethical automation. The author argues that Cambodia's conservative regulatory stance—rooted in past security incidents—should transition toward a proactive strategy that leverages regional successes in 3D modeling of cultural heritage and intelligent flood forecasting. Ultimately, the paper provides a strategic roadmap recommending the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework, privacy by design through geofencing, and investment in open-source technology to ensure that drone integration serves national development rather than creating external dependence.

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AIF Insights No. 14 (2026) | The Robotic Frontier: Reconfiguring Global Power and the Geopolitics of Unmanned Systems

Source: AI Forum

The rapid global proliferation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) has fundamentally reconfigured geopolitical power dynamics by democratizing airpower and lowering the threshold for the use of military force. While over 95 nations now deploy drones, these “unmanned” systems remain heavily dependent on human operators who face unique psychological challenges due to the disconnect between remote combat and domestic life. In Asia, the fast-growing drone market supports community resilience through applications in agriculture and environmental monitoring, yet it also presents a “big data divide” where information control remains concentrated in wealthy international entities. For Cambodia, integrating drone technology offers significant opportunities for sustainable development and maritime surveillance, provided the nation adopts a strategic roadmap focused on economic resilience, technological sovereignty through open-source frameworks, and robust regulatory safety measures like geofencing. Ultimately, navigating this frontier requires a balance between leveraging autonomous technological advancements and maintaining human oversight of ethical and security-related decision-making

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