

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Prompt: The Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation launches the 4th National STI Day 2026 under the theme "Innovation for National Advancement," uniting key stakeholders to strengthen Cambodia's innovation ecosystem at Koh Pich from March 26–28.

Photo Credit: ChatGPT

01/18

1. AI reshapes STEM education: Global experts convene in Shanghai for Sino-German dialogue

បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ផ្លាស់ប្តូរទម្រង់ថ្មីនៃការអប់រំ STEM៖ យោងតាមអ្នកជំនាញសកលនៅទីក្រុងស៊ាងហៃ ក្នុងជំនួបពិភាក្សារវាងចិន និងអាល្លឺម៉ង់។

Source: [China Daily](#)



The pre-conference highlighted how AI is reshaping STEM education globally. Experts discussed using AI to improve student skills (like writing), enhance teacher training, and boost scientific literacy. There was strong emphasis on shifting toward inquiry-based learning and rational thinking, supported by frameworks like T4C. The event also promoted international exchange on AI education models and shared China's experience in adapting science education for the AI era.

Reference:

Xin, W. (2026, March 26). AI reshapes STEM education: Global experts convene in Shanghai for Sino-German dialogue. *China Daily*. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/26/WS69c5467fa310d6866eb4016a.html>

2. PM Hun Manet Advocates for the Integration of AI in Cambodia's Digital Economy

សម្តេចបរវត្តិបតី ហ៊ុន ម៉ាណែត ជំរុញឱ្យមានការបញ្ចូលបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI ទៅក្នុងសេដ្ឋកិច្ចឌីជីថលរបស់កម្ពុជា

Source: [Fresh News](#)

Hun Manet emphasized the integration of artificial intelligence as a key driver for Cambodia's transition to a modern digital economy, highlighting its potential to enhance productivity and quality across public and private sectors. He noted that rapid AI advancement offers opportunities to strengthen national innovation, supported by initiatives such as the National Research Fund to promote research and development. The government aims to build a sustainable innovation ecosystem, shift from reliance on imported technologies to local creation, and foster collaboration among ministries, institutions, and industries to develop AI-driven strategies and technologies aligned with national needs.



Reference:

Fresh News. (2026, March 25). PM Hun Manet Advocates for the Integration of AI in Cambodia's Digital Economy. <https://en.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/69346-2026-03-25-06-04-55.html>

3. Government ramps up R&D, AI push to drive innovation-led growth

រដ្ឋាភិបាលបង្កើនការវិនិយោគលើការស្រាវជ្រាវ និងការអភិវឌ្ឍបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI ដើម្បីជំរុញកំណើនសេដ្ឋកិច្ចតាមរយៈការច្នៃប្រឌិតថ្មី

Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Hong, R. (2026, March 25). Government ramps up R&D, AI push to drive innovation-led growth. *The Phnom Penh Post*. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/government-ramps-up-r-d-ai-push-to-drive-innovation-led-growth>

Hun Manet highlighted increased investment in research and development and artificial intelligence as central to Cambodia's transition toward an innovation-driven, knowledge-based economy. AI is identified as a rapidly evolving technology that can enhance productivity, strengthen competitiveness, and support digital economic growth. Government initiatives such as the national research fund aim to promote R&D, foster a sustainable innovation ecosystem, and shift Cambodia from a technology importer to a technology creator. The strategy emphasizes collaboration across sectors, development of STEM-related human capital, and embedding innovation culture nationwide to meet the demands of an evolving technological landscape.

4. Tecnológico de Monterrey and UNESCO sign agreement to advance AI in education

សាកលវិទ្យាល័យ Tecnológico de Monterrey និងអង្គការ UNESCO បានចុះហត្ថលេខាលើកិច្ចព្រមព្រៀង ដើម្បីជម្រុញការប្រើប្រាស់បច្ចេកវិទ្យាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ក្នុងវិស័យអប់រំ។

Source: [UNESCO](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

UNESCO. (2026, March 25). *Tecnológico de Monterrey and UNESCO sign agreement to advance AI in education*. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/tecnologico-de-monterrey-and-unesco-sign-agreement-advance-ai-education>

UNESCO and Tecnológico de Monterrey signed a cooperation agreement to advance artificial intelligence in education through the creation of a Regional Observatory on AI in Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. The initiative aims to bridge gaps between public policy and implementation by generating evidence, developing standards, and proposing policy recommendations on AI use in education. It also focuses on ethical and inclusive AI integration, strengthening teachers' digital competencies, and supporting pilot projects, while leveraging institutional collaboration and funding to enhance education systems and workforce capabilities in the region.

5. Southeast Asia revisits nuclear power plans for AI data centers as Iran war disrupts energy supplies

តំបន់អាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍ងាកមកពិចារណាឡើងវិញលើគម្រោងថាមពលនុយក្លេអ៊ែរ សម្រាប់ប្រើប្រាស់ក្នុងមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលទិន្នន័យ AI ខណៈពេលដែលសង្គ្រាមនៅប្រទេស អ៊ីរ៉ង់កំពុងបង្កការរំខានដល់ការផ្គត់ផ្គង់ថាមពលពិភពលោក

Source: [The Associated Press](#)

Southeast Asian countries are reconsidering nuclear power as AI-driven data centers increase electricity demand and expose reliance on fossil fuels, especially during supply disruptions. Nuclear energy is gaining attention as a stable, low-emission solution to support digital growth and energy security. Governments are aligning energy strategies with AI development, though concerns about safety, cost, and alternatives remain.

Reference:

Delgado, A. L. (2026, March 26). Southeast Asia revisits nuclear power plans for AI data centers as Iran war disrupts energy supplies. *The Associated Press*. <https://apnews.com/article/southeast-nuclear-energy-power-artificial-intelligence-c08108c2c5da7fd263098ff43748eac5>



Source: iStoke

6. Inequality in ASEAN's Race Toward Growth វិសមភាពនៅក្នុងការប្រកួតប្រជែងឆ្ពោះទៅរកកំណើនរបស់អាស៊ាន

Source: [Cambodianess](#)



Source: iStoke

Digitalization and AI are widening inequality in Southeast Asia by deepening existing economic and regional gaps. More advanced economies benefit from AI-driven growth, while less developed areas lag due to limited access to technology and skills. Automation threatens low-skilled jobs especially for women and youth while gaps in digital access and protections worsen inequality. Experts call for inclusive policies, better digital literacy, and stronger safeguards to ensure fairer benefits from AI.

Reference:

Yang, O. B. (2026, March 24). Inequality in ASEAN's Race Toward Growth. *Cambodianess*. <https://cambodianess.com/article/inequality-in-aseans-race-toward-growth>

7. Public-private partnership advances Regional Observatory on Artificial Intelligence in Education led by UNESCO

កិច្ចសហការរវាងរដ្ឋ និងឯកជនជំរុញការបង្កើតមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសង្កេតការណ៍ថ្នាក់តំបន់ ស្តីពីបញ្ហាសិប្បនិម្មិតក្នុងវិស័យអប់រំ ដឹកនាំដោយអង្គការ UNESCO

Source: [UNESCO](#)



UNESCO is establishing the first Regional Observatory on Artificial Intelligence in Education for Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the ethical and inclusive use of AI in learning. Supported by a public-private partnership of over 50 stakeholders including tech companies and research centers like CENIA the initiative aims to address gaps in Reading and Mathematics through a unified regional infrastructure. This collaborative network will generate evidence, develop teacher capacities, and provide clear guidance for integrating AI into education systems, with an official launch set for April 14, 2026.

Reference:

UNESCO. (2026, March 26). *Public-private partnership advances Regional Observatory on Artificial Intelligence in Education led by UNESCO*.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/public-private-partnership-advances-regional-observatory-artificial-intelligence-education-led>

8. Trump names Nvidia, Meta CEOs to science and tech council

លោក Trump តែងតាំងនាយកប្រតិបត្តិក្រុមហ៊ុន Nvidia និង Meta ក្នុងក្រុមប្រឹក្សា វិទ្យាសាស្ត្រ និងបច្ចេកវិទ្យា

Source: [Reuters](#)



Donald Trump appointed top tech leaders—including Mark Zuckerberg, Jensen Huang, and Larry Ellison—to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to guide AI policy and boost U.S. competitiveness, especially against China. The council will support innovation, reduce regulatory barriers, and strengthen collaboration between government and the tech industry, highlighting AI's key role in U.S. economic strategy.

Reference:

Reuters. (2026, March 25). *Trump names Nvidia, Meta CEOs to science and tech council*.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/trump-name-zuckerberg-ellison-huang-tech-panel-wsj-reports-2026-03-25/>

9. From oil shock to algo shock: Iran war is shaking AI industry ផ្ដើមពីវិបត្តិប្រេង មកដល់វិបត្តិបច្ចេកវិទ្យា៖ សង្គ្រាមនៅអ៊ីរ៉ង់កំពុងរង្គោះរង្គើដល់ វិស័យ AI

Source: [The Economic Times](#)



Source: iStoke

The Iran war is disrupting the artificial intelligence industry by triggering energy supply shocks that raise costs for AI infrastructure, particularly energy-intensive data centers. This “algorithm shock” reflects how AI development is increasingly tied to stable energy and global supply chains, with the conflict affecting investment, production, and deployment of AI technologies, and posing risks to the sector’s growth and its broader economic impact.

Reference:

The Economic Times. (2026, March 26). *From oil shock to algo shock: Iran war is shaking AI industry.*
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/from-oil-shock-to-algo-shock-iran-war-is-shaking-ai-industry/articleshow/129829006.cms?from=mdr>

10. AI Demand Is Shielding China’s Booming Trade From War Shocks តម្រូវការផ្នែកបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) កំពុងជួយការពារពាណិជ្ជកម្មដ៏រីកចម្រើន របស់ចិន ពីផលប៉ះពាល់នៃសង្គ្រាម

Source: [Bloomberg News](#)



Source: iStoke

Strong global demand driven by artificial intelligence is helping sustain China’s trade growth despite disruptions from the Iran war and rising energy costs. Increased investment in AI-related sectors—such as data centers, semiconductors, and power equipment—has boosted exports, with AI-linked goods forming a significant share of China’s trade and supporting continued expansion in port activity and regional supply chains. This AI-driven demand is offsetting external economic shocks, reinforcing China’s role in the global AI supply chain, although rising production costs and energy uncertainties still pose risks to future growth.

Reference:

Bloomberg News. (2026, March 25). *AI Demand Is Shielding China’s Booming Trade From War Shocks.*
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-25/ai-demand-is-shielding-china-s-booming-trade-from-iran-war-shock>

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.

AI Conversations





AI Conversations

“AI Beyond Borders: Legal Pathways for a Digital Future”

MODERATOR



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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](#)

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.

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>

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](#)

PUBLICATIONS 2026

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

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>

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.

PUBLICATIONS 2026

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.

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

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](#)

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>

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.

PUBLICATIONS 2026

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.

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

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](#)

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>

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.

PUBLICATIONS 2026

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.

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

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](#)

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>

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.

PUBLICATIONS 2026

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

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

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](#)

Reference:

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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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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

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

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Ros, S. (2026, March 10). *The Robotic Frontier: Reconfiguring Global Power and the Geopolitics of Unmanned Systems*. AI Forum.

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