National Workshop
on the Draft "National Artificial Intelligence Strategy"
and
Official Launch of the "Cambodia: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report"
1-2 July 2025
Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel, Phnom Penh

1. Background

The Pentagonal Strategy - Phase I of the Royal Government of Cambodia of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly added "technology" as a key priority to the four existing key priorities of the Rectangular Strategy and determined Pentagon 5 for the development of digital economy and society. It reflects that the government identified technology, especially digital technology, as a priority for the nation's economic and social development. Among the emerging digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) is the most eminent technology bringing both opportunities and risks, which requires strategic governance. Cambodia Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035 and Cambodia Digital Government Policy 2022-2035 have identified key policy measures and priority actions related to AI which demonstrate the forward-looking of policymakers; nevertheless, the rapid proliferation, development, and adoption of AI in general and generative AI in particular, need all relevant stakeholders to quickly reassess to keep up with the regional and global landscape.

Since the first half of 2024, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) has conducted scientific research and prepared the draft National Artificial Intelligence Strategy. In the process, to assess Cambodia's readiness in AI adoption and development ethically, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT) and UNESCO, supported by MPTC, commenced the ethics of AI readiness assessment in Cambodia in November 2024, using the UNESCO's Ethics of AI RAM methodology, a universal principle widely recognized and used in more than 60 countries around the globe. The key findings of this assessment have been incorporated into the draft National AI Strategy, and the first draft was issued in February 2025.

Through the collaboration and support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the first draft was consulted with the Asia-Pacific Digital Technical Network twice. The draft was subsequently reviewed and revised through a two-day deep-dive workshop in early April in Phnom Penh and 10 bilateral and multilateral consultation meetings with all relevant ministries and institutions.

As of the end of May 2025, the official report of the Ethics of AI Readiness Assessment has been concluded, while the draft National AI Strategy has been revised to version 4 after incorporating inputs from relevant ministries and institutions.

2. Purpose of the program

The national workshop on the draft National AI Strategy aims to:

- Launch and disseminate the country report on the Ethics of AI Readiness Assessment in Cambodia.
- Discuss and validate inputs provided by ministries and agencies, as well as collect remaining inputs.
- Collect inputs from all relevant stakeholders, including private sectors, academia, and civil society.
- Discuss to collectively identify key priority actions to develop a comprehensive and actionable national AI strategy aiming at promoting AI adoption and governance at the national level.
- Mobilize all relevant stakeholders into the implementation of the national AI strategy once it is adopted.

3. Date and location

- **Date:** 1-2 July, 2025
- **Location:** Sokha Hotel Phnom Penh

4. Organizing partners

- Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

5. Participants

- Leaders and all relevant units of MPTC
- Representatives of all ministries and agencies
- Representatives of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Cambodia
- The Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Digital Transformation Co-Chairs, ESCAP, UNESCO, ITU and other United Nations agencies
- Representatives of UNESCO in Cambodia
- International AI experts
- Representatives of the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations
- Representatives of the Embassies in Cambodia and development partners.

6. Agenda

Day 1 1 July 2025	
Time	**Agenda**
13:30 - 14:25	Registration
14:25 - 14:30	Arrival of Distinguished Guests
National Workshop on the Draft "National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence"	
14:30 - 15:10	• **Introduction on the National Workshop on "Draft National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence"** - *10 mins* **His Excellency Hak Sokheng** *Undersecretary of State of Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC)* • **Presentation on "Current Landscape of Artificial Intelligence in Cambodia and Recommendations based on UNESCO RAM Implementation in Cambodia"** - *15 mins* **Mr. Chanty Pisal** *Director of Digital Policy Research, CADT* • **Presentation on "Overview of the Draft National Artificial Intelligence Strategy"** - *15 mins* **His Excellency Hak Sokheng** *Undersecretary of State, MPTC*
15:10 – 15:30	Refreshment and Coffee Break
Workshop - Section 1: Key Components of AI Adoption and Development	
15:30 - 16:30	• **Panel Discussion on "Artificial Intelligence Literacy, Data, Computing Resources and Adoption in Cambodia"** – *60 mins* **Mr. Taing Bunhong** *Director of Policy and Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Digital Government Committee* **Panelist:** - **His Excellency Dr. Seng Sopheap,** *President of Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology and Chair of the Rector Council of Cambodia* - **His Excellency Chanty Sothy,** *Deputy Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of the Digital Government Committee* - **His Excellency Dr. Taing Ngounly**, *Executive Director of Techo Startup Center* - **Mr. Mam Sovatha**, *Vice Rector of the University of Health Science*

	- **Mr. Thy Try**, *Executive Director of Open Development Cambodia* - **Mr. Hak Kimsorn**, *Head of Digital Department of ACLEDA Bank Plc.*
Opening Ceremony of the National Workshop and Official Launch of the "Cambodia: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report"	
16:30 – 16:55	• **Arrival of Distinguished Guests** • **National Anthem of the Kingdom of Cambodia** • **Welcome Remarks by ESCAP -** *5 mins* **Mrs. Tiziana Bonapace** *Director of Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division at ESCAP* • **Welcome Remarks by UNESCO -** *5 mins* **Mr. Sardar Umar Alam** *Representative of UNESCO to Cambodia* • **Opening Remarks -** *15 mins* **His Excellency Chea Vandeth** *Minister of Post and Telecommunications*
16:55 – 17:05	• **Official Launch of the "Cambodia: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report" and Handover Ceremony -** *10 mins*
17:05 – 17:15	- Photos Session - The End of National Workshop Day 1

Day 2 2 July 2025	
Time	**Agenda**
8:30 - 9:00	Registration
Workshop - Section 2: Opportunities, Challenges, and Solutions in Promoting Sectoral AI Adoption and Development	
9:00 - 9:20	**Presentation on "Strategic Priorities 1-4" and Introduction on the Group Discussion** – *10 mins* **Mr. Taing Bunhong** *Director of Policy and Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Digital Government Committee* **Q&A** – *10 mins*
9:20 – 9:30	Lunch Break (10 mins)
9:30 – 9:40	**Participants enter the assigned discussion rooms** – *10 mins* • Breakout Room 1: Artificial Intelligence for Economic Development • Breakout Room 2: Artificial Intelligence for Social Development • Breakout Room 3: Artificial Intelligence for Digital Government

9:40 - 11:00	• **Breakout Group Discussion on "Opportunities, Challenges, and Solutions in Promoting Sectoral AI Adoption and Development"**
	  o Discussion on challenges and opportunities - 25 *mins*
	  o Discussion on solutions and suggestions - 25 *mins*
	  o Report and summary in each breakout room - *30 mins*

11:00 - 11:20	Refreshment and Coffee Break (20 mins)
11:20 - 12:10	• **Report on Thematic Discussion Outcomes –** *30 mins* • **Joint discussion -** *20 mins* **Moderator: Dr. Sarin Sopheakmongkul**
12:10 - 13:30	Lunch Break
Workshop – Section 3: AI Governance in Cambodia	
13:30 - 15:00	• **Presentation on "AI Governance in Cambodia: Current Status and Future Directions" -** 15 *mins* **Moderator: His Excellency Dr. Sam Sethserey** *Director General, General Department of Information Communication and Technology, MPTC* • **Presentation on "Best Practices for AI Governance in the Region" -** *15 mins* **Professor Simon Chesterman** *Dean and Provost's Chair Professor of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and Senior Director of AI Governance at AI Singapore*

	• **Panel Discussion: "Risks and Impacts of AI in Cambodia"** - *60 mins* **Moderator: Dr. Sarin Sopheakmongkul** **Panelist:** - **His Excellency Ouk Kimseng**, *Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Information* - **His Excellency Dr. Sam Sethserey***, Director General, General Department of Information Communication and Technology, MPTC* - **Professor Simon Chesterman,** *Dean and Provost's Chair Professor of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and Senior Director of AI Governance at AI Singapore* - **Mr. Phinith Chanthalangsy**, Regional Advisor, Social and Human Science, UNESCO Regional Office, Bangkok - **Mr. Leng Sereywath,** Deputy Director of the Information Technology Department of the National Bank of Cambodia - Representative of Grab Cambodia Co. Ltd. (TBD)
15:00 - 15:15	Refreshment and Coffee Break
15:15 - 15:45	**Workshop - Section 3 (continued)** • **Joint Discussion: Validate the Strategic Priority -** *30 mins* Survey and Additional Input Collection Moderators: **Dr. Sarin Sopheakmongkul** and **Mr. Taing Bunhong**
**Workshop - Section 4:** **Promoting Collaboration for Research, Development and Innovation**
15:45 - 17:00	• **Presentation on "Digital Park Project"** - *15 mins* **His Excellency Hak Sokheng** *Undersecretary of State, MPTC* • **Panel Discussion on "Promoting Collaboration for Research, Development and Innovation"** - *60 mins* **Moderator: Dr. Heng Pheakdey**, *Founder and Chairman of Mekong Center for Data Protection* **Panelist:** - **His Excellency Hak Sokheng**, *Undersecretary of State, MPTC* - **Dr. Srun Pagnarith,** *Deputy Director General of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (TBD)* - **Mr. Sok Kimheng,** *Coordinator of International Program in Software Engineering of Institute of Technology of Cambodia* - **Mr. Joe Hironaka**, *Regional Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Bangkok* - **Mr. Jie Lun Ong,** *Senior Director, Ventures APAC at Plug and Play Tech Center*

	Workshop - Section 5: Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Mechanisms
17:00 - 17:10	• **Presentation on "Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism"** - *10 mins* **Mr. Taing Bunhong**
	Workshop - Section 6: Conclusion
17:10 - 17:20	• **General Discussion and Comments** **Moderator: Dr. Sarin Sopheakmongkul**
17:20 - 17:30	**Closing remarks** **His Excellency Keo Sothie** *Secretary of State, MPTC*