



Report
on
the Cambodia Youth Internet Governance Forum
2025



Cambodia
Youth Internet
Governance
Forum (YIGF)
– Post Event
Report

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Introduction

As Cambodia accelerates its digital transformation, the Youth Internet Governance Forum (YIGF) Cambodia 2025, held on 7 December 2025, empowers young people to lead the creation of a safer, more equitable digital society. Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC), together with Youth Organizing Committee and the Advisory Committee of YIGF, and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications hosted YIGF for the first time in 2023, and YIGF has been an annual event ever since.

This year’s theme, “From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Youth for the Digital Future” emphasizes youth leadership in tackling critical challenges including data privacy concerns, the concentration of data power among big tech companies, and the digital skills gap that AI is both widening and helping to bridge.

In an era where artificial intelligence is reshaping career landscapes, young Cambodians must be equipped not just as users, but as informed creators and guardians of technology. A trusted digital future demands that youth understand how their data is collected and used, develop AI literacy alongside traditional digital skills, and advocate for policies that protect individual privacy while fostering innovation.

Through collaborative dialogue, hands-on skills development, and youth-led initiatives, YIGF Cambodia 2025 will prepare participants to bridge the evolving skills gap, champion data rights, and build an inclusive digital ecosystem where technology serves all Cambodians, not just those who control it.



YIGF Cambodia Organizing Committee 2025

The Advisory Committee of YIGF Cambodia 2025 consists of:

- H.E. Mr. Sun Rapid, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC)
- Mr. Pheap Bunleng, Programme Officer at UNESCO Cambodia' Ms. Theary Luy, Head of Program, the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)
- Ms. Theary Luy, Head of Program, the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)
- Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director and Editor-in-Chief, Open Development Cambodia (ODC)

The organizing committee is divided into the website committee, program and operation committee, communication committee, and administrative committee.

Website Committee:

- Chhin Sor, Student at Passerelles Numériques Cambodia (PNC) and Intern at ODC
- Chhoeurn Sreynich, Student at Passerelles Numériques Cambodia (PNC) and Intern at ODC
- Mak Sammakara, NetMission.Asia Ambassador
- Mean Un, Student at Passerelles Numériques Cambodia (PNC) and Intern at ODC
- Mon Pany, Student at Passerelles Numériques Cambodia (PNC) and Intern at ODC
- Sokhachan Socheata, YIGF Representative

Program and Operation Committee:

- Than Lita, International Economics graduate

Communication Committee:

- Hongtholly Honey, Student of Economics and Management of RULE with Lumière Lyon 2 University
- HongTholly Sonit, Bachelor's degree in Media Management, Royal University of Phnom Penh
- Houth Morokoth, Bachelor's degree in International Economic, Institute of International Studies and Public Policy of the Royal University of Phnom Penh
- Set Kimhong, Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT)

Administrative Committee:

- LAM Sotheary, Bachelor's degree in International Relations, Institute for International Studies and Public Policy of Royal University of Phnom Penh
- Huot Srymanit, Bachelor's degree in accounting and finance at CamEd Business School

Speaker Breakdown

18 Speakers at YIGF 2025

6 Sessions

List of 2025 Speakers:

- Anja Gengo, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum
- Chanty Pisal, Director, Digital and Innovation Policy Research, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT)
- Dhanyashri Kamalakannan, Governance Lead and Design Researcher, The Pranava Institute
- Dr. Riccardo Corrado, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CamEd Business School, Vice Chair, Italian Business Chamber Cambodia (ItaCham)
- Edmon Chung, CEO, DotAsia
- H.E. Mr. Sun Rapid, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC)
- Houth Morokoth, YIGF Organizing Committee
- Lay Sivhuang, Managing Director, DICHI Academy
- Rathanak Sreang, Applied AI Team Lead at Cambodia's Government Digital Transformation, Digital Government Committee
- Sin Bolai, Project Coordinator, Conserve Indigenous Peoples' Languages Organization (CIPL)
- Sokhachan Socheata, YIGF Representative
- Somphors Yun, Learning Facilitator Assistant at the American University of Phnom Penh (AUPP) Liger Leadership Academy and Founder of Outliner Co.
- Thy Try, Executive Director and Editor-in-Chief, Open Development Cambodia (ODC)
- Titouan Rispaill, Community and Youth Outreach Volunteer, Open Development Cambodia



Session Breakdown

The event began by the welcoming remarks by Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief of Open Development Cambodia (ODC) and opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Sun Rapid, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Thy Try

Mr. Thy Try welcomed participants to the 3rd Cambodia Youth Internet Governance Forum (YIGF 2025) under the theme “From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Youth for the Digital Future.” He highlighted the importance of youth leadership in Cambodia’s digital transformation, emphasizing the need for young people to be informed creators, critical thinkers, and guardians of a safe and equitable digital ecosystem.

He acknowledged the contributions of the Advisory Committee, the youth organizing committee, and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, particularly H.E. Sun Rapid, for their guidance and support. Mr. Try encouraged participants to engage actively, ask questions, and take ownership of shaping Cambodia’s digital future, underscoring that youth perspectives are essential to building an inclusive and innovative digital society.

Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Sun Rapid

H.E. Mr. Sun Rapid, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, emphasized that the youth are not merely future users of the Internet, but also active and vital stewards of the nation's digital leadership during his Opening Remarks of the Cambodia Youth Internet Governance Forum 2025. He went over to express that youth participation is essential for ensuring a resilient and trusted digital society. This forum serves as a direct continuation of the multi-stakeholder spirit of the CamIGF, utilizing a “Bottom-up Approach” to seek innovative recommendations and insights from the younger generation.



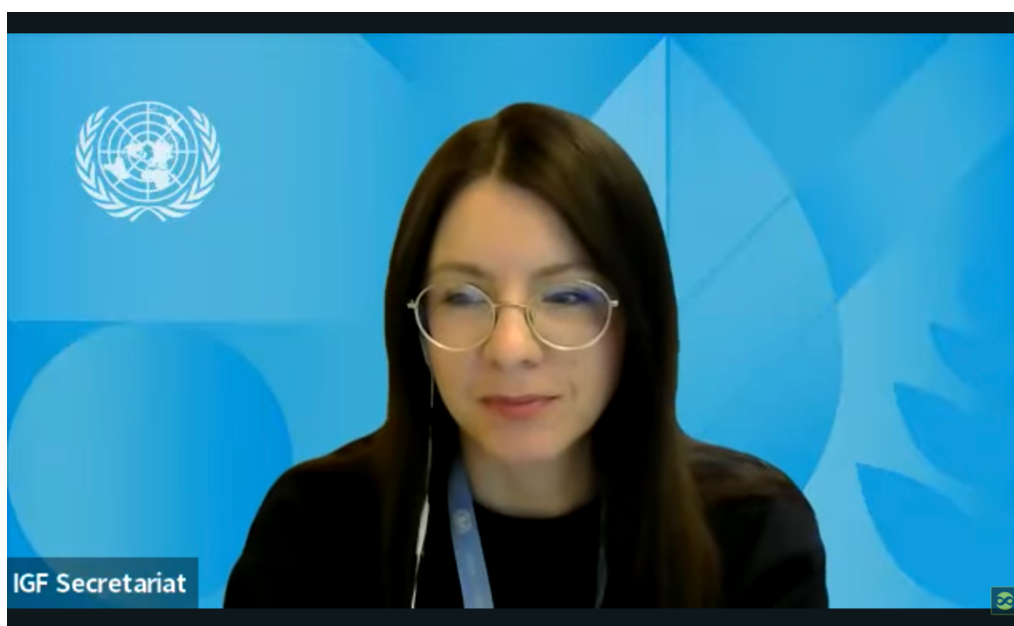
He continued to highlight that digital technology is a core priority under the Royal Government’s Pentagonal Strategy Phase I, which aims to achieve the Cambodia Vision 2050

of becoming a high-income country. Additionally, he referenced the recently launched Internet Development Assessment in Cambodia, which underscores the urgent need to enhance digital skills, promote local innovation, and strengthen governance. Given the rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence, he called upon the youth, the first generation to fully integrate AI into their lives, to address critical challenges such as online safety, misinformation, and resource strengthening.

To support this digital transition, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) is actively building infrastructure and policy frameworks. This includes the Digital Skill Development Roadmap 2024-2035 and the Techo Digital Scholarships Program to prepare the workforce for future jobs in AI and data. Furthermore, the Ministry is investing in regional access by establishing Community Tech Centers in 18 high schools in Takeo to bridge the gap between the capital and the provinces. Finally, he noted that the government is laying the groundwork for digital trust through the National AI Strategy and draft laws regarding personal data protection and cybersecurity.

The discussions during YIGF included panel discussions and presentations, with speakers encompassing the public sector, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth, technical community, and media.

Keynote Speech by Ms. Anja Gengo



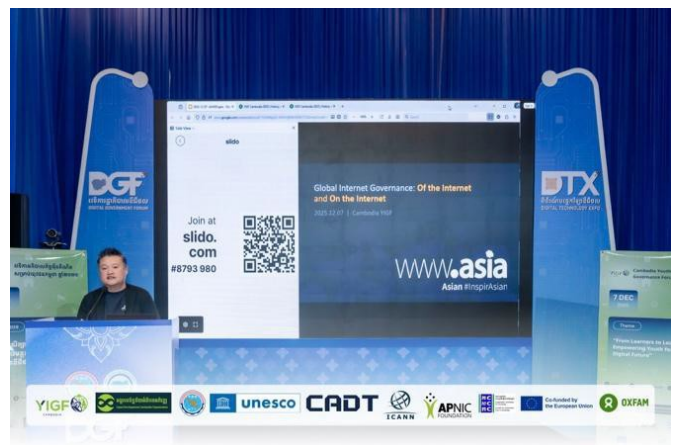
Ms. Anja Gengo, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum, delivered her keynote speech “[Dialogue for Change: Bringing Underrepresented Youth into Cambodia’s Digital Future](#).” She emphasized the importance of youth participation in Internet governance and digital policymaking, noting that young people are the most connected generation and are significantly affected by decisions related to the digital world, yet their voices remain underrepresented in many policy processes. She highlighted the forum’s theme, “From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Youth for the Digital Future,” as a reflection of the need to equip and empower youth to take an active role in shaping digital governance.

Ms. Gengo also highlighted the opportunities and challenges presented by rapid digital transformation, including artificial intelligence, digital entrepreneurship, digital divides, online safety, and digital literacy. She encouraged Cambodian youth to contribute their ideas and

perspectives to building inclusive, secure, and human-centered digital policies. Referring to the upcoming WSIS+20 review process, she stressed that youth contributions are essential to shaping a sustainable digital future and called on participants to engage actively, collaborate across communities, and make their voices heard.

This section explores the breakdown of each session:

History of Internet Governance & Internet Governance Today



The digital world is expanding at a pace that consistently outstrips the policies designed to guide it. In this context, Mr. Edmond Chung, CEO of DotAsia, presented the history, current situation and the path forward of Internet governance. He opened by underscoring the vital importance of youth-led research, which not only introduces fresh insights into complex digital issues but also guides the policymakers responsible for shaping the future of the online world.

When young researchers engage directly with issues such as copyright, privacy, and governance, they deepen their understanding of these systems and highlight the realities surrounding them.

One example is the exploration of copyright in the digital realm. While copyright is essential for protecting creative work, it faces unprecedented challenges online, from rapid content sharing to ambiguous ownership trails. The digital environment, with its fluidity and massive scale, demands that copyright frameworks evolve. Without adaptation, overly rigid systems risk stifling innovation and creativity rather than protecting it.

Yet, regulation is not straightforward. Expecting service providers to perform constant monitoring or surveillance to enforce copyright raises questions around feasibility, privacy and fairness. This reflects a broader truth: policy regulation in digital spaces is inherently complex.

Internet governance itself can be understood as a “symbiosis of warped space, speed, and scale,” a unique space-time experience that challenges traditional regulatory models. Unlike the top-down, multilateral systems of the United Nations, Internet governance operates on a multi-stakeholder model. This means governments, private sector actors, civil society, academia, and technical experts must all engage in dialogue, cross-check one another’s assumptions, and collaboratively shape outcomes.

Critically, Internet governance is a bottom-up consensus driven process. And because the Internet is a global public resource, its governance must reflect global public interest. The multi-stakeholder approach should not appear only at the end of policy development, it must be integrated from agenda-setting and design, through deliberation and development, all the way to decision-making and implementation.

Any conversation about Internet governance inevitably intersects with pressing concerns such as privacy, data safety, and the proliferation of fake news. As societies work to combat misinformation and disinformation, they face the delicate task of balancing hate speech regulation with the protection of free speech, a balance that is increasingly difficult to maintain. The future of policy must also include algorithmic accountability and auditability, ensuring that the systems shaping our digital experiences can be inspected, understood, and corrected when necessary.

One cautionary example is the European Union’s Right to Data Erasure. While well-intentioned, its development did not undergo comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation. As a result, end-users are now bombarded with cookie consent banners, which is a design outcome that technical teams could have warned would be both cumbersome and ineffective. This case serves as a reminder that policies crafted without technical expertise can lead to real-world inefficiencies and unintended consequences.

At the IGF 2025, actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt captured a fundamental truth: “Your digital self belongs to you.” In essence, digital sovereignty must be at the core of future governance frameworks. People must have an agency over their data, identities, and digital footprints.

As we move forward, complexification must precede simplification. Only by fully grappling with the layered technical, social, and ethical dimensions of Internet governance can we design solutions that are both effective and implementable. Youth-led research, multi-stakeholder cooperation, and adaptive policymaking will be essential in shaping an internet that is safe, open, innovative, and respectful of digital rights.

From Vision to Reality: What a Cambodian Space Economy Could Look Like



Cambodia is developing rapidly, expanding its digital economy, modernizing infrastructure, and integrating more deeply into regional and global markets. Yet, one sector remains largely absent from public debate: the space economy. In his presentation “From Vision to Reality: What a Cambodian Space Economy Could Look Like”, Dr. Riccardo Corrado argued that this absence is not a weakness, but a strategic opportunity. His core message was clear: space is not about sending Cambodians to the Moon, but about using satellite-based tools to solve real problems on Earth.

Many decision-makers see space as unnecessary or premature. Dr. Corrado challenged this mindset by reframing space as an economic engine and a strategic asset. Modern space systems support everyday services, from Internet connectivity to environmental monitoring, and help countries ensure their development. Satellite connectivity, for example, can enable communication and data access in places where fiber or 5G are too expensive or impractical, such as remote farming areas or fishing communities.

Space infrastructure complements, not replaces digital infrastructure. Satellites extend the reach of digital services and allow governments and businesses to operate where ground-based systems fall short. Since Cambodia is developing quickly, it has the advantage of learning from other countries’ successes and mistakes, adopting best practices without being locked into outdated systems.

Today, Cambodia has no national satellites, no dedicated space agency, and no comprehensive space regulation. Space-related activity is limited to a small satellite department within the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, with only a handful of startups working in related areas. While this may seem like a disadvantage, Dr. Corrado emphasized that it allows Cambodia to build a modern, efficient framework from scratch.

Other ASEAN countries offer valuable lessons. Vietnam has built a National Space Center and uses satellite data for agriculture, coastal management, and Mekong monitoring, work that also benefits Cambodia. The Philippines has led in regulating satellite internet services like Starlink, which is essential for disaster resilience. Malaysia focuses on research, youth engagement, and downstream services, while Thailand integrates space capabilities into security and disaster management.

For Cambodia, the most realistic entry point is downstream services, applications that use satellite data rather than building satellites themselves. Satellite imagery combined with AI can support agriculture, urban planning, environmental protection, and commercial services. Cambodian software engineers are well positioned to develop these solutions.

Challenges remain, including space debris, militarization, and the need for clear regulation. Encouragingly, Cambodia’s application to the Global Space Law Project signals growing awareness. With modern policies, international collaboration, and a focus on practical applications, Cambodia can transform its lack of space infrastructure into a powerful strategic advantage.

Meetup with Industry Expert and Policymakers: Bridging Digital Skill Gap: How AI Is Shaping the Future of Careers



As Cambodia continues moving toward a digital future with [Cambodia’s Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035](#), aiming to build a vibrant digital economy and society, this panel discussion “Bridging Digital Skill Gap: How AI is shaping the future of careers” invited experts from the academia, the private sector and representatives from the Indigenous communities to highlight how AI is reshaping skills, opportunities, and challenges for young people across the country.

Moderated by Ms. Houth Morokoth, Cambodia YIGF Organizing Committee, featuring Ms. Sin Bolai, Project Coordinator, Conserve Indigenous Peoples’ Languages Organization (CIPL), Ms. Lay Sivhuang, Managing Director, Dichi Academy, Mr. Somphors Yun, Learning Facilitator Assistant at the American University of Phnom Penh Liger Leadership Academy and Founder of Outlier Co., and Mr. Chanty Pisal, Director of Digital and Innovation Policy Research, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT), their insights collectively paint a clear picture: mastering digital tools is no longer optional; it is essential for success in the modern world.

Technology has become part of everyday Cambodian life, from smartphones and Wi-Fi to advanced AI tools. Mr. Chanty Pisal stressed how these technologies are driving innovation, improving communication, and expanding economic growth. He noted that as digital tools evolve, they are fundamentally transforming how youth learn, work, and solve problems. Mr. Somphors Yun elaborated that with AI enabling faster prototyping, easier access to global knowledge, and creative experimentation, young people now have more opportunities than ever to bring ideas to life, even without large teams or expensive resources.

However, while AI brings promise, it also highlights widening skill gaps. Ms. Lay Sivhuang emphasized that digital literacy remains the foundation for meaningful use of AI. Knowing how to ask good questions, verify outputs, and apply AI responsibly is crucial. Without these skills, the benefits of technology cannot be fully realized. One concern that surfaced repeatedly was Cambodia’s language barrier. Ms. Sin Bolai pointed out that limited English proficiency prevents many young people from accessing global online resources, often leading to misuse

of digital tools. Strengthening local digital education and creating Khmer-language resources were identified as essential steps to reduce this inequality.

Alongside opportunities come risks. Ms. Sin Bolai urged youth to learn not only how to use AI effectively, but also how to avoid potential dangers such as misinformation, privacy breaches, or unhealthy dependence on automated tools. Mr. Chanty Pisal, from an academic point of view, emphasized that cybersecurity awareness, including protecting online accounts, recognizing phishing attempts, and safeguarding personal data, was highlighted as a critical skill for navigating an increasingly connected world. Workshops, training sessions, and awareness programs were encouraged as practical ways to build safer and more informed digital habits.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of inclusive policies. Ms. Lay Sivhuang pointed out the stark contrast between digital access in Phnom Penh and in rural communities. To bridge this divide, she recommended prioritizing underserved areas with better digital infrastructure, accessible education programs, and opportunities that inspire curiosity and confidence in technology. Long-term talent development through mentorship, hands-on projects, and consistent training was highlighted as key to preparing youth for future careers.

Government efforts were also noted, particularly initiatives aimed at expanding equal access to education. These include fully funded scholarships, zero-interest educational loans, the distribution of digital devices to students in need, and dedicated support for youth with disabilities. By reducing financial and physical barriers, these policies aim to ensure that all young people, regardless of background, can participate in the fast-growing digital economy.

Beyond institutions, Mr. Somphors Yun and Ms. Sin Bolai emphasized the respective roles of youth and minority communities themselves. Young people who already possess basic digital knowledge were encouraged to support their peers, especially in underserved or minority communities. Teaching simple yet essential skills, such as using smartphones for studying, connecting to the Internet, or navigating AI tools safely, can uplift entire communities. This spirit of mutual support becomes especially important for minorities and remote groups, who often face greater challenges adapting to rapidly evolving technologies. Regular workshops, patient guidance, and explaining the importance of digital skills can help these communities build confidence and adapt step by step.

Overall, the discussion made one point abundantly clear: Cambodia's digital future depends on empowering youth with the skills, awareness, and opportunities needed to thrive in an AI-driven world. Through combined efforts, from government support and educational policies to community engagement and youth leadership, Cambodia can build a more inclusive and digitally confident generation ready to shape the country's future.

Advancing Digital, Media, and Information Literacy in Cambodia



Cambodia’s [Digital, Media, and Information Literacy Competency Framework \(DMIL\)](#) laid out the pathway in respond to the urgent need in developing the “Digital Citizen,” which is the integral part that supports the current vibrant digital economy and society. Against this backdrop, the panel discussion on “Advancing Digital, Media, and Information Literacy in Cambodia” is essential in highlighting Cambodia’s growing efforts, with a focus on empowering students, educators, and the wider public.

Moderated by Ms. Thida Sours, Communication Officer, Open Development Cambodia (ODC), featuring Ms. Nasa Dip, Project Coordinator at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC), Mrs. Ith Channa, Representative of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and Ms. Hok Lida from Media 101, the panel discussion explored the progress and future of Digital, Media, and Information Literacy (DMIL) in Cambodia, highlighting its critical role in education, governance, and society.

Ms. Thida Sours kicked off the discussion by sharing ODC’s experiences. ODC has been at the forefront of strengthening DMIL in Cambodia through comprehensive, inclusive training programs such as the [Media Information and Digital Literacy \(MIDL\) Training of Trainers \(ToT\) workshop](#) supported by UNDP Cambodia. The initiatives have reached over 300 youth and 90 persons with disabilities, providing critical skills in media analysis, misinformation awareness, and safe digital practices. Through the CLAP Project in Cambodia and Laos, with funding support from Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, ODC trained 22 master trainers who delivered 40 workshops, benefiting around 1,500 teachers, students, parents, and community members. Overall, ODC’s work fosters responsible digital engagement and builds community resilience against misinformation.

From the government perspective, Ms. Nasa Dip brought the discussion to life with interactive quiz questions that made participants think about their own digital habits. Questions like “What comes to mind when you hear DMIL?” and “How much fake news do you think you can spot?” sparked reflection. She explained why digital literacy is now inseparable from media literacy: with social media dominating as the main news source and some print media fully online since 2024, understanding what’s real and what’s misleading is no longer optional.

She outlined the eight key DMIL competencies, ranging from information and data literacy to digital content creation, media literacy, and problem-solving, and explained why they matter. With only 32% of Cambodians having basic digital access, 5% intermediate, and just 1% advanced skills, the need for these competencies is urgent. DMIL equips youth and adults alike to verify information, protect personal data, navigate online risks, and make the most of digital

opportunities. She also shared a MIL Gamer Quiz via QR code, showing that learning can be interactive and engaging.

Mrs. Ith Channa then dove into the Sala MIL app, Cambodia’s very own digital literacy toolkit. With 21 lessons, 5 chapters, 135 Q&As, videos, interactive content, quizzes, and certificates, it’s built for students, teachers, and youth, even in areas with weak internet. Sala MIL helps users think critically, stay safe online, check information, avoid scams, and build responsible digital habits. Teachers also get ready-made activities, making digital literacy easy to integrate into the classroom. “It’s like having a digital mentor in your pocket,” Mrs. Ith Channa said.

Ms. Hok Lida added a playful twist by revisiting a childhood classic, the two-cup telephone game, to show how information can get distorted. The cups represent the sender and receiver, while the string represents the communication channel. Tight string? Clear message. Loose string? Confusion. Just like online content, messages can easily be twisted.

Lastly, she introduced five core MIL concepts: access media responsibly, analyze content effectively, identify the sender, understand their intentions, and recognize emotional manipulation. MIL isn’t just about knowledge; it’s about thinking critically, avoiding scams, and making smart choices online.

As Cambodia races toward a digital future, DMIL is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. From Sala MIL to national training programs, these initiatives are equipping students, teachers, and youth with the skills to navigate online spaces safely, responsibly, and confidently. In a world overflowing with information, knowing what to trust is more than a skill. It’s a superpower.

Presentation – In the AI Era, Level Up Your Skills, Not Your Age



The presentation “In the AI Era, Level Up Your Skills, Not Your Age” by Mr. Rathanak Sreang is significant in guiding participants to understand Artificial Intelligence (AI), as it has become a powerful tool in our daily lives, supporting both personal and professional tasks. From writing emails and checking grammar to organizing schedules and generating ideas, AI helps us work faster and more efficiently. In the workplace, AI reduces repetitive work and allows people to focus on creativity, problem-solving, and decision-making. Looking ahead, AI will continue to shape our world and workplaces.

While many worry about job loss, the reality is different. AI will not directly replace jobs, but it may replace individuals who do not use AI to make their work easier and more effective. Those who learn to work with AI will gain a strong advantage in the future job market.

To stay relevant in the AI era, new skills are essential. AI literacy, critical thinking, and effective communication with AI tools are becoming core competencies. Recognizing this, some schools are now teaching students how to prompt AI properly.

Common AI prompting techniques include zero prompts, role-based prompts, and chain-of-thought prompts. Each method helps guide AI to produce better and more accurate results. However, it is also important to understand prompt limitations, as AI outputs still require human review.

Finally, tools like KhmerLang, an AI grammar checker for the Khmer language, show how AI can support local languages and improve communication without replacing human creativity.

Unboxing Internet Infrastructure and Their Environmental Costs



The presentation session: “Unboxing Internet Infrastructures and Their Environmental Costs” commenced with a video presentation of Ms. Dhanyashri Kamalakannan, Governance Lead and Design Researcher of [The Pranava Institute](#). One key message stood out clearly: youth participation is essential for building an inclusive and sustainable digital society. As our world becomes increasingly digitized, from education and communication to entertainment and social engagement, young people are spending more time online than ever before. In the Asia-Pacific region in particular, youth now average nearly six hours of internet use per day.

This deep integration of [digital tools](#) into daily life presents both opportunities and challenges. While technology offers access to knowledge, creativity, and global connection, it also demands new forms of digital literacy. It has become crucial to empower young people with the skills and awareness needed to manage their relationship with technology, not only for their personal wellbeing, but for the health of our digital ecosystems.

Recognizing this need, the toolkit aimed at creating educational resources that help youth navigate digital spaces more thoughtfully and responsibly. The initiative goes beyond basic online safety: it encourages young people to understand the broader implications of their online actions, especially the ecological cost of a single click. Every online search, streamed video, or shared file contributes to real-world energy consumption and carbon emissions. Helping youth recognize this invisible environmental impact is a fundamental step toward shaping a more sustainable digital future.

Building on this momentum, Mr. Titouan Rispail, Community and Youth Outreach Volunteer from Open Development Cambodia (ODC) shared insights into how the Unboxing Tech Toolkit Project is being put into practice in Cambodia, highlighting both the translation process and the first steps of implementation in the provinces. Supported by the APNIC Foundation and ISIF Asia Grant, a central component of this effort

was the Translathon, a workshop dedicated to translating the Toolkit into Khmer while actively involving the local community. More than a simple translation exercise, the Translathon was designed as an inclusive and interactive gathering, one that brought people together around the shared goal of promoting responsible and sustainable digital engagement.

The results were significant. The event produced the first Khmer-language version of the Toolkit, making the material accessible to a wider audience across the country. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about the environmental footprint of Internet use and the physical infrastructure behind it, knowledge that sparked curiosity and enthusiasm. Importantly, the Translathon ignited a deeper interest in the project itself as several attendees later volunteered to support the implementation phase in provincial communities.

One of the first provinces selected for implementation was Preah Vihear province, a region where ODC has sustained long-term engagement through various school and community initiatives. From workshops at local Lifelong Learning Centers and the Prayuters Library in Preah Vihear province, the area has been an important hub for inclusive education. Given this strong foundation and ongoing community relationships, introducing the Toolkit in Preah Vihear province became a natural next step, an opportunity to continue strengthening ODC's provincial engagement.

Two key workshops were organized at the Pou Learning Center and the Pahal Learning Center, reaching a total of 110 participants aged 12 to 16. With support from the trained Translathon volunteers, the sessions offered a dynamic introduction to the Toolkit in Khmer. To ensure that the concepts were both relatable and practical, the facilitators adapted the content to fit the local context. Volunteers improvised when necessary, tailoring explanations and examples to ensure clarity and accessibility for the students.

These efforts paid off. The workshops effectively planted the seeds of awareness about the environmental impacts of Internet use, giving young participants a new perspective on their daily digital habits. At the same time, the workshops helped reinforce ODC's long-standing relationship with communities in Preah Vihear, demonstrating a continued commitment to locally rooted, community-based education. The successful implementation in the province marks an important step forward in the Toolkit Project, one that supports a long-term strategy for empowering youth and building a more informed, sustainable digital future.

Closing remarks from Ms. Socheata Sokhachan



The Closing Ceremony of the Cambodia Youth Internet Governance Forum (Youth IGF Cambodia) 2025 marked the successful conclusion of the forum held under the theme “*From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Youth for the Digital Future.*” The organizing committee highlighted that the event fostered meaningful discussions, innovative ideas, and fresh perspectives from youth participants, reflecting the growing role of young people in shaping Cambodia’s digital future.

The report noted that the Cambodia Internet Governance Forum (CamIGF) 2025 officially opened smoothly the previous day, while Youth IGF Cambodia continued its annual mission, reaching its third edition since its establishment in 2023. As emphasized by a member of the organizing committee, the forum serves as a vital platform to ensure that youth voices are meaningfully integrated into national and international digital policy discussions, enabling Cambodian youth to explore and contribute to the country’s digital potential.

Strong appreciation was expressed to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) for its continued recognition and support of the national youth program. This support was acknowledged as a clear demonstration of the government’s commitment to youth as essential stakeholders in building a sustainable and inclusive digital ecosystem in Cambodia.

The ceremony also conveyed sincere gratitude to H.E. Sun Rapidi, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, for his presence at the forum and for providing valuable guidance and encouragement to the youth organizing team. His contributions were recognized as instrumental in motivating young leaders in the digital governance space.

In addition, special recognition was given to Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director of Open Development Cambodia (ODC), for his pivotal role in sustaining the initiative. His consistent

support and leadership were credited as key factors enabling the Youth IGF Cambodia to be organized annually and to grow steadily.

Finally, the report acknowledged the contributions of speakers and distinguished guests who shared their expertise on critical issues such as the AI skills gap, data rights, and contemporary internet governance. Their insights were highlighted as valuable inputs that enriched the discussions and strengthened youth understanding of emerging digital challenges and opportunities.

Acknowledgment

The success and impact of YIGF Cambodia 2025 are made possible through the collective commitment of our organizing teams, volunteers, speakers, partners, and sponsors, whose support enables young people to take an active role in shaping Cambodia’s digital future. Their contributions directly advance our shared vision of a safer, more equitable, and inclusive digital society, one where youth are empowered to engage meaningfully in Internet policy and governance discussions.

As Cambodia continues its rapid digital transformation, these partnerships are more important than ever. They allow YIGF Cambodia to equip young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and platforms needed to address critical challenges such as data privacy, the growing influence of big tech, and the widening digital skills gap in the age of AI. Beyond sustaining the forum, these collaborations ensure its relevance as a space where youth move from learners to leaders, informed not only as technology users but as responsible stewards of the digital ecosystem.

We deeply value the trust and dedication of our community and look forward to strengthening these partnerships as we continue building momentum together, ensuring that Cambodia’s digital future is shaped by informed, empowered, and engaged young voices.

This report is prepared by the YIGF Cambodia Organizing Committee 2025, Open Development Cambodia (ODC), and Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) teams.



Annex: YIGF Cambodia 2025 Agenda

| Time | DAY 2 - Sunday, 7 December 2025 |
|---|--|
| <p>Theme: From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Youth for the Digital Future</p> <p>As Cambodia accelerates its digital transformation, YIGF Cambodia 2025 empowers young people to lead the creation of a safer, more equitable digital society. This year's theme, "From Learners to Leaders: Empowering Youth for the Digital Future," emphasizes youth leadership in tackling critical challenges, including data privacy concerns, the concentration of data power among big tech companies, and the digital skills gap that AI is both widening and helping to bridge.</p> <p>In an era where artificial intelligence is reshaping career landscapes, young Cambodians must be equipped not just as users but as informed creators and guardians of technology. A trusted digital future requires that young people understand how their data is collected and used, develop AI literacy alongside traditional digital skills, and advocate for policies that protect individual privacy while fostering innovation.</p> <p>Through collaborative dialogue, hands-on skills development, and youth-led initiatives, YIGF Cambodia 2025 will prepare participants to bridge the evolving skills gap, champion data rights, and build an inclusive digital ecosystem where technology serves all Cambodians, not just those who control it.</p> | |
| 8:00 - 8:30 | Arrival of participants & Registration |
| 8:30 - 8:40 | <p>Welcoming Remarks Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief, Open Development Cambodia</p> <p>Room: Hall 3</p> |
| 8:40 - 8:50 | <p>Keynote: "Internet Governance by NRIs" Speaker: Ms. Anja Gengo, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum</p> |

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| | Room: Hall 3 | |
| 8:50 - 9:00 | Opening remark H.E. Mr. Sun Rapid , Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Room: Hall 3 | |
| 9:00 - 9:45 | History of IG & IG Today Speaker: Mr. Edmon Chung , CEO, DotAsia Breakout group discussion on Governance Of vs On the Internet Room: Hall 3 | From Vision to Reality: What a Cambodian Space Economy Could Look Like This session explores how Cambodia could build a future space economy—from national vision to practical pathways. It highlights emerging opportunities in satellite technology, earth observation, digital connectivity, and space-enabled services that can drive economic growth and social development. Participants will hear insights on policy frameworks, capacity building, and regional collaboration needed to make Cambodia's space ambitions achievable, inclusive, and sustainable. Speaker: Dr. Riccardo Corrado , Ph.D., Associate Professor, CamEd Business School, Vice Chair, Italian Business Chamber Cambodia (ItaCham) Room: Hall 2 |
| 9:45 - 10:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 10:00 - 10:45 | Meetup with Industry Expert and Policymakers: Bridging Digital Skill Gap: How AI is shaping the Future of Careers Moderator: Ms. Houth Morokoth , YIGF Organizing Committee Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Sin Bolai, Project Coordinator, Conserve Indigenous Peoples' Languages Organization - Ms. Lay Sivhuang, Managing Director, DICI Academy - Mr. Somphors Yun, Learning Facilitator Assistant at the AUPP Liger Leadership Academy and Founder of Outlier Co. - Mr. Chanty Pisal, Director, Digital and Innovation Policy Research, CADT Room: Hall 3 | Advancing Digital, Media, and Information Literacy in Cambodia This session highlights Cambodia's growing efforts to strengthen Digital, Media, and Information Literacy (DMIL) across sectors, with a focus on empowering students, educators, and the wider public. Representatives from key institutions will present recent national initiatives aimed at building a more informed, resilient, and digitally capable society. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) will present Cambodia's DMIL Competency Framework. Developed and launched with UNESCO's technical support, the framework provides a comprehensive guide for integrating DMIL skills into national education, community outreach, and digital governance efforts. Following this, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) will introduce the newly launched Sala MIL mobile application—an interactive learning tool designed to enhance MIL competencies among students. The session will include a live demonstration of the app, showcasing its features, learning modules, and potential for nationwide adoption. |

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| 10:45 - 11:10 | <p>Youth Action Lab: From Insights to Ideas</p> <p>Each table/group drafts 1 key recommendation or initiative youth can take for digital inclusion, or AI literacy.</p> <p>Room: Hall 3</p> | <p>Media101 will share insights from its ongoing MIL capacity-building initiatives, highlighting practical community-based approaches, training models, and lessons learned from working with youth, journalists, and local educators.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Thida Sours, Communication Officer, Open Development Cambodia (ODC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nasa Dip, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications • Mrs. Ith Channa, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport • Ms. Hok Lida, Media101 <p>Room: Hall 2</p> |
| 11:10-11:30 | <p>Presentation: In the AI Era, Level Up Your Skills, Not Your Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker: Mr. Rathanak Sreang, Applied AI Team Lead at Cambodia's Government Digital Transformation, Digital Government Committee | <p>Unboxing Internet Infrastructures and Their Environmental Costs</p> <p>This session explores the hidden environmental impacts of internet infrastructures, from data centers to networks. Designed for young, non-technical audiences, it simplifies complex concepts around energy consumption and digital sustainability, empowering participants to engage in internet governance discussions and understand the ecological footprint of online technologies.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Titouan Rispail, Community and Youth Outreach Volunteer, Open Development Cambodia • Ms. Dhanyashri Kamalakannan, Governance Lead and Design Researcher, The Pranava Institute <p>Room: Hall 2</p> |
| 11:30 - 11:45 | <p>Way Forward & Reflection Session</p> <p>Ms. Sokhachan Socheata, YIGF Representative</p> <p>Room: Hall 3</p> | |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | <p>Wrapping up, closing, and group photo</p> <p>Organizing Committee of YIGF</p> <p>Room: Hall 3</p> | |



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