



## Meeting report

### Youth digital empowerment workshop and Girls in ICT Cambodia

Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Centre  
Siem Reap, Cambodia

21 July 2025  
13:00-17:00 GMT+7

**Girls in ICT Day  
and  
Youth digital  
empowerment  
workshop  
Cambodia**

21 July 2025  
Sokha Siem Reap Resort & Convention Center,  
Siem Reap, Cambodia

 [itu.int/go/Youth\\_ICT\\_Cambodia](https://itu.int/go/Youth_ICT_Cambodia)

Co-organized by:



*The event was organised by the Ministry of Information (MOI) and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Cambodia (MPTC), with support from the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as a pre-Summit event during to the 20th Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2025 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.*

This meeting report was prepared by:

ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with support from the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

## Youth digital empowerment workshop and Girls in ICT Cambodia

### 1. Key highlights

- Held on 21 July 2025, at Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Centre.
- Over 160 students, teachers, and lecturers from schools and universities across Cambodia, with 50% female participation, reflecting strong commitment to gender equality
- Engaged youth, government, UN agencies, industry, and academic leaders
- Key sessions included
  - Special Panel Discussion with Youth: Youth Voices Shaping an Inclusive Digital Future.
  - Hands-on Workshop: Exploring Digital Learning Platforms.
- Recommendations: Promoting AI literacy, multilingualism online, cybersecurity skills, and equitable access to ICTs.

### 2. Executive summary of the event



The event marked Cambodia's celebration of Girls in ICT Day 2025, expanding the scope to include youth empowerment through digital skills. It provided a platform for dialogue between youth, policymakers, and industry leaders on inclusive digital transformation.

Key takeaways included:

- Youth must be empowered as present change-makers, not just future leaders.
- Digital tools from AI gamified learning to multilingual internet systems are crucial in preparing youth for tomorrow's workforce.
- The workshop emphasized practical, hands-on engagement with digital platforms, enabling students to explore coding, AI, internet governance, and cybersecurity in an accessible manner

### Background and objectives

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) placed strong emphasis on promoting youth activities that advanced digital skills development and ICT-enabled employment opportunities. Particular attention was given to encouraging young women and girls to explore careers in information, communication, and technology (ICT). Through its flagship initiative, Generation Connect, ITU engaged global youth and

encouraged their participation as equal partners in the digital transformation, equipping them with the skills and opportunities needed to shape a connected and inclusive future.

International Girls in ICT Day, celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of April, aimed to inspire girls and young women to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The celebration also fostered collaboration across sectors while addressing the underrepresentation of women in STEM education, particularly in ICT.

While Girls in ICT Day traditionally focused on ICT career pathways for girls, the 2025 event in Cambodia expanded the focus to broader youth digital empowerment. With a firm commitment to gender equality, the organizers ensured that at least 50% of the participants were female.

The event also responded to the persistent digital divide, recognizing that nearly 30% of rural populations in low-income countries remained unconnected, with girls and women disproportionately affected. This lack of connectivity continued to limit their access to education, economic opportunities, and social inclusion. Girls in ICT Day Cambodia 2025 therefore aimed to address this challenge by equipping Cambodian youth—particularly girls—with essential digital skills to thrive in the digital economy.

Globally, Girls in ICT Day had already reached over 377,000 girls and young women across more than 11,400 celebrations in 171 countries. In 2025, the theme was “Girls in ICT for Inclusive Digital Transformation.”

Jointly organized by the Ministry of Information (MOI) and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Cambodia (MPTC), with support from the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and ITU, the event was convened as a pre-Summit activity during the 20th Asia Media Summit (AMS) in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

### **Objectives:**

The workshop sought to empower youth, especially girls and young women, with digital skills while strengthening partnerships to scale youth digital empowerment initiatives in Cambodia.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

Enhanced digital literacy and awareness among students and teachers, with a focus on increasing girls’ participation.

Strengthened collaboration among government ministries, industry stakeholders, development organizations, and UN agencies in advancing youth digital empowerment programmes.



### 3. Welcome address

- Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretary-General / CEO, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) - Highlighted AIBD's commitment to fostering youth digital empowerment through media and broadcasting platforms.



- Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - Emphasized ITU's commitment to empowering Cambodian youth especially girls through digital skills, highlighting the importance of youth leadership and inclusive participation in shaping the country's digital future.



### 4. Opening address

- H.E. Mr. Sok Puthyvuth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia - Underline the government's commitment to supporting youth in shaping a digital Cambodia.





- H. E. Mr. Neth Pheaktra, Minister of Information, Cambodia – Stated the critical role of media and ICT in inclusive development and youth participation.



## 5. Session 1. Special Panel Discussion with Youth: Youth Voices Shaping an Inclusive Digital Future

### Presentation on Responsible Journalism Among Youth in the Digital Era:

- Dr. Suras Kanagasabai, Producer and Director Education Television Program Ministry of Education, Malaysia



Dr. Suras Kanagasabai highlighted the evolving role of journalists as gatekeepers of truth in an era defined by rapid technological change, emphasizing the challenges of combating misinformation while upholding public trust. He explained how technological advances from the typewriter to artificial intelligence have transformed journalism, offering powerful tools such as advanced data analysis, fact-verification, and personalized news delivery. At the same time, he cautioned that AI introduces ethical concerns including bias, transparency, sensationalism driven by social media, and risks of disinformation. Stressing the continued importance of the “human-in-the-loop” principle, Dr. Suras argued that journalism education must go beyond technical training to embed ethics and digital responsibility, ensuring that technology enhances rather than undermines journalism’s societal role.

## Special Panel Discussion with Youth: Youth Voices Shaping an Inclusive Digital Future



### Moderators:

- Mr. Chanborey Hut, Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia
- Ms. Solinda Len, Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia

### Panelists and insights:

- Mr. Ry Seyhakroth, Deputy Director, Department of Broadcasting, Ministry of Information, Kingdom of Cambodia - Highlighted youth's role in shaping responsible media and journalism.
- Ms. Tommy Cheng, Director, Education Broadcasting Cambodia (EBC) - Spoke on the power of educational media to empower youth.
- Ms. Poum Chan Socheata, Lecturer, Researcher, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT) - Emphasized young innovators' role in inclusive digital society.
- Mr. Em Piseth, Director of Department of Cooperation in Scouting, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, Cambodia - Stressed the role of education in nurturing digital leadership and media literacy.

### Discussion Outcome:

Participants underscored the need for collaborative efforts across government, media, and education to empower youth in responsible digital participation.

## 6. Session 2. Hands-on Workshop: Exploring Digital Learning Platforms



### Moderators:

- Ms. Saovty Ly, Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia
- Mr. Whatanak Kean, Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia

## Onboarding Presentation and Workshop by Resource Partners

- Presentation from Ms. Poum Chan Socheata, Lecturer, Researcher, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT)



Ms. Poum Chan Socheata presented the AI Playground, an innovative, gamified learning platform developed through a 10-week project-based course by Year 2 Computer Science students at CADT. Designed to introduce children aged 8–14 to artificial intelligence through familiar, playful experiences, the platform translates core AI concepts such as computational thinking, data literacy, ethics, and creativity into interactive games. Students followed a human-centered design process: conducting interviews with children and educators, prototyping playful learning tools (from paper models to digital Scratch prototypes with sensors and AI APIs), testing with peers and young users, and iterating based on feedback. The project demonstrated that data- and user-informed game-based learning can make AI literacy both engaging and accessible, and it points toward future work including formal curriculum development, assessing learning outcomes, and creating AI-assisted educational tools.

- Presentation from Ms. Angela Wibawa, Government and Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) Engagement Director, APAC, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)



Ms. Angela Wibawa introduced ICANN's mission of ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems and focused on the importance of a multilingual Internet through Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance (UA). She explained how IDNs allow domain names and email addresses in local scripts such as Khmer, Arabic, Chinese, and others, enabling more inclusive online access. Highlighting the challenges that persist when systems are not UA-ready, she stressed the role of governments, businesses, academia, and civil society in adopting policies, updating software, and raising awareness to promote multilingual digital participation. She also showcased ICANN's training opportunities and community engagement platforms, encouraging youth and stakeholders to get involved in shaping an Internet that is accessible, inclusive, and representative of diverse languages and cultures.

- Presentation from Mr. Chhunhour Long, Cambodia Cisco Account Manager, Cisco



Mr. Chhunhour Long introduced the Cisco Networking Academy (NetAcad), one of the world's longest-running IT skills-to-jobs programs designed to bridge the digital skills gap and empower learners through technology. Since its inception in 1997, the academy has supported over 24 million students globally, with more than 46,000 participants in Cambodia alone benefiting from training in networking, cybersecurity, AI, data science, programming, and digital literacy. Delivered through flexible self-paced and instructor-led models, the program partners with universities, governments, NGOs, and over 650 employers to connect students with career opportunities. In recognition of its commitment to youth empowerment, Cisco generously provided five special gifts to the students bags, t-shirts, and pouches, which were distributed to students during the Q&A session, further engaging and motivating participants.

- Presentation from Ms. Rury Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



Ms. Rury Demsey introduced the Girls in ICT initiative and the ITU Academy as key platforms for advancing digital inclusion and capacity development. She explained how Girls in ICT Day, celebrated annually since 2011, had already engaged more than 377,000 girls and young women in over 11,400 events across 171 countries, creating a global environment that empowers girls to consider studies and careers in ICT. Highlighting past celebrations in Southeast Asia, she emphasized the role of such initiatives in bridging the digital gender divide. Ms. Rury then showcased the ITU Academy as ITU's main gateway for capacity development, offering over 150 online and face-to-face courses each year on ICT and digital development. With more than 38,000 users worldwide, 67% from developing countries, the Academy provides a modern, flexible learning platform with verified certifications and a wide-ranging catalogue tailored to policymakers, regulators, industry professionals, academia, and civil society. She encouraged participants to explore and enroll in the Academy's courses to strengthen their digital skills and join a global community of ICT learners and professionals.



## 7. Closing address



- H. E. Thong Kun Yuleng, Advisor to Ministry of Information cum Deputy Chief of Minister's Cabinet, Cambodia - Emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between ministries and partners to empower Cambodian youth through digital skills.
- H.E. Rapid SUN, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia - Highlighted the government's commitment to advancing inclusive digital transformation and sustaining momentum in youth empowerment initiatives.

MC of the launching event of the Youth Digital Empowerment and Girls in ICT Cambodia 2025:

- Ms. Rory Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific - Concluded the Youth Digital Empowerment Workshop and Girls in ICT Day Cambodia 2025, on behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), by thanking all speakers, moderators, and participants for their valuable contributions, and expressed hope that the programme would inspire new ideas, partnerships, and action toward a more inclusive and connected digital future.

### Next steps and conclusion

The Youth Digital Empowerment Workshop and Girls in ICT Cambodia 2025 concluded with strong momentum toward expanding opportunities for young people, especially girls and young women to thrive in the digital economy. The event demonstrated the value of combining policy dialogue with hands-on digital skills training, providing students and educators with exposure to practical tools in AI, multilingual Internet access, networking, and digital learning platforms. Building on the success of the workshop, next steps include scaling up national and regional initiatives that integrate AI literacy, cybersecurity, and responsible media engagement into education curricula, while continuing to ensure gender balance and inclusive participation.

The Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, ITU, and AIBD, together with industry partners such as Cisco, ICANN, and CADT, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration. Future activities will focus on expanding training opportunities through platforms like the ITU Academy and Cisco Networking Academy, promoting multilingual Internet adoption, and developing gamified learning approaches such as the AI Playground. Sustained partnerships, targeted outreach, and continued investment in youth engagement will ensure that Cambodian youth emerge as digitally skilled leaders and innovators, helping to shape an inclusive and resilient digital future.

## **Annex 1**

### **Programme agenda**

Girls in ICT Day Cambodia 2025: Youth Digital Empowerment Workshop

| Monday, 21 July 2025     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| GMT+7<br>13:00-<br>13:30 | <b>Arrival and Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 13:30-<br>14:00          | <b>Introduction and Opening</b><br><br><b>MC:</b><br>Ms Rury Demsey, <i>Project Officer for ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i><br><br><b>Welcome address:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretary-General / CEO, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)</li><li>Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</li></ul> <b>Opening address:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>H.E. Mr. Sok Puthyvuth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia</li><li>H. E. Mr. Neth Pheaktra, Minister of Information, Cambodia</li></ul><br><i>Group photo session</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 14:00-<br>15:00          | <b>Session 1: Special Panel Discussion with Youth: Youth Voices Shaping an Inclusive Digital Future</b><br><br>This session provides a platform for Cambodian youth and relevant stakeholders to share their insights on the role of youth in promoting inclusive digital transformation and fostering responsible media engagement. Led by youth, this session aims to amplify youth voices and perspectives on digital inclusion, innovation, responsible journalism, and leadership in the digital age.<br><br><b>Presentation on Responsible Journalism Among Youth in the Digital Era</b><br><i>Dr Suras Kanagasabai, Producer and Director Education Television Program Ministry of Education, Malaysia.</i><br><br>(20 minutes of presentation)<br><br><b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr. Chanborey Hut, <i>Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia</i></li><li>Ms. Solinda Len, <i>Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia</i></li></ul><br><b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr. Ry Seyhakrodh, <i>Deputy Director, Department of Broadcasting, Ministry of Information, Kingdom of Cambodia</i></li><li>Ms. Tommy Cheng, <i>Director, Education Broadcasting Cambodia (EBC)</i></li><li>Ms. Poum Chan Socheata, <i>Lecturer, Researcher, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT)</i></li></ul> |

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Em Piseth, Director of Department of Cooperation in Scouting, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, Cambodia</li> </ul> <p><i>(Every speaker has <b>3 minutes</b> maximum)</i></p> <p><i>Group photo session</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 15:00-15:15 | <p><b>Break</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15:15-16:15 | <p><b>Session 2: Hands-on Workshop: Exploring Digital Learning Platforms</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> This session allows participants to experience firsthand various digital learning tools and applications. This session aims to build awareness and practical skills by introducing students and teachers to accessible digital technologies (coding, AI, cybersecurity).</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Saovty Ly, <i>Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia</i></li> <li>Mr. Whatanak Kean, <i>Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy of Cambodia</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Onboarding Presentation and Workshop by Resource Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation from Ms. Poum Chan Socheata, <i>Lecturer, Researcher, Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT)</i></li> <li>Presentation from Ms. Angela Wibawa, <i>Government and Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) Engagement Director, APAC, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)</i></li> <li>Presentation from Mr. Chhunhour Long, <i>Cambodia Cisco Account Manager, Cisco</i></li> <li>Presentation from Ms. Rury Demsey, <i>Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></li> </ul> <p>Note: Session includes interaction with participants</p> <p><i>(Every speaker has <b>15 minutes</b> maximum to deliver presentation and <b>5 minutes</b> of Q&amp;A session)</i></p> <p><i>Group photo session</i></p> |
| 16:15-16:30 | <p><b>Closing</b></p> <p><b>MC:</b><br/>Ms Rury Demsey, <i>Project Officer for ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></p> <p><b>Closing address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, <i>Secretary-General / CEO, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)</i></li> <li>Mr. Kishore Babu, <i>Head Area of ITU Area Office for Southeast Asia</i></li> <li>H. E. Thong Kun Yuleng, <i>Advisor to Ministry of Information cum Deputy Chief of Minister's Cabinet, Cambodia</i></li> <li>H.E. Rapid SUN, <i>Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## **Annex 2**

### **Website and Social Media Posts**

The event was posted on:

- ITU event page at [http://itu.int/go/Youth\\_ICT\\_Cambodia](http://itu.int/go/Youth_ICT_Cambodia)
- ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific X account @ITUAsiaPacific at <https://x.com/ITUAsiaPacific/status/1952616626005905409>
- ITU Regional Office for Pacific LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7358382432871505921>