



Webinar Series

“Human-Centred AI for Education: Ethical AI Literacy and the Future of Learning in Southeast Asia”

SEAMEO STEM-ED & MIT Media Lab Collaboration

Overview and Introduction

Southeast Asian countries are increasingly prioritising Artificial Intelligence (AI) literacy as an essential competency for learners, educators, and societies in the era of rapid digital transformation, as emphasised in the SEAMEO Strategic Plan (2025–2030) and the 6th Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) convened in the Philippines (SEAMEO Secretariat, 2022). Beyond technical skills, AI literacy today requires ethical understanding, critical thinking, human-centred perspectives, and responsible engagement with emerging technologies. Preparing future generations to thrive alongside AI has therefore become both an educational and societal imperative.

As AI technologies continue to shape how young people learn, communicate, and interact with the world, Southeast Asia faces an urgent need to ensure that learners and educators are equipped not only with foundational digital competencies, but also with the ability to understand the ethical, psychological, and social implications of AI. Prioritising foundational learning, lifelong learning, and STEM education across Southeast Asia is therefore critical to fostering future-ready citizens who can use AI responsibly, creatively, and inclusively.

To support this regional commitment, SEAMEO STEM-ED, as the SEAMEO Centre leading STEM education initiatives, conducted a regional survey and landscape study on STEM education across Southeast Asia. The findings from the Landscape Study in STEM Education in Southeast Asia (SEAMEO STEM-ED, 2023) reveal significant disparities in access to STEM and digital learning opportunities, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Less than 25% of surveyed schools have integrated digital tools into classroom learning, highlighting the urgency of structured AI and digital literacy initiatives to bridge educational gaps. The study also found that AI and computational thinking are still rarely taught in schools, with fewer than 20% of educators expressing confidence in delivering AI-related instruction. Furthermore, over 70% of teachers across the region indicated a strong need for professional development in emerging technologies, including AI literacy and ethical AI integration.

These findings are further reinforced by global reports. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2021), fewer than 15% of students in Southeast Asia have received formal AI education, with clear inequities between urban and rural communities. Similarly, the 2023 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report highlights that only 22% of youth in low- and middle-income countries have access to digital skills training, disproportionately affecting underserved populations and widening the digital divide (GEM, 2023).

Responding to these regional and global challenges, SEAMEO STEM-ED seeks to strengthen AI literacy through a human-centred and ethical approach to AI education. This initiative recognises that AI education must go beyond technical competencies to include responsible AI use, human-AI interaction, creativity, empathy, wellbeing, and ethical awareness. As AI increasingly becomes embedded in everyday life, education systems must prepare learners not only to use AI tools, but also to critically understand how AI influences human identity, decision-making, relationships, and future societies.

This initiative also aligns with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021), which emphasises the importance of ethical, inclusive, and equitable AI education. Furthermore, it supports the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021–2025 and complements the ASEAN Foundation's AI Ready ASEAN initiative, which aims to equip 5.5 million people across ASEAN Member States with AI literacy competencies. SEAMEO STEM-ED has actively collaborated with the ASEAN Foundation in advancing regional AI literacy efforts and strengthening partnerships that promote equitable digital transformation across ASEAN communities.

In line with these commitments, SEAMEO STEM-ED proposes a strategic collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab through the Day of AI, Future Makers, Ethical AI Literacy, and related initiatives led by experts from the MIT Media Lab. MIT Media Lab has been internationally recognised for advancing innovative and human-centred approaches to AI education, including ethical AI literacy, AI companions, human-AI interaction, and future learning design.

Through this collaboration, the initiative will connect global innovation with regional implementation by introducing Southeast Asian educators and learners to practical, accessible, and classroom-ready AI literacy resources while fostering dialogue on the broader human implications of AI. The program will also create opportunities to explore future-oriented themes such as responsible AI, human-centred AI education, cyborg psychology, AI companions, and the future generation growing up with AI technologies.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has various projects/programmes that excel in AI and STEM education, innovation in AI, and project-based hands-on activities. Through the collaboration of Raised by AI, Advancing Human with AI (AHA), Day of AI and Future Makers Programme, as the flagship programmes of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), SEAMEO STEM-ED can lead and share these Knowledges across Southeast Asian countries. With the support and expertise of MIT through the Fulbright programme, Asian learners and educators would gain more experience and improve AI literacy and STEM foundational skills. This initiative also aligns with the commitment of the Ministry of Education of Southeast Asia in the 6th SDEM (SEAMEO Secretariat, 2022).

In preparing the students/new generation for future career pathways, integrating AI into lifelong learning strategies and local issues is necessary, complementing STEM education and aligning with SDG 4 goals and SEAMEO's strategic priorities. Additionally, equipping educators and students with foundational AI knowledge and a deep understanding of ethical considerations is aligned with UNESCO's Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021) and the 2nd SEAMEO STEM-ED Five-Years Development Plan (FY2025/2026 – FY2029/2030), approved by the 53rd SEAMEO Council Conference 2025 in Brunei Darussalam.

This webinar series aims to:

- Explore ethical and human-centred AI education for the future generation
- Introduce emerging perspectives on AI literacy, AI companions, and human-AI interaction
- Share practical and accessible AI literacy approaches from MIT Media Lab initiatives
- Support educators in preparing learners to use AI responsibly, creatively, and ethically
- Strengthen regional collaboration on AI education across Southeast Asia
- Align with SEAMEO priorities on digital transformation, teacher development, and STEM education

Target Group

1. K12 students from 11 Southeast Asian Countries.
2. Teachers/educators/researchers from 11 Southeast Asian Countries and beyond.
3. Policy Makers from the Ministry of Education and beyond.

🕒 Part 2: Ethical AI Literacy and Responsible AI Education

Webinar Agenda (Executive Flow) – July 24, 2026, 08:00 – 09:30 am, Bangkok Time/ July 23, 2026, 09:00 -10:30 pm, Boston Time)

Time [Bangkok Time]	Agenda
08:00 – 08:10 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks • Dr Kessara Amornvuthivorn, Centre Director, SEAMEO STEM-ED
08:10 – 08:15 am	Group Photo
08:15 – 09:15 am	MIT RAISE /Ethical AI Literacy and Responsible AI Education Key Speaker: • Prof Dr Cynthia Breazeal, Dean for Digital Learning, Director of the MIT-wide Initiative on Responsible AI for Social Empowerment and Education (MIT RAISE), Head of Personal Robots, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts, United States • MIT RAISE/Ethical AI Literacy Team, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts, United States Focus Areas: • AI literacy for K–12 • Responsible AI • Human-Centred AI education • Day of AI • AI ethics in classrooms • Practical implementation for educators
09:15 – 09:25 am	Fireside Chat Q & A and Call for Action: Regional collaboration / Pilot initiative: A Case in Southeast Asia • Prof Dr Cynthia Breazeal, Dean for Digital Learning, Director of the MIT-wide Initiative on Responsible AI for Social Empowerment and Education (MIT RAISE), Head of Personal Robots, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts, United States • MIT RAISE/Ethical AI Literacy Team, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts, United States • Dr Orawan Sriboonruang, Programme/Knowledge Management Manager, SEAMEO STEM-ED Fulbright US-ASEAN Research Visiting Scholar, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts, United States
09:20 – 09:30 am	Closing Remarks • Dr Kessara Amornvuthivorn, Centre Director, SEAMEO STEM-ED

Focal Person

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