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Committed to connecting the world

Developing Inclusive AI Policies in Southeast Asia

Alex Högback, ITU Project Manager

ITU is the United Nations **specialized agency for information and communication technologies** (ICTs)

*Each sector has a **separate mandate**, but all work towards **connecting the world***

Our sectors:

ITU Radiocommunication
Coordinating radio-frequency spectrum and assigning orbital slots for satellites

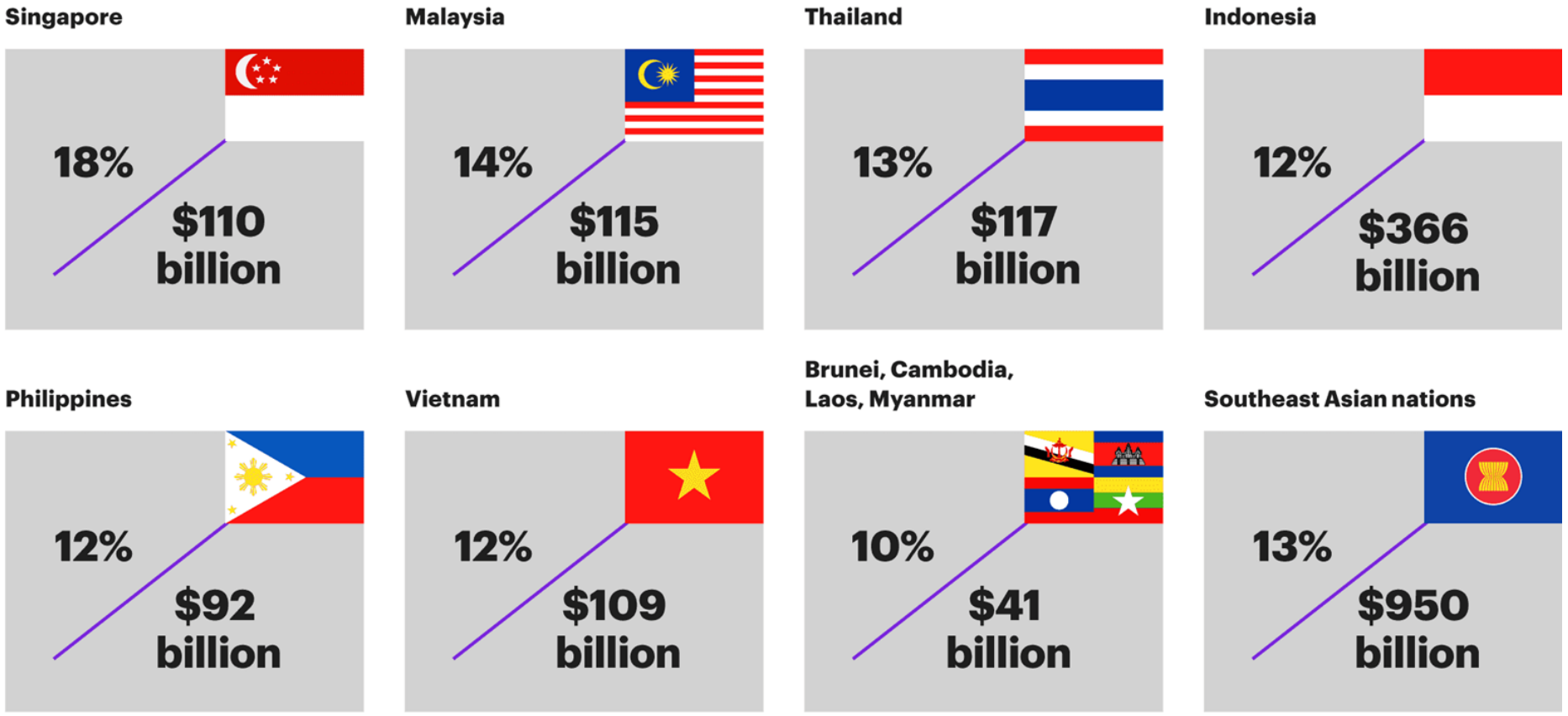
ITU Standardization
Establishing international standards

ITU Development
Bridging the digital divide

2.6
billion people offline
in the world in 2023
5.4
billion people online
in the world in 2023
Source : ITU estimates
Note : being *online* means having used
the Internet in the last three months

AI in Southeast Asia

Estimated USD 1 Trillion in GDP Growth by 2030



Source: Kearney analysis

AI Risks

Analysis

UK risks scandal over 'bias' in AI tools in use across public sector

Kiran Stacey

Systems operating across government departments and police forces

DEMOCRACY, GENDER, SECURITY

Generative AI Tools Are Perpetuating Harmful Gender Stereotypes

v systems reflect the inequitable, racist and sexist biases of their source material.

MATT BURGESS SECURITY OCT 24, 2023 7:01 PM

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BREAKING

Fake Image Of Explosion Near Pentagon Went Viral—Even Though It Never Happened

Brian Bushard Forbes Staff

I cover breaking news for Forbes

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14am EDT

Artificial Intelligence's Threat to Democracy

How to Safeguard U.S. Elections From AI-Powered Misinformation and Cyberattacks

By Jen Easterly, Scott Schwab, and Cait Conley January 3, 2024

FROM POLITICOPRO

The AI-Generated Child Abuse Nightmare Is Here

Thousands of child abuse images are being created with AI. New images of old victims are appearing, as criminals trade datasets.

TECH

A.I. has a discrimination problem. In banking, the consequences can be severe

Dutch scandal serves as a warning for Europe over risks of using algorithms

The Dutch tax authority ruined thousands of lives after using an algorithm to spot suspected

Studying Underground Market for Large Language Models, Researchers Find OpenAI Models Power Malicious Services

PRITHVI IYER / JAN 19, 2024

Oct 23, 2023 - Health

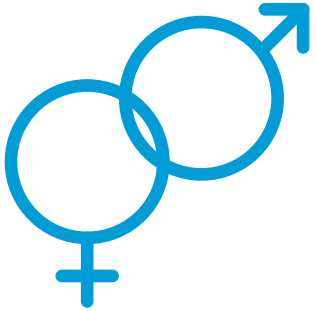
Study: Some AI chatbots provide racist health info

Maya Goldman, author of Axios Vitals

Examples

Recruitment

Finances



Gen AI stereotyping

Facial and voice recognition

Systemic Challenges

Underrepresentation of women in AI

Lack of inclusion of gender perspective in AI instruments

Intersectionality

Our Project

“Enhancing the Development of Standards and Frameworks for Critical Technologies in Southeast Asia”

Project focus:

- Artificial intelligence + gender equality + social inclusion
- Development of standards, policies, frameworks, and initiatives

Timeline:

June 2021 – December 2024

Project countries:

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- The Philippines

Supported by the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program

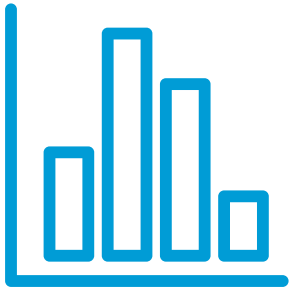
Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Approach

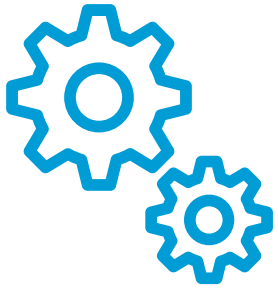
Multi-stakeholder approach

Awareness raising about AI risks

Capacity development and training



Information sharing and research



Technical assistance

Project Activities

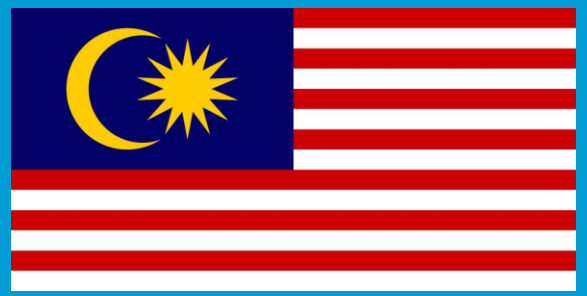
- AI Trainings and Workshops
- Women in AI Networking
- Webinar Series on Inclusive AI Policies and Standards
- Research on Inclusive AI Policies in Southeast Asia
- Collaboration with UNESCO on RAM
- AI Policy Co-Creation Workshops
- Etc.

Report Recommendations

1. Create specific guidelines on gender and AI
2. Establish committees and task forces to lead gender/societal impact assessments
3. Develop gender-sensitive AI standards
4. Invest in efforts that accelerate women's participation in AI

Policy Updates

Indonesia



Malaysia

Thailand

The Philippines

Project Takeaways

1. Need for continued information sharing and capacity building on gender-sensitive and socially inclusive AI
2. Need for integrated, intersectional, and inclusive approaches to AI
3. Need to actively counter AI risks to women and vulnerable groups
4. Need for continued investment in women/girls/minorities/groups' participation in and ownership of AI
5. Need for partnerships and collaborative approaches

Thank you!

United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ITU

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