

# Seeding Ethical AI Stewardship for Shared Global Futures

## An Outcome Challenge of Two Integrated Side Events of the Global Forum on the Ethics of AI 2025

The 3rd UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, held on June 23-27, 2025 in Bangkok, brought together a diverse group of scholars, civil society actors, policymakers, indigenous leaders, social and human science specialists, and youth advocates from around the world. As part of this landmark gathering, two linked side events titled “*Enabling Ethical AI for Present and Future Generations in a Time of Heightened Global Insecurity*”<sup>1</sup> and “*AI Ethics and Governance in a Fractured World: Asia Pacific’s Path Forward*”<sup>2</sup> created a space for reflection on how AI ethics can be grounded in lived realities, cultural plurality, and planetary care.

Participants explored how AI can serve collective well-being in a time marked by climate crisis, digital inequality, and geopolitical fragmentation. Twenty interactive sessions offered deep engagement with topics such as human rights, education, health equity, climate vulnerability, peacebuilding, and community resilience. The guiding premise throughout was that AI must not be developed in isolation from psycho-social, ecological, cultural, and political realities. The events also served as a real-time laboratory for innovative forms of multistakeholder knowledge co-production.

The ethics of AI is not a set of rules, but a continuous, co-created process. Conversations consistently emphasized that AI governance must not be limited to technical parameters or high-level policies. It must actively incorporate grassroots wisdom, human-centered design, and ethical foresight. Rather than seeking a singular model of AI ethics, the event surfaced a common aspiration: to acknowledge AI as a shared human responsibility and as a common cross-cultural resource for all societies shaped by justice, intergenerational dialogue, planetary boundaries, and inclusive governance.

A particularly powerful feature of the Bangkok dialogues was the strong representation of Asia-Pacific perspectives. Indigenous leaders, Buddhist scholars, and local practitioners contributed to frameworks rooted in relationality, interdependence, and respect for life. These elements offered rich alternatives to dominant techno-centric narratives embedded in local and regional leadership.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://specialevents.asu.edu/ethical-ai-forum>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sites.google.com/view/aiapac>

## Key Priorities and Takeaways

- **Center Human Dignity and Knowledge Diversity**  
AI must support human flourishing, not replace or instrumentalize it. Education, emotional intelligence, and local, traditional and indigenous knowledge must guide inclusive AI design.
- **Govern AI as a Public Good**  
AI development should serve collective interests. Equitable access, decolonizing data, and public accountability must be ensured.
- **Acknowledge Environmental and Planetary Limits**  
AI systems should minimize their carbon impact and align with ecological ethics. Planetary health and wellbeing must be integral to AI governance.
- **Support Nature-positive Outcomes**  
AI design and stewardship must contribute to a net zero carbon, water and ecological footprint, with the longer-term aim of regenerating compromised natural systems.
- **Promote Technological Justice and Community Sovereignty**  
Communities must have agency and co-creation roles in data usage and AI deployment.
- **Advance Plural and Participatory Education**  
AI education should be designed to foster creativity, inclusivity, and pluriversal approaches to AI use.
- **Critical and Values-based AI Literacy**  
Promote critical thinking and inspiring values as fundamental elements of AI literacy, engendering ethical AI developers, empowered users, and resilient communities.
- **Invest in Capacity Building Across Sectors**  
Educators, researchers, civil servants, journalists, and others who significantly influence information and data flows within society all need access to ethical AI education and training.
- **Embed Human Values at the Core of AI Systems**  
AI must be built upon deliberate, inclusive value-setting that acknowledges tensions between competing goals and ensures that AI protects life and enhances human health and wellbeing.
- **Design Human-AI Interfaces that Foster Human Self-awareness**  
AI systems shall make transparent their processes and reasoning to users, enabling informed decision-making and public accountability.
- **Reinforce Human Security and Peacebuilding**  
AI must address national and regional challenges, such as cybersecurity, misinformation, conflicts and climate-driven migration, through cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation.
- **Support Multistakeholder Governance and Oversight**  
UNESCO's leading role as a neutral convener on AI ethics must be strengthened in

order to stimulate the development of new legal frameworks, public deliberation, democratic institutions and enterprise accountability.

- **Harmonized AI Legal Frameworks**

International legal assistance and collaboration require harmonized legal frameworks, aiming towards human security for all.

- **Safeguarding the integrity of knowledge production**

AI systems must safeguard the integrity of knowledge production in society, from the full range of academic disciplines to local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, as well as professional communities of practice.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

The side events provided not only moments of public reflection. They initiated a collective step toward the seeding of action. The insights, proposals, and commitments consolidated in this document represent a shared call for ethical, inclusive, and sustainable AI governance.

This Outcome Challenge from our linked side events at the 3rd Global Forum on the Ethics of AI calls on the partners to build upon the insights of their two full days of shared experience by broadening the conversation locally, regionally and internationally. One goal is to devise and advance new protocols for seeding ethical AI stewardship for shared futures. The partners commit to exploring actively how the insights and priorities articulated in this document can contribute to UNESCO's refinement of its Readiness Assessment Methodology as a tool for implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI among Member States. They also commit to sharing recommendations with UNESCO on its design of a Tool Kit for Reaching Nature-Positive AI.

Moreover, within the UNESCO context, the discussions in Bangkok and the resulting recommendations converge with the BRIDGES principles and the MOST strategy, expanding opportunities for co-creation and impact.

AI is not only a technological challenge. It is a civilizational one. The conversations in Bangkok call us to shape flourishing intergenerational futures with care, imagination, and solidarity.

