AI Ready ASEAN National Policy Roundtable #2

AI in Action: Youth Co-Creating Intelligent Futures

1. *How might Singapore move its youth from AI users to AI orchestrators — keeping human creativity, ethical judgment, and social awareness as the pilots of an increasingly agentic AI economy?*

2. *How might policymakers convert youth participation into genuine decision-making power, so that the next generation actively shapes Singapore's and ASEAN's AI roadmap rather than merely being consulted on it?*

Rapporteur: Chung Wei Tat, AI Singapore

Supported by Google.org

Table of Contents

Supported by Google.org

Executive Summary

As Singapore transitions into an increasingly agentic artificial intelligence (AI) economy, the strategic mandate has shifted from merely developing basic digital literacy to actively moving the next generation from passive AI users into high-order AI orchestrators. To sustain national competitiveness while safeguarding human creativity, ethical judgment, and social awareness, Singapore has established a robust, multi-sector ecosystem designed to nurture youth capabilities across academic, professional, and civic domains.

Held on 23 May 2026 under the ATxSummit: AI Student Developer Conference 2026, this convening placed approximately forty youths aged 16 to 30 at the centre of policy deliberation. Convened by AI Singapore (AISG) as part of the AI Ready ASEAN initiative in partnership with the ASEAN Foundation (supported by Google.org), participants spanned schools and Institutes of Higher Learning across technical and non-technical disciplines. Working alongside policymakers, educators, and industry leaders, they produced the observations, gap analyses, and recommendations in this report, submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat.

On the theme of ***AI in Action***, participants affirmed genuine efficiency gains across Singapore's economy — automated retail, data reconciliation, predictive healthcare, port and transport automation — and called for continued momentum to ensure these benefits reach all segments of society equitably. They noted that lower-skilled workers, older demographics, migrants, caregivers, and persons with disabilities risk being left behind, and that the same automation capabilities being weaponised for scams and deepfakes must be countered through deliberate safeguards. Rather than slowing adoption, participants called for structural inclusivity: ground-up mindset programmes, mandatory content watermarking, catalytic capital for SMEs, and an open-innovation platform linking AI-trained youth with industry.

Regarding ***Future-Ready People***, participants recognised an education system actively adapting to rapid change. Most acquired AI literacy through self-experimentation; as institutions moved from cautious stances toward actively encouraging tools like "vibe coding," participants saw a natural next step in embedding stronger responsible-use guidance to complement this momentum. With most students already using generative AI yet entry-level postings shrinking, this cohort is navigating a fast-moving transition, and participants called for stronger scaffolding to help them make the most of it. Emerging research linking frequent AI use to weaker critical thinking in 17–25 year-olds validates their unease. They called for a compulsory responsible-use foundation in schools and IHLs, a shared national AI literacy benchmark, embedded in-work upskilling, and intergenerational knowledge-transfer pathways.

On **Responsible Co-Creation**, participants named concrete harms — algorithmic echo chambers, chatbots compounding mental-health distress, uncredited scraping of creative works, inconsistent guardrails, and AI-enabled deepfakes — and called for governance to keep pace with the speed of technological evolution. They acknowledged Singapore's substantial regulatory architecture, including the world's first Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI, while encouraging policymakers to accelerate enforcement velocity and deepen inclusive design to match the pace of technological evolution. Their central ask is structural: a standing, empowered youth seat in shaping Singapore's and ASEAN's AI roadmap, backed by enforceable age-appropriate access limits and central guardrail standards for AI platforms.

About this Convening

The convening of this roundtable is a direct reflection of Singapore's highly coordinated, multi-sector approach to youth capability development in artificial intelligence. The nation systematically secures early deep-tech talent pipelines through state-led frameworks such as the Infocomm Media Development Authority's (IMDA) SG Digital Scholar programme and AI Singapore's National Olympiad of AI (NOAI). At the institutional level, academic excellence tracks and formal technical pathways build baseline competency across schools and Institutes of Higher Learning, while student-led campus hubs and specialised interest groups incubate ground-up digital fluency. To bridge classroom theory with real-world application, youth are further integrated into broader professional networks, civic organisations, and formal labour structures.

The convening was held under the ATxSummit: AI Student Developer Conference 2026, themed *"AI in Action: Co-Creating Intelligent Futures."* Around forty youth leaders were seated across six tables of eight, with each table representing a spectrum of communities, both technical and non-technical. Disciplines spanned computer science, finance, design, public policy, humanities and the health sciences.

Each table worked through a structured canvas — observations, root causes and gaps, suggested actions, and prioritised short- and long-term actions from the captured ideas before refining them into plenary presentations and a question-and-answer exchange with the Guest-of-Honour, Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Minister of State at the Ministry of Digital Development and Information and the Ministry of Health, and senior guests from across the ecosystem. This paper consolidates that raw youth output, grounds it in the current Singapore AI landscape, and frames it as recommendations for onward submission to the Education, Youth and Sports Division and the Digital Economy Division of the ASEAN Secretariat.

A note on method: the findings below are the participants' own observations and proposals, reorganised and contextualised by the rapporteur. Supporting statistics are drawn from the convening's briefing materials and public sources, cited in footnotes, to situate the youth voice.

AI in Action: Transforming Singapore's Industries and Society

Examining how human-AI collaboration is reshaping key sectors — manufacturing, transport, finance, healthcare and social impact — and co-creating recommendations for innovation that is both impactful and inclusive.

Observations

Participants grounded their observations in practical experience rather than theoretical frameworks. They noted that while AI enhances information retrieval, scheduling, and ideation, its convenience can also encourage over-reliance. Within the local economy, they highlighted established applications such as self-checkout systems at FairPrice *(Singapore's co-op supermarket)*, the automation of repetitive back-office processes like data reconciliation, generative text-to-speech tools in healthcare administration capable of tracking user history, and robotics addressing manual-labour shortages. However, they also recognised the security trade-offs, noting that the same automation capabilities can be exploited for AI-driven scams, digital impersonation, and fraudulent activities.

A prominent theme was the opportunity to broaden the reach of these advancements. While productivity gains[1] are real and growing, participants called for deliberate action to address the structural risks that could limit who benefits — including the potential displacement of less-educated workers,[2] the digital exclusion of older generations who face barriers to adaptation,[3] and connectivity gaps that limit access to frontier models.[4] Furthermore, certain sectors faced

[1] SOON, Da Ren. Adoption of Artificial Intelligence Among Firms. Manpower Research and Statistics Department (MRSD) [online]. Ministry of Manpower, Singapore, 30 April 2026 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: Ministry of Manpower, 2026. Among Singapore firms that have integrated AI tools, 70.7% report improvements in overall worker productivity. These gains are concentrated in task augmentation and process improvements, resulting in job role redesign (18.9%) and the organic creation of new AI-specific positions (13.9%) rather than structural headcount reductions or workforce displacement.

[2] TEO, Laurel and CHEW, Han Ei. IPS Survey on Preparedness for the Future of Work [online]. Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, January 2023 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: IPS, 2023. Workers with secondary-level education or below (27% of the local workforce) are significantly less aware of technological disruptions, less adept at upskilling, and face a higher statistical risk of displacement by automation and digitalisation compared to degree holders.

[3] INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IMDA). Smart Nation 2.0: A Thriving Digital Future for All [online]. Singapore: Ministry of Digital Development and Information, October 2024 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: IMDA, 2024. The national strategy identifies digital exclusion as an existential threat to social cohesion and equity.

[4] NUR, Nurdianah Md. Physical AI finds a different path in Southeast Asia. The Edge Singapore [online]. 4 June 2026. Available from: The Edge Singapore, 2026. Critical data and connectivity bottleneck

Supported by Google.org

difficulties in technological adoption due to the physical nature of the work, such as maritime shipboard operations and other manual-intensive trades. The optimisation of creative processes purely for operational throughput risks compromising the quality of creative outputs.

Root Causes and Gaps

Participants identified key areas where targeted support could unlock faster and wider adoption — among them, high barriers to entry such as the cost of compute and competitive, expensive hardware — compounded by a need for stronger training, infrastructure, and management capability.[5] They noted the "black box" nature of AI, mistrust of its reliability, and a pervasive "what's in it for me" mindset that makes behaviour change hard.[6] Crucially, they drew a line between deterministic systems and human judgment, asking how society can validate either when correctness is uncertain and "AI psychosis" — misplaced confidence in fluent but wrong outputs[7] — sets in. Migrants, caregivers and persons with disabilities are frequently overlooked during early system design; meaning that bridging these gaps will require coordinated action across public, private, people and NGO sectors.

These observations align with national data. While SME AI adoption tripled within a single year from 4.2% to 14.5%, it still trails larger enterprises at 62.5%, representing a significant gap given that SMEs constitute roughly 95% of Singapore's corporate landscape.[8] The

restrict the deployment of advanced architectures. Deep infrastructure gaps, integration costs, and scarce local system integrators block resource-constrained enterprises from frontier AI adoption.

[5] SINGAPORE BUSINESS FEDERATION (SBF). More businesses cite high costs, lack of skilled staff and capabilities as key challenges to technology adoption [online]. Singapore: Singapore Business Federation, 26 September 2024 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: SBF, 2024. SBF's National Business Survey highlights that while 70% of businesses track AI as a critical trend, implementation is heavily bottlenecked by high cost (cited by 66% of AI-adopting firms) and a widespread lack of internal knowledge, technical expertise, and management capability (61%).

[6] LOH, Lawrence. Snap Insight: How to view Budget 2025 - it's not about goodies and freebies. CNA [online]. 18 February 2025 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: CNA, 2025. The analysis identifies the immediate instinct of individuals' transactional "what's in it for me?" (WIIFM) mindset and warns that viewing national frameworks—such as SkillsFuture career-safeguarding initiatives—purely through the lens of short-term perks, giveaways, or direct transfers fosters an unsustainable culture of entitlement. This transactional hyper-rationality creates a severe behavioural friction point, decoupling abstract policy intent from long-term habit formation and making meaningful behavioural change exceptionally difficult to achieve without continuous state-driven micro-incentives.

[7] CHOK, Ivy and YANG, Calvin. Mental health professionals warn of risks from relying on AI chatbots for emotional support. Channel NewsAsia [online]. 12 March 2026 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: CNA, 2026. Clinicians at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) highlight an emerging phenomenon colloquially termed "AI psychosis," where vulnerable individuals develop misplaced confidence in fluent but erroneous machine outputs; hyper-affirming chatbot language deepens cognitive distortions, risking severe psychological disturbances in socially isolated or anxious users.

[8] INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IMDA). Singapore's Digital Economy at 18.6% of GDP, up from 14.9% in 2019; Growth fuelled by accelerating digitalisation and AI adoption across sectors and firms [online]. Government of Singapore, 6 October 2025 [accessed 25 June 2026].

infrastructure to address these challenges is partially in place: the National AI Impact Programme, Tuas Port operates as a highly automated container terminal, and autonomous shuttle services have commenced public rollouts in Punggol.[9] The primary policy challenge is therefore not a lack of ambition, but rather expanding the scale and inclusivity of these initiatives.

Recommended Actions

Short Term

- **Pilot ground-up mindset programmes:** youth-led community initiatives and an "AI-every-day" incentive scheme (modelled on fitness-tracker rewards, tied to CDC points or tokens[10]) should be seeded within 12 months to normalise responsible everyday use and counter overreliance.
- **Make AI content accountable:** industry and regulators should require identifiability — watermarking and provenance — for AI-generated content, so that augmentation does not become a vector for scams and impersonation.[11]

Short-Long Term

- **Channel catalytic capital to the excluded:** government should provide subsidies, tax benefits and low-stakes innovation grants for SMEs that adopt AI or create AI roles, with NGO and NCO partnerships to reach migrants, caregivers and persons with disabilities.[12]

Available from: IMDA, 2025. Official enterprise metrics detail a pronounced asymmetry in technology distribution. Because the 95.1% of SMEs onboarded onto foundational digital platforms represent the massive baseline of Singapore's corporate ecosystem, this lagging baseline exposure continues to constrain overall national productivity frontier integration.

[9] National AI Impact Programme (announced 20 May 2026): target of 10,000 SMEs to adopt meaningful AI. Tuas Port is the world's largest automated container terminal; the Punggol autonomous shuttle (ComfortDelGro with Pony.ai) opens Q2 2026.

[10] Walking Trails @ CDC is an initiative by the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) in collaboration with Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech Singapore) and CrowdTaskSG to promote community engagement and an active lifestyle by blending walking with digital gamification.

[11] While there are no laws on the action of generating of AI content within Singapore, the government supports the agenda with the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) taking the lead through signing a two-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Adobe in May 2026 to build proofs-of-concept (POCs) based on the Content Authenticity Initiative (CAI) and open-source C2PA (Content Provenance and Authenticity) standards to authenticate digital images and documents.

[12] Targeted upskilling frameworks for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and workers run by SG Enable (the national agency dedicated to enabling PWDs) and NTUC's (National Trades Union Congress) Employment and Employability Institute (e2i). This includes the NTUC's Company Training Committee (CTC) Grant, which co-funds up to 70% of enterprise transformation and job redesign projects.

Long Term

- **Build an AI open-innovation platform:** connect AI-trained youth with SMEs through outcome-based, subsidised stipends — viable only where private, public and people sectors collaborate — so that talent and demand meet rather than miss.[13]
- **Design for human enhancement, not replacement:** anchor accountability with people and reserve AI for repetitive tasks; commission research on when to deploy AI versus humans and treat "blackout" fallbacks in critical sectors — healthcare and finance foremost among them — as a deliberate resilience requirement.[14]

Future-Ready People: Education, Work, and Human-Capital Development

Exploring how youth can evolve from AI users to AI orchestrators, and what must change in education and workplaces to keep human creativity and judgment at the heart of an AI-augmented world.

Observations

From an educational perspective, participants described an environment adapting to technological shifts in real time. While successful integration in the workplace translates to enhanced efficiency, poorer outcomes risk leading to workforce retrenchment.[15] Within tertiary education, several students highlighted the value of formalising AI literacy pathways, noting that their learning had largely been self-directed — and expressing enthusiasm for institutional frameworks that could build on that initiative with greater structure. This rapid evolution has prompted institutions to adapt boldly — moving from cautious stances to actively encouraging advanced tools like "vibe coding" and analytics dashboards — and participants saw in this momentum a timely opportunity to embed clearer academic integrity guidance alongside it.

---

[13] The Open Innovation Network (OIN), managed by Enterprise Singapore and IMDA, is an existing national platform for crowdsourced problem-solving in Singapore. The platform primarily links corporate or public "Challenge Owners" with corporate "Solvers" (such as technology providers and mature startups). For platform framework details, see OIN.

[14] Under the Cybersecurity (Amendment) Act, Singapore's Cyber Security Agency (CSA) anchors accountability to infrastructure owners and boards, explicitly covering virtual, cloud, and vendor-hosted systems to prevent the outsourcing of legal liability.

[15] BOEY, Dilys. Integrating Workforce Development with Enterprise Transformation through the SkillsFuture Movement. Ethos [online]. Singapore: Civil Service College Singapore, November 2025, no. 29 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: Ethos, 2025. Sequential business-then-training models are no longer viable; firms that fail to redesign roles alongside AI implementation risk displacement rather than sustainability.

This duality was central to their observations. While AI supports self-directed learning and widens exposure to global affairs, it also risks fostering over-dependence, with participants highlighting potential declines in independent cognitive capacity and analytical agency. Furthermore, concerns were raised regarding older generations, who may encounter fragmented information with fewer dedicated public programmes to guide them. Finally, a highly metric-driven educational culture with a low tolerance for error was seen as a constraint, leaving limited room for the iterative experimentation necessary to build true digital fluency.

Root Causes and Gaps

The rapid pace of technological advancement currently outstrips public learning rates,[16] while prevailing market hype makes it difficult to identify reliable, evidence-based guidance. Within educational institutions, participants saw strong potential for institutions to deepen structured teaching of responsible and ethical AI deployment — building critical thinking as the foundation before expanding into open-ended AI engagement, so that autonomy and competence grow together. Strengthening this sequence would help ensure that user confidence keeps pace with actual technical and ethical competence.

Some 86% of Singapore students and 67% of employees already use generative AI[17]; 71% of employers report skills gaps even as AI-required job postings climb.[18] Entry-level postings, meanwhile, have fallen as the technology absorbs routine tasks[19] — the exact cohort these youth belong to. And emerging research links frequent AI use to weaker critical thinking among 17- to 25-year-olds, with cognitive offloading as the mechanism[20] — validating, rather than dismissing, the students' own unease about overreliance.

[16] LAU, Deborah. Over half in Singapore say society, technology changing too fast, and in ways that don't benefit them: Survey. CNA [online]. 13 March 2024 (updated 14 March 2024) [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: CNA, 2024.

[17] DELOITTE. Generative AI in Asia Pacific: Young employees lead as employers play catch-up [online]. Deloitte Insights, 14 May 2024 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: Deloitte, 2024.

[18] MANPOWERGROUP. 2026 Global Talent Shortage: Singapore Findings [online]. Singapore: ManpowerGroup, 26 February 2026 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: ManpowerGroup, 2026.

[19] WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, citing Randstad. Future of Jobs Report 2025 [online]. Geneva: World Economic Forum, 2025 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: WEF, 2025. Analysis indicates entry-level job postings fell 29% globally since January 2024.

[20] GERLICH, Michael. AI Tools in Society: Impacts on Cognitive Offloading and the Future of Critical Thinking. Societies [online]. 2025, vol. 15, no. 1, art. 6. Available from: DOI: 10.3390/soc15010006. Users aged 17–25 showed the strongest link between frequent AI use and reduced critical-thinking scores, with cognitive offloading identified as the mechanism.

Supported by Google.org

Recommended Actions

Short Term

- **Teach responsible AI use early and explicitly:** schools and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) should embed a compulsory, responsible-use foundation — critical thinking first, then AI as an amplifier — so students learn how and when to use AI rather than absorbing it informally.[21]
- **Set a shared literacy benchmark:** partner with industry (for example, Google) to define how much every learner should know about AI, giving educators and the public a reliable signal amid the noise.[22]
- **Embed in-work upskilling:** employers should integrate AI upskilling, such as prompt engineering, data literacy and exploration of Human-AI collaboration, into the job — reducing repetitive paperwork and calculation tasks — so workers learn without withdrawing from work.[23]

Short-Long Term

- **Reach the older and the overlooked:** fund decentralised, community-based AI programmes[24] for the pioneer and older generations and create sustainable incentives that give learners a recognised edge.

Long Term

- **Pair generations through work:** let younger learners acquire industry knowledge (for example, "AI in financial services") through internships and traineeships,[25] while experienced professionals are incentivised to train youth, and companies commit to adopting AI-trained employees by 2030.

---

[21] MOE's AI-in-Education (AIEd) Framework, part of the EdTech Masterplan 2030 and National AI Strategy, mandates responsible-use instruction in primary and secondary schools; IHLs adopt it as a baseline under their academic autonomy.

[22] SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) in partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), will release a self-diagnostic AI readiness tool, by Q2 2026, based on various AI worker archetypes and receive course recommendations appropriate for their readiness level.

[23] SkillsFuture Workforce Development Grant (Job Redesign+), launched in March 2026, allows employers to embed on-the-job training, outsource administrative tasks to approved consultancy firms.

[24] SG Partnerships Fund (opened in April 2026) supports citizen-led initiatives and growing a community of social changemakers.

[25] GRaduate Industry Traineeships (GRIT) Programme by WSG identify progressive host organisations from growth sectors such as Financial Services, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Manufacturing, and Wholesale Trade to offer traineeships that equip fresh graduates with practical skills and experience to enhance their future employability.

- **Protect human capacities:** as curricula infuse AI across teaching, industry and IT, explicitly preserve creativity, soft skills and "wellness without technology," guarding against skill degeneration.

Responsible Co-Creation: Ethics, Governance, and Youth Leadership

Defining the guardrails and trust frameworks needed as AI grows more autonomous — and ensuring youth move beyond participation to actively shape Singapore's AI roadmap and policy.

Observations

Identified harms include algorithmic echo chambers driven by social-media recommendation engines, and personalised chatbots that risk compounding mental-health distress.[26] Participants called for safety guardrails to be strengthened and harmonised across platforms, closing the vulnerabilities that adversarial actors continue to exploit, while intellectual property protections for creative works used in training data were identified as an area requiring clearer frameworks.[27] Beyond systemic risks like confident hallucination, industry-specific gaps remain evident, particularly the lack of harmonised AI guidelines in high-trust sectors like finance. Finally, the integration of AI in defence frameworks presents significant ethical challenges, specifically regarding the potential for autonomous systems to execute tasks without human moral oversight.

On governance, participants recognised Singapore's strong regulatory foundations and encouraged further investment in proactive enforcement mechanisms — particularly for overseas AI models — so that frameworks stay ahead of issues even as market pressures drive rapid adoption. Furthermore, the students highlighted the importance of designing participation mechanisms that work within the real rhythms of their demographic — where demanding academic and internship commitments can limit availability — so that youth voices are consistently and meaningfully included in decisions that shape their future.

[26] COMMON SENSE MEDIA. Common Sense Media finds major AI chatbots unsafe for teen mental health support [online]. 20 November 2025 [accessed 25 June 2026]. Available from: Common Sense Media, 2025. Clinical testing with Stanford Medicine's Brainstorm Lab found chatbots prioritise engagement over safety with the built-in memory and deep personalisation parameters simulating a false therapeutic relationship, making users feel uniquely understood. It responded appropriately to simulated teen mental-health crises only ~22% of the time; 72% of teens have used an AI companion. Engagement-first design was identified as the root cause.

[27] Artists' and rights-holders' disputes over training data include Andersen v. Stability AI and Getty Images v. Stability AI; in 2025 Anthropic settled for US$1.5 billion over pirated training works - the largest copyright payout in US history - underscoring the uncredited-scraping concern youth raised.

Root Causes and Gaps

Participants traced these harms to underlying technical and behavioural factors, noting that technology can compound existing psychological vulnerabilities, while recommendation algorithms risk accelerating ideological polarisation.[28] The long-term impacts of AI are often difficult to detect before significant exposure occurs. Participants saw an opportunity to strengthen incentive structures that help private organisations align ethical guardrails with their long-term commercial interests, making responsible practice the easier business choice. Core issues surrounding academic integrity, age-appropriate digital access, and cross-border regulatory enforcement were identified as areas where further progress would meaningfully strengthen the ecosystem.

This analysis is reflected in Singapore's domestic landscape. Total scam losses reached S$1.1 billion in 2024, up 70.6% year-on-year; government-impersonation scams rose by nearly 200% in the first half of 2025. [29] Local enterprises have similarly encountered a significant rise in synthetic media attacks; notably, a highly sophisticated deepfake video conference impersonating senior state officials resulted in a single loss of S$4.9 million.[30] In response, Singapore has deployed substantial regulatory instruments, including the world's first Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI, the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, and forthcoming legally binding ASEAN agreements, [31] alongside targeted legislation addressing election integrity and online safety.[32] With these structural frameworks established, youth stakeholders encouraged policymakers to continue accelerating enforcement velocity and deepening inclusive design, ensuring governance keeps pace with technological evolution.

[28] CINELLI, Matteo et al. The role of recommendation algorithms in the formation of disinformation networks. Information Processing & Management [online]. 2025, vol. 62, no. 4, art. no. 103947 [accessed 24 June 2026]. Available from: DOI: 10.1016/j.ipm.2025.104243.

[29] S$1.1 billion lost to scams in 2024 (+70.6% year on year); government-impersonation scams rose 199.2% in H1 2025; 56% of Singapore businesses hit by audio deepfakes, 52% by video deepfakes (Regula and GovTech).

[30] Singapore Police Force, 16 May 2026: a deepfake Zoom call impersonating PM Lawrence Wong, President Tharman and Minister Indranee Rajah led to one victim losing S$4.9 million.

[31] Singapore's Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI (22 Jan 2026, updated 20 May 2026) is the world's first such framework. The ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics (Feb 2024) is adopted by all 10 member states. The ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (expected end-2026) will be the region's first legally binding AI instrument.

[32] Elections (Integrity of Online Advertising) Act (April 2025) bans deepfakes of election candidates; the Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025 extends intimate-image offences to AI-generated material; the Online Safety (Relief and Accountability) Bill 2025 strengthens platform accountability.

Recommended Actions

Short Term

- **Make age-appropriate access non-negotiable:** set and enforce age limits for AI access, with deliberate public debate on children's use, to prevent the overreliance that comes from growing up on unrestricted AI.[33]
- **Protect the most exposed first:** prioritise those most at risk now — creative professionals whose work is scraped, for instance — with rights protection[34] and equip everyday users to use AI ethically rather than relying solely on top-down policy.
- **Create a genuine youth seat:** stand up AI-themed deliberative forums and a standing youth advisory mechanism with real input into Singapore's AI roadmap, so youth voice is structural rather than occasional.[35]

Short-Long Term

- **Establish a central guardrail standard:** a central body should define the baseline guardrails that AI-powered algorithms and chatbots must follow, with those guardrails made transparent and explained to the public by regulators.[36]

Long Term

- **Govern at the pace of technology:** build implementation capacity and cross-border enforcement — including for overseas-origin AI — and embed a "three-step" civic model of voting, enforcement and public education so that governance keeps pace with autonomous systems.[37]

---

[33] From 1 April 2026, designated app stores in Singapore must implement age assurance to block under-18s from age-inappropriate apps, including AI applications.

[34] Copyright Act 2021 (No. 22 of 2021), Part 5, Division 8, ss. 243–244 (Singapore). Permits copying of protected works for text and data mining and AI training without rights-holder permission, provided the user has lawful access and copies are restricted to computational analysis. Under s. 187, this exception cannot be overridden by contract.

[35] While not only in particular to AI-themed, MCCY and NYC institutionalised the #TechHacks digital policy Youth Panel and Gen2050 Youth Action Programme (launched 5 June 2025), creating standing deliberative forums that feed directly into the national SG Youth Plan.

[36] The IMDA Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI sets best practices for agentic AI development and deployment; it is advisory, not yet legally binding.

[37] Singapore's agile governance stack has three layers: the Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI (IMDA), which enforces upstream risk bounding and mandatory human-validation checkpoints for autonomous systems; five bilateral Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs) providing cross-border legal interoperability; and pre-deployment testing via the open-source AI Verify toolkit and Project Moonshot LLM evaluation platform to run automated safety, bias, and red-teaming gates prior to system deployment.

Acknowledgements

This convening was held on 23 May 2026 by AI Singapore (AISG) as the 2nd AI Ready ASEAN National Policy Convening in Singapore, part of the ATxSummit: AI Student Developer Conference 2026 in Marina Bay Sands. It is made possible through AI Ready ASEAN, a flagship initiative of the ASEAN Foundation supported by Google.org to raise AI literacy across all ASEAN Member States. The session was facilitated by the AISG Talent Development team and conducted under the Chatham House Rule. We thank everyone listed below, and the staff of AISG and partner institutions, for making this dialogue possible.

Ecosystem Representatives

Name	Role	Organisation
Mdm Rahayu Mahzam	Minister of State (Guest-of-Honour)	Ministry of Digital Development and Information & Ministry of Health
Dr Piti Srisangnam	Executive Director	ASEAN Foundation
Pranit Tulsi	Program Manager, India & APAC	Google.org
Dr Adam Chee	Director, AI Development Office	Singapore General Hospital
Chandra Gunawan	Head of Programmes & Partnerships, AI Talent Development	AI Singapore
Koo Sengmeng	Director, Talent & Ecosystem	AI Singapore
Lee Lin Yee	Divisional Director, Educational Technology	Ministry of Education
Priscilla Looi	Assistant Director, Learning & Alumni	SGInnovate
Sharon Chiew	Director, Talent Development	IMDA
Tan Lin Teck	Deputy Chief Executive	National Youth Council
Winnie Lim	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Institute of Banking & Finance Singapore

Supported by Google.org

Youth Participants

1. Aksharaa Ramesh
2. Anusha Fatima
3. Aqil Bin Aman
4. Bryan Ong
5. Cadence Carys Linardi
6. Cadence Loh
7. Cornelius Liew Tat Mun Yao Zhong
8. Eric Law
9. Foong Jun Heng Manfred
10. Hanzolah Bin Mohamad Zahri
11. Iskandar Zulkarnain Bin Ibrahim
12. Jabez Tho Ngee Qi
13. Jenell Goh Qian Hui
14. Justus Toh Junyi
15. Lee Jurn Qi
16. Lee Min Jie Dean
17. Lim Jonas
18. Malcolm Lee Jun Hao
19. Muhammad Aslam Bin Mohamad Fazli
20. Navinesh Ramesh
21. Neo Gao En
22. Ng An Min
23. Oh Rui Xin
24. Rajmohan Karthikeyan
25. Raymond Loong Ng
26. Renata Cheong Ying Xuan
27. Renatus Yeo
28. Rhausyanfikhir Bin Noorhezam
29. Sanjiv Viswanathan
30. Shhreya Bala
31. Soh Yong Xin Nehemiah
32. Thong Wei Ling
33. Wong Rui Qi
34. Yong Tze Fon Timothy
35. Yu Simu
36. Zery Nizamshah Bin Zaini
37. Zhang Qianqian

Schools, Organisations & Youth Communities Represented

1. Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College Central and College West
2. Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP)
3. Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
4. National University of Singapore (NUS)
5. NUS High School of Mathematics and Science
6. Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)
7. Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
8. Singapore Management University (SMU)
9. Singapore Polytechnic (SP)
10. Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
11. Temasek Polytechnic (TP)

12. AI Ready ASEAN Master Trainers and Youth Challenge National Winners
13. ASEAN Youth Organization
14. BuildingBloCS
15. Social Impact Catalyst
16. Singapore Youth AI Society
17. Yayasan Mendaki
18. YouthTechSG

19. ACE (Achieving Competence and Excellence) Programme, an initiative of ITE
20. Aerospace Engineering AI (AEG-AI) Interest Group, hosted by TP
21. ITE Student Council, in affiliation with ITE
22. MaritimeSG Youth Ambassador, in affiliation with Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
23. National Olympiad of AI (NOAI), an initiative of AI Singapore
24. NTUC Youth, in affiliation with National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)
25. SIC (Student Investment Club), hosted by NTU
26. Singapore Digital (SG Digital) Scholar, an initiative of IMDA
27. Singapore Youth Fintech Chapter, in affiliation with Singapore Fintech Association
28. SMU Artificial Intelligence Club (SMUAI), hosted by SMU
29. SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) Programme, an initiative of SP
30. SUARA (SUSS Muslim Society), hosted by SUSS