



# INSIGHT

The Official Newsletter published by the University of Technology and Entrepreneurship (UTE)

ISSUE 13 - APRIL 2026



## WELCOMING THE KHMER NEW YEAR WITH CULTURE AND PRIDE

*April opened with a spirit of joy and cultural pride as the University of Technology and Entrepreneurship came together to celebrate Sangkran UTE, our annual Khmer New Year festivities under the four “Brahmavihara Dhamma” in Buddhist philosophy: Metta (loving-kindness), Karuna (compassion), Mudita (sympathetic/appreciative joy), and Upekkha (equanimity). The occasion was a vibrant affirmation of who we are as an institution: a community that values its roots, cherishes its traditions, and finds strength in togetherness.*

*Students, faculty, staff, and leadership gathered to mark the turning of the year not only with celebration but also with reflection on the progress and milestones that have defined our academic journey.*

*The Sangkran celebrations served as a meaningful reminder that education at UTE goes beyond the classroom. We believe in nurturing the whole person, academically, culturally, and socially. By honoring our heritage with such warmth and enthusiasm, our community demonstrates the values of respect, unity, and cultural stewardship that lie at the heart of a UTE education.*



# STUDENT HONOR AWARD — ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026



*Alongside the New Year festivities, UTE held its Student Honor Award Ceremony to formally recognize 11 students who have distinguished themselves through outstanding academic achievement and exemplary conduct throughout the Academic Year 2025–2026.*

*It is with immense pride that UTE officially confers the Certificate of Academic Honors upon the following eleven students, who are hereby included in the Dean's List for the Academic Year 2025–2026. Each of these individuals has met the highest standards of academic performance and exemplary conduct set forth by our institution. Their names are recorded with honor:*

*Dean's List Recipients — Academic Year 2025–2026*

- *Bun Sahanou*
- *Meas Sokpanha*
- *Mot Rithearong*
- *Rith Tola*
- *Soer Mudita*
- *Soeurn Sopheakvatey*
- *Sok Darling*
- *Sovann Phallyka*
- *Svay Serey Ratana*
- *Teng Pichsovannita*
- *Van Nana*



*UTE congratulates each of these remarkable individuals. Their inclusion in the Dean's List is a testament to their perseverance, intellectual commitment, and the highest standards of academic integrity. May this recognition serve as both a celebration of what they have achieved and an inspiration for what lies ahead.*

# MOU SIGNED WITH SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE UNIVERSITY

April also marked a significant milestone in UTE's ongoing effort to expand its international academic network. The University of Technology and Entrepreneurship formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) of the Philippines — a partnership that opens a new and exciting chapter in cross-border academic collaboration.

This agreement signals a mutual commitment between our two institutions to foster meaningful cooperation across a range of academic activities, including research collaboration, faculty exchange programs, student mobility initiatives, and the exploration of jointly developed academic programs. The MoU with SLSU reflects UTE's conviction that the challenges of our time, whether in technology, entrepreneurship, sustainability, or public health, require responses that are global in scope and collaborative in spirit.



*Southern Leyte State University brings a rich tradition of academic excellence and community engagement to this partnership. By joining hands with SLSU, our students and faculty gain access to new intellectual perspectives, diverse research environments, and the kind of international exposure that is increasingly essential in today's interconnected world.*

*We look forward with great excitement to the collaborative projects and shared achievements that lie ahead*

## RESEARCH EXCELLENCE: UTE SCHOLARS PUBLISHED IN Q1 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

*We are extraordinarily proud to announce a landmark research achievement from the Department of Research and Innovation. Two of our distinguished visiting scholars — Emeka Benjamin Okeke and Yovanthi Anurangi Jayasinghe — have had their latest research published in BMC Public Health, a prestigious Q1, high-impact, peer-reviewed journal that is internationally recognized as a leading publication in the field of public health research.*

### Determinants of human papillomavirus vaccination uptake in Nigeria: a mixed-methods systematic review

Research | [Open access](#) | Published: 06 April 2026  
 article number , (2026) [Cite this article](#)

✔ You have full access to this [open access](#) article

[Download PDF](#) ↓

[Save article](#)



**BMC Public Health**

[Aims and scope](#) →

[Submit manuscript](#) →

*The significance of this achievement cannot be overstated. Publication in a Q1 journal represents the highest tier of academic recognition in the global research community. It means that the work has been rigorously reviewed by leading experts, that its methodology meets the most demanding standards of scientific integrity, and that its findings are considered to be of substantial relevance and importance to the international scholarly community. In short, it is a mark of world-class research.*

*Please join us in offering the warmest congratulations to both scholars. Their achievement is a proud milestone for UTE and a powerful inspiration to every student and researcher in our community. We encourage you to read their full article at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12889-026-27195-6>*

## UTE ON THE WORLD STAGE: REPRESENTATION AT THE WORLD BUDDHIST PEACE CONFERENCE 2026



*In a proud moment for UTE's growing international academic presence, Asst. Prof. Mut Somoeun, Head of Global Engagement and Partnerships, represented our university at the World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026. Held from March 27 to 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana State, India, this high-level international conference convened scholars, academics, and thought leaders from more than 20 countries around the world to engage in deep and consequential dialogue on the role of Buddhist philosophy in promoting peace, healing, and sustainable human development. Representing Cambodia and UTE at such a prestigious gathering is itself a testament to the growing recognition of our institution's intellectual contributions to regional and global discourse. Asst. Prof. Mut Somoeun presented a paper that has already generated significant academic interest:*

***"From Homo Economicus to Homo Buddhicus: Buddhist Economic Perspectives on Conflict Resolution, Reconciliation, and Healing in the Anthropocene"***

The paper presents a bold intellectual challenge to one of the foundational assumptions of mainstream economics — the model of *Homo Economicus*, which characterizes human beings as primarily self-interested, utility-maximizing agents. Asst. Prof. Mut Somoeun argues that this model is not only increasingly inadequate for understanding human behavior, but that it is actively insufficient for addressing the profound ecological, social, and ethical crises of our era — what scholars call the Anthropocene.

In its place, the paper proposes a new paradigm: *Homo Buddhicus*. This framework is grounded in the rich ethical and philosophical traditions of Buddhism and is built upon three interconnected pillars:

- **Interdependence (Paṭiccasamuppāda)** — The understanding that all things are mutually arising and that genuine economic health cannot be separated from social equity and environmental sustainability. Economic decisions made in isolation from their wider consequences are, in this view, both ethically and practically flawed.
- **Compassionate Utility (Sammā Ajivā)** — A reorientation of economic purpose toward Right Livelihood, prioritizing the relief of suffering, the preservation of dignity, and the minimization of harmful consumption over the endless expansion of material accumulation.

• **Conflict Resolution through Mettā** — *The application of loving-kindness, mindful compassion, and ethical wisdom as practical instruments not just of personal virtue but of structural social healing and reconciliation at the community and institutional level.*

*Asst. Prof. Mut Somoeun's participation at this conference is a source of deep institutional pride. The insights and connections gained from this engagement will enrich our approach to international partnerships, guide the development of our academic programs, and help us continue to build a UTE community defined by both skill and compassion, and both innovation and integrity.*

## FROM CLASSROOM TO REAL WORLD: 1ST-YEAR STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR FIRST AI BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

***AIB101: AI in Office Application and Business — Term 1, 2nd Batch***

*One of the most exciting stories to emerge from UTE this April is the remarkable achievement of our first-year students in the course AIB101: AI in Office Application and Business, taught by Asst. Prof. Sann Vannthoeun, Director of Academic and Student Affairs. For students who entered UTE just months ago, what these young scholars have accomplished represents an extraordinary leap: from learners in a classroom to builders of functioning, deployed technology systems.*

*The course was designed with a clear and ambitious purpose: to equip students with both the conceptual understanding and the practical capability to harness artificial intelligence tools in the design and automation of real business systems. Rather than treating AI as an abstract or theoretical subject, AIB101 anchors learning in authentic, hands-on application, a philosophy that is central to everything UTE stands for.*

*In place of a traditional final examination, Asst. Prof. Sann Vannthoeun challenged students to design, build, and deploy an original project under the title 'AI-Powered Management System.' Working in teams of four to six members, students were required to move through the complete lifecycle of a technology project: conceptualizing their idea, designing the logic and flow of their system, writing and testing their code, and ultimately deploying a live, functional web application using a combination of AI tools and Google Web App technology.*

*The scope and ambition of the projects that emerged were impressive. Students explored a range of application domains that reflect genuine business and institutional needs:*

- Office and Administration Automation Systems: designed to streamline administrative workflows, reduce manual processes, and improve operational efficiency.*
- Data Management Systems: built to organize, store, and retrieve institutional data in structured, accessible, and reliable ways.*

• *Data Visualization and Dashboards: created to transform raw data into meaningful visual insights that support decision-making at every level of an organization.*

### **Outstanding Student Project Highlights**

*Among the many impressive submissions, two projects stood out for their ambition, technical execution, and practical applicability:*

#### **Group 1: Inventory Management System (University Case)**

*Team Members: John Chetfunrat, Paun Pichmarika, Kol Sodalis, Kong Kimhuy, Ly Kongchann*



*This team designed and deployed a fully operational Inventory Management System tailored to a university environment. The system enables administrators to track, update, and manage inventory items in real time, with automated reporting features that significantly reduce the manual burden of record-keeping. The team demonstrated strong systems thinking, clean user interface design, and robust backend logic—all built and deployed as a live web application.*

## Group 2: Classroom Booking System (University Case)

Team Members: Meng Vannyka, Hak Sokhor, Try Channthealyka, Chheng Sonita, Huon Pechrachana, Lim Vouchmuy



*This team tackled a challenge that affects our campus daily: the efficient scheduling and booking of classrooms. Their Classroom Booking System provides an intuitive interface through which students and administrators can view room availability, submit booking requests, and manage reservations—all in real time. The system reflects a sophisticated understanding of both user needs and the technical architecture required to meet them.*

*What makes these achievements especially meaningful is the context: these are first-year students. They arrived at UTE with curiosity and potential, and in the space of a single academic term, they have produced technology solutions that work, that solve real problems, and that could genuinely improve the way institutions operate. This is UTE's practical learning mission made visible, and it is extraordinarily encouraging.*

*Our deepest congratulations go to every student who participated in AIB101 this term. And our sincere gratitude goes to Asst. Prof. Sann Vannthoeun for designing a course that challenges, inspires, and produces results of this caliber. You are shaping not just skillful professionals, but confident, capable innovators.*

## OPINION: STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF AI IN CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

*Why do all the students sound the same in any class activity? The use of AI in class discussions, assignments, and other activities has, in a peculiar way, enhanced overall class discussions and improved the learning. However, this improvement comes with an expectation mismatch, as students are responding to produced versions of their work that have been refined by AI model.*



**Author: Dr. Arti Lata**

*Repeated use and easy dependency on AI can lowerdown students' confidence and thought of originality, these consequence may leads hindering their ability to acquire essential soft skills such as reading academic texts and utilizing various sources of information.*

*This reliance can obstruct their learning, which is crucial for establishing a solid foundation of factual knowledge and creating logical arguments supported by robust references.*



*Today, students frequently employ large language models (LLMs) for various tasks, including writing, brainstorming, and decision-making. Numerous academic studies suggest that LLMs are transforming and homogenizing individuals' language, opinions, and reasoning due to their growing presence in educational, professional, and communicative contexts. These AI models often echo "WEIRD" perspectives—Western, educated, industrialized, affluent, and democratic—even when prompted to showcase diverse identities. This occurs because they generate and replicate responses that tend to reflect dominant cultural narratives, thereby restricting the diversity of thought and expression among users.*

*My primary concern is that many young students may never discover their own voice and might not fully grasp the significance of having and owning a point of view. This situation poses a risk of stunting the development of crucial skills, such as reading social cues, interpreting others' emotions, and navigating uncertainty in social contexts.*

*The views expressed above do not necessarily represent the official position of the University of Technology and Entrepreneurship.*

# **THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF UTE'S JOURNEY!**

*As we continue to rise and innovate, we are grateful for every member of our community, students, faculty, staff, and partners who shape UTE in to a hub of excellence and entrepreneurship. Let's keep building the future together!*



## **STAY CONNECTED**

*University of Technology  
and Entrepreneurship (UTE)  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

+855 17 592 888/ 70 592 888

+ [info@ute.ac](mailto:info@ute.ac)

+ [www.ute.ac](http://www.ute.ac)

*Produced by the Office of  
Communication, UTE, 2026.*

## **YOUR VOICE MATTERS AT UTE!**

**Have a story, an idea, or an opinion  
you're passionate about?**

*We're looking for students, faculty, and staff  
who want to share their experiences,  
reflections, creative projects, or commentary  
on any topic that inspires them.*

*Send your contributions to [insight@ute.ac](mailto:insight@ute.ac)  
for the next issue of UTE Insight!*

