

What is IN-cubating?

Oct – Dec 2025



Prof Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Director, IN-cube

Dear friends and fellow IN-cubators,

Happy 2026! As we kick off the new year, we're taking a moment to look back at the last three months - closing out 2025 and gearing up for an exciting year ahead. This year is extra special because we're celebrating IN-cube's 5th anniversary.

The past quarter has been a whirlwind of activities focused on promoting information integrity.

- In October 2025, we teamed up with BlackDot Research to bring fact-checkers from across Asia together for meaningful conversations.
- In November 2025, we launched our Influence for Impact in Southeast Asia (i-SEA) Fellowship Program—a new initiative designed for student content creators. The goal? To connect young creators across the region and build a network of information integrity champions.
- In December 2025, our i-SEA fellows gathered in Singapore for a week-long hackathon. This is part of our ongoing effort to turn academic research into real-world impact. You'll find more details about these projects in this edition of our newsletter.

Looking forward, we've got plenty lined up to keep our celebration going. This month, we're organising an "AI Media Summit" to share insights from our research on how artificial intelligence is reshaping media industries. We're also starting preparations for the second edition of our i-SEA Fellowship Program, and we'll have more details soon. If any of these activities sound interesting, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for being part of our journey over the past five years, and we hope you can join us as we celebrate IN-cube's 5th birthday.

Prof. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Director, IN-cube

Commentary: Online Religious Engagement and Well-Being



A recent RSIS commentary by Dr Amanda Huan (Social Cohesion Research Programme, RSIS) and Chye Sze Yie (Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information) examines how online religious engagement relates to personal well-being in Singapore, challenging the prevailing focus on risks such as online radicalisation and social isolation.

Based on data from the Singapore Digital Media and Information Survey 2024, the study finds that individuals who report engaging more frequently with religion online also report higher emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Online religious activities, including livestreamed services and faith-based communities, provide accessible avenues for meaning-making, emotional regulation, and personal reflection.

The strongest positive association was observed in social well-being, highlighting how online religious communities can foster a sense of belonging and social cohesion in a multicultural and time-constrained society like Singapore. These findings suggest the potential of digital religion as a complementary support system for enhancing individual resilience and community cohesion.

Read the full report [here](#).

Asian Fact Checkers Network 2025

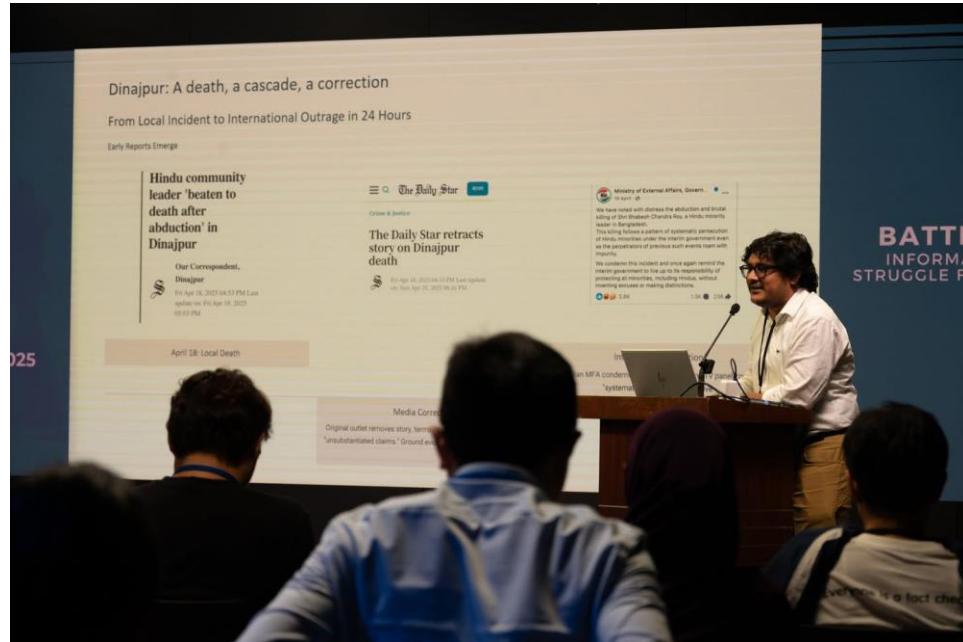
IN-cube hosted the Asian Fact-Checkers Network Conference (AFCN) 2025 on September 30 to October 1, 2025, organised by Black Dot Research. Held at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI), the two-day event coincided with World News Day 2025 and served as a platform for academics, media practitioners, and industry experts from across the region - including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh - to exchange strategies for promoting information integrity.



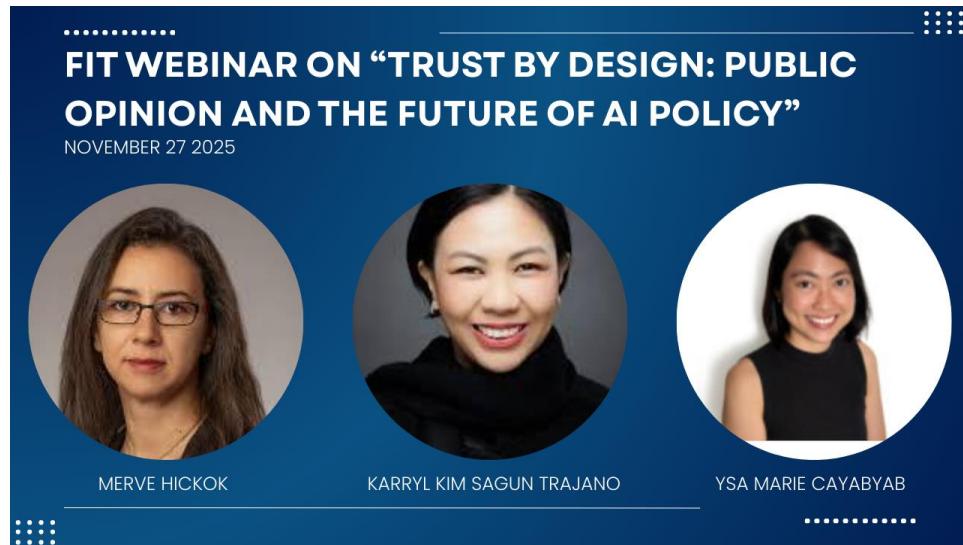
Key discussions centered on navigating a rapidly evolving information environment characterized by polarization and complexity. Panelists shared innovative insights into combating misinformation and disinformation through the use of new technology and cross-sector initiatives. Beyond technical solutions, the conference emphasized the human element of the mission, with participants renewing their collective conviction to protect societies and citizens from the growing dangers of digital threats.



The event concluded with a strong call for continued collective action and knowledge-sharing. By fostering deeper collaboration between governments, industry experts, and the public, the AFCN 2025 strengthened the regional commitment to building public trust and promoting media literacy across Asia.



**FIT Webinar on Trust by Design:
Public Opinion and the Future of AI Policy**



The FIT Webinar on Trust by Design, held on 27 November 2025, was hosted by RSIS in collaboration with IN-cube. This session examined how public trust and opinion shape AI governance and policymaking, drawing on both academic research and global policy perspectives.

The webinar featured distinguished experts in AI policy and technology governance, including Merve Hickok, President of the Center for AI & Digital Policy (CAIDP); Karryl Kim Sagun Trajano, Research Fellow for Future Issues and Technology (FIT) at RSIS; and Ysa Marie Cayabyab, Associate Research Fellow for FIT at RSIS.

The speakers shared critical insights on transparency, accountability, and ethical AI deployment, highlighting how public engagement and survey data can guide responsible AI policies. Merve Hickok discussed global approaches to AI ethics, while Karryl Trajano shared findings from multi-stage studies on stakeholder perspectives in Singapore. Complementing these views, Ysa Cayabyab addressed user engagement with digital technologies and public attitudes toward emerging AI systems.

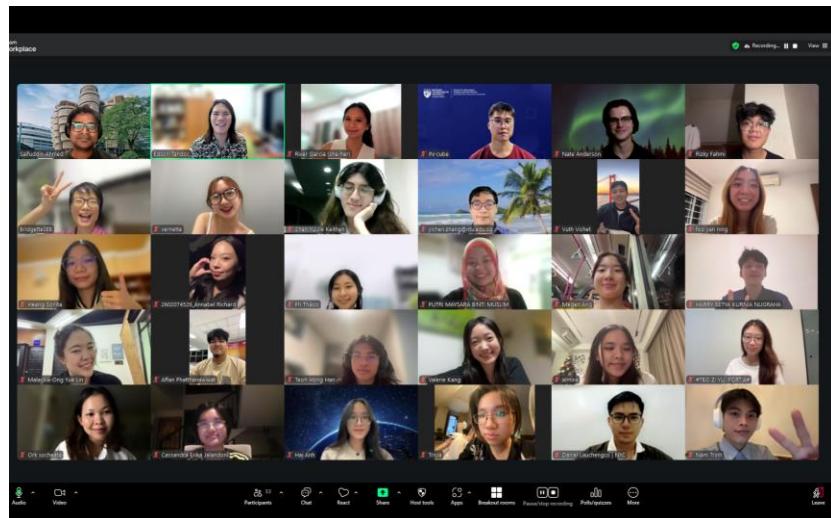
By leveraging the collective expertise of RSIS and IN-cube, the webinar underscored the importance of trust-based, inclusive policy design and cross-sector collaboration. Such partnerships are crucial to ensuring that AI technologies are developed responsibly, socially accepted, and aligned with broader societal expectations in the Southeast Asian region.

Find the webinar information [here](#).

i-SEA Fellowship Program

IN-cube brought together 40 student content creators from Southeast Asia for the inaugural Influence for Impact in Southeast Asia (i-SEA) Fellowship Programme that seeks to build a network of information integrity champions in the region. From November 15 to December 12, 2025, the student content creator fellows participated in online masterclasses and a week-long in-person hackathon to tackle. Challenges in the digital space.

Organized by IN-cube and co-funded by the Temasek Foundation, the programme brought together 20 fellows from Singapore and 20 fellows representing eight other Southeast Asian nations: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. This hybrid initiative combined remote learning with an intensive in-person residency to foster a regional network committed to ethical storytelling and positive social impact.



The program launched with three weeks of online masterclasses featuring a mix of faculty experts and industry practitioners. During the first week, fellows explored threats to information integrity, learning to distinguish between accurate information and deepfakes while examining the social impact of "fake news".

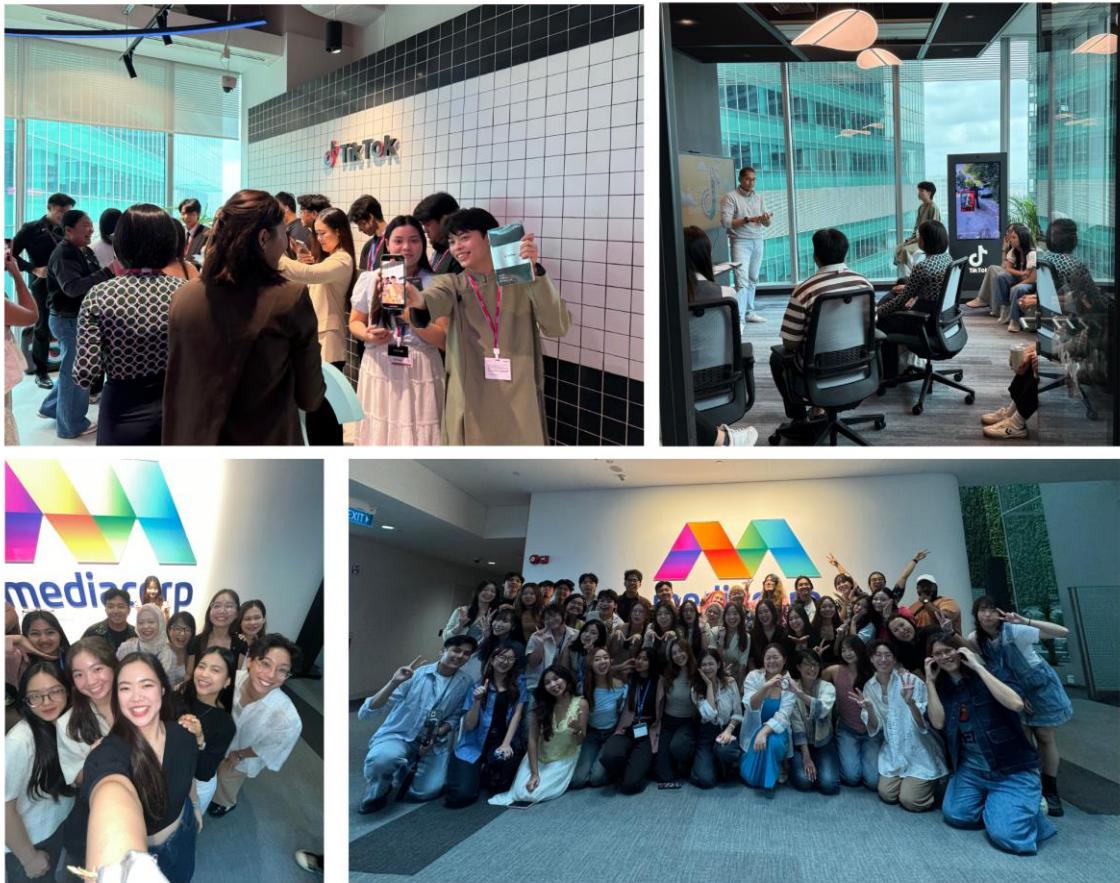
The second week shifted focus to safeguarding integrity through sessions on media law, ethics, and fact-checking techniques specific to Asia. The final week focused on the rise of Artificial Intelligence, teaching fellows how to use AI tools responsibly without becoming overly dependent on them.

The fellowship transitioned to an in-person workshop in Singapore from December 8 to December 12. The week began with a formal opening featuring Senior Parliamentary Secretary Eric Chua, who spoke on the critical role creators play in shaping the social media ecosystem. Fellows also gained professional insights from keynote speakers Atom Araullo, a broadcast journalist from the Philippines, and Kong Man Jing, a Singaporean influencer known for her educational content.

Assoc Prof Chen Lou and Asst Prof Lydia Cheng from NTU also presented research on "newsfluencers" and the blurring lines between traditional journalism and lifestyle influencers, emphasizing the heightened responsibility that comes with online sway.



A highlight of the residency was the series of exclusive industry site visits designed to provide practical insight into media management. At the TikTok Transparency and Accountability Center, fellows used workstations to role-play as content analysts and learned how AI systems detect high-risk misinformation. A visit to SPH Media allowed fellows to tour the radio studios and observe the live news feed of The Straits Times, while the trip to MediaCorp provided an insight into production workflows and the implementation of AI in newsrooms. Throughout these visits, fellows were mentored by domain experts from NTU and the industry to refine their hackathon solutions.



The program culminated in a hackathon where six teams presented innovative solutions to information integrity challenges. The winning team proposed an educational hub that empowers creators to handle sponsorships transparently and resist unethical advertising pressures. Beyond the competition, the fellowship succeeded in building a community of information integrity champions brought together by their newfound friendship and renewed commitment to ethical content creation.



Find more about the fellowship [here](#).

Read the full Facebook Post [here](#).

Read the full X Post [here](#).

AI Media Summit: IN-cube 5th Anniversary Symposium

AI MEDIA SUMMIT

IN-cube 5th Anniversary Symposium

Speakers and Organisers:



Andrew Prahl
AI and Public Relations



Chen Lou
AI and Advertising



Hyunjin Kang
AI and Social Media



Ian Tan
AI and Journalism



Karryl Sagun
AI and the Public



Seth Seet
Public Perceptions of
Communicative AI



Edson Tandoc
Public Perceptions of
Communicative AI



Goh Zhang Hao
Public Perceptions of
Communicative AI



29 January 2026



9.30AM TO 5PM



PARKROYAL on Beach Road

REGISTER
NOW!



IN-cube is turning five in January this year! To celebrate our fifth anniversary, we have planned a symposium to share our thoughts and research findings on AI and media with you. This symposium will take place on the 29th January at ParkRoyal on Beach Road hotel. Limited seats available! Register using the above QR code now!

About IN-cube

IN-cube stands for Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet, a research centre at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. It aims to contribute to promoting information integrity in online spaces, especially in an era of misinformation and disinformation, through timely, rigorous, and relevant research that links academics, policymakers, industry players, and the public. Learn more about IN-cube [on our site](#).