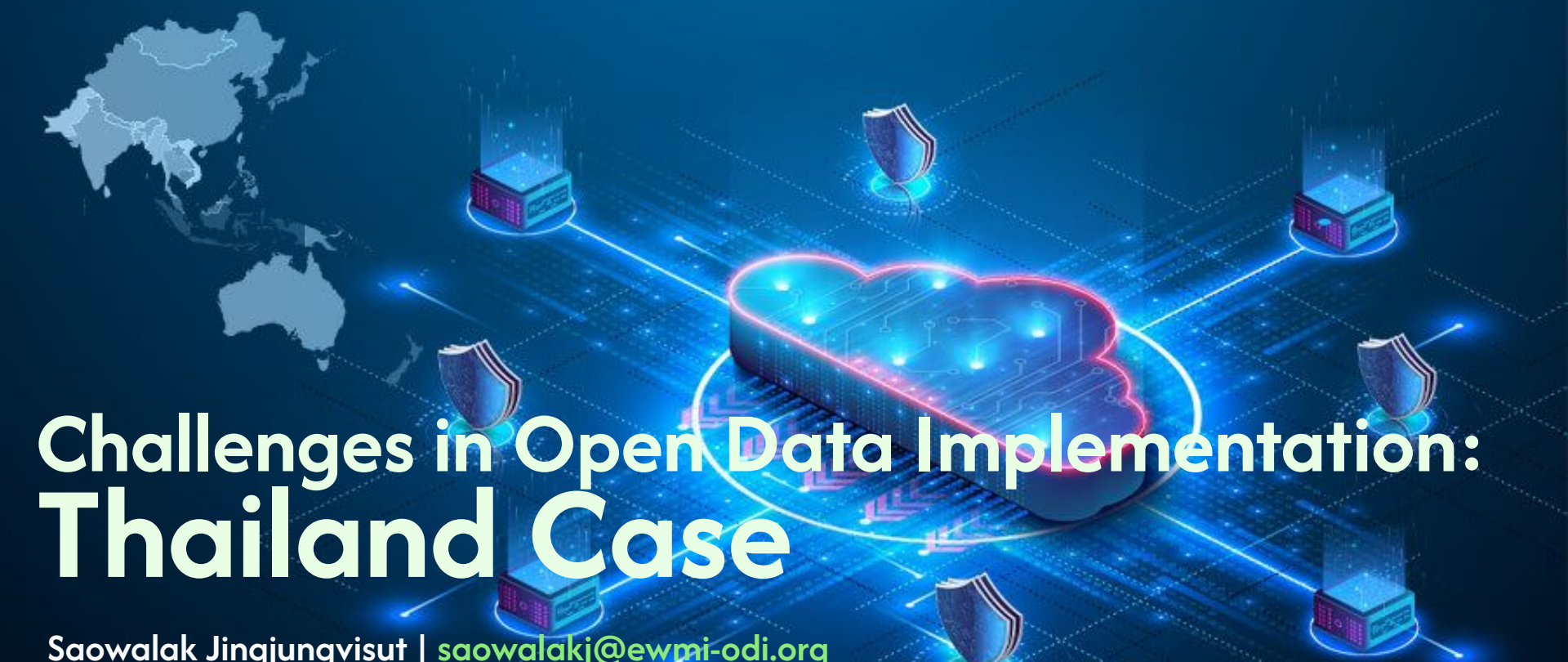




OPEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
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Challenges in Open Data Implementation: Thailand Case

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About Presenter

Saowalak Jingjungvisut is the Communications and Partnerships Manager at the Open Development Initiative (ODI) under the East-West Management Institute (EWMI). She leads integrated communications, data-driven storytelling, and the creation of accessible data visualizations to promote transparency and social impact. Based in Thailand, she serves as the focal point for Open Development Thailand and contributes to regional initiatives across the Lower Mekong countries.



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Thailand's Open Data Landscape:

Policy vs Practice

- National Open Data Portal (data.go.th) — over **33,600 datasets**
- **PDPA (2022)** increased awareness but also caution
- **Official Information Act (1997; Sections 7 & 9):** limited disclosure
- Gaps between **central and local levels** implementation

OD Mekong's datasets:

13,270

OD Cambodia's datasets:

7,500

OD Thailand's datasets:

1,470

Structural and Legal Barriers

- Ministries and agencies “own” data; limited interoperability
- Legal ambiguity: PDPA vs OIA
- Fear of penalties = withholding data
- Fragmented coordination
- Local data often not standardized

Data Quality, Usability, and Public Value

From “Available” to “Useable” Data

- Many datasets are **outdated or PDF-only**
- Missing metadata, **inconsistent** formats
- **Limited** open formats (CSV, APIs)
- **Low accessibility** for civic users and non-experts
- **“Open data” ≠ “Open knowledge”**

Inclusion, Power, and Trust

Who Benefits from Open Data?

- **Digital divide:** rural & marginalized groups excluded
- **Lack of recognition** of community and Indigenous data
- Environmental & land data often classified as **"sensitive"**
- **Top-down approach** — limited civic participation
- **Trust gap** between citizens and institutions

Pathways Forward:

Co-Creation and Participation

- **Clarify laws** to balance privacy and the right to know
- **Build capacity** for officials on responsible sharing
- **Co-create** with civil society, academia, and media
- **Improve data quality and standards:** machine-readable, ethical, inclusive
- Recognize **community data rights**



Final Reflection: **Everyone Has a Role**

Why Data Governance Matters — And How You Can Be Part of It

- Stay informed about your data rights
- Join consultations on new data laws
- Support civic groups advancing open and fair data
- Ask for transparency — use your right to know

Thank you.



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