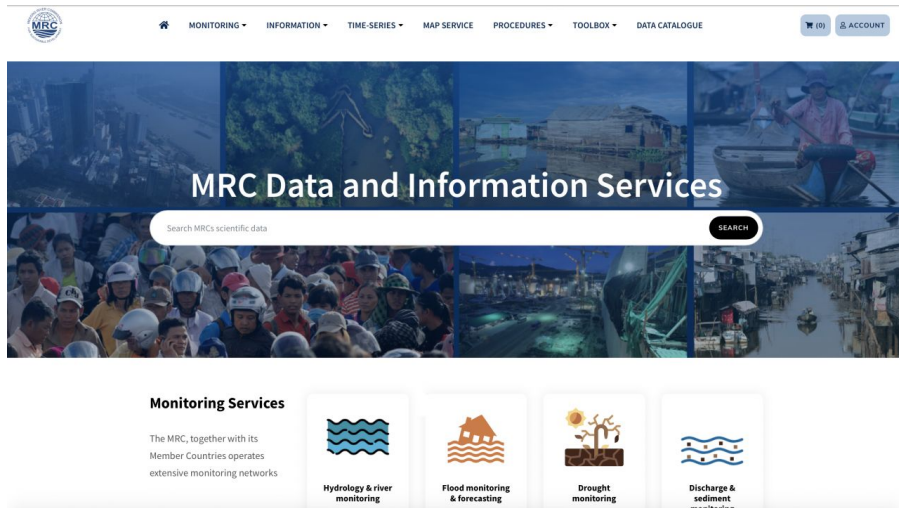


Open Data in the Mekong Region: Opportunities and Future Directions The Case of Vietnam

Institute for Policy Studies and Media Development (IPS)

Why the Mekong's Open Data Moment Matters?



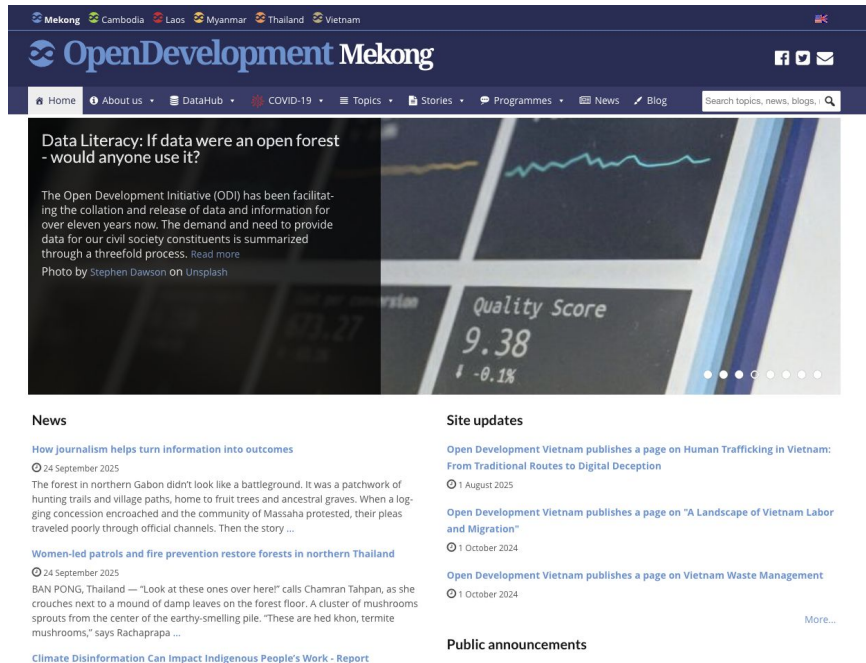
MRC Data and Information Services

Search MRCs scientific data

Monitoring Services

The MRC, together with its Member Countries operates extensive monitoring networks

- Hydrology & river monitoring
- Flood monitoring & forecasting
- Drought monitoring
- Discharge & sediment monitoring



OpenDevelopment Mekong

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Data Literacy: If data were an open forest - would anyone use it?

The Open Development Initiative (ODI) has been facilitating the collation and release of data and information for over eleven years now. The demand and need to provide data for our civil society constituents is summarized through a threefold process. [Read more](#)

Photo by Stephen Dawson on Unsplash

News

[How journalism helps turn information into outcomes](#)

24 September 2025

The forest in northern Gabon didn't look like a battleground. It was a patchwork of hunting trails and village paths, home to fruit trees and ancestral graves. When a logging concession encroached and the community of Massaha protested, their pleas traveled poorly through official channels. Then the story ...

[Women-led patrols and fire prevention restore forests in northern Thailand](#)

24 September 2025

BAN PONG, Thailand — "Look at these ones over here!" calls Chamran Tahpan, as she crouches next to a mound of damp leaves on the forest floor. A cluster of mushrooms sprouts from the center of the earthy-smelling pile. "These are hed khon, termite mushrooms," says Rachaprapa ...

[Climate Disinformation Can Impact Indigenous People's Work - Report](#)

Site updates

[Open Development Vietnam publishes a page on Human Trafficking in Vietnam: From Traditional Routes to Digital Deception](#)

1 August 2025

[Open Development Vietnam publishes a page on "A Landscape of Vietnam Labor and Migration"](#)

1 October 2024

[Open Development Vietnam publishes a page on Vietnam Waste Management](#)

1 October 2024

[Public announcements](#)

SERVIR  **Southeast ASIA**

Source: [Open Development Mekong](#)

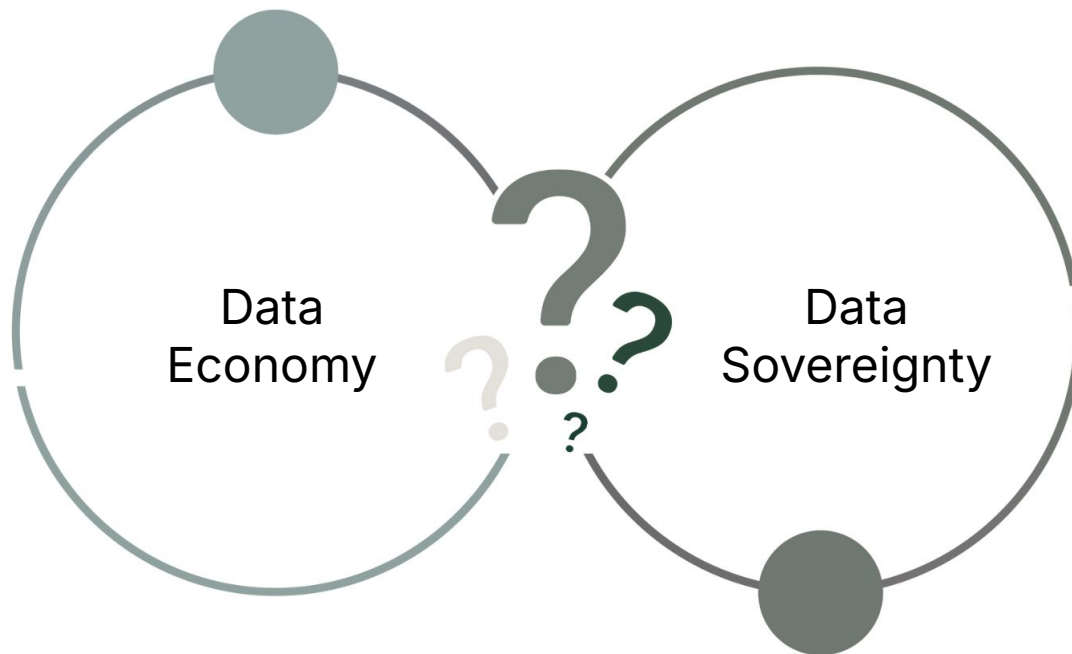
Open Data: From Access to Influence

- Open data movement has evolved from **access** to **co-production of policy**.
→ Open data is not just about sharing, it's about **shaping**.

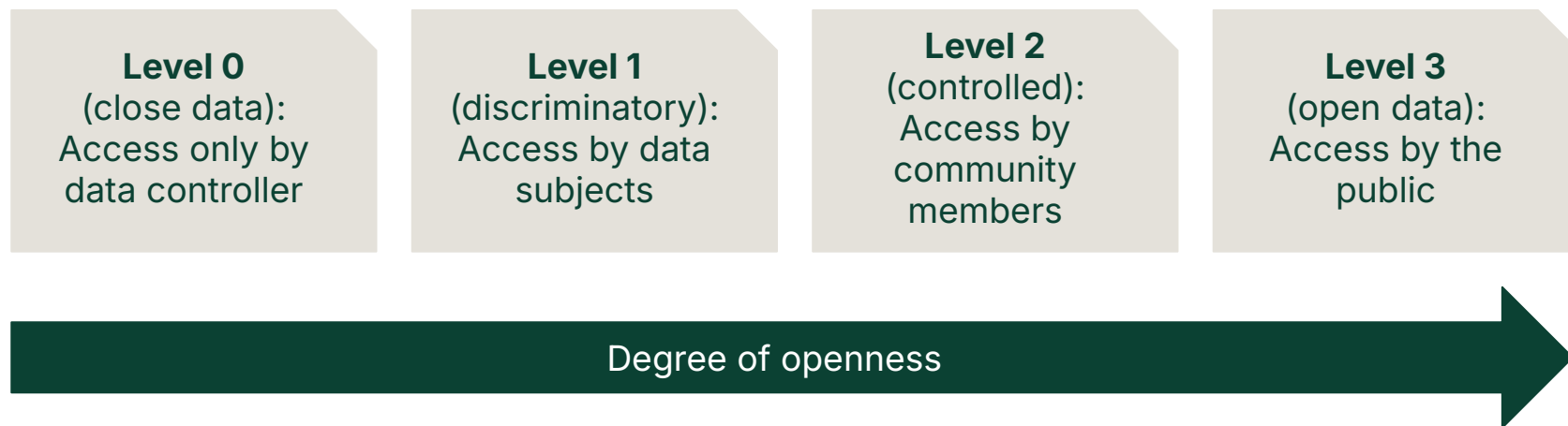


Source: [European Data Portal - European Union](#)

Data Governance Dilemma



Finding Space for Open Data



Source: OECD

National Data Center: 1st Government Data Space

- Primarily consists of public sector data
- Government agencies are required to store data at the National Data Center
- Enterprises have the right to share (contribute) data and access data (free of charge or with fees)



Image: Telecom Review Asia

Data Law (Effective 01 July 2025)

- Regulates the entire data lifecycle: Collection, storage, sharing, analysis, encryption, cross-border transfer, provision to state agencies
- Governs key state initiatives:
 - National Data Center
 - National Integrated Database
 - Data Sharing Platform
- Expands scope to cover:
 - Data intermediary services (facilitating exchange agreements)
 - Data analytics & aggregation services (providing insights)
 - Data marketplaces (supporting research, innovation, transactions)

Related Legal Documents

- Data Law 2024 and guiding decrees:
 - Decree 165/2025/ND-CP: Implementation Measures for the Data Law
 - Decree 160/2025/ND-CP: National Data Development Fund
 - Decree 169/2025/ND-CP: Science, Technology, and Innovation Activities, and Data-Related Products & Services
- Personal Data Protection Law 2025 (effective 01 Jan 2026) and Decree 13/2023/ND-CP
- Draft Cybersecurity Law 2025: consolidates Cyber Information Security Law 2015 & Cybersecurity Law 2018

High concentration of data in the public sector...

10 key national databases
*(5 completed & in use, 3 under
implementation, 2 in planning)*

75 agencies/localities (87%)
issued open data plans in 2024

30+ open data portals
established (including pilots)

Sectoral databases and local
databases under development

Unlike regional peers, where health data is scattered in private hospitals and insurance data rests with insurers, Vietnam has adopted a highly centralized approach in which core datasets are managed almost entirely by the public sector

... but (i) levels of data maturity and readiness vary widely across sectors and tiers of government

- Some national databases are complete, but many sectoral/local ones remain fragmented, siloed, and slow to update.
- Vertical sectoral datasets remain closed, as they are often treated as proprietary assets of line ministries, with limited sharing beyond their own sector.

... (ii) public sector's data inputs have not yet become a driver of innovation for the private sector

- 10,000+ datasets published, but mostly Excel/PDF, no standard metadata, no open APIs, frequent access issues

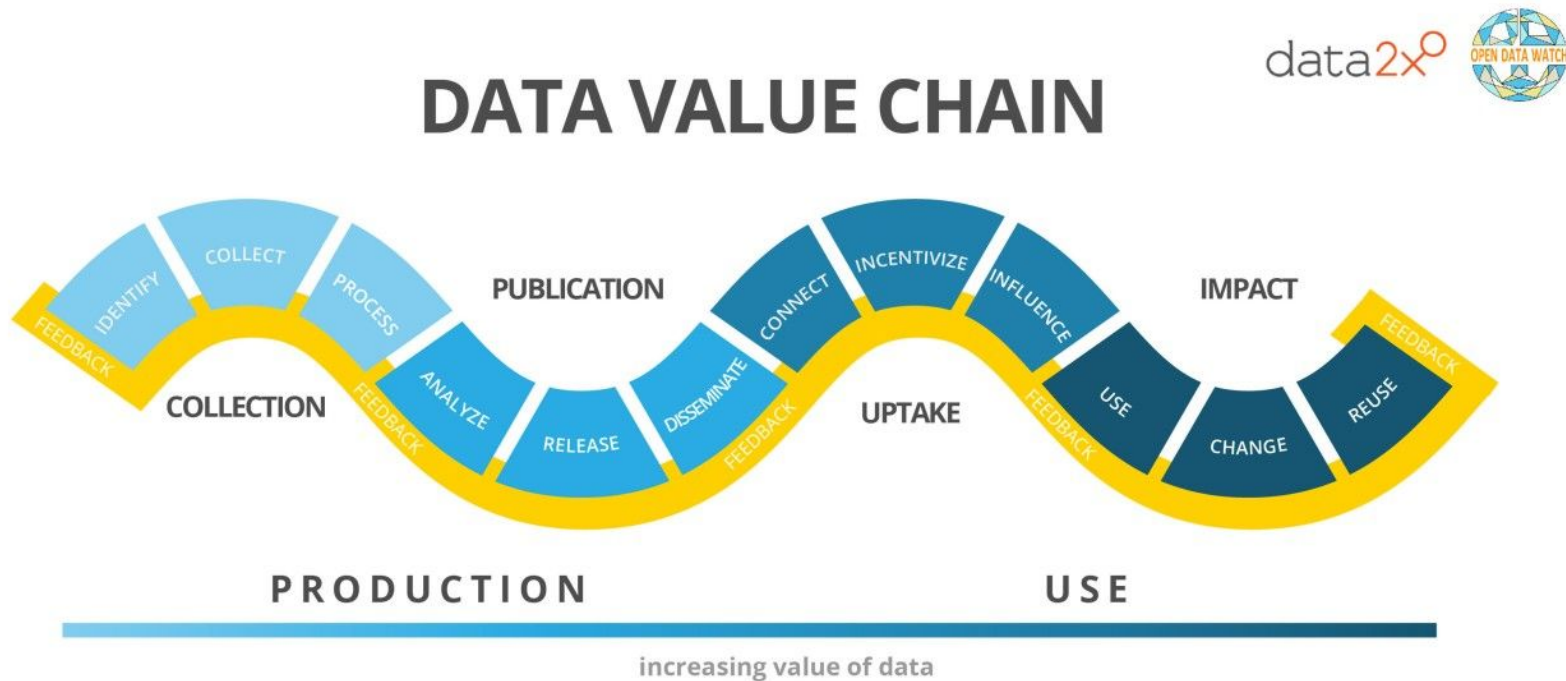
→ businesses face high costs to clean/restructure data, eroding economic value



... and (iii) mechanisms for open data access and data exploitation remain constrained

- Policy signals turning positive:
 - Open data included in the national action program
 - Ministries & provinces developing shared data portals
 - Accelerated completion of legal framework on data management, exploitation, and sharing
- New orientation: data as economic infrastructure, not just an administrative tool
- Opportunities for business:
 - Access to cleaned datasets (population, insurance, finance, land...) via National Data Center
 - Participation in sandboxes for data exploitation, analytics, and innovation

What Could “Next-Gen Openness” Look Like?



Source: [Open Data Watch](#)

What Could “Next-Gen Openness” Look Like?



Source: Gartner Data Governance

THANK YOU!

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and Media Development