

OPEN DATA REPORT

REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON OPEN DATA IN MEKONG COUNTRIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



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Regional Dialogue on Open Data in Mekong Countries: Challenges and Opportunities

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Prepared by Open Development Cambodia (ODC)

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1. Context

The Mekong region has seen significant growth in open data initiatives, reflecting a broader commitment by governments and civil society to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. Governments in these countries are actively developing policies and programs to support open data, aiming to strengthen public service delivery, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, and foster sustainable development. However, meaningful consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs) in policy development remains limited, presenting ongoing challenges.

At the same time, civil society organizations, researchers, and key stakeholders are leveraging open data to inform advocacy, improve program effectiveness, and engage communities. Despite these advances, challenges remain, including issues of data accessibility, quality, standardization, and the effective use of data by CSOs and regional partners. Addressing these challenges and seizing emerging opportunities will be critical to realizing the full potential of open data in the Mekong region.

This dialogue brings together CSO representatives, regional experts, and Open Development Cambodia (ODC) partners to share experiences, discuss challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration in open data across the Mekong countries.

2. Overview of the Workshop

On October 27th, 2025, Open Development Cambodia (ODC), in partnership with Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), organized a full-day workshop on “Regional Dialogue on Open Data in the Mekong Countries: Challenges and Opportunities.” The objectives of the workshop are as followings:

- Share trends and developments in open data across the Mekong region
- Discuss challenges in implementing open data initiatives
- Identify opportunities for collaboration among CSOs and regional partners
- Strengthen regional networks and knowledge exchange on open data

The workshop aims to achieve the outcomes as follows:

- Increased understanding of open data trends and challenges in the Mekong region
- Identification of practical steps for enhancing open data implementation
- Strengthened partnerships between ODC, regional CSOs, and other stakeholders
- Recommendations for future dialogues and collaborative initiatives

The workshop was attended by a total of 92 participants, including 3 speakers joining online from Thailand and Vietnam and 37 female attendees, who are the representatives and members of CSOs, INGOs, and university students. The participants came from Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kampong Chhnang, Svay Rieng, Battambang, Oddar Meanchey, Koh Kong, and Preah Vihear.

3. Opening Sessions

The opening session began by the welcoming remark from Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director of Open Development Cambodia (ODC). In his address, Mr. Try highlighted ODC’s longstanding role in convening national-level discussion on open data regulations and frameworks in Cambodia. He noted that this dialogue marks an important shift to regional platform, bringing together partners from Mekong countries and the broader Indo-Pacific to exchange experiences

and address common challenges in implementing open data policies. This regional dialogue aimed to foster valuable opportunities for cross-country learning and deeper cooperation.

Since the Cambodian government is currently drafting a National Policy, expected to be finalized later this year, this dialogue comes at a crucial moment. However, he acknowledged that CSOs have not yet had access to the draft policy. He underscored that this event therefore aimed to gather inputs and recommendations from CSOs on key elements that should be included in the policy framework, as part of ODC's broader effort to ensure meaningful engagement in shaping a national policy that promotes transparency, accessibility, and public participation.

Following Mr. Try, Ms. Sin Putheary, Executive Director of Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) delivered her welcoming remark, briefly introducing the landscape of CSOs and their role in advocating open data dialogues. She highlighted the progress achieved in the Mekong region over the past decade while acknowledging remaining implementation challenges. She then urged participants to listen, learn, and lead, stressing that open data is more than just a technical tool; it is a transformative force for equity, participation, and sustainable development.

Ms. Stephanie Chow, First Secretary, Political - Australian Embassy, was invited to deliver the opening remark, where she stressed the growing momentum of open data in the Mekong region. She pointed out its acknowledged value in improving public service, informing decisions, and empowering communities. She then recognized the existing hurdles, such as ensuring meaningful civil society consultation, improving data quality and access, and building capacity. Her message to participants was a clear call for active engagement to establish a more inclusive open data system.

Lastly, Ms. Wen-Ling (Amy) Lai, Program and Strategy Associate of Open Development Cambodia (ODC), offered a brief introduction to the dialogue, stating its core objectives: to share open data trends across the Mekong region, discuss implementation challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration among CSOs and regional partners to ultimately strengthen regional networks and knowledge exchange.

4. Key Outcome and Insights

4.1. Presentation on Open Data Trends in the Mekong Region

The first session of the workshop commenced by the presentation by Ms. Pyrou Chung, Director of Open Development Initiative, East-West Management Institute (EWMI), which set the scene for the following discussions in the workshop.

Ms. Chung began by asserting that data should play a pivotal role in advancing data-driven policymaking and fostering innovation. Based on a 2022 Open Data Barometer Assessment, she noted that open data capacity and impact tend to correlate with a country's level of economic development. She highlighted a significant challenge: while data is increasingly available, this availability does not necessarily translate into reuse or impact. This is often because data is not strictly published in open data formats, and the region has seen a decade-long decline in civic freedoms that hinders open data proliferation.

A significant barrier is the underdeveloped legal and technical environment. Despite laws in Vietnam and Thailand formalizing data as a public asset, these frameworks contain undefined national security exemptions that restrict disclosure. Technically, only Thailand possesses a centralized open data portal, and the available data in all countries often fails to meet open data

standards, leading to deficiencies in quality and quantity, especially for critical information like climate change data. Furthermore, due to a lack of government support for open data communities, many projects fail to achieve significant impact or financial sustainability, with weak accountability mechanisms rendering initiatives focusing on transparency ineffective.

The open data ecosystem is further crippled by low institutional capacity and data literacy across the region. Government agencies often function as data monopolies in silos, and low digital literacy among the general public and marginalized groups reduces their ability to benefit from data initiatives. Compounding this, the heavy reliance on external technology has left the Mekong region a net data source rather than a data producer, raising serious questions of data sovereignty as citizens' data is frequently stored offshore by large big tech corporations. This dependence accelerates systemic inequalities by promoting the commodification and exploitation of data.

To reverse these downward trends, Ms. Chung offered a forward-looking prescription focused on structural change. She advocated for streamlining legal frameworks to support data disclosure and enforcing Rights to Information laws. Crucially, the region must strengthen national open data ecosystems through targeted capacity building and align these efforts with broader development objectives. Finally, she recommended a shift toward localized, decentralized infrastructure and a fundamental investment in education and digital literacy across all societal segments to empower the “demand side” of data and mitigate the dependence on external technological monopolies.

4.2. Challenges in Open Data Implementation within Mekong Countries

The first panel discussion centered on “Challenges in Open Data Implementation.” Moderated by Mr. Poren Chiang, Advisory Committee Member of Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (CamIDF), Ms. Nga Nguyen, National Coordinator of Open Development Vietnam Open Development Initiative, EWMI, and Ms. Saowalak (Aey) Jingjungvisut, Partnerships and Communications Manager, Open Development Mekong, EWMI, walked us through the current situation and challenges implementing open data in Vietnam and in Thailand.

Through her presentation “Rethinking Open Data Implementation in Vietnam,” Ms. Nguyen explained Vietnam's progress in implementing open data, demonstrating Vietnam's unique adoption of a highly centralized approach where core datasets are managed almost entirely by the public sector, which creates unprecedented opportunities and risks.

While centralized data governance offers advantages like high consistency, rapid standardization, and enhanced security by reducing fraud and boosting trust, its drawbacks, such as restricting access for CSOs and the private sector, hindering innovation, and creating a critical single point of failure that risks system lock-in, necessitate immediate collaboration between the public sector, CSOs, and private industry to facilitate dynamic data sharing and drive innovative growth.

The Vietnam National Assembly enacted the Law on Data in late 2024 (effective July 1, 2025), establishing a legal foundation for digital data governance. This law mandates the creation of a National General Database that integrates information from administrative procedures and public datasets. Access to this centralized database is structured by purpose: it allows government agencies access for their official duties, grants individual data subjects access to their own personal information, and permits other parties access to data categorized for open data purposes.

Despite its potential for promoting transparency and data-driven growth, Vietnam's new data framework is hampered by several fundamental challenges. The first is a definitional defect, as the law currently lacks a clear definition for "open data" and fails to mandate which specific public datasets must be opened for general use. The second is a technical defect, characterized by the absence of required technical standards for data format, metadata, and accessibility, complicating data exchange and usability. Third, there is no clear mandate for CSO consultation when determining which data should be made public. Finally, a significant structural bottleneck exists because accessing any non-open data requires explicit consent from the National Data Centre, a step that risks slowing down innovation and experimentation for both CSOs and the private sector. In regard of these challenges, Ms. Nguyen advocated that open data implementation in Vietnam needs to have clear definition requirements, instead of having the concept of open data as an afterthought.

To maximize the impact of open data in Vietnam, Ms. Nguyen recommended a four-pronged approach focused on institutional and technical improvements: first, mandate the use of open APIs to boost data interoperability and usability; second, establish a sandbox environment for CSOs and the private sector to experiment with innovative data solutions; third, institutionalize the role of CSOs through legal mandates and official partnerships to secure their input; and finally, align the entire open data implementation with the digital economy strategy to ensure maximum public value.

For Thailand's context, Ms. Jingjungvisut commenced her presentation on "Challenges in Open Data Implementation: Thailand Case" by highlighting the practical disparity between government policy and actual practice. She demonstrated this gap by showcasing the dataset discrepancies found between Thailand's official National Open Data Portal and Open Development Thailand.

She explained that open data implementation in Thailand is impeded by multiple structural and legal barriers. These challenges include the public sector's ownership and control over data, leading to limited interoperability across systems, and significant legal ambiguity arising from the overlap between the Personal Data Protection Act and the Official Information Act. Furthermore, government units often withhold data due to a fear of legal penalties for disclosing unfavorable information, which is compounded by fragmented coordination between sectors and the non-standardization of data at the local level.

Open data in Thailand faces a critical hurdle where data availability does not translate into open knowledge, primarily because many datasets are outdated or provided in inaccessible formats. This technical deficit results in low accessibility for civic users and non-experts. Ms. Jingjungvisut stressed that inclusion is essential, noting that rural and marginalized groups are often excluded from both accessing the data and possessing data representation. Compounding these issues, critical information, such as data concerning the environment and lands, is frequently classified as sensitive. This overall top-down approach to data governance ultimately fosters a persistent trust gap between citizens and Thai institutions.

To address Thailand's open data challenges, Ms. Jingjungvisut emphasized the necessity of a paradigm shift toward co-creation and participation among all sectors. Her concluding recommendations focus on four areas: clarifying existing laws through sectoral collaboration; building the capacity of officials for greater responsibility sharing; co-creating data policies with civil society, academia, and the media; and significantly improving data quality and standards to ensure data is machine-readable, ethical, and inclusive, which includes recognizing community data rights.

The challenges presented by Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Jingjungvisut reveal shared foundational hurdles in open data implementation across the Mekong region, primarily centering on legal ambiguity, limited technical accessibility, and a detrimental trust gap. Specifically, both countries struggle with definitional clarity and legal harmonization. Furthermore, both face issues of low data usability due to a lack of technical standards, which excludes civic users.

Ultimately, both systems suffer from overextended control by the institutions and the reluctance to co-create with the civil society. To make sure innovative solutions are not entangled in the thorns of bureaucracy, the public sector shall seek a solution with emphasis on collaboration, capacity building, and institutionalizing civil society input to ensure data becomes truly accessible, inclusive, and catalytic toward innovation.

4.3. Opportunities and Future Directions

Moderated by Mr. Vamoeurn Nimol, Researcher and Lecturer of Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet, Program Manager of Institute for Policy Studies and Media Development (IPS) demonstrated the potentials for open data implementation in Vietnam.

The presentation highlighted that Vietnam's open data effort has evolved past simple sharing, moving from access to policy co-production, where the core objective is now shaping policy, impact, and quality. This push is framed by the tension between the data economy and data sovereignty.

Structurally, the National Data Center (NDC) serves as the country's central data space, mandating public agencies to store data there while granting the private sector the right to contribute and access data, often free of charge. Despite this centralized foundation, implementation is hindered by a high concentration of data ownership in the public sector and a stark disparity in data maturity across government tiers.

This constraint is evident as the public data has not effectively fueled innovation; the private sector still incurs high costs to clean and restructure data, diminishing its economic value. Fundamentally, the mechanisms for open data access and exploitation remain constrained.

She concluded by advocating for Next-Gen Openness, defining good data governance as a continuous cycle focused on clarifying values and outcomes, ensuring accountability, building trust, promoting transparency, managing risks and security, providing education and training, and fostering collaboration.

4.4. CSO's Contribution to Cambodia's Open Data Policy

Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director of Open Development Cambodia (ODC), began this session with the presentation "Involvement of CSOs in Open Data Policy in Cambodia." He began by framing the context of open data in Cambodia, bringing the fact that Cambodia is a relatively latecomer into the field of open data. He also pointed out that to meet the objectives set in Cambodia's Digital Governance Policy 2022-2035, the development of Open Data Policy is one of the key pillars and plays an important role in Cambodia's digital transformation.

The supply side (data provider) and the demand side (data user) of open data make up the ecosystem; the push and pull measures generated within this ecosystem is crucial for the sustainability of open data. In Cambodia, CSOs play a key role in advocating for the adoption of policies and programs for both the supply and the demand of open data and in ensuring that public data is technically and legally opened as well as accessible for public users.

A key initiative by CSOs in Cambodia to advance open data was a panel discussion held at the Cambodia ICT Camp in December 2024. This event successfully gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including university students, educators, NGOs, journalists, private sector representatives, and research institutes. The primary goals of the discussion were to raise awareness of open data and governance concepts, and to exchange challenges and best practices needed to promote open government and foster public demand for greater transparency.

Building on their initial panel discussion, CSOs in Cambodia continued their proactive engagement through two subsequent events. An Open Data Workshop at the Provincial Level was organized on May 27, 2025, bringing together CSOs, academics, journalists, and local community members to raise awareness and specifically collect recommendations for the upcoming National Open Data Policy. Following this, on July 23, 2025, an event focused on “Strengthening CSOs’ Readiness for Digital Government Policy 2022-2035” convened CSOs from both sub-national and national levels. This second event served to introduce participants to the national policy’s key components and collectively explore how it would affect their work, providing a critical platform for CSOs to discuss opportunities, challenges, and formulate direct recommendations for the national strategy.

Despite the successful organization of these awareness-raising events, a complete implementation of the National Open Data Policy faces several crucial challenges: there is an urgent need to enhance data literacy and the overall understanding of open data concepts among all stakeholders. Furthermore, the limited engagement and encouragement of CSOs in the policy-making process remains a significant barrier. To overcome these issues and ensure a multi-stakeholder approach to data governance, the roles of data intermediaries are essential, and strong partnership must be cultivated, as open data must be an inclusive approach that involves all sectors.

4.5. Breakout Discussion on Implementation, Accountability and Long-Term Sustainability

The session commenced by the presentation delivered by Mr. Poren Chiang, Digital Law Researcher and Advisory Committee Member of Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (CamIDF). Mr. Chiang framed the topics of discussion for the breakout discussion with keywords such as data governance, security and ethical use, de-identification, data reuse, accountability and long-term sustainability of open data initiatives.

Mr. Chiang illustrated the inherent trade-offs in data de-identification using two real-life cases. First, in Taiwan, the Ministry of Health and Welfare previously allowed researchers to use de-identified data from the National Health Insurance (DHI) Database for research, but this practice was later ruled unconstitutional, necessitating the implementation of explicit opt-out mechanisms to protect individual privacy. The second example involved traffic and commute data, where cities can use the information to improve flow and private companies can provide real-time services; however, this beneficial data collection simultaneously creates the significant privacy risk of state surveillance, as the nation could easily track the trajectories of individuals.

The second half of the session was facilitated by Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director of ODC, Mr. Vamoeurn Nimol, Researcher and Lecturer of Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), and Ms. Wen-Ling (Amy) Lai, Program and Strategy Associate of ODC. The participants are divided into three discussion groups to generate insights and recommendations for the National Open Data Policy. Five questions were prepared in advance for discussions:

1. Since there is no existing policy, what are the sanctions and correctives actions for ministries that fail to comply with the Open Data Policy's mandates for release and quality?
2. What can be the formal avenues for citizens to challenge a refusal to release open data?
3. Given that highly disaggregated data can risk re-identification and expose vulnerable individuals (indigenous communities or specific victims), what mandatory, multi-layered anonymization and data suppression protocols must the open data policy adopt to legally and ethically protect the privacy of small population groups while maximizing data utility?
4. What specific security and de-identification protocols must be included in the policy to protect sensitive data (personal data, data related to national security, and what is the definition these sensitive data)?
5. How can the policy explicitly (and/or implicitly) promote the release of disaggregated data to benefit marginalized groups?

The results of the group work are collected and categorized in the following section.

5. Results of Group Work

Providing a platform to the participants to discuss and express their opinions on the open data initiatives in Cambodia was the core objective of this workshop. After the increase of their understanding of open data, common challenges and best practices of the initiatives, participants are assigned to work in groups. A total number of three groups were formed. Each group's discussion surrounded implementation, accountability and long-term sustainability of open data initiatives, aiming to increase CSOs' inputs for the draft Open Data Policy, a key government initiative to foster open data in Cambodia.

5.1. Accessibility

During the breakout discussion, participants focused on the challenges of implementing open data in Cambodia and provided input regarding their aspirations for the draft National Open Data policy. Ensuring accessibility was identified as the first category of discussion.

- Adopt an interactive approach to data documentation, moving beyond static recording to involve communities directly and ensure the authentic representation of underserved and marginalized voices in the resulting data.
- Prioritize and promote the comprehensive digitalization of data assets.
- Ensure adequate digital infrastructure to enable rural communities to access and utilize open data effectively.
- Localize data documentation and implementation processes, ensuring the availability of local language options for users to access, document, and utilize data.
- Apply uniform licenses to open data to facilitate legal clarity, interoperability, and reuse.
- Implement measures to ensure open data is available to all users at no cost.

- Establish a national open data hub to serve as the primary platform for data collection, sharing, and public access.
- Institutionalize capacity-building measures through comprehensive guidelines to ensure sustainable use and management of open data.
- Implement regular community consultations as part of the data documentation process to maintain accurate and representative information.

5.2. Accountability

Promoting accountability was identified as the second category of discussion.

- Establish explicit definitions of “open data” and delineate which types of data are subject to disclosure and which are exempt.
- Establish a feedback and response mechanism to ensure users can access relevant and accurate data.
- Institutionalize the consultative role of CSOs in the formulation of the National Open Data policy through legal recognition.
- Promote transparent and accessible data practices to preclude unequal distribution of government benefits.
- Mandate the disclosure of clear and explainable data regarding land concessions and compensation through open data platforms.
- Ensure that agricultural and environmental concerns are communicated from local communities upward, enhancing transparency and responsiveness in policy-making.
- Introduce regulatory measures to prevent misuse of data that could compromise personal privacy or individual rights.
- Implement clear objectives and guidelines for data users, including centralized data access and mandatory consent forms.

6. Closing Remarks

The Regional Dialogue was formally concluded by Ms. Sin Kimsean, the Representative of the ODC Board of Directors. In her closing remarks, she summarized the event’s success in discussing and sharing trends and developments in open data across the Mekong region.

A key focus of the dialogue was addressing the practical challenges in implementing open data initiatives and identifying critical opportunities for collaboration among CSOs and regional partners through networks and knowledge exchange. Crucially, experts emphasized that the collection and engagement of stakeholders’ inputs, especially those from CSOs, are essential for developing the draft Open Data Policy and other relevant regulations, ensuring they reflect real-world needs and concerns.

The dialogue was structured to maximize shared learning, incorporating expert presentations, panel discussions, and small group sessions that allowed participants to exchange information on various opportunities and challenges. A primary takeaway for all participants was the understanding that open data is crucial for societal benefit, but its implementation must be carefully aligned with broader data governance efforts.

While transparency and efficiency are promoted, policies must establish clear rules and ethical frameworks to successfully balance openness with necessary protections for privacy, security, and intellectual property. The experts noted that key practices involve developing transparent rules governing what data can be shared, how it can be used, and who can access it, especially sensitive information. This balanced approach, fostering innovation and addressing societal challenges while incorporating robust security, inclusion, and quality measures, is necessary to build greater public trust. One concrete suggestion offered was the integration of De-identification into data policy to minimize privacy risks and facilitate the responsible sharing of data for public good.

The dialogue also spotlighted significant challenges, particularly the risks associated with limited public consultation during policy development. Experts shared examples illustrating how a lack of engagement, especially with the public and key stakeholders like CSOs, can lead to policies lacking legitimacy, inclusivity, and effectiveness.

These consultation gaps result in an incomplete understanding of real-world needs, undermining the quality, enforceability, and long-term success of data policies. Therefore, the closing moments served as an important call to action and a signal of inspiration, confirming the collective commitment to informing the future.

All inputs gathered from the CSOs throughout the dialogue will now be formulated into a collective CSO submission on the draft Open Data Policy, which will be formally presented to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

7. Evaluation of the Workshop

Subsequent to the event, the CCC team distributed a participant evaluation via email. The questionnaire addressed several key areas, including overall event satisfaction, specific feedback for each session, the degree to which objectives were achieved, and the fulfilment of participant expectations.

Overall feedback highlighted the high relevance of the dialogue to participants' work, with 83.3% noting it was relevant (good) and 8.3% finding it very relevant (excellent). The individual sessions also received overwhelmingly positive reviews:

- Session 1: *Open data Trends in Mekong Region* received over 91.7% positive review (41.7% “very useful” and 50% “useful”).
- Session 2: *Challenges on Open Data Implementation* received 91.6% positive review (33.3% “very useful” and 58.3% “useful”).
- Session 3: *Opportunities and Future Direction* received 91.7% positive review (25% “very useful” and 66.7% “useful”).
- Session 4: *CSOs’ contribution to Cambodia’s Open Data Policy* received 75% positive review (33.3% “very useful” and 41.7% “useful”).
- Session 5: *Breakout discussions on Implantation, Accountability and Accessibility* received 75% positive review (33.3% “very useful” and 41.7% “useful”).

In evaluating the fulfilment of participant expectations, 67% of respondents indicated their expectations had been met, with a further 8% reporting that the event surpassed their initial expectations.

It is crucial to note that the evaluation form received only 12 responses in total. Given the full number of event participants, this small sample size means the calculated percentages may not be entirely comprehensive or representative of the overall participant experience.

Ultimately, this dialogue brought together stakeholders from civil society, academia, the private sector, and university students, fostering meaningful exchange and opening opportunities for future collaboration. It marks an important step toward strengthening CSO engagement and ensuring their active participation in shaping Cambodia's National Open Data Policy.

Highlights of the Workshop



Annex: Workshop Agenda

Time	Topics
08:00 – 09:00	Registration, Coffee, and Networking
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Remarks <i>Mr. Thy Try, ODC Executive Director</i>
09:10 – 09:20	Welcome Remarks <i>Ms. Sin Putheary, CCC Executive Director</i>
09:20 – 09:30	Opening Remarks - Why should the government consider CSOs as key stakeholders? - How can an Open Data policy explicitly mandate the use of public data for independent monitoring and evaluation by NGOs and media, solidifying their role as essential accountability partners? - What are the challenges for CSOs to implement Open data policy? - Given disparities in digital literacy between urban and rural areas, how can an Open Data strategy be designed to ensure data is accessible, relevant, and useful to marginalized communities, not just urban tech developers? - How can a robust Open Data policy be leveraged to accelerate Cambodia's own <i>Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035</i>, moving beyond infrastructure and into demonstrable public value? - For Cambodian NGOs already engaged in data work, what is the single most impactful step they can take right now to prepare for, and proactively advocate for, the successful implementation of a forthcoming Open Data policy? <i>Ms. Stephanie Chow, First Secretary – Political, Australian Embassy in Cambodia</i>
09:30 – 09:35	Group Photo
09:35 – 09:40	Introduction of Participants & Objectives of the Dialogue <i>Ms. Wen-Ling (Amy) Lai, Program and Strategy Associate of ODC</i>
09:40 – 10:10	Session 1: Open Data Trends in the Mekong Region <i>Presented by Ms. Pyrou Chung, Director of Open Development Initiative, EWMI</i>
10:10 – 11:10	Session 2: Challenges in Open Data Implementation - Panel discussion with ODC team, OD Vietnam, and OD Thailand Speakers: • <i>Ms. Nga Nguyen</i>, National Coordinator of Open Development Vietnam, Open Development Initiative, EWMI • <i>Ms. Saowalak (Aey) Jingjungvisut</i>, Partnerships and Communications Manager, Open Development Mekong, EWMI Q&A <i>Moderator: Mr. Poren Chiang, Digital Law Researcher and Advisory Committee Member of Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (CamIDF)</i>
11:10 – 12:00	Session 3: Opportunities and Future Directions Interactive discussion / brainstorming session Speaker:

	• Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet, Program Manager, Institute for Policy Studies and Media Development (IPS) Q&A <i>Moderator: Mr. Vamoeurn Nimol, Researcher and Lecturer, Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch and Networking
13:30 – 14:30	Session 4: CSOs' contribution to Cambodia's Open data policy Presentation: around 15 minutes Questions for discussion: 1. How can the Open Data Policy legally define the role of CSOs to ensure their access to government staff and data is mandated and protected? 2. What criteria should be used to designate the most capable CSO Fellows? 3. How can the success of this partnership be measured? What are the key performance indicators? 4. How can the CSO-Government partnership be leveraged to solve the crucial challenge of cross-ministerial data linkage? 5. As the national Open Data initiative matures, how can the policy be designed to decentralize CSO collaboration and capacity building? What structures are needed to enable local CSOs and community groups to effectively partner with, validate, and utilize data being released by sub-national (provincial, municipal) governments? <i>Presented by Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director of Open Development Cambodia</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break and Networking
14:45 – 16:15	Session 5: Implementation accountability and long-term sustainability <i>Presented by: Mr. Poren Chiang, Digital Law Researcher and Advisory Committee Member of Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (CamIDF)</i> Presentation: around 15 minutes Breakout discussion: around 45 minutes Breakout 1: <i>Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director of Open Development Cambodia</i> Breakout 2: <i>Ms. Wen-Ling (Amy) Lai, Program and Strategy Associate of ODC</i> Breakout 3: <i>Mr. Vamoeurn Nimol, Researcher and Lecturer, Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)</i> Plenary Wrap-up: around 10 minutes / group Questions for discussion: 6. Since there is no existing policy, what are the sanctions and correctives actions for ministries that fail to comply with the Open Data Policy's mandates for release and quality? 7. What can be the formal avenues for citizens to challenge a refusal to release open data? 8. Given that highly disaggregated data can risk re-identification and expose vulnerable individuals (indigenous communities or specific victims), what mandatory, multi-layered anonymization and data suppression protocols must the open data policy adopt to legally and

	ethically protect the privacy of small population groups while maximizing data utility? 9. What specific security and de-identification protocols must be included in the policy to protect sensitive data (personal data, data related to national security, and what is the definition these sensitive data)? 10. How can the policy explicitly (and/or implicitly) promote the release of disaggregated data to benefit marginalized groups?
16:15 – 16:30	Closing Remarks <i>Ms. Sin Kimsean, Representative of the ODC Board of Directors</i>



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