BASIC DATA JOURNALISM TRAINING

[Announcement**]**

BACKGROUND

Data journalism consists of integrating data into journalistic practice and reporting. Data on a wide variety of topics is everywhere around us. The expansion of digital and computational tools facilitates the use of data and provides a unique opportunity for journalists to produce compiling and engaging stories. Data enables journalists to get closer to their audience by telling complex stories through simplified and understandable infographics and visualizations[1]. Hence, data can be the source of data journalism, or it can be the tool with which the story is told — or it can be both[2].

However, data journalism remains at an early-stage in Cambodia and in neighboring countries. On the one hand, despite data gaps for particular sectors remain, the growth of data availability has triggered the circulation of unverified and unreliable information. On the other hand, data literacy levels are generally low, which hinders the ability of journalists to understand, integrate and visualize data in their stories. In fact, amid the COVID-19, journalists, trainers and news professionals from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), identified data-related skills to be the most timing need in order to stay with COVID-19 as a long-running story by the "analysis of statistics and using data to a tell story"[3].

As an open data organization, Open Development Cambodia (ODC) strongly believes that by presenting information and stories with visualizations and simplified language, journalists can highly improve their communication and outreach among the public. In order to do that, ODC strives to improve the data literacy levels of journalists and raise their skills to derive meaningful information from data.

ODC is delighted to announce a new "***Training on Basic Data Journalism***" that will be implemented in collaboration with CamboJA. The program receives the support from the Mekong: Sustainable News project[4] from CFI, the French Media Development agency in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam led by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The training program consists of two phases of two days each and has the objective to equip participants with data skills for data-driven storytelling.

The design of the program has been informed by the success of ODC's Data Literacy Program in 2019, which provided journalists, researchers and communicators with dada analysis and storytelling skills, especially in the field of environment and natural resource management. This new "***Training on Basic Data Journalism***" program presents a localized curriculum of the one developed by Yan Naung Oak and Eva Constantaras for the World Bank's Data Literacy Program[5], with a more specific focus on journalists and news professionals.

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[1] https://datajournalism.com/read/handbook/one/introduction/what-is-data-journalism
[2] Ibid.
[3] https://fojo.se/en/covid-19-and-clmv-data-related-skills-needed-and-wanted/
[4] https://cfi.fr/en/project/mekong-sustainable-news
[5] https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/about/data-literacy/

OBJECTIVE

Promote data-driven storytelling in Cambodia by building the capacity of journalists to analyze, present and integrate data into compiling stories that engage a wider audience

BENEFITS

Participants will gain:

- Knowledge of open data concepts and its potential for decision-making, policy, development and journalism
- Hands-on experience to integrate data into their stories and use data visualization tools
- Skills to work with data, including online data gathering, organization, analysis and cleaning
- The knowledge of how to convey knowledge and information through visual stories elements
- The opportunity to engage with experts on data-driven story projects

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the training, applicants should:

- Be a journalist or a staff member at a media outlet
- Have at least one year of work experience in journalist or similar field
- Have a good working knowledge of English, including good reading and writing skills
- Show a strong interest in data and storytelling
- Be committed to participate in all training phases and produce data stories

EXPECTATIONS

All selected participants are expected to:

- Attend and actively engage in all training activities included in the program.
- Be committed to incorporate data into their regular journalistic activity and reporting.
- Share the new skills acquired in their respective workplaces beyond the training.

PROGRAM FEE

The training is free of charge for the journalists and newsrooms selected.

PARTICIPANTS

Up to 15 participants will join the training program. Applications will be online and open to all journalists and the selection process will be based on the eligibility criteria specified above.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Date	Training Content	Length of the training	Venue (Details TBC)
15-16 December 2020	**PHASE 1**: **Finding Data, Data Formats & Understanding Data** Module 1: Finding Data	2 days	Phnom Penh

	Module 2: Data Formats Module 3: Understanding Data		
26-27 January 2021	**PHASE 2**: **Data Visualization & Data Protection** Module 4: Data Visualization Module 5: Data Protection	2 days	Phnom Penh

* ODC reserves rights to change the program if necessary.

* For more information, please email us via training@opendevcam.net or contact:

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