

National Open Data Conference 2024

Open Government Data for Inclusive Development

Date: March 26-27, 2024

Time: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Venue: CADT Innovation Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Background:

According to the [Cambodia Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework](#) 2021–2035, data plays an increasingly important role in Cambodian public governance for several reasons. Commitment to the reforms (and continued economic growth) is expected to make Cambodia a middle-income nation by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

The process of digital government administration begins with the formulation and adoption of necessary policies and the creation and updating of relevant legislative frameworks and regulations by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). It continues with the development of digital government standards and architecture through principles, norms, models, technological evolution, and national and international best practices. These are the foundations for establishing digital government effectively, efficiently, and securely to support the construction and growth of a robust and dynamic digital economy and society.

The Open Data Policy is one of several that the government is working on and gathering input for. In accordance with existing laws and regulations, the new Open Data Policy would define principles, standards, licenses, and procedures for opening, storing, and sharing government data with public institutions, the business sector, and individuals. The ultimate objective of open data is to increase transparency, fairness, and accountability, as well as the quality of services, hence increasing public trust in government and promoting research and innovation with sustainability and inclusion.¹ Open data will permit non-state actors to participate, offer comments, and hold the government responsible, in addition to aiding in the promotion of openness inside the government. However, non-state actors in Cambodia have only achieved sluggish advancements² in terms of data access and data usage for policy objectives.³

To accomplish our shared goal of bridging the gap between government and non-state actors on open data dialogue, the **Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC)**, in partnership with **The Asia Foundation (TAF)** will host a two-day National Open Data Conference in Cambodia from March 26 to 27. In addition to promoting national and regional collaboration and open data efforts, we expect that the open and inclusive involvement in this event will increase public knowledge of open data and awareness of the challenges facing Cambodia's open data adoption. The outputs from the group discussion during this two-day event will be an additional complement to the government's efforts to develop a meaningful and effective open data policy.

This National Open Data Conference 2024 is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia Program.

¹ Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), "[Cambodian Digital Government Policy 2022-2035](#)," January 28, 2022.

² Open Development Cambodia, "[Open Data Survey](#)," May 31, 2020.

³ The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes Program, "[Open Data Intermediaries for Non-State Actors in Cambodia](#)," May 29, 2023.

Purposes of the National Open Data Conference:

- 1) To increase public awareness of the progress and obstacles to open data adoption in Cambodia and the region,
- 2) To gather inputs and suggestions to contribute to the draft open data policy and data governance legislation,
- 3) To encourage data transparency and accountability initiatives in diverse sectors,
- 4) To strengthen the open data network in Cambodia and the region.

Participants

The National Open Data Conference will gather at least 75 participants from a variety of backgrounds, including international and local NGOs, the private sector, researchers and policymakers, indigenous youth groups, people with disabilities, women, LGBTQI+, and SheThinks Network members

Note: ODC will provide accommodation and basic expenses to participants who travel from other provinces.

Organizers:

Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC) is the leading open data platform in Cambodia, which makes up-to-date and reliable data and information on socioeconomic and environmental issues publicly available as a “one-stop shop”. ODC promotes the use of accurate data for evidence-based and transparent decision-making processes towards the sustainable development of the country. For the past ten years, ODC has actively worked to enhance the amount of public data, raise public awareness, and build capacity of relevant stakeholders. ODC uses its expertise in data and ICT, mapping and GIS, digital security, and research to compile, analyze, and disseminate information in user-friendly and accessible digital formats. Material available on ODC’s online platform includes datasets, information topic pages, interactive maps, news, and legal documents, among others. ODC does not promote any particular perspective, agenda, or bias other than to provide objective information about Cambodia and its development.

The Asia Foundation is implementing the Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia Program between July 2023 and June 2027 with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The goal of [Ponlok Chomnes II](#) is that public policy decisions, based on evidence and informed by inclusive dialogue, are operationalised and become the norm in Cambodia.

Disclaimer:

This event is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The Asia Foundation’s Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia program. The views expressed in this event are the speakers’ alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government, The Asia Foundation, or Open Development Cambodia Organization.

National Open Data Conference 2024: Open Government Data for Inclusive Development Phnom Penh, Cambodia	
Day 1: March 26, 2024 <i>Both state and non-state actors will use this forum to contribute their perspectives and other key challenges, fostering a productive dialogue on advancing open data initiatives in the country.</i>	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:35	National anthem
8:35 – 8:45	Welcoming Remark <i>The Asia Foundation</i>
8:45 – 8:55	Keynote Speech <i>National Information Society Agency (NIA), under the Ministry of Science and ICT and the Ministry of Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea. [TBC]</i>
8:55 – 9:05	Remark <i>Australian Embassy in Cambodia [TBC]</i>
9:05 – 9:15	Opening Remark <i>Representative of the Ministry Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) [TBC]</i>
9:15 – 9:30	Group photo and coffee break <i>Showcase the Open Data Handbook in Khmer, translated by ODC in 2016.</i>
9:30 – 9:50	Session 1: Finding of the Open Data Survey in 2020 The survey report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of available and emerging open data resources on the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development (NCDD) budgeting process and identify opportunities for growth in the open data community in Cambodia. <i>Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC)</i>
9:50 – 9:55	Q&A
9:55 – 10:25	Session 2: Feasibility study on Open Data Intermediaries for Non-State Actors in Cambodia This study seeks to assess the feasibility of setting up open data intermediaries for non-state actors in Cambodia and to provide key strategic considerations. The study also builds on recent studies on public policy and the research sector in Cambodia. <i>The Asia Foundation: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia program</i>
10:25 – 10:30	Q&A
10:30 – 11:00	Session 3: Results of Open Data Roadmap Assessment in Cambodia This assessment report is designed to study the current state of open data, review the performance of countries in the region and the world, collect input from stakeholders, analyze priority areas for open data, and prepare a report for input for developing an open data policy under the technical assistance of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunication Union (APT) in collaboration with the Korea National Information Society (NIA). <i>Ministry Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) & National Information Society Agency (NIA), under the Ministry of Science and ICT and the Ministry of Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea. [TBC]</i>
11:00 – 11:05	Q&A
11:05 – 12:05	Policy Dialogue: Inclusive development of the Cambodia's Open Data Policy Exploring Cambodia's Draft Open Data Policy and other relevant legislation, as well as gathering diverse and essential points of view to help shape the inclusion and impact of Cambodia's new Open Data Policy and data governance legislation. Panelists are the representatives of:

	<div><div><div>1. The Ministry Post and Telecommunications (MPTC)</div><div>2. The Research and Academia Institutions</div><div>3. The Civil Society Organization/Development Partners</div><div>4. Representative of the Regional Open Data Networks</div><div>5. Representative of the marginalized groups</div></div><div>Facilitator: ODC Team</div></div>
12:05 – 12:15	Q&A
12:15 – 13:30	Solidarity lunch
13:30 – 14:10	Session 4: Open Data for Journalism [TBC]
14:10 – 14:15	Q&A
14:15 – 15:15	Session 5: Data-driven Storytelling Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC)
15:15 – 15:30	Q&A
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:45	Group Discussion 1: Data sharing and building trust amongst data contributors Discuss the existing challenges that hinder trust and wider data contribution, such as data privacy concerns, transparency, accessibility of community to participate meaningfully, unequal benefits, and societal impact. Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC) & The Asia Foundation
16:45 – 17:00	Highlighting the discussions of the day Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC)
Day 2: March 27, 2024 To expand and connect the open data network in Cambodia and the region, facilitating collaboration and championing data transparency and accountability in diverse sectors.	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Recap Day One
9:00 – 12:00	Breakout Room: Open data showcases in Cambodia and other countries National Open Data Community Members <div><div><div>• Theme 1: Open Government Data for Better Public Services (3 topics)</div></div><div><div>• Theme 2: Open Data for Education (3 topics)</div></div><div><div>• Theme 3: Open Data for Sustainable Development (3 topics)</div></div></div>
9:00 – 9:40	Hackathon - Expert Talks & Workshops Short talks and workshops on specific data analysis techniques, design thinking, and presentation skills to empower teams. Hackathon Committee
9:40 – 10:00	Coffee break
10:00 – 12:00	Hacking Marathon Teams continue to work throughout the morning on their data-driven solutions. Mentors offer guidance and technical support. Hackathon Committee
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:30	Breakout Room: The nexus of open data and trust building Call for speakers <div><div><div>• Room 1: Sustainable and Responsible Business</div></div><div><div>• Room 2: Inclusive Social Development and Protection for all</div></div></div>
14:30 – 15:45	Hackathon Pitch – Final Presentation <div><div><div>❖ Teams present their solutions to a panel of judges consisting of data experts, and other key stakeholders.</div><div>❖ Judges ask questions and provide feedback to each team.</div></div><div>Hackathon Committee</div></div>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break

16:00 – 16:40	Announcement of the Hackathon Winners and Awarding The three top performance teams will also receive an award to on-going exploring their project ideas to create impact to the society. <i>Hackathon Committee</i>
16:40 – 17:00	Recap and Closing Remark <i>Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC)</i>
17:00 – 17:30	Networking

Note: *Modifications to the agenda are possible.*

To obtain further information, please reach out to *Mrs. SIV Vatana*, the 2024 National Open Data Forum's Responsible Person, at vatana@opendevcam.net or by phone at 012 32 30 45.

