



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

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh

Background

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 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 and Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) members to share experiences, discuss challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration in open data across the Mekong countries.

Key Objectives

- Share trends and developments in open data across the Mekong region
- Discuss challenges in implementing open data initiatives and identify opportunities for collaboration among CSOs and regional partners
- Strengthen regional networks and knowledge exchange on open data
- Collect inputs from the CSOs in Cambodia on the open data policy for formulating as CSO’s input statement submit to Ministry of Post and Telecommunication.

Expected Outcomes

- 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
- Develop CSO’s input statement on open data policy, submit to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication

Expected Participants: **70-80** participants, including CSO representatives, researchers, and key organizations working on or interested in open data initiatives.

Tentative 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	Keynote Speech <i>Ms. Sin Putheary, CCC Executive Director</i>
09:20 – 09:30	Opening Remarks <i>Ms. Stephanie Chow, First Secretary – Political, the Australian Embassy</i>
09:30 – 09:40	Introduction of Participants & Objectives of the Dialogue <i>Ms. Wen-Ling (Amy) Lai, Program and Strategy Associate of ODC</i>
09:40 – 10:15	Session 1: Open Data Trends in the Mekong Region Q&A <i>Presented by Ms. Pyrou Chung, Director of Open Development Initiative, EWMI (To be confirmed)</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Session 2: Challenges in Open Data Implementation Panel discussion with ODC team, OD Vietnam, and OD Thailand Q&A <i>Moderator: Mr. Poren Chiang, Advisory Committee Member of Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (CamIDF) (To be confirmed)</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Session 3: Opportunities and Future Directions Interactive discussion / brainstorming session <i>Presented by (To be confirmed)</i>
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch and Networking
1:30-2:00	Session 4: Open data policy in Cambodia by ODC
2:00-3:45	Session 5: Discussion and input’s collection on the open data policy <i>Plenary discussion and moderated by ODC and CCC team</i>
3:45 – 4:00	Closing Remarks <i>Summary and closing remarks by ODC team/representative</i>

Note: the organizer keeps the rights to change the agenda if needed.