

# 5th

Cambodia ICT and  
Digital Forum

*Forum Report*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fifth Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum (5th CamIDF) was hosted by Open Development Cambodia Organization (ODC) in Phnom Penh on 21 September 2023. The event brought together 41 diverse stakeholders from the digital sector, including CamIDF members, Cambodia ICT Camp alumni, researchers, journalists, digital nomads, civil society organizations, start-ups, private sector, and university students. The Forum explored various topics related to Trust and Transparency in the Digital Space, Data Governance for Sustainability, Ethics and Privacy in AI-driven Activities, Sustainable Digital Safety Literacy, Safeguarding Online Child Protection, and Draft law on Personal Data Protection.

Total Participants: 41



Female Participants: 14



Dating back to the 5th CamIDF with us:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTzRvW07ItU>



## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### Welcoming Remark

*Mr. THY Try, Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief of ODC*

The Forum began with a welcoming remark by Mr. THY Try, Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief of ODC. He gave an overview of CamIDF's history and objectives to all the participants and partners. He explained that CamIDF was established in response to the feedback from the Cambodia ICT Camp 2022 participants, who expressed the need for regular meetups to discuss the latest digital developments in Cambodia. ODC consulted with the committee and decided to host the forum quarterly. The main themes of CamIDF are aligned with the three pillars of Cambodia's digital economy plan: digital government, digital business, and digital citizenry.

He then summarized the 4th CamIDF meeting, which focused on the opportunities and challenges posed by AI and ChatGPT. He asked the participants to share their personal experiences with these technologies and addressed some of the privacy issues related to ChatGPT. Then, he facilitated a dialogue around these new digital tools and their implications. He also informed the participants that the CamIDF meeting was not restricted to a specific topic and that they could propose ideas for the next event. Thus, he encouraged them to join CamIDF as members and benefit from its network and resources.

Finally, he announced the Internet Governance Forum will be taken place in Japan in October, which ODC would sponsor some CamIDF members to attend.



## ACTIVITY SUMMARY



### Opening Remark

*Mr. LOU Eric, a Member of the CamIDF Advisory Committee*

After Mr. Try's remarks, Mr. LOU Eric, a Member of the CamIDF Advisory Committee, addressed the participants. Having attended the event for the fifth time, Mr. Eric highlighted how CamIDF fosters a culture of collaboration by bringing together diverse sectors, including government, private sector, and academia. He emphasized that this initiative is not only inclusive but also easily accessible, which can promote economic growth and enhance the overall well-being of Cambodian society.

### Keynote

#### Trust and Transparency in the Digital Space

#### Topic: MyData Principles and Past Projects from Fujitsu

*Mr. Dixon SIU, MyData Global Founding Member*

Mr. Dixon SIU, a CamIDF Advisory Committee Member and MyData Global Founding Member, delivered a presentation on "MyData Principles and Past Projects from Fujitsu". During the presentation, Dixon highlighted that 63% of Chinese consumers are willing to share their personal data only if it is not shared or sold to a third party. This indicates that 37% of Chinese consumers lack trust in using digital services. Dixon also mentioned that during the COVID-19 pandemic, people shared their personal data with hospitals and governments. Dixon then provided an overview of My Data Global and shared a previous project that focused on protecting personal data. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session, during which a participant from the private sector inquired about the process of validating collected data. Mr. Dixon responded that data validation could be achieved through technologies such as blockchain.



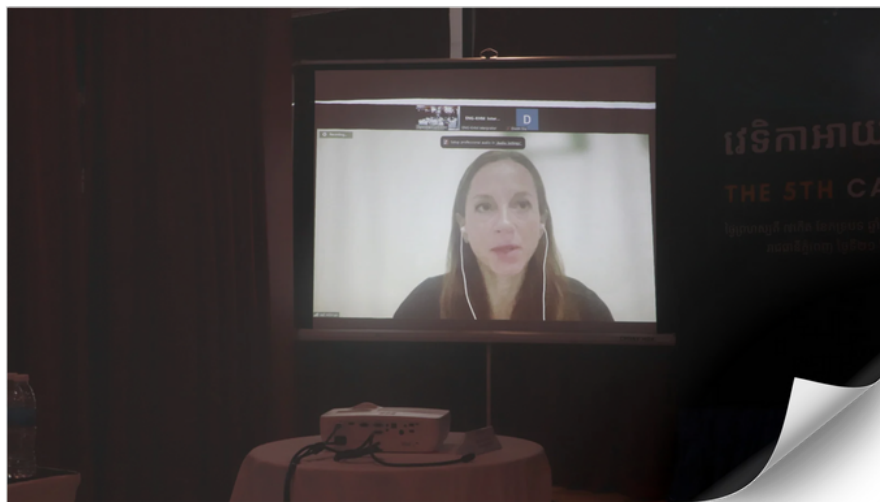
## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### Group Discussion

#### Data Governance for Sustainable Development

*Dr. Velislava HILLMAN - Founder of EDDS*

Following the presentation on “Data Governance for Sustainable Development” by Dr. Velislava HILLMAN, participants discussed the opportunities and challenges of data in relation to children and young people’s online spaces, including education. One group suggested that developers have a responsibility to protect children online by restricting inappropriate content. Another group added that technology can help schools design the curriculum, which would be beneficial. However, academic institutions would need to be cautious to avoid the data being leaked. The third group also added that student data can be used to identify subjects for which students need extra help. The last group encouraged the adoption of more online educational platforms for children and adults. Dr. HILLMAN emphasized the importance of data governance and data management as it affects the reliability of data, including the process of data collection, data processing, and optimization. She also mentioned the significance of providing good contents to young children to ensure a safe online environment.



## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### Keynote

#### **Ethics and Privacy in AI-Driven Activities**

#### **Topic: Why Data Ethics are important for AI/ML Solutions**

*Mr. Dixon SIU*

In this session, Mr. Dixon shared his insights on the importance of data ethics in AI/Machine Learning solutions. He explained that data ethics is a branch of ethics that evaluates data practices, including collecting, generating, analyzing, and disseminating both structured and unstructured data that may adversely impact individuals and society. Data ethics aims to navigate negative aspects of data, including privacy concerns, bias, discrimination, security, and misuse. During the session, one participant asked Mr. Dixon how to maximize the benefits of data to ethics. He responded that selecting the right platform to train data and following the guidelines is the priority.

### Sharing Session

#### **For Sustainable Digital Safety Literacy**

*Mr. Kouhei KURIHARA, Co-founder of Privacy by Design Lab*

Mr. Kouhei KURIHARA delivered a presentation on Sustainable Digital Safety Literacy. He began his session by defining Digital Literacy as the ability to access, manage, understand, integrate, communicate, evaluate, and create information safely and appropriately through digital technologies for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship. This includes competencies that are variously referred to as computer literacy, ICT literacy, information literacy, and media literacy. He suggested that digital safety not only focuses on protecting devices, personal data, and privacy but also the health and well-being of users.





## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### Panel Discussion

#### Safeguarding Online Child Protection

*Speakers: Mr. Dixon SIU, Dr. Velislava HILLMAN, Mr. Soklay HENG, Ms. Puthineath LAY*

*Moderator: Ms. Songmouy AN*

One of the most engaging sessions of the event was a panel discussion on “Safeguarding Online Child Protection” in a hybrid model, with in-person and online guest speakers. The session featured research and digital security and online child protection experts collaborating to share their knowledge regarding safeguarding online child protection. To begin the discussion, Ms. Songmouy introduced the topic of today’s discussion with a question about the speakers’ perspectives on student exposure to the internet today. Mr. Soklay HENG, Artificial Intelligence Researcher at Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology, responded that students today have more access to the internet than the previous generation, which is an improvement but there are also negative impacts in terms of the content that they are exposed to. In regards to whether there should be a minimum age at which children can use the internet, Ms. Puthineath LAY, a Data Science Researcher at Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology, called for more involvement from parents in managing the content for kids, including restricting the duration that kids are allowed using digital devices. The panel moved on to discuss how the general public could get involved in protecting children online. Dr. HILLMAN responded that the government plays an important role in protecting children online as it can issue policies restricting harmful content and protecting children from violence. The discussion concluded with the speakers encouraging the participants to continuously share good content with children, and to encourage children to discuss with their parents and friends if they are experiencing any form of violence, both physical and online.



## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### Group Discussion

#### Draft law on Personal Data Protection - Discussion Outcome Briefing

*Facilitator: Mr. THY Try*

The Fifth Forum's final program was a group discussion on the Draft Law on Personal Data Protection. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has made the draft law available for comments, and the discussion aimed to review and share inputs. A legal expert provided an overview of the draft law, dissecting some of the articles. The participants also discussed the terminology used in the draft law. Mr. Try concluded the workshop by informing participants to submit their comments and suggestions to ODC. The team will consolidate the inputs from the discussion and send them to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

### Closing Remark

*Mr. Dixon SIU*

The Fifth Cambodia ICT and Digital Forum concluded with a closing remark from Mr. Dixon SIU, where he expressed his optimism for the future of Cambodia after seeing the active engagement between the speakers and participants. He concluded by encouraging all participants to apply the knowledge they gained from the workshop in the future.

The followings are some future actions that could be taken to further the discussion on the topics covered in the forum:

- Engage all participants in discussions about Trust and Transparency in the Digital Space, Child Online Protection, and Privacy in AI-Driven Activities.
- Debate the government's new policies such as Open Data Policy, Data Protection Policy, Innovation and Science Policy, and others.
- Provide capacity building to members and non-members on data literacy and digital security.
- Select members to attend the Internet Governance Forum 2023 in Japan.

These actions will help to ensure that the knowledge gained from the Forum is put into practice and that Cambodia continues to make progress in the field of ICT and digital technology. Remember, the future of Cambodia's digital landscape is in our hands!





## CONCLUSION

The 5th CamIDF was a successful event that gathered various stakeholders from the digital sector to exchange ideas and insights on the current and future trends of ICT and digital technology in Cambodia. The Forum addressed the challenges and opportunities of Trust and Transparency in the Digital Space, Data Governance for Sustainability, Ethics and Privacy in AI-driven Activities, Sustainable Digital Safety Literacy, Safeguarding Online Child Protection, and the Draft law on Personal Data Protection. The participants also learned from the experiences and best practices of ODC, CamIDF members, and other experts. The Forum ended with a positive note and a call for action to implement the knowledge and skills acquired from the workshop. The 5th CamIDF was a valuable platform for fostering collaboration and innovation among the digital community in Cambodia.



Thank you!

*We look forward to welcoming you to*

6th

Cambodia ICT and  
Digital Forum

