Cambodia National Training on Data Governance for Digital Transformation

3-4 February 2025, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

BACKGROUND

Across the globe, governments are striving to modernize through digital transformation, leveraging technology and data to improve operations, enhance services, and address the evolving needs of citizens. At the core of these efforts is government data, a vital asset that, when managed effectively, can unlock efficiencies, enable data-driven decision-making, and transform service delivery. However, to fully realize its potential, this data must meet the necessary standards of quality, reliability, and usability. Additionally, governments must balance the transformative use of data with their obligations to uphold privacy, security, ethical practices, and transparency. This makes strong data governance not just an enabler of innovation but also a safeguard against the risks associated with managing vast and sensitive datasets.

Although definitions of data governance vary in scope and focus, they consistently emphasize key principles such as decision-making authority, accountability, and the systematic treatment of data as a strategic asset. Data Governance Frameworks are structured approaches or models that provide guidance on how to implement data governance effectively. They provide a systematic way to organise and execute data governance activities.

In Cambodia, the implementation of effective data governance is essential to advancing the country's digital transformation agenda. As the government strives to modernize its systems and processes, it faces unique challenges, such as managing data across diverse agencies, ensuring interoperability between older legacy systems and new digital platforms, and addressing the evolving expectations for transparency and accountability. Additionally, the government must navigate the complexities of cybersecurity, data privacy, and ethical data usage to ensure public trust while meeting global standards. Enhancing the quality and accessibility of government data is key to leveraging it as a "whole-of-government" asset that supports evidence-based policymaking, efficient service delivery, and inclusive development.

In this context, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT), a regional institute of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Ministry of

Posts and Telecommunications and the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology are organizing the Cambodia National Training on Data Governance for Digital Transformation on 3–4 February 2025 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The training is designed to build the capacity of Cambodian policymakers and civil servants to understand the critical importance of data governance and equip them with the skills and knowledge required to implement effective governance strategies.

OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to:

- To promote understanding of data governance and its relevance to digital transformation in government, highlighting the unique aspects that differentiate government data governance from private sector approaches;

- To explore the key components of data governance frameworks and how they apply to various government functions, emphasizing the challenges of cross-agency data sharing and integration;

- To examine practices and case studies in data governance reforms in the government sector from Asia-Pacific region and globally.

- To equip participants with practical tools and strategies for implementing data governance in their respective ministries and departments;

- To describe the "government data ecosystem" including the roles of various key agencies, including the unique responsibilities of government statistical agencies.

- To explore the tension between data confidentiality and the need for identifiable data in government operations, and strategies for balancing these competing demands; and

- To provide strategies for developing and sustaining capacity for effective data governance, considering the specific constraints and opportunities within government contexts.

PARTICIPANTS

The event will be attended by members of the data policy working group under the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Time	Description
Monday, 3 February 2025 **Foundations and Contextual Understanding**	
Time	Description
08:30 – 09:00	*Registration*
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session
09:30 – 10:45	**Session 1: Introductions, Cambodia Digital Transformation and Data needs** • **Objective: Explore Cambodia's digital transformation strategy, current state, and implications for government data use and governance.** • **Activities:** o Group exercise: mapping of Cambodia's digital transformation and data needs
10:45 – 11:00	*Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12:30	**Session 2: Data Governance Frameworks and Elements of Data Governance (Part 1)**
	
	• **Objective: Introduce Data Governance Frameworks and and evaluate the first three elements of data governance in the Cambodian context**
	  o Data Standards & Classification
	  o Data Sharing, Exchange, and Interoperability
	  o Data Security
	• **Activities:**
	  o Groups assigned one element each.
	  o Small group discussions on the current state, challenges, and gaps for assigned elements.

12:30 – 13:30	*Lunch*

13:30 – 15:00	**Session 3: Elements of Data Governance (Part 2)**
	
	• **Objective: Continue evaluating the remaining three elements**
	    ○ Data Privacy and Ethics
	    ○ Data Infrastructure
	    ○ Digital Identity
	• **Activities:**
	    ○ Same group exercise structure as Session 2.
	    ○ Groups prepare short presentations to share findings with all participants.

15:00 – 15:15	*Coffee Break*

15:45 – 17:00	**Session 4: Global Data Governance Trends**
	
	• **Objective: Understand global practices in data governance**
	• **Content:**
	    ○ International frameworks: OECD, Open Data Charter, UNDESA principles.
	    ○ Case examples from countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore.

Tuesday, 4 February 2025	
Applied Governance and Strategic Implementation	
Time	Description
08:30 – 09:00	*Registration*
09:00 – 10:30	**Session 5: Case Study on Data Sharing** • **Objective: Analyze stakeholder concerns and barriers in data sharing within a government context.** • **Activities:** ○ Role-play exercise: Groups represent different stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, citizens, private sector).
10:30– 10:45	*Coffee Break*
10:45 – 12:30	**Session 6: Data Sovereignty, Ethics, AI and Governance** • **Objective: Learn from an ethics failure (e.g., Robodebt) and identify governance measures to mitigate risks. Explore implications of AI.** • **Activities:** ○ Case study analysis in small groups: Identify key ethical and legal issues
12:30 – 13:30	*Lunch*

13:30 – 15:00	**Session 7: Building Data Culture and Capacity**
	
	• **Objective: Explore strategies to foster a data-driven culture and enhance skills in Cambodia's public sector.**
	• **Content:**
	   ○ Discuss leadership, literacy programs, and infrastructure development.
	   ○ Highlight successful capacity-building initiatives from other countries.
	• **Activities:**
	   ○ Group brainstorming: Strategies for data literacy and leadership.
	   ○ Delegates present examples of capacity-building from their organisations/countries.

15:00 – 15:15	*Coffee Break*

15:45 – 17:00	**Session 8: Data Governance Framework Implementation**
	
	• **Objective: Understand implementation options and practical steps for improving Cambodia's data governance.**
	• **Content:**
	  o Approaches to data governance improvement: Data Strategy, targeted programs, or specific projects.
	  o Models of data stewardship: Centralized, decentralized, or federated.
	• **Activities:**
	  o Group exercise: Explore the pros and cons of different implementation options.

17:00 – 17:30	Evaluation and Closing

Resource Person

Jonathan Palmer
Data Governance for Digital Transformation Resource Person

Over his career of more than 40 years, Jonathan served as Deputy Australian Statistician and he was the CIO for Statistics New Zealand, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the International Monetary Fund. In recent years Jonathan has assisted National Statistical System Strategy development in the Pacific and he is currently working with UNESCAP and APCICT in the areas of National Data Strategy and Data Governance capacity building.