







23-25 June 2022 Siem Reap Province

CAMBODIA ICT CAMP 2022 SPEAKER EVALUATION REPORT

This report is produced by Open Development Cambodia (ODC)

CAMBODIA ICT CAMP 2022

The **Cambodia ICT Camp 2022** was a three-day boarding-style event centered around *open data, digital security and data journalism*. The Camp was an initiative of **Open Development Cambodia (ODC)**, together with its partners and the Cambodia ICT Camp Advisory Committee, and was hosted between June 23-25, 2022 in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. This was the second edition of the Cambodia ICT Camp, which built on the success of the first back in 2018.

The event consisted of a series of interactive workshops and hands-on activities led by professional experts in the fields of data, media and communication, journalism, and technology. A total of 155 participants came together to learn, network and become active members of a community of alike professionals. The Camp was an engaging opportunity for in-depth learning and exploring the real-life applications of open data and digital technologies. Participants to the event consisted of Cambodian nationals from diverse but interrelated - fields, namely media and journalism, civil society organizations, digital rights working groups, government, private sector, university lecturers and students.

The Camp aimed to raise awareness about the expanding repressive legislative framework in Cambodia, and to discuss its implications for internet users and freedom of expression. In this line, the Camp sought to enhance the skills and knowledge of journalists, CSOs, and grassroots organizations to identify reliable data on the internet, communicate and disseminate their work in a secure manner, all ensuring their online privacy and security. Likewise, participants were encouraged to delve into the potential use of such tools for addressing societal issues, building inclusive communities and promoting freedom of expression in Cambodia.

SPEAKERS' EVALUATION

The Camp counted with a total of 33 of speakers, including both Cambodians and foreigners from across the world. They consisted of leading experts in the fields of open data, digital security and data journalism. Speakers had different training and professional backgrounds, which brought an interesting wide range of expertise and perspectives to the discussions. Speakers included academics, development practitioners, researchers and tech experts.

This evaluation report presents the feedback provided by 18 Camp speakers. Their opinions were gathered through an online survey at the end of the Cambodia ICT Camp. The questionnaire contained both multiple choice and open-ended questions. The data that appears in this report is complete and reflects the ideas and comments as provided by the survey respondents.

OVERALL SATISFACTION

All speaker respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Camp, with no negative opinions regarding the overall satisfaction with the Camp's arrangements.

Importantly, speakers agreed that they would recommend the Camp to friends, colleagues and other potential speakers. They would especially recommend it to professionals working in the government and academia.

The Cambodia ICT Camp was also an opportunity for speakers to learn about other digital issues that might not be under their main scope.



Respondents mentioned that they gained significant knowledge about the topics covered in the Cambodia ICT Camp.

Another benefit of the Camp, according to the respondents, was that it was a fruitful and useful occasion for networking. The boarding-style format, structured around a variety of activities, allowed speakers to interact with other speakers and participants.

TRAINING TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

The Cambodia ICT Camp consisted of expert presentations, hands-on workshops and informal activities for networking.



Overall, the feedback received from speakers was positive. Ice-breaking activities were the least preferred type of activities, with roughly half of respondents evaluating it as satisfied and very satisfied. While 28% of answers were neutral, the remaining 17% were dissatisfied.

The duration of the main presentations was found suitable. 84% of respondents positively evaluated it while 17% remained neutral. There were no negative answers.

As much as an 88% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the adequacy of contents covered in the different presentations, with only two respondents who selected the "neutral" answer. Hence, it was generally agreed that the content provided by speakers was well-connected to the three main topics of the Camp.

Most presentations met the speakers' expectations. 39% and 44% of respondents were satisfied and very satisfied, while the remaining 17% expressed a neutral opinion.

In addition, the Camp also included a field trip. Speakers were generally satisfied and very satisfied with this activity, including the destination, departure time and overall arrangements. Indeed, only one respondent answered "neutral" for the departure time. With regard to the choice of the destination, only two respondents chose "neutral" and one dissatisfied.



Respondents were asked about their preferred Camp theme (this question allowed up to two answers per respondent). Digital Security and Open Data were clearly the two preferred options, by 61% of respondents. The topic of Data Journalism was among the preferred option for only 28% of speakers.

Speakers appreciated the diversity of themes covered by the Camp. They got to learn new tools for interacting with data and they dived into the digital scene of Cambodia, which allowed them to better understand its context. Likewise, they also appreciated the professional diversity of participants, as this contributed to engaging debates with different points of view.

When asked about what they had learned from other speakers, respondents emphasized the topics on the influence of open data, digital security and data journalism on sustainable development. They also appreciated the chance of exploring fake news and fact checking, legal aspects, strategic knowledge, mapping, cyber security and new technologies.

CAMP ORGANIZERS AND COMMUNICATION

The coordination of the organizers and the communication between the organization and speakers/ participants was very positively evaluated by respondents.

The following list of organization and communication aspects show the share of speaker respondents who valued the following aspects with either the "satisfied" or "very satisfied" answer options.

- Hospitality of the Camp organizers: 100%
- Support from the Camp organizers when you faced any challenges: 100%
- Support from the Camp volunteers when you faced any challenges: 100%
- Facilitation of MCs and the utility of the information provided by them: 78%
- Getting updated Camp information: 94%
- Communication via Telegram: 100%
- Communication via email: 83%
- All speakers believed that the duration of the application period to submit proposals was adequate.

LOGISTICAL ARRANGMENTS

Logistical arrangements, including accommodation, transportation and meals also received positive feedback in general. The following list shows the share of speaker respondents who valued related aspects with either the "satisfied" or "very satisfied" answer options.

- Hospitality of hotel services: 72%
- Traveling time to the Camp venue: 67%
- Transportation arrangements to the Camp: 94%
- Hotel room: 100%
- Meals provided (breakfast, lunch and dinner): 89%

PARTICIPANTS' ENGAGEMENT

When asked for participants' engagement in the Camp, the opinions of speakers differed.

While half of them agreed that, in general, participants were very involved, asking relevant questions and discussing different topics, the other half recognized they would have appreciated a higher engagement. They claim participants missed some sessions and that, maybe, the language employed was a barrier. It needs to be noted that some sessions were in Khmer language while other were in English, based on the speaker.

WAY FORWARD: IMPROVEMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Importantly, 100% of speaker respondents would like to take part in the next edition of the Cambodia ICT Camp.

Speakers were asked about their preferences with regard to the organization of the event. First, the majority of respondents prefer that the Camp is conducted on weekdays (67%) rather than on the weekend (33%). Second, regarding the frequency of the Camp, an overwhelming majority of respondents answered that the event should be organized on an annual basis (83%), whereas the remaining 17% suggested every two years. Third, a three-day Camp is the adequate length of the event for the majority of speaker respondents (61%). In contrast, a four-day and a five-day Camp would be preferred by the 22% and the 17% of respondents, respectively.



Even though 100% of speakers were satisfied with the Camp, there are some details they would improve for the next event.

They suggested more interactive activities between speakers, more public participation and slightly shorter sessions. Another suggestion was to invite more government representatives in the panel sessions and more participants. Also, some of them would appreciate a more casual atmosphere, including some entertainment between sessions, such as some music. They would also value more practical exercises and participatory discussions.

Additionally, two speakers mentioned that they would have preferred all sessions to be in Khmer, with instant translation for English speaking participants. This might have facilitated interaction and debates.

In a more practical aspect, some speakers asked for a better internet connection as well as getting the schedule and logistics more in advance.

When asked about which topics they would like to include in the next Camp, they highlighted:

- Digital rights and cybersecurity (gender and Internet, online harassment and kid's privacy)
- Block chain
- Investigative Journalism (data and multimedia)
- Power BI for Data visualization.
- Fake news: fact checking and verification tools
- Internet Development Assessment in Cambodia
- WordPress
- ICT4D

Regarding the location of the next camp, the vast majority of speakers suggested Preah Sihanouk, while only a few voted for Phnom Penh or Kampot.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK AND ACKNOLEDGEMENTS

Speakers concluded the evaluation of the Camp highlighting its benefits and appreciating the work of volunteers, organizers and other speakers. Also, the majority of them assured they are already looking forward to joining the event next year.

This report is analyzed and prepared by Open Development Cambodia team.

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