

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION REPORT

CAMBODIA ICT CAMP 2022

This report is produced by Open Development Cambodia (ODC)

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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 to 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. 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.

Participants' evaluation

A total of 155 participants and speakers came together to learn, network and become active members of a community of like 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.

This evaluation report presents the feedback provided by 73 Camp participants. 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

The vast majority of participant respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Camp. Nevertheless, some (15%) had a neutral opinion while 4% of them were dissatisfied with the event in overall terms (see Figure 1).

Regarding the duration of the Camp, it was considered suitable by the majority of respondents (85%). Some participants would have preferred a longer event; 8% of respondents argued it was short and 1% that it was too short. In that line, 22 respondents considered they didn't have enough time to share their experiences. The remaining 5% of respondents, on the other side, found the Camp to be long.

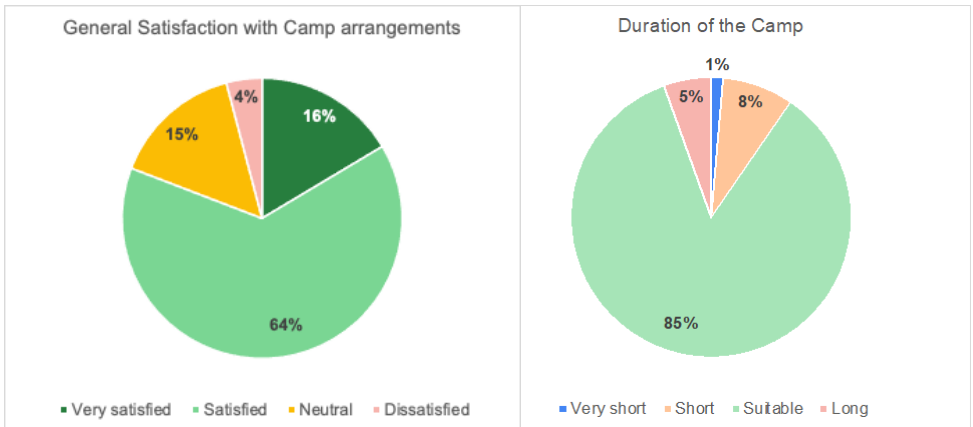


Figure 1. Overall satisfaction of Camp arrangements and Camp duration.

The Cambodia ICT Camp was an opportunity for participants to gain significant knowledge about the topics covered in the camp, to share professional experiences and to meet professionals in the field. For that matter, another huge benefit of the Camp, according to the respondents, was that it was a fruitful and useful occasion for networking. The variety of activities allowed participants to interact with other participants and speakers.

THEMATIC AREAS AND CONTENT

The Cambodia ICT Camp consisted of expert presentations, hands-on workshops and informal activities for networking. Overall, the feedback received from participants was positive or neutral, despite a few negative opinions, as it is shown in Figure 2. Most presentations met the participants' expectations. 16% and 53% of respondents were satisfied and very satisfied, respectively, while 27% expressed a neutral opinion and the remaining 3% indicated they were very dissatisfied.

As much as 76% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the adequacy of contents covered in the different presentations, while 23% of respondents selected the "neutral" answer and only one participant was dissatisfied. Hence, it was generally agreed that the content provided by speakers was enriching and useful, although some participants felt a lack of practical experience sharing on the part of speakers. The majority of participants felt either satisfied or neutral about the duration of presentation. 53% of respondents positively evaluated it, while 40% remained neutral and 6% felt dissatisfied.

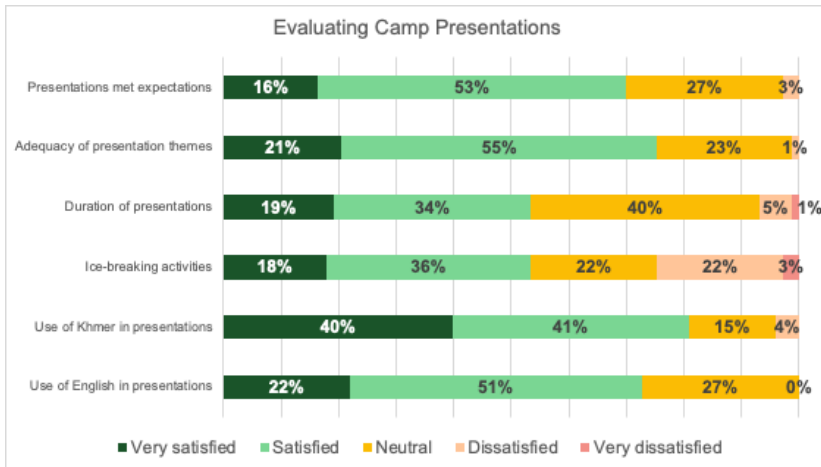


Figure 2. Participants’ satisfaction regarding the different Camp activities

Ice-breaking activities received the lowest ratings, with just over half of respondents evaluating it as satisfied and very satisfied. While 54% of answers were satisfied or neutral, the remaining 46% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Regarding the language used in the presentations, both the amount of English and Khmer, generally met with a positive reception, although in additional comments, a significant number of participants admit they would have appreciated Khmer as the only language spoken throughout the Camp.

Figure 3 shows the preferred thematic track among respondents (a maximum of two answers were allowed). Digital security was, by far, the preferred topic, chosen by 81% of respondents, whilst Open Data was selected by 49% of them. The subject on Data Journalism was among the preferred option for only 27%.

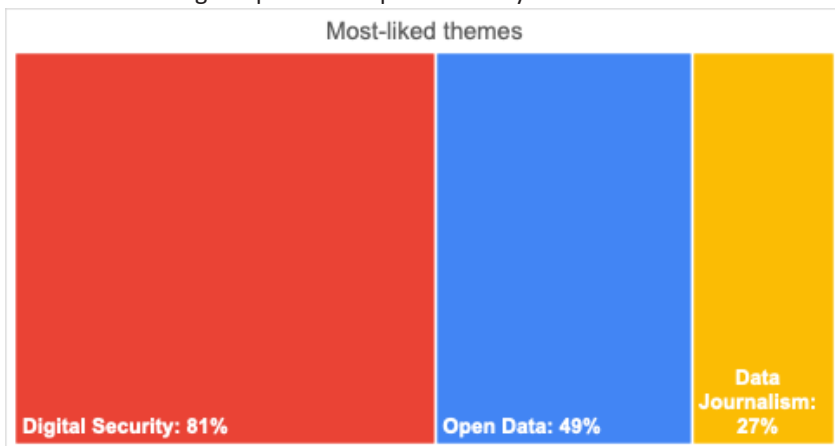


Figure 3. Most-liked theme of the Cambodia ICT Camp.

Assistants appreciated the diversity of themes covered by the Camp. They got to learn many ICT tools and practices for creating websites, data visualization and digital security while analyzing the digital scene of Cambodia. Additionally, they valued the diversity of speakers, although some participants agreed there should be even more different backgrounds.

When asked about what they had learned from speakers, participants highlighted the topics on cyber security, data journalism, digital rights and detecting fake news. In a more practical aspect, many participants also emphasized the topics on data visualization and programs for creating websites.

Participants were as well asked to select the specific presentations that they enjoyed the most (they could select up to 5 presentations for the whole Camp). Figure 4 shows the three most-liked presentations for each of the three thematic tracks along the share of total respondents who selected it. For the Open Data track, the most-liked presentations were “Open Data 101” (selected by 47% of respondents), “Using data science to improve public services” (12%) and “Build a website with Twitter Bootstrap 5 in 90 minutes” (10%). Under the Digital Security track, 45% of respondents chose “Cyberattack 101” among their preferred presentations, followed by “Data Protection and Personal Data in Cambodia” (19%) and “Digital Security Audit” (12%). The three most-liked presentations under the Data Journalism track were “Introduction to Data Journalism” (37%), “Fake news: Fact checking and verification tools” (25%) and “Data Visualization” (16%).

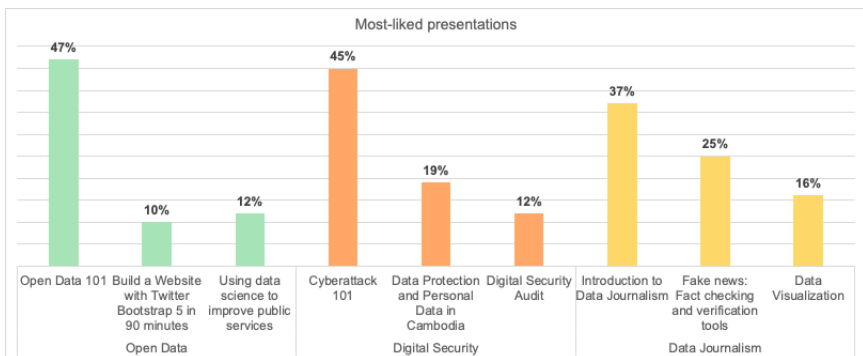


Figure 4. Most-liked presentations by participant respondents.

CAMP ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNICATION

Overall, the coordination of the organizers and the communication between the organization and speakers/participants was positively evaluated by respondents, although some participants claimed having had some trouble when it came to information delivery. Participants valued the support received from both Camp organizers and volunteers.

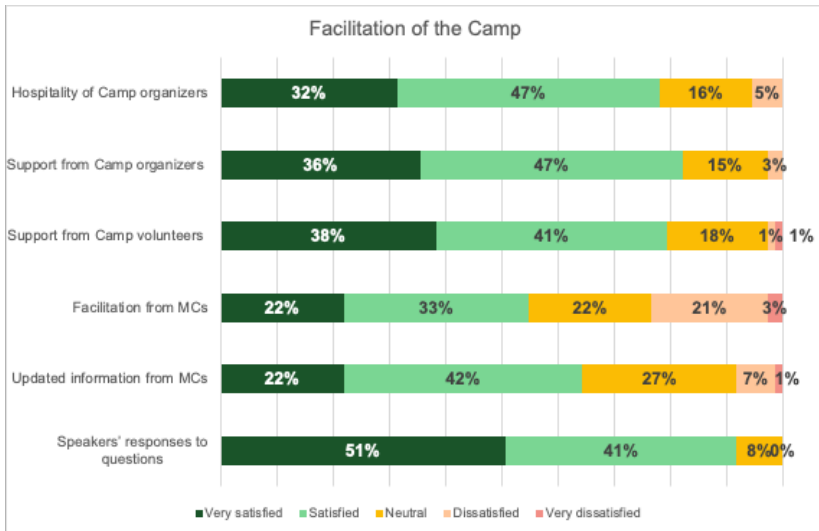


Figure 5. Evaluation of facilitation aspects.

In terms of communication channels between Camp organizers and participants, the Telegram group was the preferred option: 38% were very satisfied, 38% satisfied, 18% remained neutral and the other 5% showed dissatisfaction (see Figure 6). As for the email, 34% of respondents were very satisfied, 30% satisfied, 30% neutral, 4% dissatisfied and only 1% was very dissatisfied.

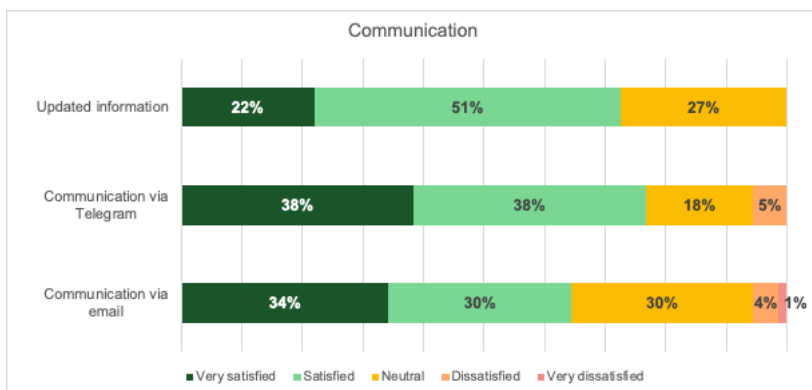


Figure 6. Communication channels.

As for the duration of the registration period, most participants considered they were provided enough time to apply. Indeed, as much as 83% of participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with the length of the registration period (see Figure 7). The remaining 15% and 1% were neutral or dissatisfied, respectively. Similarly, participants were pleased with the registration form: 85% were satisfied and very satisfied, whereas the remaining 15% remained neutral.

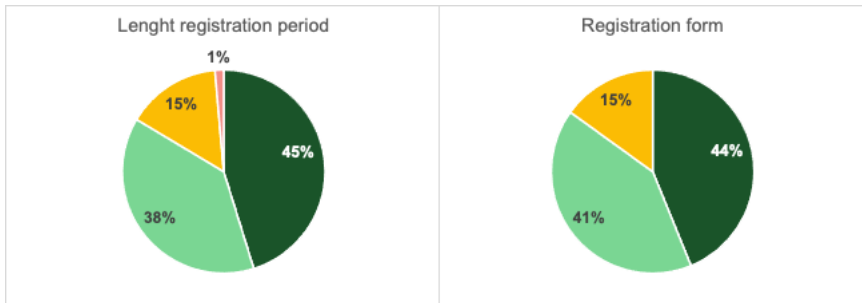


Figure 7. Camp application and registration.

LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

Logistical arrangements, including accommodation, transportation and meals also received positive feedback in general, although some participants remained neutral in certain aspects.

The quality and adequacy of the food and meals provided was the best-rated category, with as much as 85% of them being satisfied or very satisfied. While most the vast majority considered that the duration of meals and breaks was adequate, 13% of respondents were not satisfied with it, although the questionnaire does not specify whether they were believed to be too short or too long.

As for the transportation means and traveling time to the Camp venue, the majority of respondents provided positive feedback. The aspect that received the lowest rate in the logistical question was hotel hospitality.

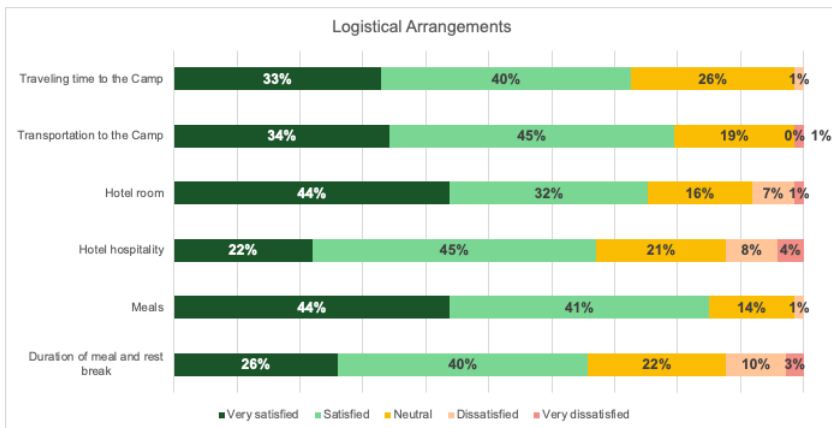


Figure 8. Logistic arrangements.

DAY OUTING

In addition to the Camp sessions and learning activities, the Camp also included a field trip. This was an opportunity for connecting and networking in a more distended activity. The destination of this activity was welcomed by the majority of respondents (58%), although some did not have a strong opinion (34%) or were dissatisfied (8%).

While over half of respondents were satisfied with the duration of the outing, a substantial share remained neutral (32%), dissatisfied (12%) and very dissatisfied (3%). Regarding the departure time, almost half of participants were either neutral or dissatisfied.

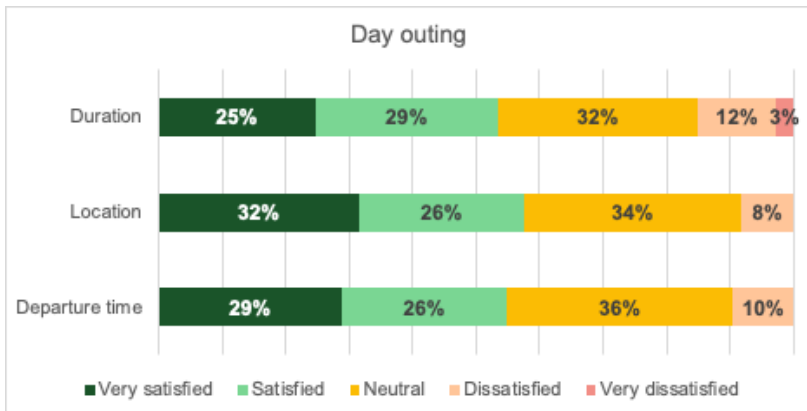


Figure 9. Evaluation of outing day.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Importantly, 97% of participant respondents would like to take part in the next edition of the Cambodia ICT Camp, and 56% would like to be speakers in the next Camp.

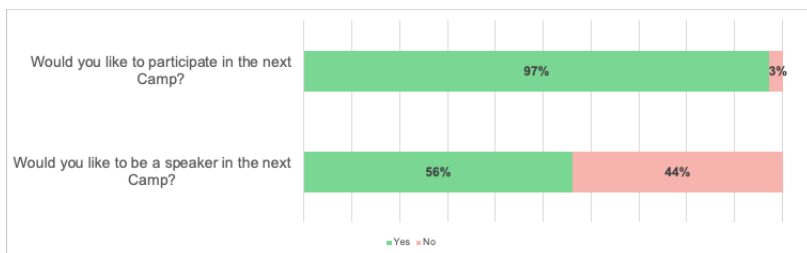


Figure 10. Interest in participating in the next edition of the Cambodia ICT Camp.

Participants 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 weekends (75%) rather than on weekdays (25%). Second, regarding the frequency of the Camp, over half of respondents answered that the event should be organized on an annual basis (56%), whereas the remaining 44% suggested every two years. Third, according to the survey, a three-day Camp is the adequate length of the event for

over half of participant respondents (56%). In contrast, a four-day and a five-day Camp would be preferred by the 21% and the 23% of respondents, respectively.

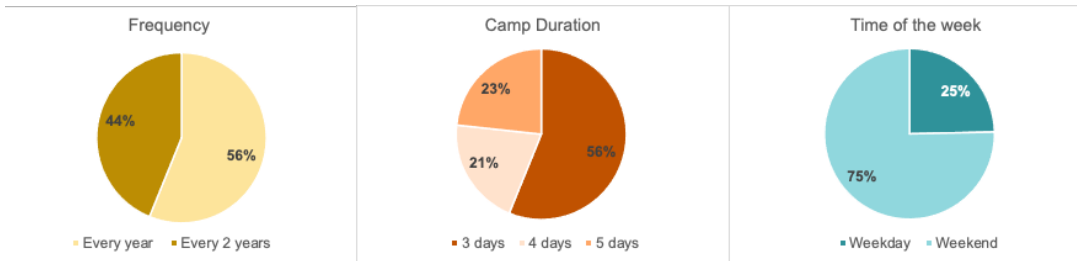


Figure 11. Preferences for next edition of the Cambodia ICT Camp.

Regarding the venue for the next Camp’s editions, the following percentage of participants voted for the proposed locations:

- *Preah Sihanouk*: 41%
- *Seam Reap*: 37%
- *Other*: 11% (*Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, Kampoung Chhnang, Koh Kong*)
- *Phnom Penh*: 7%
- *Kampot*: 4%

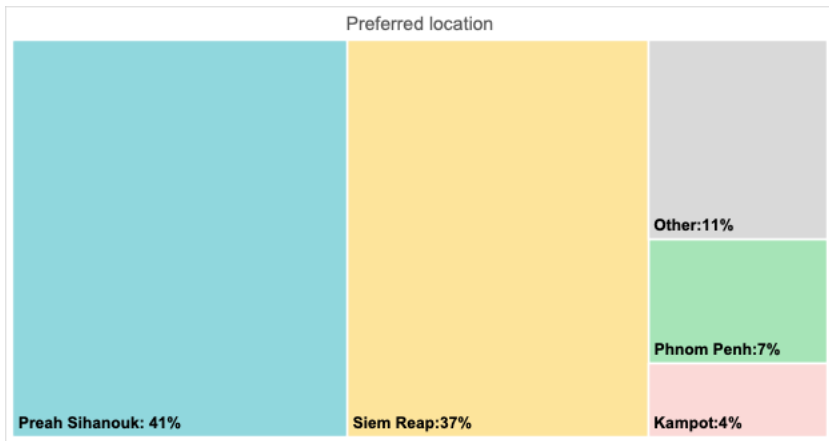


Figure 12. Preferred location for the next edition of the Cambodia ICT Camp.

Even though the overall satisfaction of participants was great, there are some details they would improve for the next event.

They suggested more interactive activities between them and also with speakers, slightly shorter sessions and more personal time, arguing the Camp’s schedule is pretty tight.

Some other suggest that the next edition should engage other young initiatives or

groups like Politikofee, Future Forum, and also media influencers and more journalists to share their experiences.

The vast majority of speakers also highlighted how they would deeply appreciate speakers sharing more practical experience. Also regarding speakers, a participant suggested considering gender balance.

Additionally, five 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.

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

- Data science and privacy
- Data visualization
- data journalism
- digital marketing
- ethics of data collection
- Media Consumption Research
- Gender Equality and LGBTQ right in Cambodia
- 5G
- Wordpress (building a website, buying domain names, configuration of IP Network...)

Overall, participants concluded the evaluation of the Camp highlighting how enriching it was and ensuring they would use their new knowledge in their job.

The majority of them even said it was the best Camp they had attended so far and that they are really looking forward to joining the next edition.

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

The Cambodia ICT Camp 2022 is supported by The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.