



Data, Development and the Environment: Mekong Data-Driven Journalism and Advocacy Workshop

23-27 June 2016

Yangon, Myanmar

In recent years, journalists and civil society groups have increasingly used data analysis and visualization to tell their stories. All over the world, data sources are now more easily accessible, and there are many tools and technologies that make it easier to gather, analyze and present data in effective ways. As economies in the Mekong and ASEAN regions quickly move forward, this opportunity is especially important in analyzing issues around development and the environment.

[Phandeeyar](#), an Innovation Lab located in Yangon, Myanmar, is hosting a 5-day workshop in Data Driven Journalism and Advocacy from 23 to 27 June, 2016. It is an excellent opportunity not only to learn the technical skills required for working with data, but also to build networks with like-minded folks from across the region. The workshop will put a special emphasis on exploring issues related to regional development projects and their costs and benefits - such as how extractives, hydropower dams or special economic zones may affect the environment and communities.

The workshop will be organized with support from [Internews](#), [Open Development Mekong](#), and [Mekong Partnership for the Environment](#), which is led by Pact and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshop is part of the [Mekong Matters Journalism Network](#)'s efforts to increase the capacity of journalists to report on environmental issues. The lead trainer is [Eva Constantaras](#), who has extensive experience training data journalists in many countries, including a series of workshops last year in Yangon teaching data skills to Myanmar journalists and civil society groups.

Participants will include journalists and civil society communicators from around the Mekong region: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Participants do not need expert skills, but should be comfortable working with data and technology.

Participants will learn skills such as:

- How to effectively tell data-driven stories

- Web-scraping to gather data from online sources
- Making interactive visualizations
- Making online maps
- Analysing datasets with Excel
- Working with datasets from across the Mekong region
- We aim for participants to finish the workshop with real data products in final or draft form

There is no fee for this course. All travel and other costs will be covered by the organizers.

