Project Title: Opening Up Cambodia’s Donors & Development Assistance Data

Client/Host Agency: Open Development Cambodia – a project of East-West Management Institute in Cambodia

Background: About Open Development Cambodia:

Open Development Cambodia (ODC) offers an “Open Data” website - www.opendevcam.net - the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. As an online hub compiling freely available data in a ‘one-stop shop’, ODC provides the public with up-to-date information about Cambodia and its economic and social development. The site is based on the simple premise that information collected for public interest should available without restrictions. ODC contributes to transparency and critical analysis in both the public and private sectors, in the belief that “Open Data” will enhance Cambodia’s development and sustainability benefiting all segments of its society.

ODC was conceived by East-West Management Institute, a not-for-profit organization that supports democratic governance and civil-society strengthening in Cambodia and several other countries, in consultation with local and international partners. The project is implemented by a young and dynamic Cambodian staff. Central to its success are a web of partnerships contributing to collaborative information-sharing and engaging students and others in contributing to the site and increasing their skills through volunteer opportunities. Open Development Cambodia anticipates registering as a local non-profit by 2014.

About this Project:

To date, ODC has focused on collecting and presenting data related to private investment, and to a lesser extent, public infrastructure development. The lack of information on donors is a significant gap and ODC users have requested more information on this sector. In addition, Western donors working in Cambodia are also interested in greater aid transparency, but there are few venues through which to support this in an objective way. This ODC project will help to fill that gap.

Project Concept:
Since the signing of the Paris Peace Accord in 1991, Cambodia has received substantial development aid from various international financial institutions, governments and agencies. While increasingly development partners are offering up websites that provide information and data related to their assistance, there has been no attempt to aggregate all of these data, and put them into a single website for public or academic use. Nor is there any way to view and analyze donor data in relation to other developments in real time.

ODC’s Development Assistance section will fill this gap. The section will aggregate and provide ODC users (among them the public, students, researchers, NGOs government workers, and development partners) with facts/data, news, and documents related to development aid in Cambodia. The aim is to help facilitate research and analysis by a wide range of players, while also informing policy-makers’ decisions. The page is expected to describe various kinds of assistance (multi-lateral, bilateral, foundations, etc) and elucidate the contributions of a wide range of donors to Cambodia.

Objective:

ODC would like the assistance of a SIPA team to initiate a Donors and Development Assistance (DDA) section of the ODC website. This would involve (1) developing an overall structure for the DDA section, including an introductory page and cascading sub-pages and links; (2) drafting some of the core content (e.g., a development assistance overview, donor profiles, and interactive maps and info-graphics showing key DDA data); and (3) developing guidelines for ODC staff to further expand and regularly update the section. ODC will be open to the SIPA team’s ideas, and encourages the team to consult with other local stakeholders on how best to organize and present the DDA data online. ODA’s current expectation is that the DDA section would include:

- **Development assistance overview:** equivalent to an easy-to-read 6-8 page briefing paper providing a brief objective treatment of development assistance to Cambodia, including sub-sections (or sub-pages) on the policy and legal framework pertaining to development aid, a brief history of development assistance, basic facts/statistics related to development aid, main actors involved, and prospects and challenges.

- **Donor profiles:** sub-pages containing key information related to each development partner (DP), including their country program, focus areas, form of assistance, projects, funding status, and relations with the government and other national and international non-governmental organizations. This is expected to include: World Bank, ADB, EU, USAID, China and at least one major foundation (such as the Gates Foundation) at a minimum.

- **Maps:** interactive maps showing projects currently implemented or supported by DPs. (These would most likely build on or link to the interactive maps already on the ODC website.)

- **Info-graphic:** info-graphics that show key data related to
development assistance to Cambodia

- **News and Videos:** links to news articles and video clips related to development assistance to Cambodia
- **Publications:** links to public materials (e.g., e-books, reports, newsletters, etc.) published by development partners or reporting on development assistance in Cambodia
- **Press releases:** links to press releases issued by all DPs related to their Cambodia activities

**Tasks:**

The project is expected to involve the following tasks:

- In November-December 2013, the SIPA team and their faculty advisor will (1) establish contact with the ODC Research & Volunteer Coordinator and the EWI ODC Project Manager/Advisor to clarify the scope and sequence of work; (2) familiarize themselves with the current ODC website and content; (3) conduct background research on Cambodia, including development actors and development-related issues there, through desk research and interviews with relevant experts; and (4) plan for an initial field visit to Cambodia in January 2014.
- In early January 2014, some SIPA team members will travel to Cambodia to meet with ODC’s Editorial, IT, and Mapping teams to learn more about the Cambodian context and the current ODC website structure, and to discuss options for data collection, research write-up, development of maps and info-graphics, and information curation for the DDA section of the website. During this visit, ODC will also arrange for the SIPA team to meet other key stakeholders and to visit development project areas, to better understand the local development landscape and needs of local stakeholders for DDA information.
- In February 2014, the SIPA team will (1) analyze information collected thus far and conduct further research as needed, including review of other “open data” websites and scans of relevant DDA-Cambodia resources, (2) develop a proposed structure for the DDA section of the website, and (3) begin to draft core content for DDA section and guidelines for future page management, including timelines, sources, standards for regular updates, and areas for further development.
- In March 2014, members of the SIPA team will return to Cambodia to present their initial recommendations to, and get feedback from, ODC staff and other key stakeholders, and to conduct additional field research as needed.
- In April 2014, the SIPA team will finalize its recommendations for the structure of the DDA section, core content (including DDA overview, donor profiles, interactive maps and/or info-graphics, and links to relevant DDA resources), and guidelines for regular updates and further improvements to the DDA section.

**Deliverables:**

The deliverables for the project will include:
• A detailed work plan;
• A draft outline of the DDA section of the ODC website;
• Drafts and final versions of core content for the DDA section (most likely including an overview of DDA in Cambodia, key donor profiles, interactive maps and/or info-graphics, and links to relevant resources);
• A draft and final report, including recommendations on page management, a list (or lists) of relevant resources to link to the DDA section, and recommendations on linking to the global “open data” movement;
• Copies or links to relevant resources referenced in the final report;
• A presentation of the team’s initial recommendations to ODC staff at the end of their March trip; and
• A presentation of the team’s final recommendations at SIPA in early May 2014. (Arrangements can also be made to present the team’s final recommendations to ODC staff, for example, through skype.)

Requirements:
Students are expected to have strong research and English language writing skills, and ability to analyze, organize and present data, including developing info-graphics and/or maps. Prior knowledge of Cambodia, Asia, development assistance and/or the “open data” movement is appreciated but not required. Likewise, IT, digital mapping and/or skills in graphics design, are also welcome but not required. Students should be receptive to working with young Cambodian professionals, whose English language skills and/or exposure to wider trends may sometimes be limited but who are knowledgeable on the Cambodian context and who can advise SIPA student researchers as well as be advised by them.

Logistics:
The SIPA student team will conduct desk research and informational interviews in New York City beginning in November 2013. Subject to further consultation with ODC, the team will conduct field research in Cambodia in January and March 2014. The team will complete its final report by early May 2014.

ODC will provide the SIPA team with relevant background documents, and local logistical support as needed for the team’s field research.