



Call for Proposals

Promoting Internet Freedoms in Southeast Asia

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite proposals for a grant as part of its program to advance international and regional norms to protect the exercise of the freedoms of association, assembly and expression online. A grant of up to \$50,000 USD is available for a project meeting the criteria discussed below. The project timeframe is from April 2021 – July 2022 (15 months).

Applications are due by March 5, 2021.

Background

Governments in Southeast Asia have been placing legal restrictions on the ability of citizens to exercise the freedoms of association, assembly and expression online. These restrictions take many forms, from criminal defamation and lèse majesté laws to prohibiting “offensive” or “insulting” content to overly broad “Anti-Fake News” laws. Laws also permit governments to undertake surveillance of digital communications without adequate judicial oversight. New laws that affect these fundamental freedoms continue to be introduced.

In this context, ICNL is implementing the Promoting Internet Freedom in Southeast Asia (IFSEA) program, which will seek to overcome some of the restrictions to exercising fundamental freedoms on the internet in Cambodia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste by combining ICNL’s legal expertise and global network with exceptional regional partners.

As part of this program, ICNL seeks to partner with a Cambodia-based organization to strengthen regional and domestic advocacy promoting internet freedoms. While the partner may engage in a variety of activities designed to meet the grant’s objective, the selected applicant will be expected to:

1. Hold one “town hall” with citizens, specifically from marginalized communities, to understand how restrictions to fundamental freedoms online negatively impact people’s lives and livelihoods. The “town hall” should be a 1 or 2-day meeting, or a series of half-day/full day events in different provinces/regions. [Please include contingency plans to host “virtual” event(s) in case of health and safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.]

Participants of the events must include marginalized communities, grassroots leaders, civil society leaders (including labor leaders), human rights defenders, as well as academics, lawyers, and/or parliamentarians or government officials, only if appropriate.

2. Assist project partners by identifying participants to attend a Regional Workshop held with parliamentarians from the target countries and APHR's Working Group on Democracy and Fundamental Freedoms, project partners, and leading civil society organizations. The purpose of the event will be to introduce the results from the project's baseline research and advocacy materials, as well as to strategize and share lessons learned about how to advocate for better regional and domestic protections to internet freedoms.
3. Coordinate and lead efforts to contribute to upcoming Universal Period Review (UPR) reports focusing on internet freedoms.
4. Contribute to other project objectives, such as, reviewing and providing input on base-line study of internet freedoms in Cambodia, toolkit for parliamentarians and other knowledge-products, and work with other sub-grantees, as needed.

Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following items **in English**:

- Application coversheet (see below).
- Proposal (see below).
- Line-item budget (no more than \$50,000 USD).
- Background of organizational expertise (1 page).
- Resumes/CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.
- Copy of notarized registration certificate confirming the status of a legal entity of the applicant.

Content of Proposal

In **two pages or less**, please describe your proposal. The proposal should include a proposed activity plan with specific goals and a timeline, recognizing that the time frame for grant activities is April 2021 – July 2022 (15 months).

Please also attach a **line-item budget and a background of organizational expertise** (which do not count toward the 2-page limit for the proposal).

Eligibility Requirements

Open to any non-profit or civil society organization registered in Cambodia. Applicants are also encouraged to form a consortium.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures.
- Demonstrated commitment of the applicant to improving civic space and internet freedoms.
- Quality of proposed project, including the project's innovations, the proposed methodology/design, and feasibility of the project (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable).
- Likelihood that the proposed project will enhance internet freedoms.
- Proposed budget and value for money.
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

Terms of Reference

The grant recipient will be required to submit a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursement. All project activities must be take place between April 2021 and July 2022.

Deadline

Applicants should submit their applications no later than March 5, 2021; applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the deadline. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

How to Apply

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents, to asia@icnl.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is "IFSEA Cambodia Application 2021."

Application Coversheet

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.

- I have attached a proposal that is no more than two pages in length.
- I have attached a line-item budget of no more than \$50,000.
- I have attached a background of organizational expertise that is no more than one page in length.