



Call for Proposals

Promoting Internet Freedoms in Cambodia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite proposals for grants as part of its project to promote Internet Freedom (IF) in Cambodia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste, and advance international and regional norms to protect IF. Grants of up to \$10,000 USD are available for projects meeting the criteria discussed below. While projects of up to \$10,000 are preferred, a higher award amount will be considered for exceptional proposals, where the need for the additional funds requested is clearly demonstrated. The activity funded by each grant must be completed by July 31, 2023.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funds are depleted.

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, Malaysia and Timor-Leste by combining ICNL’s legal expertise and global network with exceptional regional partners.

Through this program, ICNL aims to support public awareness, strategic engagement, innovative information exchange and advocacy by civil society groups to promote and protect the exercise of the freedoms of association, assembly and expression, and the right to privacy on the internet at the local and national levels. ICNL is especially concerned that new laws and regulations, which restrict IF, are being passed quickly and without adequate public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ICNL seeks to support civil society organizations (CSOs) in Cambodia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste to carry out short-term, high-impact activities to protect IF and resist restrictive laws, regulations and governmental policies related to IF.

Proposals may seek to promote and protect IF by addressing topics including, but not limited to, addressing disinformation and restrictions to the free expression; strengthening oversight of surveillance and the collection and use of personal data through artificial intelligence or other means; and countering authoritarian approaches to IF by ensuring a free, open and secure internet.

The applicant may select from a broad range of activities designed to achieve the grant's objective, including, but not limited to:

- Collecting information around new or draft regulations and legislation affecting IF; developing legal analyses, white papers, and policy briefs; and proposing legal and policy recommendations to protect and promote IF.
- Developing new tools, strategies, activities, and alliances to advocate for greater protections of IF.
- Conducting roundtables, seminars, or informational campaigns to formulate civil society strategies and raise awareness on specific topics related to IF.

This list is illustrative, and ICNL strongly encourages applicants with innovative ideas and approaches not described above to apply.

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 \$10,000 USD).
- Resumes/CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.
- Background information about the applicant organization (e.g., website links or informational materials).
- 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 address the following topics:

- Identify a clear challenge for IF resulting from proposed or enacted government policies, laws and regulation(s).
- Provide an overview of the proposed initiative to overcome, ease, or navigate the challenge, including specific activities and anticipated outcomes.
- Describe applicant's experience implementing similar activities proposed in this call.
- Identify other CSOs, government bodies, and other stakeholders that will be engaged in the activities outlined in the application.
- Provide a proposed activity plan with specific goals and a timeline, recognizing that grant activities must be completed no later than July 31, 2022.

Please also attach a line-item budget (which does not count toward the 2-page limit for the proposal).

Eligibility Requirements

Open to any civil society organization registered in Cambodia, Malaysia or Timor-Leste, or any civil society organization with offices and/or substantial ties to Cambodia, Malaysia or Timor-Leste.

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.
- 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 civic space.
- Proposed budget and value for money.
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it, along with all required documents, by email (see instructions below).

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 completed no later than July 31, 2022.

Deadline

Applicants should submit their applications no later than October 31, 2022; applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the deadline or until grant funds are depleted. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

How to Apply

Please complete the coversheet below 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 Grant Application 2022."

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 the CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.
- ☐ I have attached a line-item budget.
- ☐ I have attached the registration certificate for my civil society organization.