# Meeting Minutes

ICT4D Working Group, October 29, 2015

Chair: Jade Lamb, Pact

Organizations Attending: PSI, MIMU, US State Department, CommCare, UNICEF, FERD, UNESCO, International Alert, Asia Foundation, Myanmar Watch, OneWorld, Paywast, Phandeeyar, iWomen, INSTEDD, Ngwe Su, Pact

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| Activity | Follow up |
| 1. Mohinga Aid Information Management System, Thuzar Khin from FERD and Leigh Mitchell
* Intended to make aid in Myanmar more transparent
* Managed by FERD, funded by EU
* Now data from major donors is uploaded and being updated on a regular basis. The database is publicly accessible.
* Includes dashboards by agency, location, etc. for easy overviews. Also can see pages by donor, project for more detailed information. Can create queries to make datasets and download this data.
* Right now all data is coming from donors, so there’s not much on how agencies are using the funds. Getting this information is the next step. There is also limited awareness by the ministry on what NGOs/CSOs are doing with the fund disbursed, and currently limited monitoring capacity in the ministry to assess effectiveness of projects.
* Right now FERD is focused on data quality and making the datasets more complete.
* Using Raw Density Design for data visualization.
* Eventually will try to look at alignment of aid with country priorities, effectiveness of aid.
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| 1. New Niti App, Angelkia Kahlos, OneWorld
* New Niti app is a civic education app for Myanmar developed on fact-based, collaborative, youth-inclusive, edutainment, value-based and technical approaches
* Team developing app came from civil society background
* Questions in chapters on civic values, i.e. should everyone be an active citizen and why; able to track changes in attitudes through the app
* Tried to make the app something people would want to use, hence the video and story-based narrative. Education is based on conversations between characters representing different points of view with the hope that users will identify with some of these points of view and better understand others.
* Both English and Myanmar language
* Able to ask questions to civil society experts and some political representatives. These questions go to a New Niti inbox (de-identified), and staff can forward questions if regular staff do not know answers. Can ask through the app if there’s an internet connection or on Facebook.
* Main lessons learn were to know the context of the country before beginning and build partnerships
* Niti is available through Google Play. It is 90 MB so expect that distribution will also be through Zapya etc.
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| 1. Hate speech comments monitoring app, Michael Zlatarich
* The problem: there does not currently exist a tool that allows export of comments from facebook or other social media platforms, making them difficult to analyze and search. Most search of comments is done manually. However, comments are an important way to monitor reactions to post and how they spread.
* Locarere is the app developed to help with this problem. From the site, which is currently in beta, users can enter the address of the profile they want to extract comments from and use a word match search to pull out any comments with those strings of words, which can be saved as a preset.
* Pulls up most recent posts first.
* Will also eventually have shares, likes etc.
* Obvious shortfalls—need to know the right words to include, doesn’t account for tone
* Some problems with Zawgyi v Unicode
* Michael is planning to use every day to extract comments matching a set of search terms to see patterns and can show us the results next month.
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| 1. Mae Pay Soh (Let’s Vote!), Mi Ki Kyaw Myint from The Asia Foundation
* May Pay Soh is a voter education initiative initiated by The Asia Foundation and carried out by both civic and tech organizations including Phandeeyar.
* According to IFES’s election survey, only 2% of voters felt they had enough election information, only 1% thought they knew about the candidates
* The May Pay Soh hackathon intended to encourage local Myanmar developers to build mobile apps, websites and other digital tools that provide non-partisan voter information that voters can use to understand the electoral process and make informed choices. In collaboration with UEC, the candidate database was built by The Asia Foundation and made it available to public for the first time in Myanmar. The candidate database contains biographical information of candidates from both union level and state and region level parliaments. Open Myanmar Initiative created a database on MP performance.
* May Pay So provided this information and then had a hack challenge competition. There were 137 participants across 30 teams, which created 24 completed apps.
* Winning app was mVoter 2015, which allows you to get information on candidates, see party platforms, check to see if you’re on the UEC voter list, access FAQs compiled by Charity Oriented Myanmar
* Can download apps from MaePaySoh website www.maepaysoh.org
* Databases are challenging because of data quality, but Asia Foundations thinks it’s good enough to be usable
* Give comments/feedback via MaePaySoh API facebook page
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| 1. Upcoming Meeting: November 25, 2015
 | Let Jade know if you have a proposed presentation for an upcoming meeting |

Attendance

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| # | Name | Organization | Email |
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