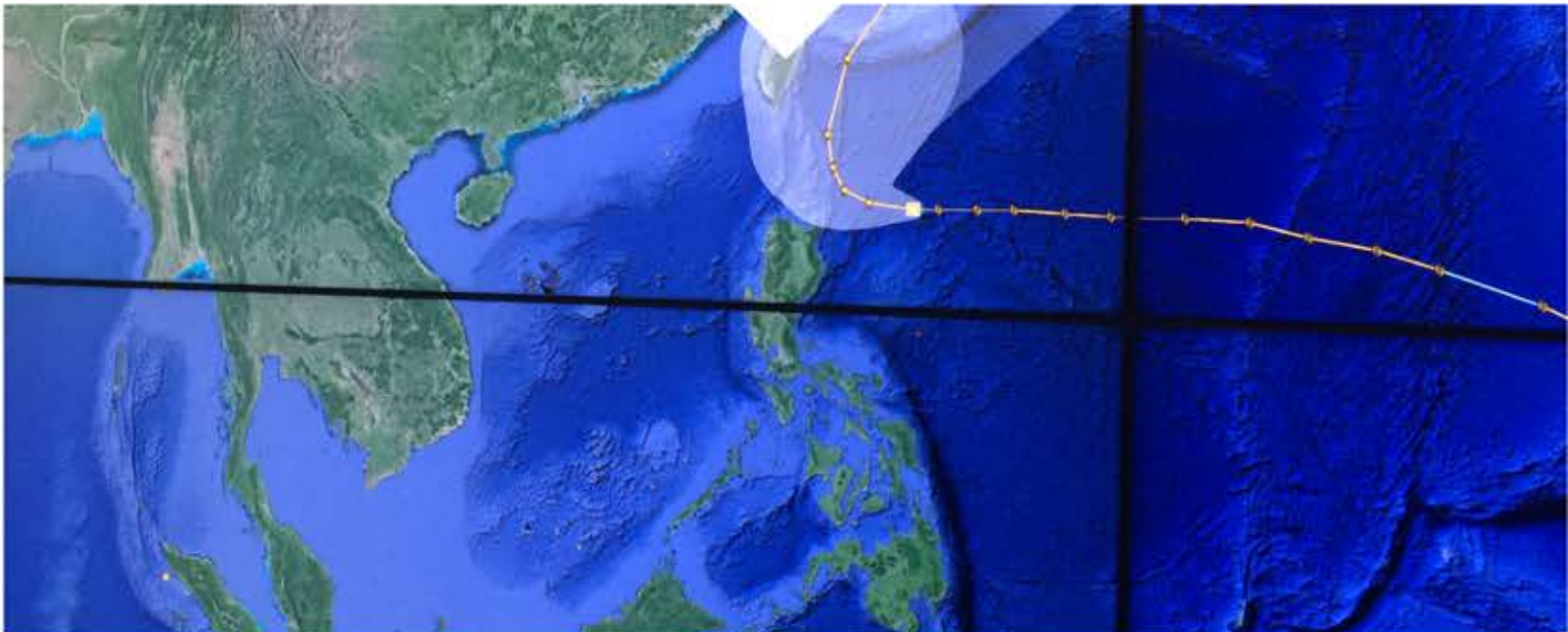# Open Disaster Data

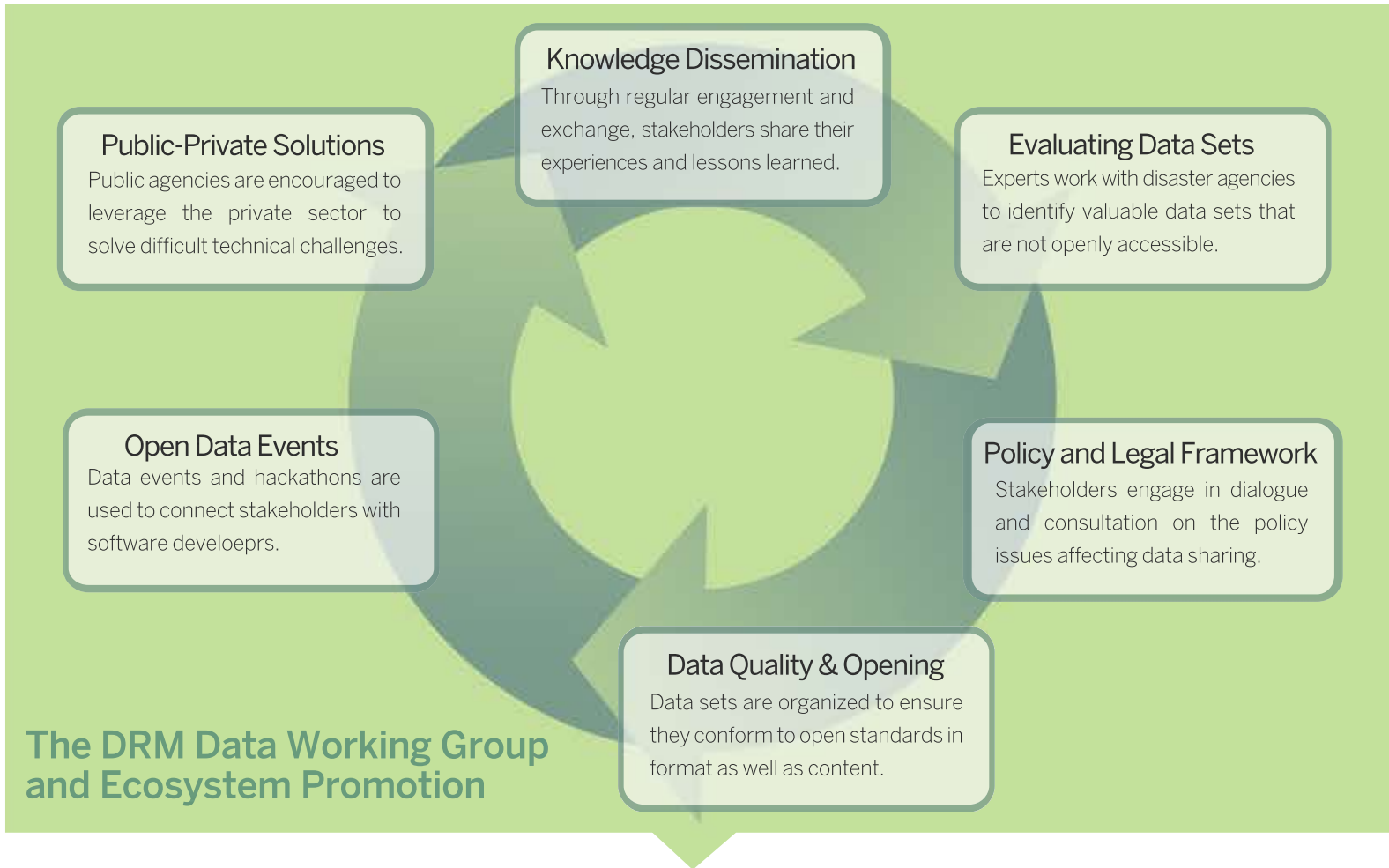Technology & Innovation

ALERTS ON EVERY DEVICE

During a disaster, information can save lives.

The Public Alerts API is making it possible for disaster response agencies in Thailand to coordinate response efforts with government partners and deliver real-time alerts to citizens via social media.

PROMOTING AN OPEN DATA ECOSYSTEM

In addition to new technical tools, the Foundation is also supporting broader inter-agency collaboration and exchange of data in the field of disaster risk management.

Knowledge Dissemination
Through regular engagement and exchange, stakeholders share their experiences and lessons learned.

Public-Private Solutions
Public agencies are encouraged to leverage the private sector to solve difficult technical challenges.

Evaluating Data Sets
Experts work with disaster agencies to identify valuable data sets that are not openly accessible.

Open Data Events
Data events and hackathons are used to connect stakeholders with software develoeprs.

Policy and Legal Framework
Stakeholders engage in dialogue and consultation on the policy issues affecting data sharing.

The DRM Data Working Group and Ecosystem Promotion

Data Quality & Opening
Data sets are organized to ensure they conform to open standards in format as well as content.

THE DRM DATA WORKING GROUP

In order to be effective on a broad scale, technical upgrades to Thailand's disaster data infrastructure must be accompanied by meaningful conversations among stakeholders. The Foundation is therefore supporting the Open Data Working Group for disaster risk management, a neutral space for Thai stakeholders to come together and productively discuss the issues at hand, share technical lessons, and define best practices.

This emerging community of partners – including Thai entrepreneurs, software developers, civic tech experts, and reform-minded government officials – will convene regularly to facilitate problem-solving and coordination across agencies, and pilot simple data sharing and analysis technologies that have potential to help disaster risk management agencies better protect property and save lives.
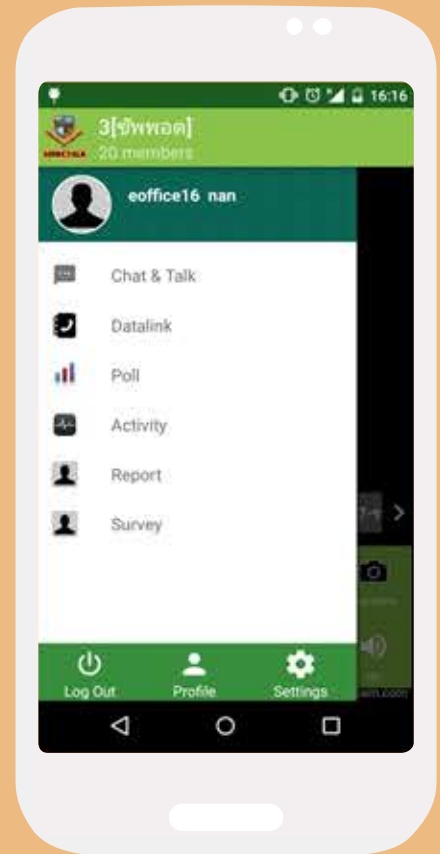
MODERNIZING DISASTER ALERTS

Robust data standards are giving the Thai government powerful new ways to share data on natural disasters and, as a result, making it easier to disseminate warnings to citizens.

New Media, New Tools

For millions of Thais, mobile phones and social media have already replaced traditional information sources, particularly during times of crisis. To remain effective, government agencies tasked with delivering disaster alerts to citizens must find ways to adjust to this new landscape.

Fortunately, the same software tools that enable news to spread through social media can also be used to spread official alerts. The Asia Foundation is working with Thai disaster warning authorities to apply modern, collaborative software concepts to official alert systems. By ensuring alerts are standardized, machine-readable, and shared openly, citizens get precise and actionable information in formats that are easy to understand and pass on to others.

Making Data Interoperable

Multiple agencies in Thailand collect disaster-related data, but coordinating these datasets is not without friction. When disasters span multiple jurisdictions and involve multiple agencies, the authorities often find it difficult to access their partners' data, resulting in inadequate preparedness and confusion. This too requires a technical adjustment.

We are addressing this challenge by again relying on the precepts of the modern, open, "interoperable" Web. By employing technical solutions already common in the private sector context, such as public application programming interfaces (APIs), government agencies can make coordination easier and disaster warnings more reliable.

Open Disaster Data

- The Asia Foundation, the National Disaster Warning Center, and Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation are developing a system to deliver official, real-time disaster warnings across popular social media platforms.

- A Thai Open DRM Data Working Group has been organized with participation across disaster preparedness and response agencies to discuss the policy and organizational impediments to greater DRM data sharing.

- The Open Data Working Group is bringing together prominent individuals and organizations from the fields of disaster preparedness, climate science, and software development for ongoing dialogue, and to host periodic data hackathons to demonstrate the potential of greater data interoperability.

Work with Us

We welcome collaboration at every stage of the process - from research and design to pilot to scale. Because our solutions are lightweight and deployed rapidly, we keep our costs down and our impact high. And when you work with The Asia Foundation you also gain access to our extensive network of partners..

Join us as we support local innovators and social entrepreneurs who have a stake in the communities they aim to serve.

women's rights
growth
transparency
justice
participation
leadership
diversity
environment
peace
governance
resilience