iMAP to Launch 2024 Internet Censorship Report for Southeast Asia and Beyond

New report details network interference and online censorship across nine countries

The Internet Monitoring Action Project (iMAP) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2024 Internet Censorship Report, a comprehensive analysis of online censorship and digital rights violations in nine countries: Cambodia, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The report will be launched during an online event on Tuesday, 22 October 2024, from UTC 0800 - 0930, and streamed live on YouTube.

The iMAP initiative works to establish a regional and in-country network of experts monitoring network interference and restrictions to freedom of expression online. Using the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) detection and reporting systems, the project maintains test lists. It collects real-time measurements of online interference, analysing findings to produce country-specific reports on internet censorship. This year's report, covering data from July 2023 to June 2024, provides detailed insights into online freedom across the nine countries, highlighting critical trends in government-imposed network restrictions and censorship. Over 31 thousand domains were tested from 33 million tests during the coverage period, where we identified 2,053 domains as confirmed or likely censorships.

Attendees of the event will have the opportunity to hear from a panel of experts and researchers who contributed to the iMAP 2024 Internet Censorship Report. The speakers will discuss key findings, offer regional comparisons, and highlight the latest trends in online censorship across Southeast Asia and beyond. The event will also feature an interactive Q&A session, allowing participants to engage directly with the speakers and share their perspectives on the issues. Speakers include Khairil Zhafri, Specialist in Open and Secure Technology at EngageMedia, Siti Nurliza Samsudin, Technologist at Sinar Project, and Socheat Lam, Director at the Advocacy & Policy Institute.

About iMAP

The Internet Monitoring Action Project (iMAP) focuses on monitoring network interference and online censorship in Southeast Asia and beyond. iMAP partners with regional experts and technologists to produce comprehensive reports and offer data-driven insights into the state of digital rights in the region. iMAP leverages the OONI network for detecting and reporting network disruptions and interference.

For more information, please visit https://imap.sinarproject.org

Key report findings:

- Newly blocked websites were found in Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Hong Kong (China), India and Vietnam. In contrast, no new censorship was detected in Thailand, the Philippines, and Cambodia, although website blocking persists.
- Most websites blocked were related to pornography and gambling; however, news media and political criticism websites were also found to be blocked in all countries.
- Methods of blocking were primarily through DNS tampering, where network providers would serve a block page, 'address not found' error or unknown pages.
- While some countries like Indonesia and Vietnam released official block lists, most government authorities or network providers do not actively notify when they censor critical or non-malicious websites.

The **iMAP 2024 Internet Censorship Report** will be publicly available at https://imap.sinarproject.org/ on **22 October 2024** at UTC 0500.

Launch Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 22 October 2024
- **Time:** UTC 0800 - 0930
- **Location:** Online (YouTube Live)
- **Watch Live:** https://youtube.com/live/03R9pElZeYo

Media Enquiries: team@sinarproject.org

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