

Some ideas to explore for digital activism in Southeast Asia

The situation for on-line media in Southeast Asia

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Condition

- strict censorship, physically and digitally, except the Philippines and Indonesia (for non-religious matters)
- economic disparity affecting the users' demography
- immature behavior of internet users: public bullying, a pack-based opinion, emotion-based discussion, often times too intimidated, often times too straightforward (e.g. to put up a controversial video on YouTube alone does not always constitute activism)
- the debate about using commercial software is not considered hugely relevant
- Organic Commons
- not much on-line community happening among netizens of SE Asian countries unless they physically meet at a camp/seminar/training.

Proposal

- setting up a public net space that provides internet use free of charge and that can host cyberactivism related events (model: Public Netbase in Vienna http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Netbase)
- providing more educational opportunities for netizens and potential netizens
 - encouraging netizens to use coding, coding, coding, in millions of different ways
 - creativity is a key to outdo the censoring body. More creative workshops needed
 - raising public awareness on pro and con of using commercial tools (Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

- encouraging netizens to be more active in seeking a way to outmanoeuvre the authority
 - encouraging activists to be more radical in challenging system and that instead of challenging persons, taking cyberspace as an exercising ground for it
 - encouraging activists to find area to explore, e.g. finding legal loopholes, an area that has no precedent. Working with lawyers is advised.
 - always look for the latest technology that is not introduced into your country yet and exchange the information. Working with tech specialists is advised.
 - imagine Alternative ASEAN in cyberspace that actively exchange ideas
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