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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE 2024

19 – 22 October 2024
Shanghai and Deqing

Cheku Dorji
Statistician
Kuenden Statistical Services
Bhutan

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Background

- **Pillar 1: Policy:** Bhutan's data governance is supported by various legal and policy frameworks. However, do not have an overarching policy or act.
- **Pillar 2: Institutions:** The institutional framework for data governance includes various roles such as policymakers, data stewards, analysts, and data scientists, with mostly not present even in the key entities. Key entities GovTech Agency and the Bhutan Statistical System.
- **Pillar 3: Processes:** Only 9% reported fully established data governance processes, with 41% lacking structured processes (source: online survey). Bhutan's efforts in adhering to international standards, are ongoing but need further development, particularly in data classification, security, and interoperability.
- **Pillar 4: People:** Effective data governance in Bhutan faces significant challenges due to inadequate infrastructure, human resources, and budgets.

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1. What are two critical lessons learned during the data governance framework study?

1) Definition of Data

- The definition of data understood by IT professionals and statisticians were different.
- 2021 World Development Report (WDR), data is characterized as "information pertaining to individuals, entities, and systems."

2) Need not wait for legal framework

- Some aspect of data governance (eg. data privacy and ethics) can be implemented without having to wait for legal framework .

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2. What are two challenges that you face, and would like to learn from other countries?

1) Pilar 2: Institution

- NSO to spearhead the Data Governance
- Need support of GovTech Agency especially for the elements on data security (and protection), data infrastructure, data sharing, exchange and interoperability.

2) Pillar 4: People

- There are significant gaps and challenges in data governance leadership and skills.
- Only a small percentage of organizations have fully engaged designated individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills for managing data governance elements

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3. Suggest one recommendation for further discussion in UN forums; how can the UN and the global community better support countries in advancing effective data/digital governance strategies?

For the UN to share some of the experiences from similar economies, and advocate to the decision makers on the importance of data governance.

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Thank You

Merci

Спасибо

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