KEY FINDINGS
Taiwan scores comparatively higher from a regional standpoint for both the Governance and Capabilities pillars as well as numerous sub-indicators. However, Taiwan's legal frameworks regarding publication of information and lobbying requires improvement, and there is limited proof of impact of data use. Evidence also points to a rural/urban divide in the implementation of an open data environment, and while there is evidence of the desire to train civil servants, as of now there is no evidence of data-related trainings in Taiwan.

CAPABILITIES
The open data environment is nationally led but implementation is done at a ministerial or local level, supported by the the Advanced Action Plan for Open Government Data. Local governments either have their own platforms or share on the national platform. But there is evidence that some local governments are able to open much less data than others, showing evidence of a rural/urban divide. There is no evidence of data-related trainings in Taiwan. However, there is evidence of the desire to train civil servants.

GOVERNANCE
The Taiwan government has a law about the protection of personal data (The Personal Data Protection Act). However, the exceptions have been used and expanded liberally during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the government citing an emergency situation. For data management, Taiwan has frameworks limited to metadata and API standards, although with no force of law. As for data sharing, the Digital Government Program 2.0 of Taiwan (2021-2025) discusses the utility of data sharing for the program on smart/e-government development. However it is neither a legal document nor a policy, but only a plan.

AVAILABILITY
Taiwan has data available for company register, land tenure, existing land use, political finance data, asset declarations, public consultation data, RTI performance data, budget and spend data, public procurement data, emission, vital statistics, real-time healthcare system capacity and COVID-19 vaccination.

However, there is low availability of data in areas such as beneficial ownership, lobbying data, biodiversity and climate vulnerability.

USE AND IMPACT
There are isolated incidents of use of land data but it is unclear the level of impact it has had so far. Although the property, investment, land and housing of politicians are clearly defined, it is difficult to see corruption and other content from these materials, and there are occasional fraud cases, and the unit still needs to be inspected for inspection. With regards to procurement, the Taiwanese government had to abide by international requirements after joining the WTO. It has significantly improved information disclosure in the past ten years. On the other hand, there is no evidence of products and services that use open company data to support due diligence.
Taiwan is a country in East Asia with a population of over 23 million people. The political status of Taiwan is contentious, that is whether it is part of PRC or a sovereign state. Nevertheless, it has a republic constitution with an independently elected president, armed forces and even own currency, although no official membership in the UN. Economically, Taiwan is highly developed and is the 8th largest in Asia with even a positive growth of 3.1% during the pandemic in 2020. In terms of social indicators, Taiwan is highly urbanised (79%) and have a low poverty rate of 1.3%.

DATA ECOSYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

While Taiwan is not an official member of the UN, certain Taiwan's data are published on websites of international organizations of which they are a member of e.g. ADB, WTO.

Taiwan does not have a comprehensive open-data law. Instead, there is a mixture of policy (which does not have the force of law) and executive orders (which do have the force of law) including a Freedom of Information Law.

Data collected from public and private sector are protected under the Personal Data Protection Act.

NOTES:

Unlike other countries, Taiwan's data are not published by World Bank or ITU. Data sources in this country report include the World Population Review, World of Meters, Taiwan Internet Report and AmCham Taiwan.

OTHER INDICATORS

Internet users among population

Urban, 84%
Rural, 70%

R&D contribution to GDP

Average monthly broadband traffic per subscription

Data not available