Freedom of Information
PHILIPPINES

Asia Regional Report

June 2025 - September 2026

2026
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL
ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Priority Development 1: All Government Ministries Achieve Minimum Proactive Disclosure Requirements

What happened?

- In 2026, all government ministries in the Maldives, together with the President's Office and the Attorney General's Office, fulfilled the minimum proactive disclosure requirements established under the clause 37 of RTI Act. The assessment found that these institutions had made the minimum required categories of public information available without requiring citizens to submit individual information requests.

Why is it important?

- This is an important milestone because it is the first time that all government ministries, along with the President's Office and the Attorney General's Office, have collectively met the minimum proactive disclosure standard. It demonstrates a substantial improvement in compliance by institutions at the center of government and strengthens the public's ability to access essential government information directly and conveniently.
- Effective proactive disclosure reduces the need for individual RTI requests, promotes transparency by default, and enables citizens, journalists, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to monitor government policies, decisions, services, and the use of public resources. It also reflects the impact of sustained monitoring, guidance, engagement, and compliance efforts undertaken by the ICO.

Implications for other jurisdictions or the international ATI community

- The Maldives' experience demonstrates how systematic monitoring, clearly defined minimum disclosure criteria, and sustained engagement with public authorities can improve proactive disclosure across the executive branch. It also shows the value of monitoring institutions over several years and publishing comparable results to measure institutional progress.
- The achievement may be especially relevant to jurisdictions seeking to shift from a request-based RTI system toward transparency by default. The Maldives' approach could support regional learning on developing minimum proactive disclosure standards, assessing public authority websites, communicating compliance gaps, and working with senior government institutions to achieve coordinated improvement.



Priority Development 2: Progress toward the Passage of a National Right to Information Law

What happened?

- The Philippines made significant legislative progress toward establishing a comprehensive national Right to Information (RTI) law. Following its inclusion in the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) Common Legislative Agenda in September 2025, the Senate approved its version of the proposed RTI law on 4 May 2026, followed by the House of Representatives on 9 June 2026. Both versions are currently awaiting bicameral conference committee deliberations.

Why is it important?

- Currently, the Philippines implements its Freedom of Information Program primarily through Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, which covers only the Executive Branch. The progress of the proposed RTI Law signifies an important step to institutionalizing the country's legal framework after more than 30 years of lobbying.

Implications for other jurisdictions or the international ATI community

- The Philippine experience may offer a useful example of how an ATI framework established through an executive order can continue to operate and evolve despite its limited coverage, while efforts toward comprehensive national legislation are underway. It also demonstrates how existing administrative mechanisms can help sustain access to information and provide a foundation for further institutionalization through legislation.



Priority Development 3: From Access to Information to AI-Ready Data: Taiwan's Sovereign AI Training Corpus Builds a Trustworthy Cross-Border Data Foundation

What happened?

- Taiwan has established the "Taiwan Sovereign AI Training Corpus," which went live in December 2025, prioritizing corpus contributions from central government agencies such as the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, the Council of Indigenous Peoples, and the Hakka Affairs Council. As of the end of August 2026, more than 200 government agencies have contributed, with a cumulative total of approximately 5,000 datasets (about 2 billion tokens) made available for domestic and international AI model developers to apply to use.

Why is it important?

- This initiative expands the concept of "access to information" beyond simply making information available for public viewing, to structuring public-sector knowledge so that it is reusable and suitable for AI training. It lowers the barrier for AI developers to obtain high-quality local corpora while safeguarding rights holders' interests, elevating the value of public information from "open browsing" to "supporting AI innovation," and helping AI systems better understand Taiwan's linguistic context, culture, history, and social context.

Implications for other jurisdictions or the international ATI community

- Taiwan's experience shows that ATI policy can be further extended to govern data accessibility and reuse in the AI era. Through an integrated model of "openness, licensing, standardization, and AI-readiness," Taiwan's approach may offer Asian countries a new policy pathway: enhancing the visibility of local languages and cultural data within the global AI ecosystem, while enabling cross-border collaboration so that high-quality local corpora can support the development of international AI models—demonstrating a cross-border model that balances access to information, cultural diversity, and responsible AI development.



Emerging Trends, Risks, and Opportunities

EMERGING TREND

- **Expanding scope of access to information**
  ATI is evolving beyond request-based access toward proactive disclosure, stronger institutional frameworks, and the responsible reuse of public information, including AI-ready data.

EMERGING CHALLENGE

- **Consistent, inclusive, and responsible implementation**
  Ensuring institutional capacity, accessibility, public awareness, and sustained disclosure, while addressing emerging considerations on data quality, standardization, licensing, privacy, and rights-holder protection.

OPPORTUNITY

- **Regional knowledge-sharing**
  Exchange of practical approaches on proactive disclosure, legal and institutional frameworks, digital and inclusive access, and responsible public-data reuse in the AI era.



ICIC IDUAI 2026
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION