# Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

## A civil society and digital rights-based analysis of Asia Pacific digital policy development and trends

Charles Mok, Global Digital Policy Incubator, Cyber Policy Center, Stanford University | 27 Feb 2022

# About myself

- Currently Visiting Scholar, Global Digital Policy Incubator, Cyber Policy Center, Stanford University
- Former Legislator, Hong Kong, representing IT sector (2012-2020)
- Chair, APRALO (2011-2012)
- Founding Chair, ISOC Hong Kong (2006-2011)
- Director, HKIRC (.hk) (2002-2004)
- Co-founder, HKNet (1994-2000)

# Objective

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

- Track and monitor development and trends of Asia Pacific local and regional digital policies, including legislations, regulations and public policy formulations
- Analyse development with emphasis on human rights and democratic values
- Incorporate local and regional civil society views and engagement strategies through an ongoing network of local and regional contacts

# Rationale and Importance

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

- The future of the Internet and digital technologies is facing a critical crossroads moment:
  - Big tech regulations
  - Techno-autocratic model of regulations by some nations
  - Web3 and decentralisation
  - Public discourse is dominated by the U.S., China and Europe
- More attention on the development and trends in the rest of Asia Pacific is needed
- Engaging local and regional civil society and technical community actors

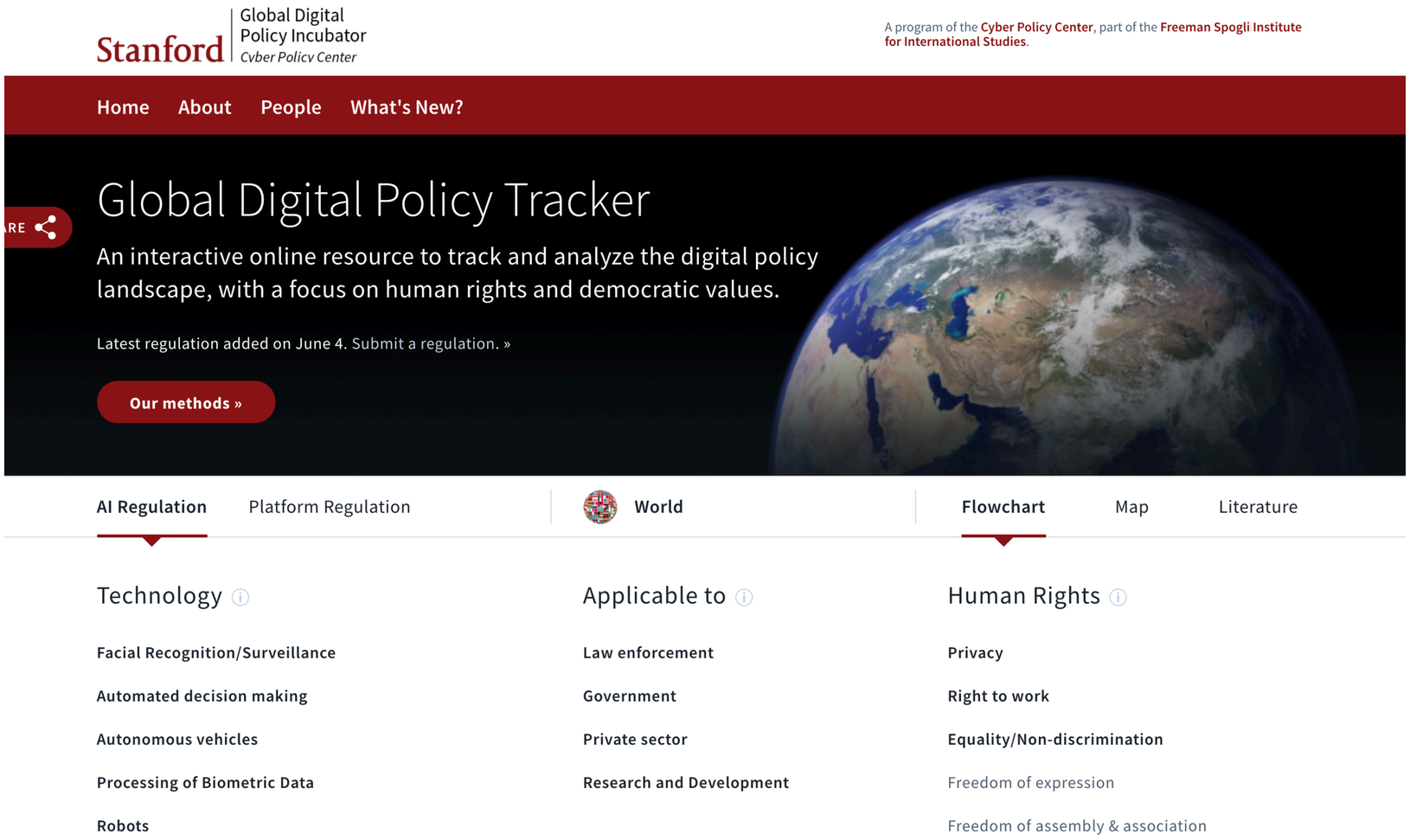
# Strategy

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

- Initial focus for policy areas:
  - Data, privacy and algorithms
  - Misinformation and disinformation, platform moderatin and control
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Surveillance and censorship related policies
- Seek coordination with local and regional network
  - AP organizations, ISOC chapters, and other civil society or technical organizations
  - Civil society individuals and academics

# Global Digital Policy Tracker

## digitalpolicytracker.standford.edu



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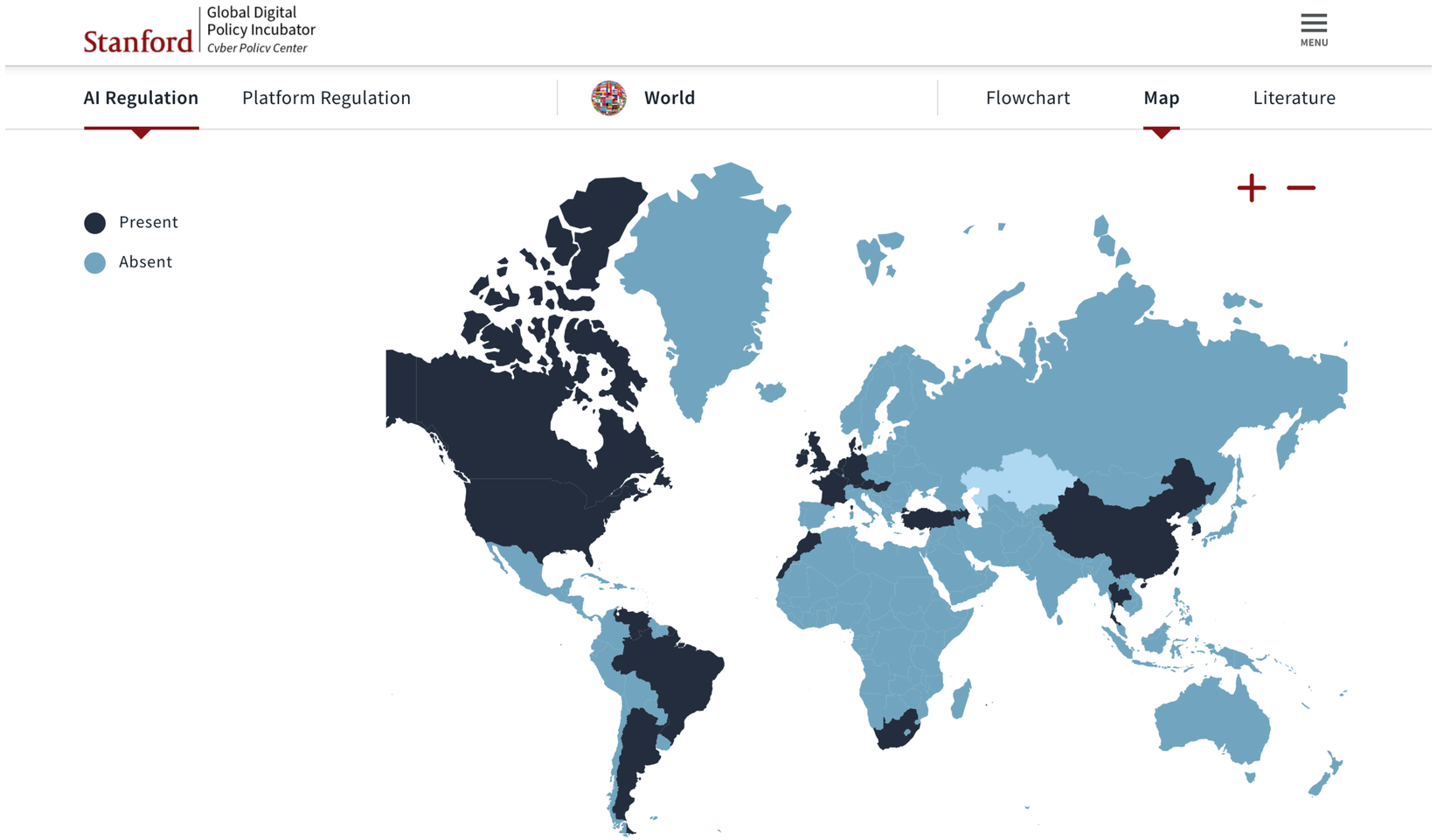

# Coverage: Examples

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

- Australia: Online Safety Act
- Cambodia: National Internet Gateway
- Bangladesh: Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms (draft regulations)
- India: Personal Data Protection Bill, IT Act, etc.
- Hong Kong: Misinformation law, National Security Law, etc.
- Indonesia: Personal Data Protection Draft Bill, Ministerial Regulations #5 (social media content)
- Japan: Amended Protection of Personal Information Act (APPI)
- Malaysia: Personal Data Protection Act
- Myanmar: Cyber Security Law
- Pakistan: Personal Data Protection Bill (consultation)
- Philippines: SIM Card Registration Act, Data Privacy Act (amendment)
- Singapore: Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act, Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Bill
- South Korea: Amendments to Enforcement Decrees of Personal Information Protection Act, Network usage fee law, Press arbitration law amendment etc.
- Sri Lanka: Regulation of Processing of Personal Data
- Taiwan: Digital economy policy development
- Thailand: Law to Regulate Digital Platform (draft), Personal Data Protection Act (not yet enacted)
- Vietnam: Personal Data Protection (draft decree), Code of Conduct for Social Media Management, Provision and Use of Internet Services and Online Information (draft amendment)

# Project Outputs

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

- Articles, summary reports and analysis on notesworthy regional policy issues and topics, e.g.:
  - National Internet Gateways: Cambodia and possibly Thailand, etc.
  - Myanmar's Cyber Security Law
  - Misinformation laws across Asia
  - The lasting effects of Covid tracking
  - Focus on various sub-regions: e.g. South Asia, Southeast Asia, etc.
- Update and repository at Stanford's Global Digital Policy Tracker
- Webinars
- Workshop at APrIGF 2022 (tbc)
- Summary paper (2022)

# Future to be sustained

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

- Explore working mechanism in 2022
- Recurrent resource and funding for sustaining the project for the future

# Contacts

## Asia Pacific Digital Policy Monitor

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