

**Dissemination Workshop of
The Thnal Odom Chomnes: Promoting Cambodian Higher Education Innovation**

04 February 2022, Hotel Cambodiana

Concept Note

Background

Since August 2019, the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) has been implementing a 2.5-year research program entitled *Thnal Odom Chomnes: Promoting Cambodian Higher Education Innovation*. The program is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes Initiative: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia. The program aims to (1) produce high-quality, accessible and user-friendly research outputs to influence higher education reforms and practices in Cambodia; (2) build the knowledge, skills and capacity of CDRI in its effort to become a leading institute of development policy research, locally and regionally; and (3) establish collaborative partnerships for policy and scholarship dialogue and research between CDRI and relevant stakeholders both within and outside Cambodia.

Research studies under this program focus on four major themes, namely STEM Education, Cambodian Higher Education Internationalisation, Adoption of EdTech during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Entrepreneurial Intention of University Students. Over the implementing period, the project has produced, in addition to others outputs, an edited book on *Cambodian Post-Secondary Education and Training in the Global Knowledge Societies*, two working papers discussing *STEM Discourse* and *Forced Adoption of Educational Technology during the Covid-19 Pandemic* and four research articles published at CDRI's Cambodia Development Review (CDR). The other four working papers, two CDR articles and two policy briefs will be released in the coming months. Now that the first phase of the Thnal Odom Chomnes program concludes, CDRI is pleased to present the research findings and evidence to our stakeholders in the hope that they will become relevant inputs for future policy making and implementation.

Objectives:

As part of the public engagement activities, the dissemination workshop will bring together relevant stakeholders from the government agencies, higher education institutions (HEIs), schools, firms from the private sectors, development partners, and local and international civil-society organizations (CSOs) working in the areas of higher education for the public discussion. The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Disseminate the results of research studies undertaken under the Thnal Odom Chomnes 1 program
- Discuss the findings against the wider issues, challenges, opportunities facing the unceasing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly on online learning, STEM education, entrepreneurship education, and internationalisation of higher education
- Provide platform for policy discussion among stakeholders.
- Formulate policy suggestions and recommendations for strengthening Cambodian higher education.

Format

The workshop will be held on 04 February 2022, in hybrid format: physically at the Hotel Cambodiana and virtually via Zoom.

Participants

There are approximately 100 stakeholders invited to this dissemination workshop. They are representatives from Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MLVT), public and private higher education institutions, think tanks, development partners, civil-society organizations (CSOs), private sectors, and independent researchers working in education related fields.

Agenda

<i>DATE/TIME</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>
[8:30]	Registration
[9:00 – 9:30]	Welcoming Remarks by Dr Eng Netra , Executive Director, CDRI Opening Remarks by Mr. Connor Floyd , Second Secretary , Australian Embassy in Cambodia Photo Session
[9:30 – 10:00]	Coffee Break and Poster Presentation
[10:00 – 11:30]	Launching of CDRI Flagship Publication: Cambodian Post-Secondary Education and Training in the Global Knowledge Societies Plenary Discussion 1: Cambodian Post-Secondary Education and Training in the Global Knowledge Societies <u>Moderator:</u> Dr Song Sopheak , Director of Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, CDRI <u>Panelists:</u> Dr Eam Phyrom , Research Consultant, CDRI Dr Khieng Sothy , President, Cambodia University of Technology and Science Dr Heng Kreng , Head of Department of Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Ms You Saokeo Khantey , Research Associate, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, CDRI
[11:30 – 13:30]	Lunch Break
[13:30 – 15:00]	Plenary Discussion 2: High School Tracking and Major Choices in Higher Education <u>Moderator:</u> Dr Chea Phal , Research Fellow, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, CDRI <u>Panelists:</u> Dr Kao Sovansophal , Vice-Chief of Admission Office, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Dr Tan Reasmey , Deputy Director of Research and Innovation Center, Institute of Technology of Cambodia Mrs Sun Chenda , Director of Krong Preah Sihanouk High School Ms Benghong Siela Bossba , Research Assistant, Centre for Development Economics and Trade, CDRI

<i>DATE/TIME</i>	<i>ACTIVITIES</i>
[15:00 – 15:30]	Coffee Break
[15:30 – 17:00]	<p>Plenary Discussion 3: Promoting Faculty Engagement in Higher Education Internationalisation</p> <p><u>Moderator</u>: Mr Ros Vutha, PhD Candidate, University of Hong Kong</p> <p><u>Panelists</u>:</p> <p>Dr Ky Ravikun, Vice Rector for International Relations and Research, Phnom Penh International University</p> <p>Dr Leng Phirom, Advisor to the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation</p> <p>Mr Hel Chanthan, Lecturer/Researcher, Institute of Technology of Cambodia</p> <p>Ms Tek Muytieng, Research Associate, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, CDRI</p>
[17:00 – 17:15]	<p>Wrap Up by Dr Song Sopheak, Director of Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, CDRI</p> <p>Closing Remarks by Ms Meloney Lindberg, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation</p>

**The organiser reserves the right to make changes to the event program*

House Rules:

- To attend the event online, please scan the QR code or go to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sf-urrzkoHtU2rqj-Gx4ZPkARgxcjyydf> to register your attendance
- To attend the event in person, you are required to show your vaccination card to the organisers. Other than this, we encourage you to wear a mask at all times, wash your hands often and sanitize frequently, and follow the physical distancing guideline to the extent possible.

