

MONTHLY RESEARCH SEMINAR

Date: Monday, 31st July 2023

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 (GMT+7)

IMPACT OF HUMAN CAPITAL ON GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS IN ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

Abstract

This seminar examines the relationship between human capital development and global value-chain (GVC) activities in East Asia. It seeks to examine the impact of human capital development on the domestic firm participation in global value chains. Using the gravity model framework to identify the relationship between human capital and GVC participation based on cross-country panel data from 11 countries in East and Southeast Asia, the GVC participation is decomposed into forward GVC and backward GVC linkages at the firm level. Empirical results indicate the importance of education and skills in enhancing domestic firm engagement in GVC activities. The results indicate that countries with higher education and skills are more likely to join forward GVC participation through the supply of domestically-produced intermediate inputs to other countries along global production networks. For backward GVC participation, the skills of workers seem to be more important than the education level in GVC participation. Evidence also shows that trade policies in the form of tariffs, free trade agreements and trade facilitation, proximity and quality of transport and logistics system play significant roles in determining the magnitude of value-added trade in East and Southeast Asia.

Presenter: Dr. HING Vutha, Senior Research Fellow, Cambodia Development Resource Institute

Dr. Hing is a trade economist with a PhD in Economics from the University of Adelaide, Australia, a Master of Arts in International Economics from Waseda University, Japan and a Master of Law in International Trade Law and Policy from the University of Barcelona, Spain. He has been actively engaged in economic research and policy debate for twenty years as a researcher at the leading development research in Cambodia. Currently, he is a senior research fellow at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and an economic consultant at the University of Adelaide. Dr. Hing is also an Advisory Board member of the National Council on Science, Technology and Innovation at the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, Cambodia. His research focuses on trade, economic integration, firm-level analysis and quantitative trade policy analysis. His recent work pertains firm participation in global value chains; servicification and productivity; and innovation, technology and productivity.

Discussant: Dr. NGOV Phenghuy, Associate Professor, Nagoya University Cambodia Satellite Campus

Dr. Ngov is a development economist by training. He holds master's and doctoral degrees in International Development from Nagoya University, Japan. He started his career as Assistant Professor at Nagoya University from 2008 to 2014. Upon his return to Cambodia in 2014, he was appointed as the director and designated Associate Professor at Nagoya University Cambodia Satellite Campus until today. Dr. Ngov is specialized in development economics

and international economics. His recent research interest includes free trade agreement, trade negotiation, trade facilitation, global value chain, and public financial management.

Moderator: Dr. THATH Rido, Lecturer, Faculty of Development Studies, Royal University of Phnom Penh

Dr. Thath holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Cambodia and an MA and a PhD in International Development (Development Economics) from Nagoya University, Japan. He has been teaching statistics and economics at CamEd Business School and the Faculty of Development Studies at RUPP since 2015. From 2017 to 2021, he was an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics at Meiji Gakuin University, Japan. He has researched and published in the fields of agricultural and development economics.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Person in Charge
9:45-10:00	Arrival in Zoom	Dr. THATH Rido
10:00-10:20	Presentation	Dr. HING Vutha
10:20-10:35	Commentary	Dr. NGOV Penghuy
10:35-10:55	Open Q&A	Audience
10:55-11:00	Wrapping up and closing	Dr. THATH Rido

To join, please register with the following Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89833062437?pwd=QmZWNVhSbG40T2g5THRjd2w1WDFSUT09>