ISSN 1560-7607 / ISBN 978-99950-52-05-8

A publication of CDRI—Cambodia's leading independent development policy research institute

CAMBODIA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

VOLUME 25, issue 3 September 2021 $4.00

Economy Watch—External Environment

This section presents economic indicators of major world economies and economies in Southeast Asia during the second quarter of 2021. At the time of writing, data on real GDP growth in Cambodia was unavailable.

Real GDP growth

At first glance, all selected countries are starting to rebound from the contraction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Surprisingly, the lowest GDP growth rate was 5.9 percent in South Korea. The highest growth rate was 16.1 percent in Malaysia, followed by 14.7 percent in Singapore, 13.6 percent in the Euro-12, 12.2 percent in the US, 7.9 percent in China, 7.6 percent in Indonesia, 7.6 percent in Hong Kong, 7.5 percent in Thailand, 7.5 percent in Japan, 7.4 percent Taiwan and 6.6 percent in Vietnam.

Compared to both the same quarter of 2020 and the preceding quarter, all five selected ASEAN countries experienced a marked increase in GDP growth. Year on year, Indonesia's GDP rose by 12.9 percentage points, Malaysia's by 33.2 percentage points, Singapore's by 27.9 percentage points, Thailand's by 19.7 percentage points and Vietnam's by 6.2 percentage points. Compared to the preceding quarter, Indonesia's GDP grew by 8.3 percentage points, Malaysia's by 16.6 percentage points, Singapore's by 13.4 percentage points, Thailand's by 10.1 percentage points and Vietnam's by 2.1 percentage points.

Among selected other Asian countries, only South Korea boasted GDP growth (of 4.2 percentage points) compared to the preceding quarter, but all countries in this group achieved GDP growth compared to the same quarter of last year. Year on year, GDP in China rose by 4.7 percentage points, Hong Kong by 16.6 percentage points, South Korea by 8.9 percentage points and Taiwan by 8.0 percentage points. Compared to the preceding quarter, China's GDP dropped by 10.4 percentage points, Hong Kong's by 0.3 percentage points and Taiwan's by 0.8 percentage points.

All selected industrial countries showed marked recovery in comparison with both the same quarter of last year and the preceding quarter. Year on year, GDP growth was up by 28.3 percentage points in the Euro-12, by 17.4 percentage points in Japan and by 21.7 percentage points in the US. Compared with the preceding quarter, the Euro-12's GDP climbed by 15.4 percentage points, Japan's by 9.4 percentage points and the US' by 11.8 percentage points.

Inflation rates

Among the selected ASEAN countries, at 4.2 percent, Malaysia had the highest inflation rate in this quarter, followed by Cambodia (2.8 percent), Vietnam (2.7 percent), Thailand (2.3 percent), Singapore (2.3 percent) and Indonesia (1.5 percent). Compared to the same quarter of last year, the inflation rate in Indonesia and Vietnam waned by 0.8 percentage points and 0.1 percentage point, respectively, whereas that in Cambodia increased by 0.3 percentage points, in Malaysia by 6.8 percentage points, in Singapore by 3.0 percentage points and in Thailand by 5.0 percentage points. Compared with the preceding quarter, the inflation rate in Cambodia rose by 0.7 percentage points, in Malaysia by 3.7 percentage points, in Singapore by 1.6 percentage points, in Thailand by 2.8 percentage points and in Vietnam by 2.4 percentage points, whereas that in Indonesia remained stable.

Year on year, the inflation rate in China declined by 1.6 percentage points and in Hong Kong by 0.8 percentage points, while that in South Korea rose by 2.5 percentage points and in Taiwan by 3.2 percentage points. Compared with the preceding quarter, only Hong Kong had a lower inflation rate (by 0.4 percentage points), while inflation in China increased by 1.1 percentage points, in South Korea by 1.7 percentage points and in Taiwan by 1.4 percentage points.

Among the three selected industrial countries, compared with the same quarter of last year, only

Prepared by Roeun Narith, research associate and Pon Dorina, research assistant, Centre for Development Economics and Trade (CDET), CDRI

Japan had a lower inflation rate (by 0.2 percentage points). The inflation rate in the Euro-12 climbed by 1.5 percentage points and that in the US by 4.6 percentage points. Compared with the preceding quarter, inflation in the Euro-12 rose by 0.8 percentage points, in Japan by 0.3 percentage points and in the US by 3.0 percentage points.

Exchange rate

Compared to the same quarter of last year, most selected currencies appreciated against the US dollar: Cambodian riel (0.2 percent), Indonesian rupiah (3.7 percent), Malaysian ringgit (4.7 percent), Singaporean dollar (7.1 percent), Thai baht (2.2 percent), Vietnamese dong (1.0 percent), Chinese yuan (8.5 percent), South Korean won (8.1 percent), Taiwan dollar (6.4 percent) and the euro (0.3 percent). The Hong Kong dollar remained stable at HKD7.8 per US dollar throughout the reporting period, while the Japanese yen depreciated 1.9 percent against the US dollar.

Commodity prices

Compared with the same quarter of last year, only the price of rice dropped (by 7.9 percent), whereas prices of maize rose by 97.2 percent, of palm oil by 76.1 percent, rubber by 47.7 percent, soybeans by 77.0 percent, crude oil by 119.1 percent, gasoline by 146.8 percent and diesel by 114.6 percent. Compared with the preceding quarter, the price of rubber and rice dropped by 0.9 percent and 10.1 percent, respectively, while that of maize increased by 19.4 percent, palm oil by 6.7 percent, soybeans by 6.6 percent, crude oil by 11.6 percent, gasoline by 19.0 percent and diesel by 15.0 percent.

Table 1: Real GDP growth of selected trading partners, 2014–21 (percentage increase over previous year)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.0	3.0	-5.3	-3.5	-2.2	-0.7	7.6
Malaysia	6.0	4.9	8.2	5.9	4.8	4.4	0.7	-17.1	-2.7	-3.4	-0.5	16.1
Singapore	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.8	3.2	0.7	-2.2	-13.2	-5.8	-2.4	1.3	14.7
Thailand	1.6	2.8	9.2	3.8	4.1	2.3	-1.8	-12.2	-6.4	-4.2	-2.6	7.5
Vietnam	5.9	6.6	6.1	6.6	7.2	6.9	3.8	0.4	2.3	4.5	4.5	6.6
Selected other Asian countries												
China	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.2	-6.8	3.2	4.9	6.5	18.3	7.9
Hong Kong	2.3	2.3	11.2	2.8	3.1	0.3	-8.9	-9.0	-3.5	-3.0	7.9	7.6
South Korea	3.4	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.3	1.3	-3.0	-1.1	-1.3	1.7	5.9
Taiwan	3.5	0.6	12.2	2.8	2.6	2.6	1.5	-0.6	3.9	4.9	8.2	7.4
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12	0.7	1.3	13.2	2.3	1.9	1.1	-3.3	-14.7	-4.3	-5.1	-1.8	13.6
Japan	0.6	0.3	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.8	-2.0	-9.9	-5.7	-1.4	-1.9	7.5
United States	2.4	2.3	14.2	2.3	3.0	2.5	0.3	-9.5	-2.8	-2.5	0.4	12.2

Sources: International Monetary Fund; Economist; countries' statistics offices

Table 2: Inflation rates of selected trading partners, 2014–21 (percentage price increase over previous year – period averages)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia	3.9	1.2	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.8	3.4	2.1	2.8
Indonesia	6.4	6.4	3.5	3.8	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5
Malaysia	3.2	2.1	2.1	3.9	1.0	0.7	0.9	-2.6	-1.4	-1.5	0.5	4.2
Singapore	1.0	-0.5	-0.8	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	-0.7	-0.3	-0.1	4.2	2.3
Thailand	1.9	-0.9	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.4	-2.7	-0.8	-0.4	0.7	2.3
Vietnam	4.8	0.6	2.7	3.4	3.6	2.8	5.6	2.8	3.2	1.4	-0.5	2.7
Selected other Asian countries												
China	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.6	2.1	2.9	4.4	2.7	2.3	0.1	0.0	1.1
Hong Kong	4.4	3.1	2.5	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.0	1.3	-0.9	-0.3	0.9	0.5
South Korea	1.3	0.7	0.8	2.0	1.4	0.4	1.2	-0.1	0.7	0.3	0.7	2.4
Taiwan	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	0.6	-1.0	-0.5	0.0	0.8	2.2
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.0	-0.3	1.0	1.8
Japan	2.8	0.9	-0.1	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1
United States	1.6	0.0	1.2	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.1	0.3	1.2	0.8	1.9	4.9

Sources: International Monetary Fund; Economist; National Institute of Statistics

Table 3: Exchange rates against the US dollar of selected trading partners, 2014–21 (period averages)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia (riel)	4037.6	4,060.4	4,053.6	4,047.0	4,045.0	4052.3	4,064.1	4,101.4	4,105.7	4,079.5	4078.3	4092.5
Indonesia (rupiah)	11850.2	13394.8	13338.3	13379.8	14227.6	14138.2	14220.3	14944.2	14690.0	14366.0	14158.9	14398.4
Malaysia (ringgit)	3.3	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
Singapore (Singapore dollar)	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Thailand (baht)	32.5	34.2	35.3	33.9	32.3	31.0	31.2	32.0	31.3	30.6	30.3	31.3
Vietnam (dong)	21138.2	21917.7	22507.5	22645.9	22663.3	23158.5	23351.0	23244.6	23195.8	23174.2	23153.3	23014.4
Selected other Asian countries												
China (yuan)	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.5
Hong Kong (Hong Kong dollar)	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
South Korea (won)	1053.6	1131.9	1161.0	1130.5	1099.9	1164.6	1191.5	1219.8	1188.5	1118.8	1113.6	1121.2
Taiwan (New Taiwan dollar)	30.3	31.8	32.3	30.4	30.1	30.9	30.1	29.9	29.3	28.5	28.1	28.0
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12 (euro)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.6
Japan (yen)	105.9	121.0	108.8	112.1	110.4	109.0	109.0	107.6	106.2	104.4	105.9	109.5

Sources: International Monetary Fund; Economist; National Bank of Cambodia

Table 4: Selected commodity prices on world market, 2014–21 (period averages)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Maize (US No. 2) – USA (USD/tonne)	192.9	169.8	159.2	154.5	164.4	170.1	167.6	146.3	156.0	192.0	241.6	288.5
Palm oil – NW Europe (USD/t)	821.4	622.7	643.6	714.7	638.7	601.3	724.7	614.0	750.2	917.8	1013.5	1081.2
Rubber SMR 5 (USD/tonne)	1755.6	1392.7	1416.1	1688.3	1401.4	1446.5	1374.4	1144.4	1316.5	1605.0	1706.1	1690.6
Rice (Thai 100% B) – Bangkok (USD/tonne)	434.9	395.5	406.7	452.3	444.2	434.8	481.3	547.5	513.3	493.3	561.2	504.4
Soybeans (US No.1) – USA (USD/tonne)	491.8	390.4	405.7	400.6	405.4	347.0	360.7	349.4	379.5	485.5	580.1	618.5
Crude oil – OPEC spot (USD/barrel)	96.2	49.6	40.7	52.6	69.5	61.4	49.1	30.3	42.4	43.8	59.5	66.4
Gasoline US – Gulf Coast (cents/litre)	65.6	41.0	35.2	42.4	49.6	44.9	34.2	21.8	31.6	31.4	45.2	53.8
Diesel (low sulphur No.2) – US Gulf Coast (cents/litre)	71.5	41.7	34.8	42.9	53.8	49.7	39.2	24.0	30.5	32.8	44.8	51.5

Sources: Food and Agriculture Organisation; US Energy Information Administration

Economy Watch—Domestic Performance

Main economic activities

In the second quarter of 2021, total fixed asset investment approvals decreased by 79.1 percent year on year to USD261.9 m, representing a 61.4 percent drop from the preceding quarter. This decrease was due to drops in approvals across all major sectors, of 81.8 percent in agriculture, of 82.7 percent in industry driven by a 50.1 percent drop in approvals for garments, and of 73.4 percent in services owing to a 36.9 percent drop in approvals for hotels and tourism. Compared with the preceding quarter, only approvals for services increased (by 72.7 percent) because approvals for hotels and tourism resumed to USD127.8 m having slumped to zero for two consecutive quarters, whereas approvals for industry dropped by 77.9 percent owing to a 16.3 percent drop in approvals for garments.

Cambodia attracted 31,659 international visitors in the second quarter. This figure represents a marked drop of 55.3 percent compared to the preceding quarter. By country, the largest number came from Thailand (16,996), followed by China (5,914), Vietnam (3,394), South Korea (709), the US (687), Malaysia (399) Japan (310), France (242) and the UK (102). Almost three-fifths (59.8 percent) of international visitors arrived by land or water, and the remaining 40.2 percent by air. By country of origin, compared to the preceding quarter, arrivals from all major countries bar the UK declined. Foreign arrivals from Thailand fell by 51.8 percent, China by 75.2 percent, Vietnam by 5.8 percent, South Korea by 35.5 percent, the US by 23.3 percent, Japan by 38.0 percent, France by 40.0 percent and Malaysia by 20.0 percent, whereas arrivals from the UK remained stable.

Total exports had mixed results. Overall, total exports declined 15.0 percent year on year to USD3,612.3 m, representing a 5.1 percent drop compared to the preceding quarter. Analysis by sector indicates that falls of 57.4 percent in electronics, 48.8 percent in automotive and 42.8 percent in other unspecified exports were offset by rises of 8.2 percent in garments, 18.9 percent in agricultural products and 52.9 percent in other exports. Among Cambodia's main export markets, garment exports to the US rose year on year by 36.7 percent and to the rest of the world by 7.8 percent, whereas those to the EU fell by 8.9 percent, to ASEAN by 47.4 percent, to Japan by 7.9 percent and to the UK by 21.9 percent. By contrast, agricultural product exports showed a more positive trend year on year, with increases across the board apart from a relatively small decline (11.8 percent) in rice exports. Exports of rubber rose by 61.3 percent, of wood by 33.9 percent and of other agricultural goods by 11.8 percent. Fish exports by value have remained stable at USD0.1 m since the first quarter of 2020 after falling from USD0.4 m in 2019. Compared to the preceding quarter, exports of garments fell by 13.4 percent because of the decrease in exports to all major importing countries, while electronics and automotive exports fell by 0.6 percent and 49.4 percent, respectively, and agricultural exports fell by 15.3 percent. In contrast, exports of other unspecified commodities rose 28.4 percent to USD1,034.0 m from the preceding quarter.

Total imports total rose by 52.7 percent year on year to USD6,661.8 m, representing a 11.3 percent fall from the preceding quarter. Year on year, gasoline imports fell by 26.7 percent, while imports of diesel, construction materials and other unspecified commodities increased by 1.8 percent, 47.9 percent and 59.2 percent, respectively. Compared to the preceding quarter, imports of gasoline decreased by 11.3 percent and of other unspecified commodities by 13.3 percent, whereas imports of diesel increased by 28.0 percent and of construction materials by 5.5 percent.

Trade balance remained in deficit at USD3,049.5 m, a 17.8 percent decline compared to the preceding quarter, but nonetheless represents a substantial rise (by 2,669.8 percent) year on year.

National revenue amounted to KHR5,448.7 bn, just 1.9 percent lower than it was in the same quarter of 2020, but nonetheless signifies growth of 6.4 percent compared to the preceding quarter. Year on year, current revenue declined by 1.2 percent and tax revenue by 1.0 percent, driven by a 1.8 percent drop in domestic tax to KHR4,702.7 bn and despite a 7.3 percent rise in taxes on international trade to KHR481.5 bn. Despite a 113.5 percent

Prepared by Roeun Narith, research associate, and Pon Dorina, research assistant, Centre for Development Economics and Trade (CDET), CDRI.

increase in other non-tax revenue to KHR101.4 bn, year-on-year non-tax revenue still dropped by 4.5 percent because property income plummeted to zero and sales of goods and services decreased by 38.4 percent to KHR130.3 bn. Capital revenue also plunged (by 82.1 percent) to KHR9.1 bn. Compared to the preceding quarter, current revenue rose by 6.6 percent and tax revenue by 15.0 percent. By contrast, non-tax revenue declined by 12.6 percent and capital revenue by 55.6 percent.

Total expenditure decreased by 15.3 percent to KHR5,370 bn year on year, 8.4 percent lower than it was in the preceding quarter. Compared with the same quarter of 2020, all types of major expenditures decreased: capital expenditure fell by 26.4 percent to KHR1,685.3 bn and current expenditure by 9.1 percent to KHR3,685.3 bn, largely due to declines of 4.3 percent in wages to KHR1,851.5 bn, of 6.9 percent in subsidies and social assistance to KHR1,336.9 bn, and of 13.5 percent in other current expenditure to KHR1,833.9 bn. Compared with the preceding quarter, capital expenditure declined by 26.5 percent and current expenditure rose by 3.4 percent, driven by increases of 2.0 percent in wages, 11.1 percent in subsidies and social assistance and 4.6 percent in other current expenditure.

The national budget balance in the second quarter of 2021 was KHR78.6 bn, a better performance compared to the deficits of KHR-787.9 bn in the same quarter of 2020 and KHR-737.8 bn in the preceding quarter. As a consequence, foreign financing decreased by 42.6 percent year on year, 53.2 percent lower than it was in the preceding quarter. Domestic financing increased by 426.7 percent year on year, up 168.0 percent from the preceding quarter.

The average consumer price index in this quarter stood at 2.8 percent, 0.3 percentage points higher than it was in the same quarter of 2020 and 0.7 percentage points higher than it was in the preceding quarter. The price index of food and non-alcoholic beverages was 2.4 percent, representing a 2.5 percentage point fall year on year. There was a marked rise in the price index of transport to 13.2 percent from -0.5 percent in the preceding quarter and -4.6 percent in the same quarter a year ago.

Compared to the preceding quarter, the riel depreciated 0.3 percent against the US dollar to KHR4,092.5 per dollar and 0.6 percent against the Vietnamese dong to KHR17.7 per 100 dongs but appreciated 3.5 percent against the Thai baht to KHR128.7 per Thai baht.

The gold price increased by 17.7 percent year on year, representing a 1.7 percent drop to 218.4 per chi compared to the preceding quarter. The prices of diesel rose by 39.7 percent to KHR3,343.5 per litre and of gasoline by 52.1 percent to KHR3,778.9 per litre year on year, representing increases of 6.4 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively, compared to the preceding quarter.

Because of restrictions on mobility to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and its variants, CDRI has been unable to conduct its quarterly survey on the daily earnings of vulnerable workers.

Table 1: Private investment projects approved, 2014–2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	fixed assets (USD m)											
Agriculture	56.5	169.8	117.1	62.9	214.9	94.8	0.0	35.8	31.7	0.0	29.0	6.5
Industry	1002.5	1014.7	1436.4	982.2	1186.2	1628.4	234.0	737.0	149.1	1654.2	576.3	127.6
. Garments	393.5	225.2	380.7	211.1	187.3	229.8	106.0	55.5	34.8	56.4	33.1	27.7
Services	622.6	2734.4	1664.3	3858.6	4351.8	6433.9	682.1	481.2	3515.1	9.6	74.0	127.8
. Hotels and tourism	446.9	98.6	1366.9	2759.6	1584.0	6649.4	133.0	202.4	3.52	0.0	0.0	127.8
Total	1583.9	3918.9	3217.7	4903.7	5752.9	8157.1	916.1	1254.1	3695.9	1663.8	679.3	261.9
	percentage change from previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-61.6	36.9	194.7.3	-55.0	-59.2	-61.4
	percentage change from previous year											
Total	-63.4	147.4	-17.9	52.4	17.3	41.8	-52.7	-53.2	220.40	-30.3	-25.8	-79.1

Note: Including expansion project approvals.
Source: Cambodian Investment Board

Table 2: Value of construction project approvals in Phnom Penh, 2009–15

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				2015		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
	USD m											
Villas, houses and flats	213.9	220.1	405.1	547.3	658.9	133.6	84.0	33.1	20.4	122.3	-	637.6
Other	227.3	217.8	199.9	463.6	859.6	190.0	141.7	105.6	11.7	49.8	-	252.6
Total	441.2	489.8	605.0	1010.9	1518.5	323.6	225.7	138.7	32.1	172.0	-	897.4
	percentage change from previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	34.3	-30.2	-38.5	-77.8	437.3	-	-
	percentage change from previous year											
Total	-60.5	11.0	23.5	67.1	28.1	8.0	-9.2	-64.2	-86.7	-46.8	-	-

Source: Department of Cadastre and Geography of Phnom Penh municipality

Table 3: Foreign visitor arrivals, 2014–2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	thousands											
China	463.1	694.7	830.0	1210.8	2024.4	2361.8	259.7	15.9	27.2	26.8	23.8	5.9
Vietnam	854.1	987.8	959.7	835.4	800.1	908.8	179.5	0.2	1.1	1.4	3.6	3.4
South Korea	435.0	395.3	357.2	345.0	301.8	254.9	41.7	1.0	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.7
Thailand	221.3	349.9	398.1	394.9	382.3	466.5	152.7	8.4	28.4	21.4	35.3	17.0
USA	185.0	217.5	238.7	256.5	250.8	248.9	42.7	0.3	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.7
Japan	206.9	193.3	191.6	203.4	210.5	207.6	39.8	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3
France	131.5	145.7	150.3	166.4	170.8	164.1	41.8	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2
UK	123.9	154.3	159.5	171.2	162.4	163.2	44.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Malaysia	130.7	149.4	152.8	179.3	201.1	203.0	24.9	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4
By air	2273.5	2476.0	2778.0	3312.7	4096.9	4404.0	663.6	26.3	36.3	37.9	33.5	12.7
By land or water	2229.3	2299.2	2331.4	2289.4	2104.2	2206.6	491.6	8.4	28.5	21.4	37.4	19.0
Total	4502.8	4775.2	4980.4	5602.2	6201.1	6610.6	1155.2	34.7	64.9	58.5	70.9	31.7
	percentage change from previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-35.7	-97.0	87.0	-9.9	21.3	55.3
	percentage change from previous year											
Total	7.0	6.1	4.3	12.5	10.7	6.6	-38.5	-97.6	-95.6	-96.7	-93.9	8.7

Source: Ministry of Tourism

Table 4: Exports and imports, 2014–2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	USD m											
Total exports	8106.0	9256.4	10043.3	10772.9	12783.8	14390.5	3550.1	4251.5	5562.2	3970.9	3805.8	3612.3
Of which: Garments	5960.5	6827.0	7308.0	8020.3	9506.0	10664.4	2647.2	1983.8	2705.4	2579.1	2479.7	2147.0
. To USA	1963.6	2009.4	1831.5	1923.8	2483.2	3397.2	945.9	694.3	1038.6	975.9	1007.8	949.0
. To EU	2403.7	2903.9	2928.7	2782.2	3155.3	3202.0	706.3	579.9	661.2	703.0	583.4	528.5
. To ASEAN	83.3	103.4	98.4	106.9	135.3	180.6	54.6	54.6	48.8	53.5	32.9	28.7
. To Japan	383.1	524.2	655.5	701.2	890.8	966.8	262.9	156.7	230.8	219.8	239.9	144.3

. To UK		-	439.8	904.0	1,007.0	882.5	190.2	136.6	223.4	168.7	144.2	106.7
. To rest of the world	1126.8	1286.3	1354.2	1602.2	1834.3	2035.3	487.3	361.7	502.8	458.3	471.6	389.8
Electronics	-	-	-	380.0	328.7	454.3	113.0	111.0	183.2	226.6	50.3	47.3
Automotives	-	-	-	11.6	94.4	85.4	26.0	43.0	35.4	42.7	43.5	22.0
Agriculture	624.4	548.8	534.1	706.4	850.9	887.2	262.9	304.5	277.4	440.2	427.2	361.9
. Rubber	153.9	165.4	165.3	273.5	217.6	219.3	30.8	40.0	83.1	119.4	93.0	64.5
. Wood	132.0	46.3	47.2	100.5	142.3	147.3	44.0	93.8	86.0	130.8	123.4	125.6
. Fish	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
. Rice	248.5	315.3	300.8	255.1	413.6	419.3	145.9	105.5	62.6	142.6	109.8	93.0
. Other agriculture	89.1	21.3	20.2	76.7	76.2	100.9	42.2	65.1	45.6	47.3	100.9	78.7
Others	1520.1	1880.2	2201.2	1654.7	2003.8	2299.2	501.0	1809.2	2360.7	686.2	805.1	1034.0
Total imports	10295.4	11494.5	15013.4	16815.4	16904.7	19895.7	5250.9	4361.5	4571.6	5711.6	7514.2	6661.8
Of which: Gasoline	334.7	377.3	384.8	256.7	320.5	506.5	131.4	122.6	124.8	127.8	98.2	89.9
Diesel	602.3	607.8	709.1	472.9	594.1	1023.8	248.1	265.1	274.2	236.4	210.8	269.8
Construction materials	117.6	164.4	253.2	304.3	564.5	938.4	177.0	213.5	260.8	287.1	299.2	315.8
Other	9240.7	10345.1	13666.3	15781.6	15425.7	17426.9	4694.4	3760.4	3911.9	5060.2	6906.0	5986.3
Trade balance	-2184.3	-2238.1	-4970.0	-5974.1	-4120.9	-5791.5	-1700.9	-110.1	990.5	-1736.7	-3708.4	-3049.5
	Percentage change from previous quarter											
Total garment exports	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.6	-25.1	36.4	-4.7	-3.9	-13.4
Total exports	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	19.8	30.8	-28.6	-4.2	-5.1
Total imports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.4	-16.9	4.8	24.9	31.6	-11.3
	Percentage change from previous year											
Total garment exports	10.7	14.5	7.0	9.7	18.5	12.2	7.5	-21.5	-13.9	1.9	-6.3	8.2
Total exports	16.1	14.2	8.5	7.9	17.9	12.6	10.2	25.8	30.4	12.7	7.2	-15.0
Total imports	19.7	11.7	30.6	12.0	0.5	19.4	18.3	-18.1	-10.2	7.3	43.1	52.7

Note: Import data include tax-exempt imports.
Sources: Department of Trade Preference Systems; MOC and Customs and Excise Department; MEF (website)

Table 5: National budget operations on cash basis 2014–2021(KHR billion)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Total revenue	10543.4	11879.9	14201.5	16582.0	19743.1	24749.5	5544.2	5554.9	4189.8	5891.3	5122.9	5448.7
Current revenue	10359.4	11759.0	14088.7	16481.4	19549.0	24567.8	5524.0	5504.1	4150.0	5817.0	5102.4	5439.6
Tax revenue	8995.2	10502.4	12196.5	14314.3	17019.2	21612.6	4697.1	5236.7	3886.8	5395.3	4507.0	5184.2
Domestic tax	7226.5	8591.7	10185.8	12338.7	14648.3	18699.7	4076.5	4787.8	3393.8	4745.9	3955.8	4702.7
Taxes on international trade	1822.7	1910.7	2010.7	1875.6	2370.9	2912.9	620.6	448.9	493.0	649.4	551.2	481.5
Non-tax revenue	1310.3	1256.6	1892.2	2167.2	2520.9	2955.2	826.9	267.4	263.2	421.7	595.4	255.5
Property income	88.5	77.3	116.0	127.2	197.3	264.4	289.6	36.8	31.1	37.5	306.2	0.0
Sale of goods and services	871.2	1047.1	1248.3	1517.0	2075.6	2410.3	500.9	211.6	190.7	295.7	227.3	130.3
Other non-tax revenue	350.5	132.2	528.0	523.1	253.9	280.5	36.4	47.5	41.5	88.5	55.3	101.4
Capital revenue	184.0	121.0	113.4	100.5	194.1	181.7	20.2	50.8	39.8	74.4	20.5	9.1
Total expenditure	13306.5	13849.5	13775.4	17251.0	19027.1	22211.2	5301.7	6342.8	5546.4	7501.9	5860.7	5370.0
Capital expenditure	5590.7	5290.3	3785.3	5207.2	5730.2	6971.8	1259.3	2289.2	1757.1	2912.1	2292.0	1684.7
Current expenditure	7715.8	8544.6	9990.1	12043.7	13297.0	15239.4	4042.5	4053.5	3846.7	4589.8	3565.6	3685.3
Wages	3755.5	4271.9	5381.7	6647.4	7558.4	7716.5	2058.0	1934.4	2132.8	2167.6	1815.3	1851.5
Subsidies and social assistance	1627.0	1742.9	1774.9	2314.8	2505.4	4266.8	1288.2	1435.6	701.5	1481.5	1203.8	1336.9
Other current expenditure	2333.4	2529.8	2833.5	5394.3	5738.6	7522.9	1984.4	2119.2	1713.9	2422.2	1753.4	1833.9
Overall balance	-2763.1	-1969.6	426.1	-669.1	-205.4	2538.3	242.4	-787.9	-1356.5	-1610.5	-737.8	78.6
Foreign financing	3972.1	3729.4	1878.9	3358.1	716.1	3540.4	369.5	1180.5	1415.7	1238.3	1447.6	677.2
Domestic financing	-1428.7	-2034.9	-1858.7	-2454.1	2513.5	*-58.2*	3.2	18.7	113.1	-17.5	-144.6	98.5

Source: MEF website

Table 6: Consumer price index, exchange rates and gold prices (period averages), 2014–2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	Consumer price index (percentage change from previous year)											
Phnom Penh - All Items	3.9	1.2	3.1	2.9	2.5	1.9	3.0	2.5	2.8	3.4	2.1	2.8
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4.9	4.0	5.6	3.4	2.5	2.1	3.7	4.9	4.5	5.5	3.1	2.4
- Transportation	-1.0	-9.2	-6.9	4.1	2.9	-2.3	2.6	-10.8	-4.6	-4.9	-0.5	13.2
	Exchange rates, gold and oil prices (Phnom Penh market rates)											
Riels per US dollar	4036.2	4060.4	4053.7	4047.5	4045.0	4052.3	4064.1	4087.0	4094.6	4063.8	4078.3	4092.5
Riels per Thai baht	124.9	119.4	115.5	120.0	125.9	131.2	130.7	127.5	131.0	133.0	133.3	128.7
Riels per 100 Vietnamese dong	19.1	18.7	18.2	17.9	17.7	17.5	17.6	17.7	17.7	17.5	17.6	17.7
Gold (US dollars per chi)	152.3	140.6	151.2	151.5	152.8	166.8	188.3	185.5	224.2	226.1	222.1	218.4
Diesel (riels/litre)	4852.1	3771.3	3004.0	3385.8	3808.7	3502.1	3343.5	2393.0	2730.6	2654.9	3142.5	3343.5
Gasoline (riels/litre)	5083.3	3951.7	3336.8	3716.0	3982.5	3622.78	3538.8	2483.8	3003.7	3004.9	3474.6	3778.9

Sources: NIS; NBC; CDRI

Table 7: Monetary survey, 2014–2021 (end of period)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	Billion riels											
Net foreign assets	26699.7	26665.5	31814.5	42575.3	55214.3	60182.9	57001.8	63515.6	68060.7	67364.6	64846.7	63515.6
Net domestic assets	15859.8	22157.6	25802.3	28743.5	33228.9	34856.1	62221.0	60598.8	64552.9	69177.5	78540.2	60598.8
Net claims on government	-4359.1	-6428.8	-8148.5	-11066.5	-14803.7	-23884.4	-24650.6	-24152.1	-24395.1	-24994.6	-25152.2	-24152.1
Credit to private sector	36244.6	46071	56458.8	66922.6	82419.3	125629.4	131815.3	132849.9	139899.7	147822.1	157178.7	132849.9
Total liquidity	42559.5	48823.1	57616.6	71318.9	88443.2	118436.4	119222.8	124114.4	132613.6	136542.1	143386.9	124114.4
Money	6308.4	6,741.4	7273.0	9428.4	10226.8	11906.3	12880.5	12650.4	13199.5	13474.0	15019.3	12650.4
Quasi-money	36251.1	42081.7	50343.8	61890.4	78216.4	99650.6	99700.8	103956.6	111094.3	114564.8	122447.9	103956.6
	Percentage change from previous year											
Total liquidity	29.9	14.7	18.0	23.8	24.0	29.9	29.4	29.0	13.6	15.3	20.3	29.0
Money	29.3	6.9	7.9	29.6	8.5	29.3	19.5	12.2	10.6	13.2	16.6	12.2
Quasi-money	30.0	16.1	19.6	22.9	26.4	30.0	22.5	22.3	12.9	15.0	19.8	22.3

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Table 8: Real average daily earnings of vulnerable workers (base November 2000)

	Daily earnings (riels)									Percentage change from previous year		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				2021	2020		2021
					Feb	May	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Cyclo drivers	11516	10793	10774	11373	10997	9081	10779	10775	10469	-3.0	-10.6	-4.8
Porters	14318	14942	15345	17142	18246	17856	15346	19493	16126	-7.3	3.7	-11.6
Small vegetable sellers	17177	17015	20125	19558	15207	20181	19479	23206	21979	1.5	24.4	44.5
Scavengers	10299	11591	12613	12962	14759	8322	10742	11198	9147	-18.1	-14.5	-38.0
Waitresses*	7989	8093	8149	8484	8706	8420	8997	8912	11155	5.1	2.2	28.1
Ricefield workers	8088	8055	8668	8669	9154	8812	8712	8924	-	-5.1	-4.8	-
Garment workers	13688	14093	15242	15973	16483	13271	14211	14391	16552	-11.6	-13.2	0.4
Motorcycle taxi drivers	11516	10793	10774	11373	17748	9081	15210	14427	17424	7.0	-3.2	-1.8
Unskilled construction workers	14509	14231	14815	14733	22916	19741	17870	14947	23974	-2.5	-20.6	4.6
Skilled construction workers	17365	17341	17573	18736	27164	26778	31298	22069	23717	24.0	-18.9	-12.7

Notes: * Waitresses' earnings do not include meals and accommodation provided by shop owners. Surveys on the revenue of waitresses, ricefield workers, garment workers, motorcycle taxi drivers and construction workers began in February 2000. November 2015 data are not available. **Not available.

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11 August, Phnom Penh

Digital Skills Assessment (DSA) Virtual Consultation Workshops on Digital Skills Assessment. The main objectives of the workshop were (1) to present the findings and recommendations to stakeholders from development partners, private companies, and think tanks, among others, and (2) to gather comments and suggestions for the final revision of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) draft report. The workshop was hosted by CDRI and Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT) and funded by MPTC, United Nations Development Programme Cambodia and the Russian Federation.

18 August, Phnom Penh

Dissemination Workshop on Cambodia's Agri-Food Trade: Structure, New Emerging Potentials, Challenges and Impacts of Covid-19. The workshop brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, development partners, and national and international non-government organisations working in the areas of agri-food industry and export. The objectives of the workshop were to (1) disseminate the results of the study, (2) to discuss the findings against the wider issues, challenges and opportunities of agri-food industry in Cambodia, and (3) to formulate policy recommendations/options for promoting and strengthening the sector, especially for export readiness and competitiveness in the region and the world.

24 August, Phnom Penh

Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Workshop on the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Cambodia. The main objectives of the workshop were to present the key findings on linkages between gender equality and climate change in energy, agriculture, rural development and forestry in Cambodia. The workshop was hosted by CDRI in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, and UNWOMEN.

31 August, Phnom Penh

Thal Udom Chomnes: Reimagining the Future of Cambodia's Education and Research Validation Workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to: (1) launch the research project, which is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes Program Stream 2, and inform CDRI's partners and stakeholders about the research themes and activities of the project, and (2) share the preliminary findings from the study on "Forced Adoption of EdTech during Covid-19" and collect feedback from key stakeholders (particularly, higher education institutions and the Department of Higher Education/Ministry of Education).

14 September

Launch of Podcast Series Episode 2 – Social Protection for Women and Vulnerable Groups: Challenges and Opportunities During the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond. The podcast series aims to (1) disseminate knowledge and research findings in a simplified and synthesised manner, (2) establish a channel for a wider community of knowledge sharing, and (3) engage stakeholders in discussions that contribute to knowledge building on the impacts of Covid-19, policy responses and recovery, and policy recommendations. CDRI's host, Pon Dorina, sat with HE Nhean Sochetra, Director General of the General Department of Social Development, Ministry of Women's Affairs, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of social protection for women and vulnerable groups during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

20 September

Internal Sharing Session: Preliminary Baseline Results for Impacts of Covid-19 in the Mekong Subregion. The meeting formed part of the Covid-19 research project funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre. Research partners from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam met to share preliminary findings on the impact of Covid-19 on the socioeconomic wellbeing of women, vulnerable groups and micro, small and medium enterprises.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Centre for Development Economics and Trade (CDET)

After a rigorous editorial and peer review process, the release of the CDRI working paper titled "Vending in the City: Unprotected Yet Better Off" marked the completion of the project *Street Vendors, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction*. The paper provides insight into the characteristics, experiences and marginalisation of street vendors in Cambodia. As such, it provides a valuable basis for evidence-based policy and decision making.

CDET's publication plan took a further step with the submission of a manuscript to ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore, as part of the regional collaborative project *Agricultural Trade between China and Mekong-Lancang Countries: Value Chain Analysis.* The mansucript is undergoing pre-publication checks and the book is expected to be published in early 2022.

For the *Digital Skills Assessment Survey*, the team has been developing and revising the final draft of the research paper. In collaboration with the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology, the team organised a virtual consultation workshop aiming to share the findings and to gather additional input and feedback to improve the quality of the research.

To prepare for data collection for Phase 2 of the project *The Contribution of Vocational Skills Development to Inclusive Industrial Growth and Transformation: An Analysis of Critical Factors in Six Countries,* the team continued working closely with Zurich University and project partners to fine-tune the research design and develop data collection instruments. We also worked on analysing the case studies conducted during Phase 1. The results of this analysis contributed substantially to shaping the research roadmap for Phase 2. The findings from Phase 1 have been well documented and published in an article titled "Cambodia's Manufacturing Industry: Skills Formation Systems in the Workplace".

Our work on the project *The Impact of Covid-19 on Inclusive Development and Governance: Rapid and Post-Pandemic Assessment in the CLMV* also made significant progress. We organised a virtual internal sharing session with consortium members to present preliminary baseline findings on the impact of Covid-19 on the socioeconomic wellbeing of women, vulnerable groups, and micro, small and medium enterprises. The session generated fruitful discussion and insightful comments and suggestions to improve research output.

The first round of data collection was carried out for *Impacts of the Covid-19 Crisis on Cambodian Households,* a project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. This involved a telephone survey with 1,183 households across 12 villages in Cambodia. Data collection started in late July and completed in early August.

With financial support from Cambodia's Institute for Industry and Commerce and Laos' Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the team started working on the project *Strengthening E-Commerce Cooperation under AHKFTA: A Case Study of Cambodia*. The objective of this study is to develop regional generalisability and a reliable reference framework for policymakers to plan interventions that support mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI)

CERI published a CDRI working paper titled "*Permeability in Cambodian Post-secondary Education and Training: A Growing Convergence*" and two CDR articles namely "*No Place Like Home: Cambodian Garment Workers' Perspective on Their Skills Development Needs*" and "*Faculty Engagement in Higher Education Internationalization: A Review of Literature*."

Data collection was completed for the qualitative study *Faculty Engagement in Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in Cambodia,* and the quantitative study *Determinants of Entrepreneurship Career Intention of Cambodian Undergraduates*. The data is being analysed and will be documented in two CDRI working papers and a CDR article. Both studies were funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The Asia Foundation and the latter study also received funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Another study, namely *Blended Learning: Practices, Challenges* *and Possibilities,* has been conceptualised and is at the preparatory stage for data collection, which is expected to start in late October.

Additionally, as a main component of project implementation, in-house training was organised to allow junior researchers and interns to develop and improve the skills they need to carry out the research activities expected of them. The latest capacity development training focused on qualitative data analysis using NVivo. At the same time, CERI recruited two interns for a six-month mentorship program and two PhD fellows for a one-year fellowship program.

In early September, in collaboration with the NGO Education Partnership (NEP), CERI, together with CDRI's other research centres, delivered training on Applied Social Research and Information Literacy to civil society organisations in seven provinces and cities in Cambodia. This training program will end in late November.

On 1–2 July, in collaboration with the Department of Policy, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the NEP, CDRI organised a national policy dialogue on the theme "*Accelerating Progress and Equity in Education*". This national policy dialogue was supported and funded by Konrad Adenauer Sharing Political and Civic Engagement Spaces Programme or KASpaces to promote collaboration and cooperation between various stakeholders in addressing SDG 4 and other societal aspirations. The workshop attracted about 250 participants from 10 countries. The discussion themes are i). Traditional and blended learning during the Covid-19 pandemic, ii). Infrastructure and teacher development in new context; iii). Inequality in education; and iv). New actors in education.

CERI hosted an inception and validation workshop on 31 August to launch the second stream of The Asia Foundation's *Ponlok Chomnes* program, which receives support from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and to share the preliminary findings from the study on *Forced Adoption of EdTech during Covid-19* for feedback from key stakeholders. In addition, two researchers from CERI were selected to present a paper at the Comparative Education Society of Asia conference on the topic "*Blurred Identities: The Hybridisation of Education and Training Systems in Cambodia*." The conference was hosted online on 25 – 26 September 2021 at the School of Education, University of Kathmandu, Nepal.

Centre for Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE)

For the collaborative regional project *Water Diplomacy of the Mekong Basin: Towards a Shared Basin for Prosperity,* funded by the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Fund through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, all four country research partners revised their research findings and completed the second draft of their country reports. The policy briefs are now being prepared.

The team finished the third round of data collection for the project called *The Impact of Climate Change Programs in Cambodia: Vulnerability, Poverty and Gender*. The survey was administered to 205 households in Kampong Cham province. Data was also collected from 18 key informant interviews with project beneficiaries/villagers in Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom provinces. All interviews were done by telephone due to Covid-19. Data analysis and research findings have been documented in a report which was submitted to the donor.

For the Sida *Challenges and Potential of Community-Based Ecotourism in Livelihood Improvement: A Case Study of Preah Nimith CBET, Cambodia,* the final research report and accompanying policy brief were completed. For *Gender-based Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Cambodia's Local Communities,* another Sida-funded project, data analysis and report writing were postponed. The *State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Cambodia* concluded with the publication of the assessment report and a policy brief on gender equality and climate change in Cambodia, both of which are available on CDRI's website.

Centre for Governance and Inclusive Society (CGIS)

CGIS continued implementing a collaborative project with Royal Holloway University of London titled *ReFashion: Social Protection and the Gendered Impact of Covid-19 in Cambodia*.

In July, the research team completed two rounds of data collection. The survey questionnaire was administered to 200 garment workers and in-depth interviews were held with 60 garment workers. The first round of stakeholder interviews was also completed and the second round is planned for November. In addition, the team carried out the baseline survey for *Building Capacities for Civic Engagement, Peacebuilding and Inclusive Dialogue: Towards Inclusive and Participatory Governance,* a project funded by the United Nations Development Programme. Phone interviewing was the means of data collection, which started in June and ended in early July. Data analysis and the final report will be submitted to the donor by the end of 2021.

The centre was awarded two new projects. First is the *Consultancy for Addressing Care Economy and Unpaid Care Work of Women in Cambodia,* funded by the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The aim of this project is to document evidence and best practices for addressing the care economy and unpaid care work of women. The findings and recommendations will be used to inform policy and practice and develop advocacy tools for promoting gender equality and women's economic and social empowerment. The project started in June and runs until November 2021. The second project, *The Financialisation of Agrarian Landscapes in Cambodia,* is funded by the National University of Singapore. It seeks to address two research questions: What roles have international financial institutions played in creating Cambodia's rural financial market? How has national-level policy sought to create and regulate the rural financial market in Cambodia? The project runs from September 2021 to March 2022.

In addition, CGIS continued arranging and facilitating CDRI's monthly research seminars in which various topics were presented and discussed. Also, effective from July, a CGIS research associate was promoted to deputy director of CGIS.

Centre for Policy Research in Agriculture and Rural Development (CPARD)

Five projects are being implemented by CPARD. The study team is currently analysing data for *Integrating Smallholders into Commercialisation through Public-Private Partnerships,* the first study under the regional project titled *Network for Agriculture and Rural Development Think Tanks for Countries in the Mekong Subregion,* which is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The dissemination workshop for *Cambodia's Agri-Food Trade: Structure, New Emerging Potential, Challenges and Impacts of Covid-19,* the first study under *Food Security Policy Research, Capacity and Influence,* was successfully conducted with participants from various stakeholders. This collaborative project is led by Feed the Future Innovation Lab of Michigan State University with the involvement of International Food Policy Research Institutes.

The research report for the Sida-funded project *On-farm Food Safety in Horticulture in Cambodia: The Case of Vegetable Farming* was published as CDRI Working Paper 128 in both hard copy and soft copy (available on CDRI's website).

The desk study and survey tools were finalised for the *Comparative Study for Sustainable and Better Market Access of the Regional Rice Sector,* which is funded by IFAD. Fieldwork is planned for October.

The concept note for *Community-Based Childcare for Garment Factory Workers: Impact Evaluation* funded by the World Bank is being finalised and the survey questionnaire developed.

CDRI Update

MAJOR EVENTS

1–2 July, Phnom Penh

National Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Progress and Equity in Education. The three-fold aim of this dialogue was to promote collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders towards achieving the targets of Cambodian Social Development Goal 4 and other societal aspirations, identify the common challenges faced by different stakeholders in achieving those targets and aspirations, and establish a collaborative framework to address the challenges posed by Covid-19.

February–July, Phnom Penh

CDRI monthly research seminars. Seven research seminars on various themes were hosted to share research findings and collect feedback. These seminars are open forums for CDRI researchers and the public. 12 themes were (1) Convergence in Human Capital Across Countries, (2) Fighting Automation through Education: Are Workers in High-Risk Occupations Educating Themselves, (3) Research Skills (qualitative methods), (4) Clean Energy – Global Trends and Cambodian Opportunities, (5) Connectivity initiatives in the Mekong region, (6) Economic recovery policies: aspect and perspective in PPPs, (7) Cambodian Civil Society and Youth Civic Engagement at a Time of Political Change, (8) Career experiences of women academics in leadership positions at Cambodian universities, (9) Gendered Impacts Of Covid-19 On Higher Education in Cambodia: Perspectives of Female Lecturers and Students, (10) Cambodia's Agri-Food Trade, (11) Locating 'Human Dignity' in Cambodian Laws, Policies and Activism, and (12) State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Cambodia.

28 July, Phnom Penh

National Dissemination Workshop on 'The Effect of Parental Migration on the Schooling of Children Left Behind in Rural Cambodia'. The workshop brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, development partners, and international and local non-government organisations working in the areas of migration and primary education. The main objectives of the workshop were to (1) disseminate the results of the study, (2) discuss the findings against the wider issues, challenges, opportunities and risks of rural-to-urban and international migration and the impact on the educational attainment of children left behind, and (3) formulate policy recommendations to level up the education program so that those children have better educational outcomes.

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A Publication of CDRI - Cambodia's leading independent development policy research institute

CAMBODIA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Volume 25, Issue 3 (September 2021)

Cambodia Development Resource Institute
CDRI's Contact Details
56, Street 315, PO Box 622, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
+855 23 881701/881384; +855 23 880734
e-mail: cdri@cdri.org.kh / pubs@cdri.org.kh
website: www.cdri.org.kh

Cambodia Development Review is published four times a year in simultaneous English and Khmer language editions by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute in Phnom Penh.

Cambodia Development Review provides a forum for the discussion of development issues affecting Cambodia. Economy Watch offers an independent assessment of Cambodia's economic performance.

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Publisher: CDRI
Managing Editor: OUM Chantha
Production Editor: MEN Chanthida
Cover Photograph: Courtesy CDRI Staff
Printing: Go Invent Media (GIM), Phnom Penh

ISSN 1560-7607 / ISBN 978-99950-52-05-8

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