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FACTORS HINDERING SUCCESSFUL BENEFITS REALISATION OF CAMBODIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM: CASE STUDY OF A WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT, KAMPONG SVAY DISTRICT, KAMPONG THOM PROVINCE

Introduction

Climate change and poverty continue to pose ever more formidable and pressing challenges for developing countries. Although huge strides made over the last decades have lifted millions of people out of poverty, without concerted action to mitigate climate change, those gains could be quickly lost. The outlook is alarming. Recent estimates claim that by 2030 climate change could tip some 100 million people back into extreme poverty and climatic disasters could displace around 200 million (Khoday and Ali, 2018). In response, governments, international development organisations and nongovernmental organisations are accelerating intervention programs at the local level to reduce poverty and build local communities' adaptive capacities to increase livelihood resilience to climate change.

More and more climate change programs being implemented in developing countries focus on building the resilience of vulnerable groups at the local level, including the poor, female-headed households, elderly, disabled, and children. Paradoxically, vulnerable groups can be very hard to reach or help, even through well-planned and well-executed targeted interventions. Some of the main



A successful home garden in the Ministry of Rural Development of program
Kampong Thom, October 2018

barriers hampering successful benefits realisation are inadequate irrigation and drainage, low level of skills and education, inaccessible water sources, food insecurity, lack of climate change education and awareness and consequent lack of disaster (drought/flood) preparedness, limited networking and information sharing, land ownership dynamics and landlessness, and no or limited access to financial resources and services (Nang and Ouch 2014; Nyahunda and Tirivangasi 2019).

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Cambodia is among the countries most affected by natural disasters worldwide, and suffers the consequences of floods, droughts and storms on an almost seasonal basis. Underpinning the country's vulnerability to climate change is the fact that 77 percent of the population, including the majority of people in poverty, live in rural areas and are highly dependent on rainfed agriculture (mostly rice) and natural resources for food and income (Yusuf and Francisco 2009; NIS 2019). Kampong Thom, adjacent to the Tonle Sap Lake in central Cambodia, is among the provinces most severely affected by flooding and drought and is also one of the poorest. Frequent floods and droughts cause major damage, especially to unimproved water and sanitation sources, physical infrastructure, crop yields and livestock production, let alone loss of human life (NCDM 2020).

Within Kampong Thom province, Kampong Svay district is prone to persistent severe drought. In response, the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), with financial and technical support from Cambodia Climate Change Alliance and Caritas Cambodia, has implemented a pilot program (including small projects) in the most affected communities to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation, and food security in the dry season. Specifically, the aim was to build climate-resilient water infrastructure (wells and rainwater collection/storage systems), install improved latrines and establish home gardens.

This article draws on a qualitative study conducted to assess the impact of climate change programs in Cambodia, including the MRD's pilot program in

Kampong Svay district (CDRI, MRD and UNDP 2019). It summarises the main lessons learned and discusses the main factors hindering poor and vulnerable program beneficiaries from replicating demonstration activities of building the resilient infrastructure (dug well, drilled well, latrine, home garden) after the program intervention ends. The discussion concludes with some recommendations for future climate change programs.

Program background

The MRD's resilient infrastructure pilot program was implemented in eight villages in eight communes (one village per commune) in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province, from 2015 to 2019. The purpose was to improve year-round access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation, and support the capacity of local people to develop and plan for climate-resilient livelihoods. The program was targeted at poor households, female-headed households, the elderly, general households, and MRD officials at the national and subnational level (Khim and Chin 2016). There were clear criteria for identifying the beneficiaries: the poor, the elderly, the female-household heads. They must also work in or near the village (i.e. do not migrate for work), have enough labour to ensure equipment maintenance, be willing to maintain a home garden, and be willing to participate after direct support has ended.

The climate-resilient infrastructure provided under the program amounted to 11 dug wells, 5 drilled wells, 8 latrines and rainwater collection/storage systems, and 16 home gardens. Drilling

Figure 1: Dug well



Figure 2: Deep drilled well for year-round water supply



Figure 3: Latrine and rainwater collection/storage system for improved sanitation

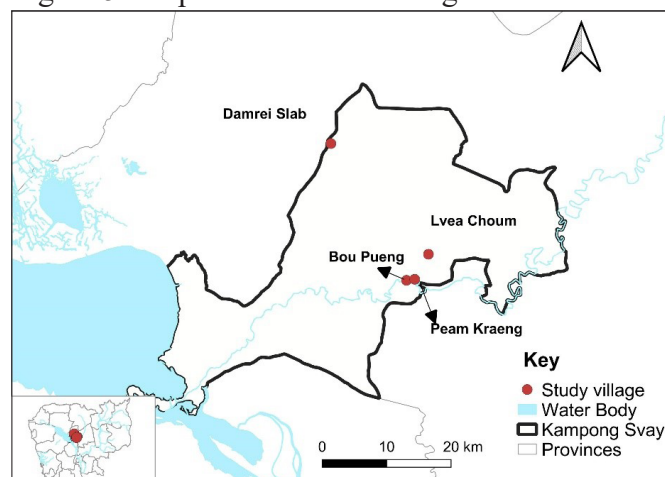


allows wells to be deeper and produce water that is uncontaminated and available year-round (Figures 1 and 2). The latrines were built on land at lowest risk of flooding at schools and traditional ceremony venues that are accessible to all villagers (Figure 3). The home gardens were set up with a drip irrigation system (designed for low water usage and ease of maintenance) for both dry and rainy season vegetable production (Figure 4).

Study site selection and data collection

Four of the eight project target villages in four communes of Kampong Svay district were selected for study (Figure 5). Three of the villages are located close to Stung Saen River (more accessible for water and fishing), which flows into the Tonle Sap Lake. The other village is far from the water source. The entire district has severe drought and water shortages.

Figure 5: Map of the studied villages



Source: Compiled by authors based on NIS 2010

Figure 4: Home garden with drip irrigation system



Primary data was collected from 13 key informant interviews and three focus group discussions (each with six to ten people) with program beneficiaries. Secondary data came from Commune Database 2018, Census 2019 and Census Database 2008 (NIS 2018, 2019, 2010). The study participants were selected to represent stakeholders of all types: poor households, female-headed households, children (under 15-year olds), elderly (65–70 years old), disabled people, general households, village and commune authorities, and MRD technical staff. The data was analysed using thematic analysis.

Demographics in the study sites

The four villages comprise 938 households and have a combined population of 4,694, half of whom are female and 67 percent are of working age (15–65 years old) (Table 1). About 76 percent are literate, 51 percent finished primary school and 21 percent graduated from high school (NIS 2018). Average household size is four people (NIS 2019).

The primary occupation of the villagers is rice farming. Only a small minority (10 percent) of them can plant two rice crops a year, because their rice fields are either irrigated or near the drainage canal. Chickens, pigs and cows are raised as a second source of income and for meat. In addition, villagers usually grow vegetables and fruit trees such as garlic, water spinach, banana, papaya, jackfruit and mango around their house. In Damrei Slab village, around 20 families had migrated to work in Thailand for the whole year, according to the village chief. Villagers also rely on fishing to support household food security. The villages are not connected to the electricity grid. Car

Table 1: The studied villages in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province

Commune	Village	Total households	Total males	Total females
Kampong Kou	Bou Pueng	192	449	468
Damrey Slab	Damrei Slab	181	391	394
Trapeang Ruessei	Lvea Choum	230	640	565
Kdei Doung	Peam Kraeng	335	873	914
Total		938	2353	2341

Source: (NIS, 2018)

batteries (66 percent) and solar panels are the common sources of energy for lighting, and wood is the fuel commonly used for cooking (NIS 2018). About 50 percent of households have a latrine at home.

Findings – key factors hindering benefits realisation

The studied participants expressed satisfaction with the pilot program and requested that it be expanded to all other villages in the province. The home garden benefited from the commitment of women and children because they mostly stayed at home and could maintain it. However, the study identified four inhibiting factors that affect beneficiary participation: high temperatures linked to climate change, household structure/capacity (household labour supply and finances), fixing equipment faults or problems (reliance on technical support from government), and livelihood strategies and priorities of poor households. These factors are elaborated below.

High temperatures linked to climate change

Maintaining home vegetable gardens, according to an official from the Provincial Department of Rural Development, has been challenging due to extremely high temperatures. During the heatwave in May 2019, temperature rose to 42°C compared to the average monthly temperature of 30°C with highs of 34°C. Water is almost always limited in the dry season because most wells, even the deep ones, dry up. Villagers reported that the onset of the rainy season is becoming increasingly delayed, with the traditionally wet months of June and July staying completely dry. A village chief said:

The MRD's development project has helped to improve hygiene. However, the new wells only solve part of the water shortage issue because the project provided only eight wells. The villagers built the other 13 wells. To solve this issue,

people buy water from the private supplier, which cost 13,000 riels per 5,000-litre-tank. Nearly 100 percent of the villagers use wells [as the main water source].

According to MRD staff:

Digging and restoring more ponds is helpful for coping with extreme heat in the area. Ponds can store a large amount of water for commune consumption during the dry season.

Household structure/capacity (available labour and access to finance)

The pilot program offering home gardens to the poor and older households had a low success rate of 30 percent to 40 percent. This is because maintaining a home garden – taking care of seedlings, watering, weeding, filling the water tank, making compost, and so on – involves a fair amount of manual work and so requires a certain level of physical capability. Therefore, households with disabled and/or older adults, or households that lack sufficient family labour, could find it quite challenging to manage a home garden.

According to a female householder in Damrey Slap village:

I got a home garden from the MRD project and I had some challenges. First, both my husband and I are getting old and we have not had enough energy for vegetable gardening since before the project started. Growing vegetables is quite hard work. We planted up the home garden twice but unfortunately all the plants were damaged, we don't know how or why, even though we followed the instructions from training. When the project staff came to check, I told them the truth and let them take back the home garden and offer it to other households who have the energy to grow vegetables.

The high cost of pilot drip irrigation systems for watering home gardens can be a challenge for the community to build in other villages. However,

MRD staff suggested that the villagers can use local resources such as poles rather than buy expensive equipment and materials.

Technical support from the government

Most people living in poor households have low educational attainment and no or low-level qualifications and need financial support. At the lowest threshold, the poorest households need continuous and direct household-level support to improve their situation. There is a glaring need for some villagers to be able to repair broken wells and manage home gardens, and for a planned budget to buy spare parts. Even though village committees (one per each commune) had been established to take care of and repair the infrastructure, maintenance has been restricted by lack of knowhow and the costs involved.

According to the FGD with commune councillors in Sangkor Commune:

The well is far from home. Some villagers use it, but they are not willing to do the maintenance. “The difficulties with the project include the broken well, there are no spare parts and no one can fix it”, said the commune chief in Sangkor commune.

Maintaining the wells, latrines, water collection and storage systems, and home gardens are the main challenges and those maintenance activities need cooperation from the beneficiaries, other users, and local authorities.

Livelihood strategies of poor and very poor households (different priorities)

Poor households usually prioritised earnings from paid work. Some households had left their village to find jobs in other areas, which was at variance with the criterion “must work in or near the village” for selecting the most relevant program beneficiaries. Other households lost commitment and prioritised daily wages as ricefield workers instead. The home gardens clearly did not work well for poor households. In contrast, medium and better-off households have more labour and more diverse income sources and therefore had the means to set up and manage successful home gardens.

According to an MRD official:

There are several reasons why [some] villagers failed in the home gardens. They consider this home garden as a second or third income source, not a primary one. They have other options to earn a much higher income from paid work, garment factory jobs in the city, or work in the forests. It's not necessary for them to take care of this home garden because they can survive without it.

According to the district governor in Kampong Svay,

“The highest priority for communities in this district is rehabilitating the road along the canal 30 Kanhha because it is the main road for transporting rice to the market, and will benefit the whole district.”

Conclusion

The beneficiaries of the Climate Change Intervention Program in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province, voiced their support for the program and requested that the provision of wells, latrines, home gardens and rainwater collection and storage systems be expanded throughout the province. However, some aspects of the program did not work as well as envisioned in that the intended benefits were not fully realised. Four factors are found to hinder the ability of vulnerable households to benefit fully from the intervention: lack of labour in older households, extreme heat, different priorities/loss of commitment among poor households, and lack of technical knowhow and financial support.

The findings suggest that future interventions to build the adaptive capacity of people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups to develop climate-resilient livelihood strategies should consider the following:

1. **Climate-resilient infrastructure:** Improving the climate resilience of roads that make accessible the places where local people want to go and increasing access to improved water sources are the two key elements. Digging more ponds to store water for use in the dry season is also a priority because most wells dry up. Rehabilitating the road along the canal 30 Kanhha in Kampong Svay district will elevate livelihood stability because it is the main road for transporting rice to the market.

2. **Wider range of livelihood options:** Because poorer households prioritise paid work, including migration to find work, adaptation interventions should help create sustainable paid work options for poor households in the community.
3. **Equipment maintenance training:** Selected local beneficiaries of the program and the commune maintenance committee should continue to be trained on how to maintain and repair equipment and facilities provided by the project – wells/water pumps, home gardens, latrines, rain collection/storage system. Doing so would reduce reliance on MRD's technical support and allow communities to be more independent during project implementation. A planned budget for spare parts, with financial support from the government, development partners and the community, should also be put in place.

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INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP IN CAMBODIA: A CASE STUDY OF KOREAN STUDENTS

Introduction

International student mobility has always been a feature of higher education internationalisation. The share of international student enrolment to total global higher education enrolment has hovered between 2 percent and 3 percent since the 1980s, but international tertiary student numbers have increased exponentially, quintupling from 0.8 million in 1980 to over 5 million in 2018, and are predicted to reach 8 million by 2025 (OECD 2017, Dennis, 2018). Latest official data (IIE 2019) shows that the top destination countries for international students are all developed countries, except for China that has recently risen to third place (Figure 1).

However, little is known about international student mobility from developed to developing countries or between developing countries – trends that have long existed but are only now gaining public and scholarly attention. Even so, the focus is on mobility from less developed countries to more economically advanced countries with better equipped higher education systems (Knight 2014; Jiani 2016). The reverse trend of student mobility from advanced countries with a better higher education system to less developed ones remains in the margins of discussion.

Also, while international degree mobility has been the centre of attention, non-degree mobility such as for internship programs, visiting and exchange schemes has barely been discussed. To contribute to the growing debate on these topics, this paper examines the internship experience of South Korean students at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI). It begins with the study's conceptual framework and methodology, followed by discussion of the findings. It concludes with recommendations for policy and practice, and future research directions on international student internship.

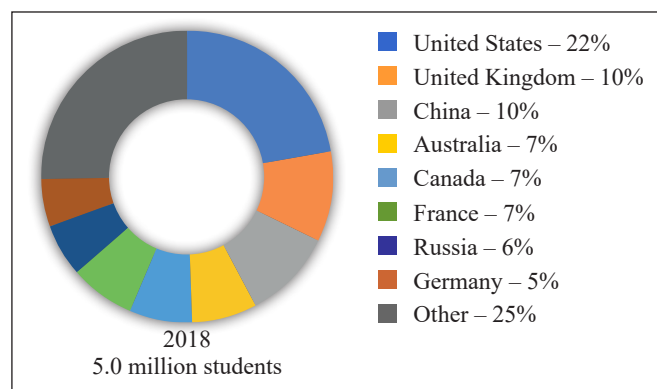
Prepared by Kang SoHyeon and Song Dabin, interns from South Korea, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), CDRI and Leng Phirom, director of Kirirom Institute of Technology. Citation: Kang SoHyeon, Song Dabin and Leng Phirom. 2020. "International Internship in Cambodia: A Case Study of Korean Students." *Cambodia Development Review* 24 (2): 7–11.

Conceptual framework

One way of looking at international internship experience is to adopt the framework of employee job satisfaction. For instance, Rothman's (2003) qualitative study on the internship experiences of business school students identified three factors affecting satisfaction: job-related, organisational and interpersonal aspects. Based on this model, D'Abate, Youndt and Wenzel (2009) developed a more comprehensive model to empirically evaluate internship programs, including job characteristics, work environment and contextual factors. Job characteristics cover skill variety, task identity, task significance, autonomy and feedback. Work environment characteristics include learning opportunities, supervisory support, career development opportunities, co-worker support and organisation satisfaction. The contextual aspects considered include flexible working, reasonable commute, paid versus unpaid, pay satisfaction and desirable location.

Still, there are some points that D'Abate et al. (2009) might have missed, notably individual factors and university support. Heng et al. (2011) identified three individual factors as important aspects of an effective internship program: academic preparedness, positive attitude and self-initiative. They also focused on university support, which entails linkage between the university and external institutions, with appropriate supervisors appointed by the university to provide academic guidance

Figure 1: Top destination countries for international students in 2018



Source: Project Atlas (IIE 2019)

Table 1: Factors influencing internship satisfaction at CDRI

Factor	Examples
Individual characteristics	academic preparedness, positive attitude, self-initiative
Job characteristics	skill variety, task identity, task significance, autonomy, feedback, task clarity
Organisational environment	supervisors, co-workers, learning opportunities, professional development programs, administrative support, flexible working, pay satisfaction
Contextual	travelling, safety, local culture, local people's attitude towards outsiders

Sources: D'Abate, Youndt and Wenzel 2009; Heng et al. 2011

and one-to-one support to distance learners when emergencies or problems arise (Fagan and Wise 2007). Further, Heng et al. (2011) expanded the term “work environment characteristics” to “organisational environment” which includes supervisors, co-workers, task clarity, learning and development opportunities.

Next, what is the impact of mentorship on international interns? Feldman, Folks and Turnley (1999) suggested three types of outcome, based on previous studies. First, mentoring can lead to the organisational socialisation of new recruits or interns (Louis, Posner and Powell 1983). Two key dimensions of this process are task initiation (which may lead to task mastery) and group initiation (or inclusion). Second, the mentoring of interns on international assignments can lead to greater learning about what life as an expatriate is like and a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges of living in a different culture (Feldman and Thomas 1992). Third, mentoring can have positive employment outcomes, with interns receiving (and accepting) job offers from their internship or a related employer as a result of their internship experiences (Taylor 1985, 1988). From this, we argue that interns who experience successful mentorship relationships are likely to have more positive internship outcomes than those who experienced failed mentorship relationships. Table 1 summarises the framework used for understanding the experience of South Korean interns at CDRI.

Table 2: List of participants

Participant	Position
PA	research intern
PB	research intern
PC	research intern
PD	research intern
PE	research intern
PF	research intern
PG	senior researcher
PH	senior administrator

Methodology

This study follows a qualitative research approach. Interviews and personal reflections were the primary methods of data collection used to gain a deep understanding of the motivations and experiences of South Korean interns at CDRI. Interviews were conducted in two phases: first with four interns who worked at CDRI from August 2017 to January 2018; and then with two interns who worked at CDRI between August 2018 and January 2019, as well as with two CDRI staff purposefully selected based on their experience and involvement in the internship program. The interviews with CDRI staff provided overall context for the duration of the internship programs. Data was analysed within the framework of four factors of internship satisfaction (see Table 1). To secure the anonymity and confidentiality of participants, we use the pseudonyms shown in Table 2 in the analysis.

It is important to acknowledge the benefits and biases of the study given that three of the study participants (two interns and their mentor) authored this paper. As insider researchers, we already had an intimate understanding of the organisational culture at CDRI and were able to communicate with other study participants quickly and conveniently. Also, we could incorporate our own perspectives in the conceptual framework. On the other hand, we brought certain biases to the study, especially our interpretation of the findings. That said, the fact that one of the authors is an experienced researcher ensured rigorous research methodology and good research practice throughout the study.

Case study of international interns at CDRI

The internship program

As part of its capacity building program, CDRI provides opportunities for national and international early career researchers, including university students and fresh graduates to gain research and administrative experience through mentor-protégé programs. In addition, the international internship program enables CDRI to establish research collaborations with international institutions, and encourages the exchange of ideas, experience and expertise with local researchers and students (interview with PG, 12 Dec 2018).

In the mentor-protégé program, in principle, each intern is assigned to work closely with one senior researcher. At the time of study, the Education Unit followed the mentor-protégé program as a policy more strictly than other research units. Overall, in the past six years, CDRI hosted an average of 17 interns a year, amounting to a total of 95 by 2018. Twenty-four of them were international students from 10 countries, namely Australia, Canada, France, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, the UK and the US. The duration of their internships ranged from three to twelve months.

Internship experience

At the end of their internships, all six interns expressed satisfaction with their experience, citing three key factors. One is related to practical experience in research and administrative roles, and exposure to current developments in the country. Related to job characteristics, they were engaged in all aspects of the research cycle, from conceptualisation and research design to fieldwork, data collection and analysis, dissemination of findings and report writing.

We are all undergraduate students and we need to follow the college curriculum, including taking courses and lectures that we're not really interested in. Hence, the experience at CDRI is a big catalyst to design our future. The knowledge [gained] from lectures is bookish. We cannot practically apply that great knowledge but we can use what we have learned from our internship at CDRI. To conduct research and to write our own research paper, we have to use a lot of general and in-depth knowledge about the issue, more than what is taught in school. (Interview with PA, 13 Oct 2017)

Second, the interns were also impressed with the atmosphere at CDRI, which relates to individual factors, job characteristics and organisational environment. In particular, they noted the collegiality and friendliness of CDRI staff, the autonomous and creative workplace culture, and the idea of learning by doing (i.e. from trial and error). One intern mentioned how the workplace culture meant they could perform well and productively, whereas many companies in South Korea have strict and inflexible workplace rules. Moreover, the interns expressed satisfaction with CDRI's mentor-protégé program. They said they had learned a lot from their internship, ranging from research skills to the importance of sociocultural understanding. To quote one of them:

I'm working here as an employee but at the same time I'm a university student. That means we still have supervisors from school and can get advice from them. We can work and learn simultaneously, like pre-service training. (Interview with PD, 1 Oct 2018)

Four of the interns emphasised that the internship meant they could learn how to conduct research, from reviewing the literature to writing reports, even on topics related to their field. One intern said that academic research is one of the best aspects of their studies and wanted to pursue professional research beyond the level of university. Another intern citing research and writing as weaknesses was hoping to improve their writing skills through internship at CDRI. To sum up, for a variety of reasons, the interns were attracted to the idea of doing research at CDRI. Furthermore, the opportunity to take part in practical research activities such as field visits and data collection was an added motivation.

All six interns reported that their internship at CDRI had broadened their cultural understanding of Cambodia. It was an enriching experience for those majoring in international studies because they had obtained some different insights by observing international phenomena from a different cultural perspective. Having an objective perspective is a positive attribute in most disciplines and professions. By immersing themselves in a different culture, they could acquire hands-on experience and broaden their insights. This will prepare them for a future career in international development.

Importantly, the outcome of broadening cultural knowledge benefits both international interns and local interns and junior researchers. This was raised by a CDRI researcher, who mentioned that local researchers, especially early-career researchers who have little or no exposure to foreign countries, can experience different cultures by working and socialising with international interns (interview with PG, 9 Jan 2019).

At the end of the interview, all interns said that if they could make the internship decision again, they would still choose CDRI, with practical research experience and the workplace atmosphere being the key factors. From this, we can conclude that interns' positive experiences were driven by job characteristics and organisational environment. The positive experiences reported across two different intern cohorts suggest the consistent success of CDRI's mentor-protégé program and the strong relationship between CDRI and its South Korean counterpart:

A CDRI researcher presented [a paper] at a conference held some time ago by Chonbuk National University and KAIDEC.¹ At that time, the researcher met a professor from Chonbuk and they had a conversation about CDRI's international internship program. From this, the professor visited CDRI and asked the institute to host some of his students as interns. Over the years, the professor has built strong trust in the quality and programs of CDRI and now sends three or four of his students every year to spend around six months at CDRI as interns. (Interview with PG, 9 Jan 2019)

The above comment suggests the role of human agency in international collaborative activities between CDRI and Chonbuk National University.

As well as positive experiences, many interns talked about their negative experiences during their stay in Cambodia, including air pollution and the unorganised public transport system – related to contextual factors. They also mentioned the language barrier, as none of them could speak Khmer. Even at CDRI where English is used as the working language, many activities, including fieldwork require basic Khmer language skills.

One intern suggested that CDRI organise Khmer language lessons to support international interns, and several interns regretted not having studied Khmer before coming to Cambodia. Participant PH suggested it would be helpful for interns if they could learn some everyday words and phrases in Khmer and acquaint themselves with Cambodian culture and history as part of their preparation for internship.

Also worth mentioning is the mentorship program itself. Although many of the interns were satisfied with the program, one intern reported not having enough initial mentoring from their mentor, inferring that program content varies depending on the mentor and the projects they are engaged in. Another intern said that the mentee-mentor relationship was interrupted by the mentor's assignment on an international research exchange.

Conclusion

This paper gives insights into the internship experience of South Korean students at CDRI. Experience of a different culture, a broader outlook for regional developments, and deeper understanding of intellectual life are the main positive outcomes from their international internship experience. Proper guidance through the mentor-protégé program, and the innovative work environment, added to their positive experience. From this, we can conclude that the institutional mentor-protégé program should be extended across CDRI to strengthen and improve the quality of its internship program, and ultimately its international reputation. Other Cambodian institutions could learn from CDRI's successful experience of running mentor-protégé programs for international interns.

It would be mutually beneficial for CDRI to organise Khmer language classes for international interns. Doing so would maximise their scholarly and social engagement as well as their meaningful contribution to CDRI's research work. Overall, internship is not simply about dispatching students abroad without proper understanding of the host country's or institutional culture and background. Strong human connections and trust are also key to establishing and sustaining an international internship program, as in the case of South Korean interns at CDRI.

¹ KAIDAC stands for Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation.

This case study was limited to six Korean interns at CDRI. So it is hard to generalise these findings to other international interns at CDRI let alone to international student mobility per se. And given that two of the authors are insider researchers, the findings should be treated with caution. Another limitation of this study is that the interviews were conducted in two phases over different time periods. Future studies should consider these points and take a comparative approach by exploring the experiences of international interns from other countries.

Plus, CDRI is unique, being established in 2000 under Anukret 94 as an independent non-profit policy research institute and recognised by the Cambodian government as providing services to enhance human resource development in the country and undertaking research and analysis to inform development policy and strategy. Hence, CDRI has a long tradition of hosting international scholars and interns, and a good reputation locally, regionally and internationally for research excellence. It would therefore be interesting to look at international internship programs at other Cambodian research and non-research institutes.

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Economy Watch—External Environment

This section presents the main economic indicators of major world economies and economies in Southeast Asia. Overall, in the first quarter of 2020, GDP growth in all selected countries slowed drastically to record low levels.

Among the selected ASEAN countries, Singapore had the lowest growth rate at minus 2.2 percent, followed by Thailand (minus 1.8 percent), Malaysia (0.7 percent) and Indonesia (2.0 percent). The latest data on GDP growth in Cambodia and Vietnam was not available at the time of writing. Compared to the same quarter last year, Singapore's GDP dropped by 3.5 percentage points, Thailand's by 4.6 percentage points, Malaysia's by 3.8 percentage points and Indonesia's by 2.1 percentage points. Compared to the preceding quarter, Singapore's GDP decreased by 3.0 percentage points, Thailand's by 3.4 percentage points, Malaysia's by 2.9 percentage points and Indonesia's by 2.0 percentage points.

In selected other Asian countries, Hong Kong had the lowest GDP growth rate (minus 8.9 percent), followed by China (minus 6.8 percent), South Korea (1.3 percent) and Taiwan (1.5 percent). Compared to the same quarter last year, Hong Kong's GDP declined by 9.5 percentage points, China's by 13.2 percentage points, South Korea's by 0.5 percentage points and Taiwan's by 0.2 percentage points. Compared to the preceding quarter, Hong Kong's growth rate dropped by 6.0 percentage points, China's by 12.8 percentage points, South Korea's by 2.1 percentage points and Taiwan's by 1.8 percentage points.

Looking at the selected industrial countries, the Euro-12 had the lowest GDP growth rate (minus 3.3 percent), followed by Japan (minus 2.0 percent) and the USA (0.3 percent). Compared to the first quarter of 2019, the Euro-12's GDP declined by 4.5 percentage points, Japan's by 2.9 percentage points and the USA's by 2.9 percentage points. Compared to a quarter earlier, the Euro-12's growth rate dropped by 4.3 percentage points, Japan's by 1.3 percentage points and the USA's by 2.0 percentage points.

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World inflation

Among the selected ASEAN countries, compared to the first quarter of 2019, Thailand and Singapore experienced falling inflation rates, whereas Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam experienced rising inflation. Vietnam had the highest inflation rate (5.6 percent), followed by Cambodia (3.0 percent), Indonesia (2.9 percent), Malaysia (0.9 percent), Singapore (0.4 percent) and Thailand (0.4 percent). Compared to the same quarter last year, the inflation rate in Vietnam increased by 3.0 percentage points, Cambodia by 1.1 percentage points, Malaysia by 1.2 percentage points and Indonesia by 0.3 percentage points. The inflation rate in Singapore dropped by 0.1 percentage point and in Thailand by 0.3 percentage points. Compared to a quarter earlier, the inflation rate in Vietnam rose by 1.9 percentage points and in Cambodia by 0.9 percentage points, that in Indonesia and Thailand remained stable, while that in Malaysia fell by 0.1 percentage point and in Singapore by 0.2 percentage points.

China had the highest inflation rate (4.4 percent), followed by Hong Kong (2.0 percent), South Korea (1.2 percent) and Taiwan (0.6 percent). Year on year, China's inflation rate rose by 2.6 percentage points, South Korea's by 0.6 percentage points and Taiwan's by 0.3 percentage points, while Hong Kong's fell by 0.2 percentage points. Compared to the preceding quarter, inflation rose in China by 0.1 percentage points and in South Korea by 0.9 percentage point, and dropped in Hong Kong by 1.0 percentage points and in Taiwan by 0.1 percentage point.

Among the selected industrial countries, the USA had the highest inflation rate (2.1 percent), followed by the Euro-12 (1.1 percent) and Japan (0.5 percent). Year on year, the inflation rate in the USA was up by 0.4 percentage points and in Japan by 0.2 percentage points, whereas that in the Euro-12 was down by 0.3 percentage points. Compared with the preceding quarter, the inflation rates in the USA and Japan remained stable, while that in the Euro-12 headed higher.

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Table 1: Real GDP growth of selected trading partners, 2012–20 (percentage increase over previous year)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	6.3	5.8	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.0
Malaysia	5.4	4.6	6.0	4.9	4.3	5.9	4.8	4.5	4.9	4.4	3.6	0.7
Singapore	1.3	3.8	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.8	3.2	1.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	-2.2
Thailand	6.8	2.8	1.6	2.8	3.2	3.8	4.1	2.8	2.3	2.4	1.6	-1.8
Vietnam	5.2	5.4	5.9	6.6	6.1	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.7	7.3	7.0	-
Selected other Asian countries												
China	7.8	7.7	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.0	-6.8
Hong Kong	2.9	3.0	2.3	2.3	1.7	2.8	3.1	0.6	0.5	2.9	-2.9	-8.9
South Korea	2.1	2.8	3.4	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0	1.8	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.3
Taiwan	1.2	2.2	3.5	0.6	1.2	2.8	2.6	1.7	2.4	3.0	3.3	1.5
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12	-0.5	0.1	0.7	1.3	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	-3.3
Japan	1.7	1.7	0.6	0.3	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.7	-0.7	-2.0
United States	2.1	1.8	2.4	2.3	1.6	2.3	3.0	3.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	0.3

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

Table 2: Inflation rates of selected trading partners, 2012–20 (percentage price increase over previous year – period averages)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia	3.0	3.0	3.9	1.2	3.0	2.9	2.5	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.1	3.0
Indonesia	4.3	7.0	6.4	6.4	3.5	3.8	3.2	2.6	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.9
Malaysia	1.7	2.1	3.2	2.1	2.1	3.9	1.0	-0.3	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.9
Singapore	4.6	2.3	1.0	-0.5	-0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4
Thailand	3.0	2.2	1.9	-0.9	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4
Vietnam	9.3	6.6	4.8	0.6	2.7	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.7	2.2	3.7	5.6
Selected other Asian countries												
China	2.7	2.6	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.6	2.1	1.8	2.6	2.9	4.3	4.4
Hong Kong	4.1	4.0	4.4	3.1	2.5	1.7	2.4	2.2	2.7	3.4	3.0	2.0
South Korea	2.1	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.8	2.0	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.3	1.2
Taiwan	1.9	0.8	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.6
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12	2.5	1.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.1
Japan	0.0	0.4	2.8	0.9	-0.1	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5
United States	2.1	1.5	1.6	0.0	1.2	2.1	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.1	2.1

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

Table 3: Exchange rates against the US dollar of selected trading partners, 2012–20 (period averages)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia (riel)	4037.8	4027.2	4037.6	4060.4	4053.6	4047.0	4045.0	4006.6	4052.1	4086.8	4063.7	4064.1
Indonesia (rupiah)	9363.0	10419.2	11,850.2	13394.8	13338.3	13379.8	14227.6	14127.8	14246.8	14117.6	14060.5	14220.3
Malaysia (ringgit)	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2
Singapore (Singapore dollar)	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Thailand (baht)	31.1	30.7	32.5	34.2	35.3	33.9	32.3	31.6	31.6	30.7	30.3	31.2
Vietnam (dong)	20856.9	20990.3	21,138.2	21917.7	22507.5	22645.9	22663.3	22902.9	23255.5	23258.3	23217.3	23351.0
Selected other Asian countries												
China (yuan)	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0
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)	1126.6	1095.0	1053.6	1131.9	1161.0	1130.5	1099.9	1125.0	1165.4	1193.4	1174.7	1191.5
Taiwan (New Taiwan dollar)	29.6	29.7	30.3	31.8	32.3	30.4	30.1	30.8	31.1	31.2	30.5	30.1
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12 (euro)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Japan (yen)	79.8	97.6	105.9	121.0	108.8	112.1	110.4	110.1	109.9	107.3	108.7	109.0

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

Table 4: Selected commodity prices on world market, 2012–20 (period averages)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Maize (US No. 2) – USA (USD/tonne)	298.4	259.4	192.9	169.8	159.2	154.5	164.4	167.5	175.9	170.1	166.8	167.6
Palm oil – NW Europe (USD/t)	999.3	856.9	821.4	622.7	643.6	714.7	638.7	586.9	568.1	570.1	680.2	724.7
Rubber SMR 5 (USD/tonne)	3200.7	2575.3	1755.6	1392.7	1416.1	1688.3	1401.4	1436.6	1549.5	1389.7	1410.1	1374.4
Rice (Thai 100% B) – Bangkok (USD/tonne)	594.8	533.8	434.9	395.5	406.7	452.3	444.2	426.7	430.0	439.7	442.7	481.3
Soybeans (US No.1) – USA (USD/tonne)	591.4	538.4	491.8	390.4	405.7	400.6	405.4	353.3	347.8	339.7	347.3	360.7
Crude oil – OPEC spot (USD/barrel)	109.5	105.9	96.2	49.6	40.7	52.6	69.5	60.5	65.1	59.7	60.3	49.1
Gasoline US – Gulf Coast (cents/litre)	74.6	71.2	65.6	41.0	35.2	42.4	49.6	40.9	49.4	46.0	43.3	34.2
Diesel (low sulphur No.2) – US Gulf Coast (cents/litre)	80.7	78.4	71.5	41.7	34.8	42.9	53.8	49.5	51.1	48.9	49.4	39.2

Sources: Food and Agriculture Organisation; US Energy Information Administration

Economy Watch—Domestic Performance

Main economic activities

Total fixed asset investment approvals in the first quarter of 2020 decreased by 52.7 percent year on year to USD916.1 m. This was due to there being no approvals for agriculture, a 20.1 percent drop in approvals for industry and a 58.0 percent drop in approvals for services. The hotel and tourism sector was one of the worst performing sectors with a 91.8 percent drop in approvals year on year. In contrast, garment manufacturing, with a 43.4 percent increase in approvals year on year, showed the best performance. Compared to the preceding quarter, approvals for industry decreased by 74.6 percent and services by 52.6 percent. Among all sectors, only approvals for garments increased compared to previous quarters from the first quarter of 2019.

Foreign visitor arrivals, except for those from Thailand, decreased year on year. Arrivals from China dropped by 62.0 percent, South Korea by 56.4 percent, Malaysia by 48.9 percent, USA by 45.9 percent, Japan by 33.9 percent, France by 29.6 percent, the UK by 25.6 percent and Vietnam by 4.0 percent. Compared to the preceding quarter, arrivals from China declined by 47.7 percent, Malaysia by 61.5 percent, South Korea by 38.8 percent, USA by 40.0 percent, Vietnam by 33.9 percent, Japan by 31.6 percent, Thailand by 14.4 percent, France by 6.1 percent and the UK by 3.1 percent.

Total exports increased by 10.2 percent year on year, by 5.1 percent compared to the second quarter of 2019 and by 0.7 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, but decreased by 16.7 percent compared to the third quarter of 2019. The

year-on-year increase in total exports was driven by increases of 7.5 percent in garment exports, 57.2 percent in electronics exports, 27.5 percent in automotive exports and 25.0 percent in agricultural exports. Looking at the destinations of garment exports, compared to the same quarter last year, exports to the USA increased by 27.9 percent and to ASEAN by 43.3 percent, whereas exports to the EU decreased by 1.8 percent, the UK by 10.1 percent and the rest of the world by 0.9 percent. Compared with the preceding quarter, garment exports increased by 4.6 percent and automotive exports by 7.9 percent, while exports of agricultural products dropped by 8.7 percent and of electronics by 2.8 percent. The drop in agricultural exports was largely driven by a 58.0 percent decrease in rubber exports with smaller decreases of 7.4 percent in wood exports and 11.4 percent in other agricultural product exports.

Total imports increased by 18.3 percent year on year but decreased by 1.4 percent compared to the preceding quarter. Year on year, imports of gasoline increased by 8.5 percent, diesel by 8.7 percent, construction materials by 3.6 percent and others by 19.8 percent. Compared to the preceding quarter, only imports of gasoline increased (by 7.8 percent), whereas imports of diesel dropped by 0.3 percent, construction materials by 21.1 percent and others by 0.7 percent.

Public finance

Total revenue increased by 8.8 percent year on year but decreased by 20.0 percent compared to the preceding quarter. Compared to the same quarter last year, current revenue rose by 9.0 percent, tax revenue by 3.8 percent, domestic tax by 4.4 percent, international trade taxes by 0.2 percent, non-tax

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revenue by 52.4 percent, property income by 63.2 percent, sale of goods and services by 51.5 percent and other non-tax revenues by 5.5 percent. Capital revenue decreased by 34.2 percent. Compared to the preceding quarter, only property income rose (by 1,164.6 percent), whereas other types of revenue dropped. Current revenue decreased by 19.6 percent, tax revenue by 21.8 percent, domestic tax by 21.8 percent, international trade taxes by 21.8 percent, non-tax revenue by 3.8 percent, sale of goods and services by 33.2 percent, other non-tax revenue by 58.2 percent and capital revenue by 66.7 percent.

Year on year, total expenditure increased by 27.7 percent, driven by rises of 22.9 percent in capital expenditure, 29.3 percent in current expenditure, 13.1 percent in wages, 76.7 percent in subsidies and social assistance and 52.0 percent in other current expenditure. Compared to the preceding quarter, total expenditure fell by 30.9 percent due to drops of 60.0 percent in capital expenditure, 9.8 percent in current expenditure, 20.5 percent in subsidies and social assistance, and 23.6 percent in other current expenditure. Among all types of expenditure, only wages increased (by 9.3 percent).

The overall balance in the first quarter of 2020 was KHR242.4 bn, a 74.4 percent drop compared to the same quarter last year.

Inflation and foreign exchange rates

The consumer price index for all items increased by 3.0 percent compared to 2.0 percent in the previous two quarters. The price of food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 3.7 percent and of transportation by 2.6 percent.

In terms of exchange rates, the riel depreciated 1.4 percent against the US dollar to KHR4,064.1 per dollar, 2.6 percent against the Thai baht to KHR130.7 per baht and 1.1 percent against the Vietnamese dong to KHR17.6 per 100 dongs compared to the same quarter of 2019. Compared to the preceding quarter, the riel depreciated 0.01 percent against the US dollar, but appreciated 3.1 percent against the Thai baht, while the riel-to-Vietnamese dong exchange rate remained stable.

Gold price was USD188.3 per chi, a 20.2 percent increase compared to the same quarter last year and a 5.7 increase compared to the preceding quarter. Diesel price dropped by 2.1 percent compared to the same quarter last year and 4.5 percent compared to the preceding quarter. Gasoline price increased by 3.9 percent compared to

the same quarter last year but decreased by 4.0 percent compared to the preceding quarter.

Real average daily earnings of vulnerable workers

This section describes the situation of vulnerable workers based on a survey in May 2020 of 120 garment workers and 360 vulnerable workers in nine other types of work. Overall, daily earnings increased for five types of vulnerable workers – porters, waitresses/waiters, ricefield workers, unskilled construction workers and skilled construction workers, and decreased for the remaining five types – cyclo drivers, small vegetable sellers, scavengers, garment workers and motorcycle taxi drivers. Compared to the survey in February 2020, the average daily earnings of porters increased by 3.1 percent, waitresses/waiters by 0.9 percent, ricefield workers by 11.4 percent, unskilled construction workers by 9.7 percent and skilled construction workers by 8.2 percent. Cyclo drivers' earnings dropped by 14.1 percent, small vegetable sellers by 6.0 percent, scavengers by 34.4 percent, garment workers by 12.5 percent and motorcycle taxi drivers by 11.9 percent.

Excluding garment workers, among the nine types of vulnerable workers, the majority (86.4 percent) were from a family with 3–6 members. Most of them (86.4 percent) reported that they were the main income earner of their family, and 68.3 percent of them migrated alone to work in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap. Nearly half of them (44.7 percent) did not have other jobs, and 49.7 percent did farm work and raised livestock for household consumption. In response to the question “can your income support your family?”, 82.8 percent of them reported “some”, 16.4 percent “no” and 0.9 percent “yes”. The vast majority of the vulnerable workers (91.9 percent) said that they could not save any of their earnings to future proof their job. Their income was mainly spent on food (77.5 percent), accommodation (9.5 percent), transport (1.7 percent), health (0.5 percent) and others (10.8 percent).

Regarding the garment workers, all of them reported that they worked six days per week. In response to the question “can your daily earnings support your family?”, the majority of them (83.3 percent) reported “some”, 10.8 percent “no” and 5.8 percent “yes”. Their income mainly went on food (69.7 percent), accommodation (18.3 percent), health (0.3 percent) and other expenses (11.7 percent).

Table 1: Private investment projects approved, 2012–2020

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
								fixed assets (USD m)				
Agriculture	531.6	930.5	56.5	169.8	117.1	62.9	214.9	17.2	48.2	1.9	27.5	0.0
Industry	829.3	3257.0	1002.5	1014.7	1436.4	982.2	1186.2	292.9	113.7	302.0	919.9	234.0
<i>Garments</i>	497.0	324.1	393.5	225.2	380.7	211.1	187.3	73.9	34.4	47.3	74.1	106.0
Services	916.6	140.7	622.6	2734.4	1664.3	3858.6	4351.8	1625.6	2518.2	849.7	1440.4	682.1
<i>Hotels and tourism</i>	691.5	106.0	446.9	98.6	1366.9	2759.6	1584.0	1618.8	2518.2	808.7	1703.8	133.0
Total	2278.0	4328.0	1583.9	3918.9	3217.7	4903.7	5752.9	1935.6	2680.1	1153.5	2387.8	916.1
	percentage change from previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.9	38.5	-57.0	107.0	-61.6
	percentage change from previous year											
Total	90.1	63.4	-63.4	147.4	-17.9	52.4	17.3	312.5	12.6	8.9	29.4	-52.7

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, 2012–2020*

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	thousands											
China	333.9	463.1	560.3	694.7	830.0	1210.8	2024.4	683.4	609.1	572.5	496.9	259.7
Vietnam	763.1	854.1	905.8	987.8	959.7	835.4	800.1	186.9	214.8	235.7	271.5	179.5
South Korea	411.5	435.0	424.4	395.3	357.2	345.0	301.8	95.7	43.6	47.4	68.1	41.7
Thailand	201.4	221.3	279.5	349.9	398.1	394.9	382.3	97.9	76.3	113.9	178.4	152.7
USA	173.1	185.0	191.4	217.5	238.7	256.5	250.8	79.0	53.2	45.5	71.2	42.7
Japan	179.3	206.9	215.8	193.3	191.6	203.4	210.5	60.2	40.4	48.9	58.2	39.8
France	121.2	131.5	141.1	145.7	150.3	166.4	170.8	59.4	27.3	32.9	44.5	41.8
UK	110.2	123.9	133.3	154.3	159.5	171.2	162.4	59.4	29.7	28.5	45.6	44.2
Malaysia	116.8	130.7	144.4	149.4	152.8	179.3	201.1	48.7	43.2	46.5	64.6	24.9
By air	1722.1	2017.7	2273.5	2476.0	2778.0	3312.7	6405.6	1299.1	1054.8	1039.9	1010.2	663.6
By land or water	1862.2	2192.5	2229.3	2299.2	2331.4	2289.4	3242.2	578.7	405.8	436.0	786.1	491.6
Total	3584.3	4210.2	4502.8	4775.2	4980.4	5602.2	9647.7	1877.9	1460.6	1475.8	1796.3	1155.2
	percentage change from previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.9	-22.2	1.0	21.7	-35.7
	percentage change from previous year											
Total	24.4	17.5	7.0	6.1	4.3	12.5	72.2	9.7	13.2	7.4	-1.6	-38.5

Source: Ministry of Tourism

Table 4: Exports and imports, 2012–2020*

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	USD m											
Total exports	4929.5	6106.4	8106.0	9256.4	10043.3	10772.9	12783.8	3222.7	3379.0	4263.9	3524.9	3550.1
Of which: Garments	4259.6	5015.4	5960.5	6827.0	7308.0	8020.3	9506.0	2463.4	2526.3	3143.8	2530.9	2647.2
<i>To USA</i>	2055.3	2143.3	1963.6	2009.4	1831.5	1923.8	2483.2	739.8	802.9	1006.5	848.0	945.9
<i>To EU</i>	1322.2	1716.9	2403.7	2903.9	2928.7	2782.2	3155.3	719.2	801.1	965.4	716.2	706.3
<i>To ASEAN</i>	17.6	39.4	83.3	103.4	98.4	106.9	135.3	38.1	41.3	48.2	53.1	54.6
<i>To Japan</i>	147.0	188.6	383.1	524.2	655.5	701.2	890.8	262.9	175.8	291.2	236.8	262.9
<i>To UK</i>	-	-	-	-	439.8	904.0	1007.0	211.5	197.7	272.9	200.3	190.2
<i>To rest of the world</i>	717.5	927.2	1126.8	1286.3	1354.2	1602.2	1834.3	491.7	507.5	559.7	476.4	487.3
Electronics	-	-	-	-	-	380.0	328.7	71.9	123.8	142.3	116.3	113.0
Automotives	-	-	-	-	-	11.6	94.4	20.4	18.2	22.7	24.1	26.0
Agriculture	362.1	376.7	624.4	548.8	534.1	706.4	850.9	210.4	177.7	211.0	288.1	262.9
<i>Rubber</i>	197.6	176.6	153.9	165.4	165.3	273.5	217.6	43.8	42.2	60.0	73.3	30.8
<i>Wood</i>	48.8	36.8	132.0	46.3	47.2	100.5	142.3	22.2	35.2	42.4	47.5	44.0
<i>Fish</i>	3.1	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Rice</i>	106.6	146.4	248.5	315.3	300.8	255.1	413.6	122.4	72.2	84.5	140.2	145.9
<i>Other agriculture</i>	6.0	14.9	89.1	21.3	20.2	76.7	76.2	21.9	28.1	24.1	26.9	42.2
Others	307.9	714.4	1520.1	1880.2	2201.2	1654.7	2003.8	456.6	532.9	744.0	565.6	501.0
Total imports	8593.3	8639.4	10295.4	11494.5	15013.4	16815.4	16904.7	4437.7	5328.6	5091.4	5324.3	5250.9
Of which: Gasoline	308.0	306.4	334.7	377.3	384.8	256.7	320.5	121.1	117.1	118.6	121.9	131.4
Diesel	559.5	569.1	602.3	607.8	709.1	472.9	594.1	228.2	250.2	166.4	248.9	248.1
Construction materials	66.1	80.8	117.6	164.4	253.2	304.3	564.5	170.8	231.4	271.2	224.4	177.0
Other	7659.1	7682.6	9240.7	10345.1	13666.3	15781.6	15425.7	3917.7	4729.9	4535.2	4729.1	4694.4
Trade balance	-1341.6	-1610.9	-2184.3	-2238.1	-4970.0	-5974.1	-4120.9	-1215.0	-1990.6	-827.5	-1799.4	-1700.9
	Percentage change from previous quarter											
Total garment exports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.0	2.6	24.4	-19.5	4.6
Total exports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	7.8	26.2	-17.3	0.7
Total imports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.0	27.2	-4.5	4.6	-1.4
	Percentage change from previous year											
Total garment exports	17.7	7.4	10.7	14.5	7.0	9.7	18.5	17.7	12.8	9.5	9.9	7.5
Total exports	23.9	14.3	16.1	14.2	8.5	7.9	17.9	13.7	12.6	11.8	12.4	10.2
Total imports	16.8	15.4	19.7	11.7	30.6	12.0	0.5	4.6	18.5	28.0	27.1	18.3

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, 2012–2020 (billion riels)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Total revenue	7691.9	8255.2	10543.4	11879.9	14201.5	16582.0	19743.1	5097.5	6357.1	6364.5	6930.3	5544.2
Current revenue	7443.8	8233.2	10359.4	11759.0	14088.7	16481.4	19549.0	5066.8	6322.2	6309.2	6869.7	5524.0
Tax revenue	6334.8	7198.1	8995.2	10502.4	12196.5	14314.3	17019.2	4524.3	5663.5	5415.1	6009.8	4697.1
Domestic tax	5002.8	5728.1	7226.5	8591.7	10185.8	12338.7	14648.3	3904.9	4944.9	4634.1	5215.9	4076.5
Taxes on international trade	1331.7	1470.0	1822.7	1910.7	2010.7	1875.6	2370.9	619.4	718.6	781.0	793.9	620.6
Non-tax revenue	1118.2	1035.2	1310.3	1256.6	1892.2	2167.2	2520.9	542.5	658.7	894.1	859.9	826.9
Property income	143.0	84.0	88.5	77.3	116.0	127.2	197.3	177.4	34.0	30.2	22.9	289.6
Sale of goods and services	667.4	750.3	871.2	1047.1	1248.3	1517.0	2075.6	330.7	531.2	798.5	750.0	500.9
Other non-tax revenue	298.8	200.8	350.5	132.2	528.0	523.1	253.9	34.5	93.5	65.5	87.1	36.4
Capital revenue	247.9	73.4	184.0	121.0	113.4	100.5	194.1	30.7	35.0	55.4	60.7	20.2
Total expenditure	9660.9	12535.7	13306.5	13849.5	13775.4	17251.0	19027.1	4150.4	4997.6	5386.5	7676.8	5301.7
Capital expenditure	3628.3	5567.5	5590.7	5290.3	3785.3	5207.2	5730.2	1025.0	1392.7	1358.6	3195.4	1259.3
Current expenditure	6188.4	6968.3	7715.8	8544.6	9990.1	12043.7	13297.0	3125.4	3604.9	4027.9	4481.3	4042.5
Wages	2486.6	2997.3	3755.5	4271.9	5381.7	6647.4	7558.4	1820.2	1911.1	2102.0	1883.3	2058.0
Subsidies and social assistance	1586.8	1563.0	1627.0	1742.9	1774.9	2314.8	2505.4	729.2	1061.9	855.5	1620.3	1288.2
Other current expenditure	2115.1	2408.0	2333.4	2529.8	2833.5	5394.3	5738.6	1305.2	1693.8	1925.8	2598.1	1984.4
Overall balance	-9.0	-160.8	-2763.1	-1969.6	426.1	-669.1	-205.4	947.1	1359.6	978.0	-746.4	242.4
Foreign financing	-1969.0	-4280.6	3972.1	3729.4	1878.9	3358.1	716.1	652.8	895.5	608.8	1383.3	369.5
Domestic financing	2457.8	4326.2	-1428.7	-2034.9	-1858.7	-2454.1	2513.5	-44.4	-7.6	11.9	-18.0	3.2

Source: MEF website

Table 6: Consumer price index, exchange rates and gold prices (period averages), 2012–2020

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
								Consumer price index (percentage change from previous year)				
Phnom Penh - All Items	2.3	3.0	3.9	1.2	3.1	2.9	2.5	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.0
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages	2.5	3.9	4.9	4.0	5.6	3.4	2.5	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.4	3.7
- Transportation	3.3	-0.6	-1.0	-9.2	-6.9	4.1	2.9	-3.8	-1.5	-2.5	-1.4	2.6
	Exchange rates, gold and oil prices (Phnom Penh market rates)											
Riels per US dollar	4039.2	4037.3	4036.2	4060.4	4053.7	4047.5	4045.0	4006.6	4052.1	4086.8	4063.7	4064.1
Riels per Thai baht	130.0	133.1	124.9	119.4	115.5	120.0	125.9	127.4	128.9	133.7	134.9	130.7
Riels per 100 Vietnamese dong	19.4	19.3	19.1	18.7	18.2	17.9	17.7	17.4	17.5	17.7	17.6	17.6
Gold (US dollars per chi)	200.9	175.9	152.3	140.6	151.2	151.5	152.8	156.6	157.1	175.7	178.1	188.3
Diesel (riels/litre)	4941.2	5019.0	4852.1	3771.3	3004.0	3385.8	3808.7	3413.9	3595.4	3499.7	3499.5	3343.5
Gasoline (riels/litre)	5312.7	5264.2	5083.3	3951.7	3336.8	3716.0	3982.5	3405.7	3770.2	3629.3	3685.9	3538.8

Sources: NIS; NBC; CDRI

Table 7: Monetary survey, 2012–2020 (end of period)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
								Billion riels				
Net foreign assets	18154.5	21260.1	26699.7	26665.5	31814.5	42575.3	55214.3	55214.3	58148.8	62699.5	67081.5	57001.8
Net domestic assets	10437.4	11508.3	15859.8	22157.6	25802.3	28743.5	33228.9	33228.9	33997.2	33548.0	34814.3	62221.0
Net claims on government	-2486.4	-2794.9	-4359.1	-6428.8	-8148.5	-11066.5	-14803.7	-14803.7	-17381.0	-18747.4	-20263.2	-24650.6
Credit to private sector	23536.6	27608.8	36244.6	46071	56458.8	66922.6	82419.3	82419.3	86574.4	91568.6	98320.3	131815.3
Total liquidity	28591.9	32768.4	42559.5	48823.1	57616.6	71318.9	88443.2	88443.2	92146.0	96247.6	101895.8	11922.8
Money	4045.7	4878.2	6308.4	6741.4	7273.0	9428.4	10226.8	10226.8	10782.0	11274.5	13465.9	96047.6
Quasi-money	18154.5	21260.1	26699.7	42081.7	50343.8	61890.4	78216.4	78216.4	81364.0	84973.0	88429.9	7976.9
	Percentage change from previous year											
Total liquidity	20.9	14.6	29.9	14.7	18.0	23.8	24.0	24.0	22.6	21.3	20.4	-
Money	2.3	20.6	29.3	6.9	7.9	29.6	8.5	8.5	12.6	18.0	32.7	-
Quasi-money	44.6	13.6	30.0	16.1	19.6	22.9	26.4	26.4	24.1	21.7	18.8	-

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		2019	2020	
				Feb	May	Aug	Nov	Feb	May			
Cyclo drivers	11516	10793	10793	11764	10567	11114	12046	10997	9081	14.7	-6.5	-14.1
Porters	14318	14942	14942	15882	17323	16560	18802	18246	17856	21.7	14.9	3.1
Small vegetable sellers	17177	17015	17015	18912	21472	19197	18651	15207	20181	-11.3	-19.6	-6.0
Scavengers	10299	11591	11591	12941	12685	13123	13099	14759	8322	4.2	14	-34.4
Waitresses*	20008	22901	22901	8299	8348	8564	8724	8706	8420	4.5	4.9	0.9
Ricefield workers	17365	17341	17341	8209	7909	9180	9376	9154	8812	4.4	11.5	11.4
Garment workers	14509	14231	14231	16073	15166	16076	16578	16483	13271	5.1	2.6	-12.5
Motorcycle taxi drivers	7989	8093	8093	14705	15104	14219	14904	17748	9081	1.8	20.7	-11.9
Unskilled construction workers	8088	8055	8055	19820	17987	18322	18814	22916	19741	-0.5	15.6	9.7
Skilled construction workers	13688	14093	14093	26265	24743	25235	27225	27164	26778	2.4	3.4	8.2

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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Exchange rate

Year on year, the Thai baht, Taiwanese dollar and Japanese yen appreciated against the US dollar, whereas the Khmer riel, Indonesian rupiah, Malaysian ringgit, Vietnamese dong, Chinese yuan, Hong Kong dollar, South Korean won and the euro depreciated. The Khmer riel depreciated 1.4 percent to 4,064.1 riels/dollar and the Vietnamese dong 2.0 percent to 23,351.0 dongs/dollar, but the Thai baht appreciated 1.3 percent to 31.2 baht/dollar. Compared to the preceding quarter, the Khmer riel depreciated 0.01 percent against the US dollar, Thai baht 3.0 percent and Vietnamese dong 0.6 percent.

Commodity prices

Compared to the first quarter of 2019, the prices of rubber, crude oil, gasoline and diesel dropped, while those of maize, palm oil, rice and soybeans rose. The price of rubber price decreased by 4.3 percent, of crude oil by 18.8 percent, of gasoline by 16.4 percent and of diesel by 20.8 percent. The prices of maize increased by 0.1 percent, palm oil by 23.5 percent, rice by 12.8 percent, and soybeans by 2.1 percent. Compared to the preceding quarter, the prices of rubber price dropped by 2.5 percent, crude oil by 18.6 percent, gasoline by 21.0 percent and diesel by 20.6 percent. The prices of maize rose by 0.5 percent, palm oil by 6.5 percent, rice by 8.7 percent and soybeans by 3.9 percent.

Continued from page 24 **CDRI UPDATE**

value chains, agri-business development, and innovation and technology. Many AGID managers and CDRI directors and staff members attended the signing ceremony. Under this MOU, AGID and CDRI will explore and discuss the development and implementation of specific cooperative and collaborative undertakings of mutual interest.

On that occasion Mr Chan Sopheak shared some lessons learned from AGID's contract farming scheme, mango exports to Japan, agricultural mechanisation initiatives, and farm business innovation.

Meeting with the Ministry of Economy and Finance Committee for Productivity Promotion

CDRI on 18 May welcomed a delegation from the Secretariat of the National Productivity Committee led by HE Sisovath Doung Chanto, Secretary-General. CDRI is honoured to be part of this important platform for promoting Cambodia's productivity growth, quality of governance, human resources (knowledge, skills and attitudes) capabilities, and innovation and technology development. Given CDRI's standing as a leading national independent development policy research institute, the Secretary-General suggested that CDRI and the National Committee for Cambodia's Productive Economy (NCCPE) collaborate meaningfully for the sake of Cambodia's productive economic development. CDRI's ED welcomed this approach and looked forward to fruitful collaboration.

Visit by HE Tean Somnang, President of the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC)

On 21 May, HE Tean Somnang, President of NIDIR, had a meeting with CDRI's ED, DOR and directors of the Centre for Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) and the Centre for Policy Research in Agricultural and Rural Development (CPARD). The aim was to discuss and strengthen cooperation between the two institutes. The NIDIR/MOFAIC delegation included Chan Bunnarith, Director of Public Relations Department, and Dr Phon Sokpanya, Assistant to the President.

HE Academician Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister, met with CDRI senior managers and researchers

HE Academician Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance (MEF), welcomed CDRI's ED, DOR, director of the Centre for Development Economics and Trade (CDET) and PR officer on 26 May. He shared with the CDRI team the strategic directions and research information needs of MEF, especially those related to globalisation and regionalisation vs. unilateralism – a new reality emerging as an outcome of Covid-19, as well as self-reliance, digital economy, e-governance, e-trade, knowledge and skill requirements. He has asked the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), MEF and CDRI to develop an MOU on collaboration in

policy relevant and applied policy research for informed decision making. CDRI managers and researchers expressed their gratitude for his insights and committed to working more closely with MEF, SNEC, and other ministries and key partners.

His Excellency added that the annual Cambodia Outlook Conference, organised by CDRI since 2007 is an important event that Prime Minister Hun Sen has presided over every year bar one. MEF and CDRI have agreed to co-host/organise the Cambodia Outlook Conference and other high-profile national events.

To provide a foundation for stronger and more productive cooperation, an MOU between MEF, SNEC and CDRI was signed by HE Academician Aun Pornmoniroth and CDRI's ED on 10 July.

Visit to Oxfam Cambodia

On 12 June, at Oxfam's head office, CDRI senior managers and researchers were hosted by Solinn Lim, Oxfam Country Director. Oxfam and CDRI have a long tradition of partnership and cooperation in capacity development, research and policy dialogue, and promotion of cooperation between government ministries and civil society since the 1990s.

Signing of MOU between CDRI and MAFF

On 19 June, HE Srey Vuthy, MAFF Secretary-General, and CDRI's ED, signed an MOU to strengthen cooperation in agricultural development policy research. Under this MOU, MAFF and CDRI agree to:

- Determine research themes and conduct research projects of mutual interest for four years
- Facilitate exchange of statistics, information and documents
- Cooperate in the organisation of workshops, seminars and conferences
- Participate in meetings, workshops, seminars, training, and study tours in Cambodia and abroad.

Meeting with Jenny Pearson, World Bank Consultant on Learning Centres

On 2 June, CDRI's ED, DOR and CPARD director met with Jenny Pearson, former chairwoman of CDRI's Board of Directors (2001–06). She is conducting a feasibility assessment for a Cambodian Learning Centre for Social and Environmental Standards which are critical as the country's infrastructure is developing rapidly. This exploratory activity

is part of the World Bank Australia Safeguards Partnership Phase II, the purpose of which is to increase local capacity at the country level on social and environmental risk and impact management to promote sustainable infrastructure and ensure integration of environmental and social aspects in the project life cycle.

Consultation Meeting with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

On 5 June 2020 at the Swiss Cooperation Office and Consular Agency, Carin Salerno, Director of Cooperation/Development Councillor, Nadia Ottiger, Deputy Director, and other senior SDC officials met with CDRI's ED, DOR and CERI director to discuss current and future support and cooperation in the field of TVET, EU and China's development cooperation, and CDRI's new strategic planning.

Planning meeting for Cambodia's State of the Environment Report

On 9 June, CDRI's ED and an intern joined a planning meeting hosted by Dr Chuop Paris, Director-General, Ministry of Environment. CDRI has been commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization to lead the "Water Chapter" in the fourth State of the Environment Report for Cambodia.

Research exchange with the French National Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)

On 10 June, Dr Jean-Philippe Venot, a senior researcher at IRD, met CDRI researchers. Opportunities for study visits, PhD scholarships and collaborative research were discussed. Dr Venot's latest research outcomes in Cambodia on fishery management, irrigation including the roles of community-based organisations and private water service providers, challenges for securing productivity and profitability for farmers, and agriculture and other sectors labour market dynamics were shared and deliberated.

Working lunch hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia

On 16 June, CDRI's ED, DOR and ERPO had a working lunch with Pablo Kang, Australian Ambassador, Luke Arnold, Deputy Ambassador, and Seng Sokha, Program Manager (Governance). The objective was to introduce CDRI's new DOR,

who is an alumna of Australia's Monash University. They exchanged information on strategic directions and the "new normal" post Covid-19.

Introductory meeting with Dr Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

On 17 June, the ED, DOR and CDET director met with Dr Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director of IDRC, via Zoom to discuss collaboration between IDRC and CDRI. Both sides looked forward to more active collaboration in the fields of climate change, Covid-19 impact assessment and recovery, and regional thinktank networks.

Introductory and working meeting with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

On 18 June, Samuel Hurtig, Head of Development Cooperation, and Professor Magnus Saemundsson, First Secretary/Education Specialist, Embassy of Sweden, held a skype conference with the ED and DOR to discuss the Sida-CDRI resource partnership, and the Swedish government's development cooperation with Cambodia and its strategy on health, environment and climate change through the Swedish regional development cooperation in Asia.

Online meeting with Chan Virak, World Bank

On 19 June, CDRI's ED met with Chan Virak, Water and Sanitation Specialist with the World Bank's Water Global Practice. They shared common interests in local capacity building and good governance.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Centre for Development Economics and Trade (CDET)

The centre has six ongoing projects.

Agricultural Trade between China and Mekong-Lancang Countries: Value Chain Analysis.

This regional project aims to investigate the value chains of two selected agricultural products exported from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to China in the hope of exploring, among other things, key actors and their interactions, benefits, value-added and challenges. The project also plans to map the non-tariff measures introduced by Mekong-Lancang countries, compare them

across those countries, and examine exporters'/firms' perspectives of their effect on exports to China. The findings are to be released in a series of publications towards the end of the year. Funded by the LMC Special Fund through the Embassy of China in Cambodia and Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the project is being conducted in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (China), Economic Research Institute for Industry and Trade (Laos), Centre for Economic and Social Development (Myanmar), Thailand Development Research Institute (Thailand) and Centre for Analysis and Forecasting of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (Vietnam).

Contribution of Vocational Skills Development to Inclusive Industrial Growth and Transformation: An Analysis of Critical Factors in Cambodia (Skills for Industry).

The project is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 focuses on the demand side of the labour market in garments, electronics/electrical assembly and food processing industries. It aims at understanding the linkages between company growth and transformation as well as vocational skills development. Phase 2 is devoted to studying the supply side including vocational training providers and policymakers. The project is funded by the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d) and conducted in partnership with Zurich University of Teacher Education (Switzerland), University of Zurich (Switzerland), BRAC University (Bangladesh), Mekelle University (Ethiopia), National University of Laos (Laos), University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) and Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education (Vietnam).

Household Survey in 50 Communes around the Tonle Sap Areas.

This is a collaborative undertaking with a team of researchers from the University of Ludwig-Maximilians, Munich. The aim of this experimental survey is to investigate the impact of persistent memories of violence and the impact of salient memories. The survey is to be conducted in 50 communes in provinces around the Tonle Sap and administered to 1,500 randomly selected households. The project is funded by Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

The 2020 round of panel data collection for agriculture, rural development and poverty reduction. CDRI has collected and maintained

panel data from households in rural Cambodia. The work started in 1996–97 when CDRI conducted a benchmark survey of three villages – Prek Khmeng, Babaong and Trapeang Prey. Our data collections have been conducted regularly (one round every three years), surveying 1,183 sample households in 11 rural villages, representing Cambodia's four geographical regions (Mekong Plain, Tonle Sap, Mountainous and Coastal). Data can be used for rural poverty monitoring and research analyses. The project is funded under the longstanding CDRI-Sida resource partnership with contributions from Saitama University, Japan, and the World Bank.

Digital Skills Assessment in Cambodia.

The study uses a multi-stakeholder approach in investigating the supply of and demand for ICT skills and overall levels of digital literacy in Cambodia. The study's findings contribute to the government's efforts to expand connectivity and build firm foundations for Cambodia's digital economy in preparation for the fourth industrial revolution. The project is funded by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in partnership with the National Institute of Posts, Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology.

Street Vendors, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction. The purpose of the project is to examine the portfolio of street vendors in nine districts in Phnom Penh. The survey looks at their education, economic activities, income and expenses, and life satisfaction. There are two phases. The first phase involved the mapping of 1,141 street vendors at 53 locations and the random selection of 553 street vendors to participate in the second phase. The research findings will be published as a CDRI working paper. The two-year project is funded by Sida and will conclude at the end of this year.

Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI)

CERI released two working papers, 1) *Characteristics and Issues of Internship at Cambodian Private Firms*, and 2) *Understanding Cambodian Deans' Conceptions and Approaches to University Accountability*. These papers document the findings of qualitative studies funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency (Sida), respectively. Both studies captured significant aspects and characteristics of internship in private firms and accountability cultures and practices at public and private universities in Cambodia.

Two other working papers 1) *The Development and Implementation of Competency-Based Education and Training in Cambodian TVET: Perspectives and Experiences from Three Stakeholders*, and 2) *Education and Training Hybridisation: Possibilities and Practices* are being reviewed and edited. As part of the TVET research project supported by SDC, these studies have a twofold aim: to examine practices, policies and possibilities in improving the quality and relevance of TVET to meet national and regional market demands, and to explore governance of TVET systems in Cambodia.

Given the unprecedented challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, CERI is conducting a study called **Forced Adoption of Educational Technology during the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case of Higher Learning Institutions in a Developing Economy** to measure technological readiness and adoption of e-learning technologies in Cambodian higher education. Data collection is ongoing. This nationally representative study is co-funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The Asia Foundation and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund. The study is expected to contribute to policymaking and discussions on Covid-19 adaptation at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) and Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT).

In June, CERI concluded the **Research, Policy Dialogue, and Capacity Building Project on Technical and Vocational Education and Training**, funded by SDC. This project has contributed substantially to poverty reduction and skills development for decent employment among Cambodian youth and women through rigorous policy-relevant research and evidence-informed policymaking at key institutions such as the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training; Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports; and Ministry of Tourism. This project, in addition, underpinned capacity development programs for researchers at CDRI and its partner institutions.

Centre for Governance and Inclusive Society (CGIS)

The centre started three new research studies. The first concerns **Social Protection and the Gendered Impacts of Covid-19 in Cambodia: Longitudinal Research to ‘Build Back Better’ in the Global Garment Industry**. The research project aims at generating a new understanding of the underlying risk and resilience of social protection in Cambodia’s formal and informal sectors, mainly from the perspective of female garment workers. Specifically, the aim is to provide empirical evidence for mitigating the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic response on female workers. To that end, the study will track the experiences and coping mechanisms of 200 female garment factory workers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Preparation for fieldwork is underway and data collection will begin in September.

Gender and Climate Change Resilience.

Women are primarily responsible for household nutritional intake when natural disasters (e.g. droughts and floods) affect agricultural production. Globally, the number of women having to borrow or take out loans in response to climate change risks and impacts has increased exponentially. This situation hinders efforts to achieve the core target of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 (Climate Action), which is to promote mechanisms for improving the capacity of women, youth and local and marginalised communities for effective climate change-related planning and management. The issue of credit/borrowing and climate resilience is intertwined with the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work carried by girls and women, and would seem to work against the objective of SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The team has completed the survey design and training of enumerators, coordinated with relevant authorities to obtain permissions to carry out research, and made logistical preparations.

Local Leadership in Cambodia. This is a re-analysis of a baseline study conducted in 2007 in three communes in Cambodia. This study will use the same methods and be conducted in the same communes as the first study. The aim is to document what has changed in terms of the leadership group, villagers’ attitudes to leadership, and the strategies leaders use to promote legitimacy and resolve

challenges. Fieldwork has been delayed due to Covid-19 and rescheduled for September.

Cross-institutional research projects. CGIS staff provided technical support to three cross-institutional research projects. 1) Administrative and logistical arrangements, questionnaire development, data collection and literature reviews were among the tasks assigned to CGIS staff supporting the Centre for Policy Research in Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD)’s implementation of a survey for the **Gender and Inclusive Development Analysis** project, focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and people living with disabilities. 2) A gender checklist was developed for CNRE’s **National Assessment Report in Cambodia**. 3) CGIS staff contributed to qualitative data collection for CERI’s digital skills assessment.

Publications. Two articles have been published in the internationally peer-reviewed open access journal *Politics and Governance* (2020, Volume 8, Issue 3): “Pathways to Leadership Within and Beyond Cambodian Civil Society: Elite Status and Boundary-crossing”, and “State Regulations and Elitisation: A Study of Civil Society Elites in Indonesia and Cambodia”.

Centre for Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE)

CNRE performed various research activities for multiple projects. Three of these projects are funded by Sida and cover interrelated themes. For **Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction**, a working paper titled *The Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture and Water Resources in Cambodia: Local Communities’ Perspectives* is being edited. The team working on **Gender Mainstreaming in Community Climate Change Adaptation** is engaged in planning the fieldwork, which will be carried out in August/September. For the third project, **Challenges of Community-based Ecotourism for Forest Conservation and Livelihood Improvement**, the research framework and methodology have been developed and fieldwork will be conducted as planned in August/September.

In addition, we finished the second round of data collection for the UNDP-funded project *Impact of Climate Change Programs in Cambodia: Vulnerability, Poverty and Gender*. The project is to examine two climate change programs implemented

by the Ministry of Rural Development, one on resilient rural road development in the five Mekong islands in Kampong Cham/Tboung Khmum provinces, and the other on water and sanitation improvements in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province. The project is at the data analysis and report writing stage. The findings will be shared and local feedback elicited at a commune-level workshop in October.

Water Diplomacy of the Mekong Basin: Towards a Shared Basin for Prosperity, a project funded by the MLC, is scheduled for completion in May. CDRI is leading the project implementation in partnership with and reporting to the National Secretariat of Cambodia for Mekong-Lancang Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Other research partners include the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations; Cambodia National Mekong Committee; Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia; Southern University of Science and Technology, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Shenzhen, China; Political Science Faculty, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; and Vietnam National Mekong Committee. The project also has four national and regional organisations as participating partners: Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Lao National Mekong Committee, Thailand National Mekong Committee, and the Office of National Water Resources (ONWR), Prime Minister's Office in Thailand, for commenting on and validating the research outputs. The project is at the consultation, data analysis and research findings stage.

Regarding **Contract Farming in the Lancang-Mekong Region**, a project supported by the MLC Special Fund, the research partners from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and China have produced their country reports and accompanying policy briefs. An online regional dissemination workshop hosted by CDRI is to be held on 24 August. Two volumes, one containing the regional synthesis and country reports and the other a set of policy briefs, which present an overview of contract farming schemes, their successes and challenges, and lessons learned for the region, are being prepared for publication.

Two new policy research projects are underway. The **Report on the State of Climate**

Change in the ASEAN Region (Cambodia's National Report), a project funded by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, is set to run until March 2021. The project team is consulting the national focal point at the Ministry of Environment to determine the priority sectors for Cambodia's mitigation and adaptation strategies. The second project, **State of Gender Equality and Climate Change, An Assessment Report**, is funded by UN Women Cambodia. Feedback and inputs elicited from a national consultation workshop to be held on 15 July will be used to develop the outline of the report. The project team is presently engaged in revising the outline and collecting data from various stakeholders including the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Cambodia's development partners. The project will conclude in December this year.

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

Five projects are being implemented. Enumerator training for the USAID-funded project **Gender and Inclusive Development Analysis (GIDA)** was started and data collection will start in August. Data analysis and report writing for the Sida-funded project **On-Farm Food Safety in Horticulture in Cambodia: The Case of Vegetable Farming** was completed and sent to reviewers for comments and feedback. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to undertake **Network for Agriculture and Rural Development Thinktanks for Countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion**, a regional project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The team is finalising the concept note for **Integrating Smallholders into Commercialisation through Public-Private Producers Partnerships (PPPP)**. Report writing for Mango Value Chain Analysis, a Sida-funded project, is on hold until at least September because all team members are busy with the GIDA project. The concept note for **Current Situation of Agroprocessing Industry Documented and Potential for Future Investments Identified**, a Sida-funded project, is at the planning stage.

CDRI Update

Major Events

Meeting with HE Luy David, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC)

On 24 April, HE Luy David, Secretary of State, MFAIC, and senior representatives from the National Secretariat of Cambodia for Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, met with CDRI's ED, director of research (DOR) and research centre directors to be updated on the progress of four major projects that CDRI has been implementing with MFAIC and other partners. The projects concern Mekong water diplomacy, agricultural value chain performance, contract farming, and higher education development. The delegation was also briefed on CDRI's support to the MFAIC regional program on capacity development management.

Meeting with Kim-Yeath Dararith, executive director of the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC)

CDRI's ED, DOR and external relations and protocol officer (ERPO) visited PIC to meet Kim-Yeath Dararith, executive director, and senior staff members. Many PIC staff are former CDRI researchers. In particular, as the deputy executive director of CDRI, Kim-Yeath Dararith worked closely with Eva Mysliwiec, CDRI's respected founder, during the peace building period after the 1992 Paris Peace Agreement. During the visit, research partnership and resource collaboration opportunities, CDRI's 30th anniversary, and PIC's

transformation into the Parliamentary Centre for Asia by the end of 2020 were discussed.

CDRI delegation paid a courtesy visit to HE Dr Hang Chuon Naron, Minister for Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS)

HE Dr Hang Chuon Naron welcomed the CDRI delegates (ED, DOR, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) director) to MOEYS. CDRI highly values its special relationship with the minister, who worked at CDRI as an economics researcher in 1990–93 and served as chairman of CDRI's Board of Directors in 2006–12. The minister shared his views on key strategic areas related to education and human resource quality for meeting current and emerging labour market demands and preparing the workforce for the digital economy. He encouraged CDRI to build stronger and more productive cooperation with MOEYS, and welcomed a joint field visit to the new generation schools and vocational training facilities and the possibility of further collaborative research.

CDRI and Angkor Green Investment and Development signed an MOU

On 26 June at CDRI, Chan Sopheak, CEO of Angkor Green Investment and Development (AGID), and CDRI's ED, signed an MOU on cooperation in strengthening capacity for agricultural research and development research in the fields of public-private partnerships, resilience in agricultural

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