



KEEPING UP WITH CDRI

Newsletter of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute



CDRI's staff and the new executive director in a group photo before the Khmer New Year. ©CDRI Story > Page 2

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New publications:

- Cybergovernance in Cambodia: A Risk-Based Approach to Cybersecurity- *Special Report*: www.bit.ly/3cg20ye
- Cambodian Academics: Identities and Roles - *Working Paper*: www.bit.ly/35LXyEY
- Annual Report 2019-20: www.bit.ly/3fn4vAJ

Message from the executive director

Dear colleagues,

This newsletter, a new output from our team, is a major event update for posting on our website and Facebook page to keep up with new developments at CDRI. In this very first issue we summarise the important activities from January to April 2020.

Four months into 2020, we have seen many changes especially the “new normal” caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, our works and our loved ones were affected but we have adapted well through the use of more innovative approaches and high-level of care. We and our families are safe and our work and productivity are highly satisfactory in the face of these challenging circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to stay vigilant of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing, wearing proper protection and washing our hands regularly. Finally, I would like to send to everyone my best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and successful new year.

Dr Pech Sokhem
Executive director, CDRI

CDRI welcomes the new executive director

After months of efforts, CDRI could get a sufficient number of qualified applicants for the position of CDRI's executive director. The Recruitment and Interview Panel comprising two representatives from CDRI's Board of Directors, CDRI's staff representative, a representative from CDRI management and a representative from CDRI's development partners made the final selection according to CDRI's Standard Procedures for Staff Recruitment.



The Panel – left to right – CDRI's staff representative Sim Sokcheng, CDRI's development partners' representative Prof. Magnus Saemundson (Sida), CDRI's BoD chair HE Dr Mey Kalyan, CDRI's BoD member, HE Dr Tekreth Kamrang, and CDRI's research director Dr Eng Netra. ©CDRI

After a thorough process, Dr Pech Sokhem was selected and approved by the panel and the Chair of the Board of Directors in early March 2020. He joined CDRI on 12 March 2020 and brought with him nearly 30-years of work experiences with the government, inter-governmental organisations, research entities, civil society, and the private sector.

Long-term SIDA-CDRI partnership

The senior members of the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida) paid a visit to CDRI office in late December 2019. Sida initiated the resource partnership with CDRI since early 2000.



Senior SIDA delegates were welcomed by CDRI acting executive director, acting research director and some research unit heads. ©CDRI

The current CDRI-Sida partnership for 2016-2021 aims to produce a high quality development research and make a significant contribution to Cambodia's national development, research culture, capacity, and institution and community awareness of development issues. CDRI highly appreciates the long-standing and valued Sida's support for CDRI's research programs and core funds.

A visit by Australian delegation

On 16 March 2020, an Australian delegation comprising HE Pablo Kang, Ambassador in Cambodia, Luke Arnold, Deputy Ambassador, and Seng Sokha, Governance Program Manager, visited CDRI's Knowledge Centre and discussed several issues of mutual interest. Australia has been a major partner of CDRI in its research programs on water governance, climate change, and higher education for nearly 20 years.



A group photo: the Australian delegation, CDRI's executive director and some unit heads and staff. ©CDRI

During the visit, CDRI senior researchers and leaders presented to high-level delegation the CDRI's 30-year history and development, its current status and on-going strategic planning process. Opportunities for further strengthening the partnership between CDRI and the Australian Embassy in the context of DFAT funded Ponlork Chamnes (knowledge institutions) program and for future cooperation were also explored.

Fostering collaboration

CDRI keeps improving the collaboration and partnership with relevant stakeholders including ministries, development partners and institutions. Below are some outreaching activities CDRI has done.

CDRI management paid a visit to HE Veng Sakhon



Representatives from CDRI had a fruitful discussion with HE Veng Sakhon at MAFF. ©Khiev Phirom

HE Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), met with CDRI's executive director and researchers from CDRI's Agriculture Unit on 20 April 2020. The meeting was to explore opportunities for improving evidence-based policy research for promoting agriculture value chain and productivity, public-private partnership, and agricultural access to the market.

Adapting to a “new normal” during the COVID 19 pandemic: teleconference with UNDP senior representatives

On 23 April 2020, CDRI senior researchers met with UNDP senior management (Cambodia) and the Inclusive and Participatory Governance Program managers.



With the upgraded CDRI's teleconference room, online discussions become much more interactive. ©Sorn Pisey

CDRI has been working with UNDP in the field of climate change (gender, poverty and rural resilience), and in other evidence-based policy research and dialogue.

Meeting with MFA.IC



The meeting at MFA.IC focused mainly on our current partnership. Future collaboration was also discussed. ©MFA.IC

On 24 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA.IC) Secretary of State HE Luy David and senior representatives from the Mekong Lancang National Secretariat met with CDRI's executive director, research director and unit heads to get the latest updates on the five major projects that CDRI has been implementing with MFA.IC and other partners on the Mekong water diplomacy, agricultural value chain, contract farming and higher education; and on the regional program on capacity development management.

CDRI and PIC agreed on a stronger partnership and exchange



CDRI researchers with PIC team. ©PIC

CDRI senior researchers visited the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC) to meet with Mr Dararith Kim-Yeath, executive director, and some senior staff members.

Mr Kim Yeath and many PIC staff members are CDRI's alumni. In particular, Mr Kim Yeath was the deputy of Ms Eva Mysliwiec, CDRI's founder executive director, during the peace building period in Cambodia after the 1992 Paris Peace Agreement. During the visit, possibilities for partnership and collaboration were discussed, especially during the 30th Anniversary of the CDRI and the PIC transformation into the Parliamentary Centre for Asia by the end of 2020.

Other activities

1. CDRI worked with SDC, SIDA, EU and GIZ on a proposal to conduct a desk-top research on EU-China Development Cooperation in Cambodia. The research was to start in May and would finish by July 2020 to provide a foundation for further discussions and potential collaboration between EU and China in Cambodia. For further information, please email Dr Eng Netra, CDRI's director of research and head of the Governance Unit at netra@cdri.org.kh.

2. CDRI worked with other regional think tanks (Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam) to respond to the Canadian IDRC call for a proposal to conduct a rapid impact assessment of COVID 19 pandemic. The application was already submitted and the application review result is expected in June 2020. For further information, please email Mr Roth Vathana, head of the Economics Unit at vathana@cdri.org.kh.

3. CDRI negotiated with USAID Cambodia on a contract offer to CDRI to conduct a Cambodia gender and inclusive development analysis (GIDA). For further information, please email Mr Sim Sokcheng, head of the Agriculture Unit at sokcheng@cdri.org.kh.

4. CDRI worked with the World Bank on the design of an evaluation study of the community-based day care centres for garment factory workers' children in Kompong Speu. For further information, please email Mr Sim Sokcheng at sokcheng@cdri.org.kh.

5. The proposal of the Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA) and CDRI to do research on "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Digital Age" was accepted by the Lancang Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. This

research was to run from Jan 2020 to December 2021. MOWA is currently assessing the right time to start this regional project in view of the constraint caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For further information, please email Dr Song Sopheak at sopheak@cdri.org.kh.

Staff update

From January to April 2020, CDRI bade farewell to five staff members: Dr Khieng Sothy, research fellow in the Education Unit, Mr Kim Sokheng, IT assistant, Ms Sreng Kimsuong, service provider in the Education Unit, Ms Sarom Molideth, research assistant in the Agriculture Unit and Ms Hang Samnang, translator assistant in the Publishing Unit. CDRI appreciates their hard works and contribution to the institute. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.



CDRI executive director presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms Sarom Molideth. ©So Hengvotey

In the same period, CDRI welcomed seven new colleagues: Dr Chea Phal and Mr Hun Seyhakunthy as research fellow and research assistant in the Education Unit; Mr Houn Tynarath and Ms Mony Reach as interns and Mr Yang Monyoudom as service provider in the Governance Unit; Mr Neang Rath as service provider in the ICT team; and Mr Tan Vanlik as intern in the Economics Unit.

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