



KEEPING UP WITH CDRI

Newsletter of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute



CDRI welcomes a former co-chair of its BoD. ©CDRI

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CDRI welcomes a former Co-chair of its BoD

CDRI is proud to welcome our long-term friend and former Co-Chair (2001-2006) of its Board of Directors. Ms Jenny Pearson made her first visit to CDRI after many years of absence from the institute. She conducts a feasibility study of a Learning Centre in Cambodia for Environmental and Social Standards which are critical for Cambodia as the country's infrastructure is developing quickly. This exploratory activity is part of the World Bank Australia Safeguards Partnership Phase II to help increase local capacity across the country on social and environmental risk and impact management, promote sustainable infrastructure development and ensure integration of environmental and social aspects in the project life cycle.

Capacity development consultant

Ms Jenny Pearson has lived and worked in Cambodia since 1995. She has qualifications in social work and management and has served in the public sector in the UK before coming to Cambodia. In 1997 she founded VBNK, Cambodia's leading learning and capacity development organisation, and served as its director until 2008. She has played a leading role in developing the capacity of the not-for-profit sector in Cambodia, introducing creative approaches to capacity development, and has served on the boards of several

prominent development organisations. In 2007 she was a visiting fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK. Jenny now spends her time consulting and writing about capacity development, drawing on her many years of work experience to contribute a voice of practice to the international discourse on capacity development. She is the author of the book on *Creative Capacity Development: learning to adapt in development practice*, and the OECD working paper on *Training and Beyond: Seeking better practices for capacity development*.

Training of enumerator for the Impact of Climate Change Programs in Cambodia: Vulnerability, Poverty and Gender

CDRI researchers and partners conducted a training on field data collection, from 01-05 June 2020, for the Impact of Climate Change Programs in Cambodia: Vulnerability, Poverty, and Gender. The main objectives of this action research were to a) compile lessons learned from two climate change programs, namely: the *Climate-resilient Rural Road Project in Kampong Cham Province* (the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) program); and *Improved Access to Clean Water and Sanitation in Kampong Thom Province* (Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) program)); and b) inform the implementation of the new *Rural Development Programs (RDP)* and *Rural Strategic Development Programs (RSDP)* by incorporating climate resilience and inclusiveness.



First CDRI Staff meeting after two years of interruption

On Thursday, 4 June 2020, from 3:00 pm, 55 CDRI Staff members met to wrap up the progress made during the last three months, lessons learned from working while coping with and adapting to the new normal created by the COVID 19 and to plan for the very busy research schedules. The staff meeting welcomed Dr Eng Netra in her new position as CDRI's first female Research Director. Dr Netra has a vast experience in research and management and knows CDRI very well as she has been working here for nearly 20 years. All the staff are pleased that CDRI's team spirit and family are getting stronger and more coherent all the time. They are also optimistic that the future will be much brighter.

The executive director briefed CDRI staff on project and program updates from each Research Centre and on activities carried out since the last Management Committee meeting and many other issues that need support and/or coordination. The other agendas are as follow:

- 1) Opportunity updates
- 2) CDRI re-organisation and its next five years Strategic Plan (2021-2026)
- 3) Financial updates
- 4) CDRI's plan for its 30th Anniversary.



MAFF and CDRI finalised their Memorandum of Understanding

CDRI Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Research finalised the draft MOU with MAFF on 9 June 2020. MAFF and CDRI will deepen their cooperation in promoting evidence-based policy research and applied research for Public-Private Partnership (PPP), agro-business and trade, and innovation. CDRI expressed its thanks to HE Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Khy Kosal, MAFF Deputy Secretary-General, and Mr Prum Somony, Director of International Cooperation Department of MAFF, for their kind support.



CDRI met with the Director-General of the Ministry of Environment

Tuesday, 9 June 2020, CDRI's Centre for Environment and Natural Resources joined a planning meeting hosted by Dr Choup Paris, Director-General of the MOE, at the ministry. CDRI was commissioned by FAO to lead the production of the Water Chapter in the fourth State of the Environment Report for Cambodia.



Visit and presentation by Dr Jean Philippe, IRD



On Wednesday, 10 June 2020, Dr Jean-Philippe Venot, senior researcher of the French National Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) met with CDRI's researchers. IRD is a 75 years old research institute under the French Ministry of Education and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In that meeting, opportunities for study visits, PhD scholarship, and collaborative research were discussed. Dr Venot's latest research findings in Cambodia on fishery management, irrigation and the roles of community-based organisations and private water service providers, challenges in securing higher productivity and profitability for farmers, and agriculture and other sectors labour market dynamics were shared.

CDRI and Oxfam longtime partnership and cooperation in capacity development, research and policy dialogue

Friday, 12 June 2020, at Oxfam head office, CDRI's senior management and researchers were hosted by Ms Solinn Lim, Oxfam Country Director, Cambodia. Oxfam and CDRI have a longtime tradition of partnership and cooperation in capacity development, research and policy dialogue, and promotion of cooperation between government ministries, and Civil Societies since 1990s.



Memorandum of Understanding Signing between CDRI and MAFF

HE Srey Vuthy, MAFF Secretary-General, and Dr Pech Sokhem, CDRI Executive Director, signed an MOU to strengthen cooperation in agricultural development policy research.

Based on this MOU, MAFF and CDRI will cooperate on agricultural development policy research. They will among other things:



- Determine the themes of and conduct research for four years
- Facilitate the exchange of statistics, information and relevant documents
- Cooperate in the organisation of workshops, seminars and conference

- Participate in meetings, workshops, seminars, training and study tours in Cambodia and abroad.

The ceremony was attended by many MAFF senior officials especially from the Department of Planning and the Department of International Cooperation, and CDRI's Research Director and Research Centres Directors.

CDRI and Angkor Green Investment and Development signed an MOU



On 26 June 2020 at CDRI, Mr Chan Sopheak, CEO of Angkor Green Investment and Development (AGID), and Dr Pech Sokhem, CDRI's Executive Director, signed an MOU to strengthen cooperation between their respective institutions on agricultural research and capacity development and research for development in the fields of public private partnership, agriculture value chains, agro-business development, innovation and technology. Many AGID managers and CDRI's centres directors and staff also joined the ceremony.

With this MOU, AGID and CDRI will explore and discuss the development and implementation of specific cooperative and collaborative undertakings which are of interest to them.

CDRI's researchers conduct key informant interview (KII) with beneficiary groups in Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom provinces

Under a joint three-year research project between the Ministry of Rural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and CDRI, the Centre for Natural Resource and Environment

(CDRE) conducted a field work for *The Impact of Climate Change Program in Cambodia: Vulnerability, Poverty and Gender* from 7–19 June 2020 in Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom provinces. The main purposes of this field work were to evaluate the impacts and generate key lessons learnt from the two climate change adaptation programs, their design and implementation for informing future interventions in response to climate change.



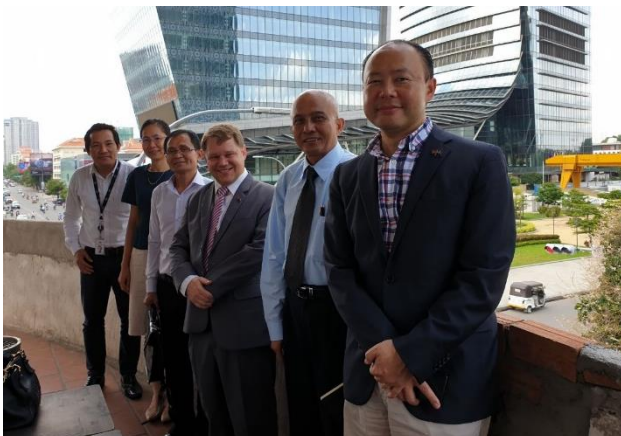
In the data collection for the first project on *Rural Road improvement Phase II* in four Mekong islands in Kampong Cham province, our research team conducted 205 household interviews in seven villages. Three sorts of samples were randomly selected: underprivileged families, women-headed households and Cambodian typical families. Key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted with local authorities, women-headed households, poor families and direct beneficiary groups to collect information for in-depth analysis and report writing.



Under the second program on *Climate Proofing Integrated Rural Community Development* in Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province, our research team also conducted KII and FGD with local authorities, elderly people, poor people, direct beneficiary groups and children to find out about good lessons learnt, various challenges and further improvement of the program.

CDRI's new Research Director introduced

On Tuesday, 16 June, the Executive Director and the Research Director of CDRI had a working lunch with the Australian Ambassador Pablo Kang, Deputy Ambassador Luke Arnold, and Mr Seng Sokha, Program Manager – Democratic Governance. The main objective was to introduce Dr Eng Netra, CDRI's new Research Director who is also an Australian alumni from Monash University. The participants also exchanged information on strategic directions and the "new normal" resulting from Covid 19.



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