



KEEPING UP WITH CDRI

Newsletter of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute

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CDRI announces new director of research. ©CDRI

CDRI welcomes the new director of research

Dr Eng Netra was unanimously selected by the CDRI recruitment panel as the most preferred candidate for the Director of Research (DoR), and took up her post on May 15, 2020. She is the first female DoR in CDRI 30-year history.

Dr Eng joined the Governance Unit in 2003 as a researcher. Her first stint as Governance unit head was in 2006-08 and the second started in 2014 on her return from her doctoral study in Australia. Dr Eng has extensive fieldwork experience and research on the public governance, decentralisation and public sector reforms in Cambodia for over a decade now. She has completed several major research projects and has authored and co-authored several journal articles and book chapters. Dr Eng holds a PhD in political science from Monash University, under an Australian Leadership Award program in 2010-13.

CDRI appreciates its former Director

Dr Chem Phalla, former Acting Research Director and Acting Executive Director, bade farewell to CDRI this month. CDRI management and staff are thankful for his invaluable contributions to CDRI development. A farewell gets together (as a full-scale dinner could be done due to the on-going public health) was organised. Several staff expressed their appreciation to and fond memories of him.



Dr Chem joined CDRI in 2006 as a researcher and led various large projects including a five-year Water Resources Management Capacity Development Program 2006-11 and a four-year project on Improving Water Governance and Climate Change Adaptation in Cambodia 2012-15.

He was the acting director of research from 2015-May 2019 and as acting executive director from June 2019 – March 2020.

HE Ith Samheng, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training requests CDRI to research on way for private sector to establish more TVET institutions since Cambodia needs these types of labour forces

Minister and senior officials of Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT) met with CDRI senior researchers and management on 5 May 2020. The Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, HE Ith Samheng requests CDRI to continue its support to the study and policy action for strengthening Cambodia efforts in building qualified workforces with proper skill, competency and attitude through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). It is in line with the current

government strategy, development plan, industrial development policy, policy on job and occupation, and national policy on TVET.

MLVT tries her best efforts by strengthening its national committee and partnership state, private sectors and development partners by preparing master plan to ensure capacity and efficiency of all TVET institutions and ISO compliance.

HE Ith Samheng supports all CDRI research activities related to projects on education and training for two years ahead such as promoting innovation of TVET and higher education in Cambodia, policy dialogue and capacity development projects in education and TVET.

CDRI has worked closely with MLVT since 2015. CDRI and MLVT entered into an MoU for “TVET research and capacity development” on 25 April 2019. MLVT has given increased attention to “research and innovation” in TVET, as reflected in the new TVET Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023. CDRI and MLVT Research studies in pipe-line include:

- COVID-19 Pandemic and Adoption of Educational Technology.
- Workforce for industry revolution 4.0, emerging Cambodian labor market and required skill set dynamics
- Support research and capacity building for TVET
- Engage the private sector and TVET institutes.



CDRI paid courtesy visit to Education Minister



HE Academician Hang Chhuon Naron Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport (MEYS) welcomed CDRI delegates. HE Minister was CDRI Researcher in 1990-1993, and CDRI Board Chairperson from 2006-2012. He shared his views on key strategic areas related to education and human resources quality for meeting the current and emerging market demand and the digital economy. He also encourages CDRI to have a closer and more productive cooperation with his Ministry and would welcome a joint field visit to the new generation schools, and vocational training facilities, and studies.

CDRI paid courtesy with MOI's secretary of state, HE Sak Setha

HE Sak Setha, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior (MOI), welcomed CDRI management and researchers on 5 May 2020. CDRI has worked with MoI for the last 20 years



in capacity building for sub-national administration, peacebuilding, local specific climate change adaptation, and in primary data collection and analysis for informed decision-making.

He congratulated Dr Pech Sokhem for having been appointed by CDRI Board of Directors as CDRI ED. HE Setha affirmed that MOI would continue to collaborate with CDRI.

He recalled the memorable history of CDRI, under the leadership of Ms Eva Mysliwiec, that used to help MOI in the election preparation, especially in the conflict prevention in the commune election (COPCEL), and provincial and municipal governor workshops that offered to Provincial Governors. He also briefed about precaution measurements of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also added that we have to change our work habits/management, living, and health care as instructed by the Ministry of Health. He gave us advice on how to conduct field data collection during this challenging time. It can be done based on proper protection and social distancing guidance well.

Dr Pech thanked HE Sak Setha for his fond memory of MoI and CDRI's collaboration including the CDRI's past contribution to the organizations of the elections and post elections, provincial and municipal workshops for governors. CDRI also acknowledged him for his continued support through kind approvals on CDRI requests for data collections for research purposes and meetings with national lower level officials.

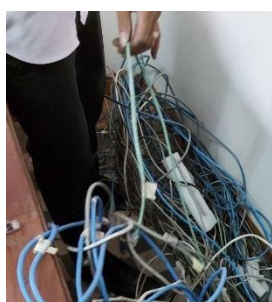
HE Sak Setha informed delegates that MOI created the local administration schools and requested CDRI to help in terms of capacity building, particularly information technology.

Knowledge Centre and upgraded ICT network cables

The CDRI Knowledge Center was established recently in line with the Staff and our partners need. The Center is comprised of Library, Publication, and Information and Communication Technology Units that provide support to the research units for effective research dissemination at CDRI and broader access to CDRI partners and users.

The goal of the CDRI Knowledge Center is to promote CDRI to be a well-known policy research institute in delivering evidence-based research results for informing policy for a sustainable and inclusive development of Cambodia. It also helps prepare CDRI well into a digital era.

The strategic working approaches of the CDRI Knowledge Center are: 1) Publishing portfolio of research result, 2) Visualizing research data into infographics, 3) Development of physical and digital library, 4) Implementation of ICT based communication strategies, and 5) Coordinating the research forums.



ICT network

The 30 years old network design, network and telephone desk cable were replaced with new and up-to-date technology by ICT team. This will improve and ensure stable

performance of CDRI. More improvement is being planned.

CDRI welcome Angkor Green: One of key agricultural production and export Companies in Cambodia



Mr Chan Sopheak, CEO of Angkor Green Investment and Development and his managers visited CDRI to exchange experiences in agricultural productivity and innovation, and opportunities and barriers for exports and agricultural value chains. Angkor Green contract farming lessons, Angkor Mango export to Japan, agricultural mechanization, and innovation were shared. Both sides have agreed to work together in the agricultural public-private partnership, and

evidence-based research and capacity development (skills and innovation).

Meeting with MEF Committee for productivity promotion

CDRI on 18 May 2020 welcomed Delegation of the Secretariat of the National Committee for Cambodia's Productive Economy led by HE Sisovath Doung Chanto, Secretary-General. CDRI is honored to be part of this important platform for promoting Cambodia's future productive economy, quality of governance, and human resources (knowledge, skills, and attitude), innovation, and technology.



Based on the reputation of CDRI as a leading policy research institute, HE. Sisovath suggested that CDRI and NCCEP should collaborate meaningfully with each other for the sake of national productive economic development. In response, Dr Pech Sokhem was happy and looked forward to having collaboration.

The delegations include: Mrs Em Pheakdey, Deputy Secretary General, Mrs Heng Linda, Head of Administration and Finance, Mr Thong Makara, Operation and Information; and Ms Lee Kimheang, Scientific Data and Information.

CDRI team meeting with HE Dr Tekreth Kamrang

HE Dr Tekreth Kamrang, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, welcomed the CDRI management and research team at her office on 21 May 2020. She has been a key member of the CDRI Board of Directors - the CDRI's highest governance and oversight body. CDRI is grateful to her insight and strong leadership in the past, present, and future as CDRI is moving forward in

improving its relevance, responsiveness, and sustainable impacts.



CDRI Executive Director welcome the visit of NIDIR's president

On the afternoon of May 21, 2020, HE Tean Somnang, President of National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR) had a meeting with Dr Pech Sokhem, Executive Director of CDRI to strengthen the cooperation between the two Institutes.

CDRI is proud of the collaboration between the two think tanks and expect more fruitful cooperation in the coming months and years.

NIDIR, MOFAIC delegation includes: Mr Chan Bunnarith, Director of Public Relations Department, and Dr Phon Sokpanya (Ms), Assistant to the President.



On the morning of May 28th, 2020 at NIDIR, HE Tean Samnang, President of NIDIR, met CDRI, and Asian Vision Institute (AVI), to discuss the plan to co-organize Policy Dialogue on Cambodia's Experience in Response to COVID-19.

Water Diplomacy Regional Consultation



On Friday, 22 May 2020, CDRI's Environment Unit conducted a regional consultation via Zoom with its Water Diplomacy Partners from China (School of Environment and Engineering - SusTECH), Cambodia (CNMC, National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations/MFAIC), and Panasatra University), Thailand (Chulalongkorn University), and Vietnam (VNMC). The project provides a platform for both State and Non-State organisations to explore the country and Mekong region's water diplomacy lessons learned and to propose an appropriate regional platform for water diplomacy policy influencing and capacity building. The project runs from June 2019 to May 2021. Changes due to COVID-19 in research methodology, validation, and policy dialogue was discussed and undertaken.

DPM Academician Aun Pornmoniroth, met with CDRI Senior Management and Researchers

HE Academician Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), Minister of Economy and Finance (MEF), welcomed CDRI ED, Research Director, Economics Unit Head and CDRI PR officer on 26 May 2020 morning. HE DPM shared with the CDRI visitors the strategic directions and research information needs especially those related to globalization and regionalization vs. unilateralism - a new reality emerging as the outcomes of COVID-19, as well as self-reliance, digital economy, e-governance, e-trade, knowledge and skill requirements, etc. He further asks SNEC, MEF, and CDRI to work on a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in policy relevance and policy application research and informed decision. CDRI management and researchers are grateful

to HE DPM and commit to working more closely with MEF, SNEC, and, other RGC ministries, and other key Partners, as CDRI is celebrating its 30th Anniversary.



He added that CDRI annual Outlook Conference is an important event and PM attends it almost every year. MEF and CDRI have agreed to co-host/organize the Outlook and other events together.

Under Sida, Governance unit will publish a CDR within this month named “*Understanding Political Knowledge and Participation of Cambodian Youth*”. Also, other two working papers are under-reviewing process which are including 1) *Cambodian Civil Society Organizations in Promoting Youth’s Civic Engagement* and 2) *A Generational Shift and its Impacts on Local Rural Governance: Youth Participation and Inter-generational Experiences*.

CDRI Knowledge Centre welcome PhD candidate from Naresuan University

Dr Ven Seyhah, research fellow, CDRI Economics Unit, met with Mr Hong Samedy, to share research experiences. Mr Hong is a PhD candidate at the Naresuan University in Thailand studying on Southeast Asian Studies.

He is also the deputy head of the Office at the Asia Pacific Department, Ministry of Commerce. We welcomed his visit and use of our CDRI Knowledge Centre.

For more information about our library and publication, please visit <http://library.cdri.org.kh> or email: chhavy@cdri.org.kh



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