

2018 Cambodia Outlook Conference  
'Science and Technology for Industrialisation,  
Economic Growth and Development in  
Cambodia'

*S&T and Industrial Development*

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# I. Why S&T are important?

- World has changed dramatically since the UK industrial revolution in 18 century;
- It was mainly due proper application of S&T;
- Proper application of S&T promotes advancement of human race;
- In both in developed and developing countries
- Cambodia, still a developing country, badly needs progresses;
- S&T allows the whole society to prosper, not only economic aspects;
- Thus we need to strengthen S&T, together with other measures.



# Policy Framework in IDP

- **Vision:** The transformation and modernization of the industrial structure ... toward a modern technology and knowledge based industry.
- **Objective:** The core objective of this policy is to address structural challenges and to invest in key industries.



## II. Current status of S&T in Cambodia

- Frankly speaking, current status of S&T in Cambodia is far from satisfactory;
- Although efforts and progresses have been made so far,
- In my views, still a long way to go,
- From basic foundation, infrastructure, institution, and education;
- Recently, there is tendency to believe that S&T is almost equal to IT;
- And it is also believed that IT is panacea for many things;
- But we need to focus on Real S&T: physics, chemistry, biology, biotech, mechanics, electrical, medicine, agriculture etc...



# Comparative S&T performance indicators

Input index	Indicators (2015)	Cambodia	Thailand	Malaysia	Singapore
R&D investment	% of GDP	0.12	0.63	1.3	2.2
Number of researchers	Headcount / million people	50	1,600	2,900	7,400



### III. How S&T could be promoted ?

- Such conference as today is an important step;
- However, it cannot avoid tackling the fundamentals;
- S&T come from both internally and externally;
- Internally means nurturing S&T education and researches from inside;
- Externally means S&T brought in by FDI due to globalization;
- Policy measures and programs must be designed to support these two forces;
- And the two forces complement each others;
- FDI brings in S&T, but technical staff will be supplied locally.



## Some Key strategies for industrial development : IDP

- Attract FDI and mobilize domestic private investment for industrial development, promotion of technology development and transfer;
- Strengthen industrial linkages between domestic and foreign enterprises.



## IV. Moving forward

- Re-assess the current status of S&T: strengths and weaknesses;
- Define the short, medium, and long term objectives of S&T;
- Taking into account of the trend of the industry sector;
- Acknowledging that S&T are swords with double edges;
- Also define institutional set up for S&T and its function;
- Linking closely education and research with industry ;
- Example of RUPP: more practical researches;
  - Expand curriculum to include fundamental fields
  - Define areas that Cambodia can do
- Be more practical, and result oriented.





Thanks for your attention