



Project Inception Workshop

“Thnal Udom Chomnes: Reimagining Future Education of Cambodia” And Research Validation Workshop

31 August 2021, Virtual Zoom Meeting

Concept Note

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about educational disruptions from pre-school to higher education in Cambodia and around the world. The impact of the pandemic in Cambodia was relatively low in comparison to other countries in 2020. As a result, schools were able to reopen its door again in early 2021. Unfortunately, the February 20th incident has incurred an exponential increases in Covid019 case numbers and once again educational institutions were forced to shut down completely. Owing to great efforts by the Royal Government of Cambodia, in particular the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and with strong support from development partners, students were able to continue learning remotely through alternative means such as online learning, national TV and radio broadcastings. The Centre for Educational Research and Innovation of CDRI has initiated a new two-year programme called **“Thnal Udom Chomnes: Reimagining Future Education of Cambodia”** for 2021-2023. The research project funded by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation’s Ponlok Chomnes Stream 2. In line with the MoEYS’s priorities to build back a resilience education system after the Covid-19 and the Australian government’s commitment to generate new knowledge and ideas for public policy discussion, the new programme aims to: (1) produce independent, high-quality and policy-relevant research papers to influence education reforms in Cambodia; (2) promote research culture in Cambodia and beyond through capacity building and research exchange activities; (3) build the knowledge, skills and capacity of CDRI and its partners; and (4) establish collaborative partnerships and networks for policy and scholarship dialogue and research between CDRI and relevant stakeholders both within and outside Cambodia.

As a part of the 2.5-year research programme (2019-2022) in the first stream also supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation’s Ponlok Chomnes, CDRI has conducted a research study to assess readiness, its determinants and gaps in adopting new technology at Cambodian higher education and training insitutions. Two independent surveys were conducted among 370 teachers from 18 higher education institutions and 1,338 students from 22 higher education institutions between June and July 2020. The findings form preliminary analysis will be presented and discussed in this workshop.

Objectives

The main objectives of the national workshop are twofold:

- To launch the research project supported by the Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation’s Ponlok Chomnes Stream 2 and inform CDRI’s partners and stakeholders about the research themes and activities of a new project
- To share the preliminary findings from the study on “forced adoption of EdTech during Covid-19” and to get feedback from key stakeholders (particularly, HEIs participated in the study and MoEYS’s department of higher education)

Participants

About 30 participants from the Asia Foundation, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT), higher education and TVET institution , and researchers and policy practitioners from Ponlok Chommes’s core partners, think tanks, and organisations (CSO), are expected to join the workshop.

Date and Programme

7:45 – 8:00	<i>Registration</i>
8:00 – 8:30	Welcoming and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming Remark by Dr Eng Netra, Executive Director, CDRI - Opening Remark by Mr Andreas Zurbrugg, Deputy Ambassador and Head of Development Cooperation, Australian Embassy in Cambodia - Opening Remark by Ms Meloney Lindberg , Country Representative of The Asia Foundation Cambodia office
8:30 – 8:35	Group Photo
8:35 – 9:35	Project Launch: “Thnal Udom Chomnes: Reimagining Future Education of Cambodia” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the new project by Dr Chea Phal, Research Fellow, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, CDRI - Questions and answers
9:35 – 9:45	Break
9: 45 – 10:45	Research Validation: “Forced Adoption of EdTech during Covid-19 in Cambodian Higher Education” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Preliminary Findings by Dr Saing Chanhang, Research Consultant - Questions and answers
10:45-11:00	Closing Remark by H.E Mak Ngoy , Deputy Director General of Higher Education

Note: the programme is subject to change.