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give additional comments. “Contextualisation of the Cambodian State: Is It Developmental?” has just been started; researchers from two other units are involved: Economy, Trade and Regional Cooperation and Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development.

A successful book launch was held in the CDRI library on 24 July for *Beyond Democracy in Cambodia: Political Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Society*, edited by Joakim Ojendal and Mona Lilja (NIAS Press, 2009). The chapter “Decentralization as a Strategy for State Reconstruction in Cambodia” is by a CDRI researcher. The contributors are a broad mix of Khmer and non-Khmer researchers, and this is the first empirical study to assess, systematically and in depth, post-conflict democratisation in Cambodia. The event attracted 80 guests, including policy makers, civil society, academics, NGOs, donors and development practitioners.

**Social Development Programme:** The “Key Manager Baseline Study for Health Sector Support Programme” is going well under a contract with DFID. A questionnaire was developed with the support of the Oxford Policy Institute and tested on 30 July in two hospitals and operational districts in Kandal and Phnom Penh. The field survey will be conducted during August–September 2009. The regional conference is ongoing. The second call for papers was circulated through email networks to remind those who are interested in the conference. The dialogue with UN Habitat for the “Diagnosis of Safety for the Urban Poor in Phnom Penh” is ongoing.

During this period, the training team conducted courses for trainers, practitioners and NGOs on “Working for Peace” from 13 to 17 July in Kompong Speu province and specific training from 18 to 31 July in Pursat province

**Economy, Trade and Regional Cooperation Programme:** The “Poverty Dynamics Study” project team is still analysing the six round panel data on various poverty issues, including identifying poverty incidence, transient and chronic poverty and determinant factors of the two types. The project has been extended for a few months due to the response to the “Rapid Assessment of the Impacts of the Economic Crisis on Cambodian Households”. The “China’s Investment in Cambodia” study has been commented on by the study’s partner,

and the report is being revised, including six case studies. The first draft report on “Maximising the Opportunities of Chinese Investment in Cambodian Natural Resources” has been submitted to the donor and will be finalised upon receipt of comments. The rapid assessment study, a joint research project with PARD, has submitted the final report for component one and the first draft for component four to the World Bank. “Assessing the Socio-Economic Effects of the GMS”, a joint-research project with PARD and Social Development, has started reviewing a wide range of methodologies and case studies in various countries. The project is making good progress. In late July, ETRC agreed with UNESCAP to produce a policy brief on “The Impact of Global Economic Crisis on Garment Workers and Remittances: the Case of Cambodia”.

**Natural Resources and the Environment Programme:** A training course entitled “Panel Data Econometrics” was conducted for the Water Resources Management Research Capacity Development Programme. The “Tropical Forests for Poverty Alleviation—from Household Data to Global Analysis” programme is cleaning data in collaboration with the Centre for International Forestry Research. “Building Community Capacity for Poverty Reduction Initiatives in the Tonle Sap Basin” conducted a meeting with the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development to discuss results after the project was reviewed by the ADB. The one-year project on “Sustainable Pathways for Attaining the Millennium Development Goals Initiative”, funded by the Stockholm Environment Institute, has conducted data cleaning.

**Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development Programme:** The Poverty Dynamics Study is engaged in quantitative data analysis. A wealth index is being defined by PARD and ETRC members using recommendations from Dr. Jose Ramon G. Albert, senior research fellow, Philippines Institute for Development Studies. The final draft on rapid economic impact assessment has been sent to the World Bank. Two research articles were written for *CDR* volume 3. “Building Resilience of Community Fisheries in the Tonle Sap Lake: Collective Action and the Capacity to Manage Resource Competition” is scheduled to start from 1 September. This project is commissioned by WorldFish and funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. “Assessing the Socio-Economic Effects



## CDRI UPDATE

**Management**

At its mid-year meeting in August 2009, the CDRI board of directors welcomed three new members: H.E. Neav Chanthana, deputy governor, National Bank of Cambodia, H.E. Dr Tia Phalla, vice-chair, National AIDS Authority, and Dr Huot Pum, economist, Royal University of Law and Economics, and deputy director-general, Securities and Exchange Commission of Cambodia. The board meeting also endorsed a series of events to be held in 2010 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of CDRI and its contribution to development policy research and human resources in Cambodia.

CDRI and its partner institutes in the Development Analysis Network (DAN) from Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan province of China held a one-day retreat in Luang Prabang on 4 August as part of the DAN 8 research project, the last such project under current Rockefeller Foundation funding, which concludes in June 2010. The retreat was held to review the role, value, achievements, strengths and weaknesses of DAN, and discuss how DAN can be strengthened and sustained as an effective collaborative policy research network in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. A proposal for the future of DAN, and associated financial support partnerships, will be prepared for endorsement by the next DAN network meeting, in Kunming, Yunnan, in January 2010.

CDRI's Annual Report for 2008–09 has been published and posted on the CDRI web site, along

with six Cambodia Outlook Briefs, in Khmer and English, generated from the 2009 Cambodia Outlook Conference on the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Cambodia.

**Research**

The following research activities took place at CDRI over the period July–September 2009.

**Democratic Governance and Public Sector Reform Programme:** The second draft of “Leadership in Local Politics” is awaiting revision and comments. The first draft is finalised and awaiting comments from the research adviser. The first stage of interviews with key informants for “Research Capacity of Cambodia’s Universities” has been completed. The final draft study will be done in August. For “Local Governance of Common Pool Resources: the Case of Irrigation Water in Cambodia”, Ms Chea Chou met with Professor Joakim Ojendal (Goteborg University, Sweden, and research adviser for the programme) to get his comments on the four finished chapters. Chapter 4 is being polished and will be finished by mid-August. The consultancy project at the National Committee for Decentralisation and Deconcentration (Ministry of the Interior), supported by the Urban Institute, has submitted the fourth draft of the national programme. “Understanding Civil Society-Parliamentarian Engagement in Cambodia” was submitted on time to the Overseas Development Institute. Internally, the research adviser is helping to fine-tune and

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