

CDRI UPDATE

Management

The third annual Cambodia Outlook Conference, a partnership of CDRI and ANZ Royal Bank, will be held in Phnom Penh on 12 March 2009 on the theme “Cambodia and the Global Crisis—Impact, Policy Priorities and Action”. Prime Minister Hun Sen will deliver the opening keynote address to an invited audience of 300 leaders from government, the private sector, international development partners, the research community and civil society. Sessions will focus on the global, regional and national implications of the crisis for Cambodia’s growth, development and poverty reduction, with special attention to key issues for Cambodia such as human resource development; agriculture and rural development; tourism; broadening the manufacturing sector; real estate, property and construction; infrastructure and energy; and minerals exploitation. CDRI’s 2008–09 *Annual Development Review* will be launched concurrently with the conference. The next issue of *Cambodia Development Review*, for April–June, will feature selected presentations and themes from the Outlook Conference, with all conference materials available on CDRI’s web site.

Immediately following the Outlook Conference, CDRI will hold its 2009 full board of directors meeting. This will be the first meeting for the newly elected CDRI staff representative, Ms Ouch Chandarany, who has recently returned from successful completion

of a master’s degree in public policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore. The board will consider priorities for the remainder of 2009–10 arising from the recently completed mid-term review of CDRI’s 2006–10 strategic plan. These include improved research management and quality, more accessible Khmer and English language policy research products, more systematic staff capacity development and a process for developing, over the remainder of 2009–10, a CDRI Cambodia 2020 Country Research Strategy, reflecting Cambodia’s priority development needs and issues, which will form the basis of CDRI’s next strategic plan and be used to seek programme-based funding from Cambodia’s development partners.

The CDRI board will also consider the outcomes and recommendations of the mid-term review of Sida-DFID support for CDRI’s core operating costs and its Democratic Governance and Public Sector Reform programme, the current phase of which concludes in 2010. The review was conducted in January 2009 by independent consultants agreed to by Sida, DFID and CDRI. It focused on CDRI’s performance in generating independent policy research and its impact; financial management and administration; human resource management and capacity development; strategic planning, implementation and review; and CDRI’s future institutional strengthening needs.

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A Publication of CDRI—
Cambodia’s Leading Independent
Development Policy Research Institute

CAMBODIA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Volume 13, Issue 1 (January-March 2009)

Cambodia Development Review is published four times a year in simultaneous English- and Khmer-language editions by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute in Phnom Penh.

Cambodia Development Review provides a forum for the discussion of development issues affecting Cambodia. Economy Watch offers an independent assessment of Cambodia’s economic performance.

Cambodia Development Review welcomes correspondence and submissions. Letters must be signed and verifiable and must include a return address and telephone number. Prospective authors are advised to contact CDRI before submitting articles, though unsolicited material will be considered. All submissions are subject to editing. CDRI reserves the right to refuse publication without explanation.

Responsibility for the ideas, facts and opinions presented in the Cambodia Development Review rests solely with the authors. Their opinions and interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of CDRI.

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Publisher: CDRI
Managing Editor: YOU Sethirith,
Production Editor: OUM Chantha
Cover Photograph: CDRI’s staff courtesy

Printing: Japan Printing House, Phnom Penh

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ISBN 978-99950-52-05-8

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Research

The following research and research-related activities took place at CDRI over the period January–March 2009.

The Democratic Governance and Public Sector Reform programme is undertaking four major research and consultancy activities inside and outside CDRI. The first project, Leadership in Local Politics, will finish the first working paper by the end of the first quarter. A policy brief based on the study will be produced. For the second project, on the governance of common resources (water project), different sections of the first working paper, written by two authors, will be integrated by mid-March, and the second paper will be started afterwards. The third project, on money, politics and local development, will start compiling the collected data and writing. Fourth, the consultant team hired to work with the policy team of the Ministry of the Interior in leading nine line ministries to implement deconcentration reform has finished the first two key phases: holding workshops on the devolution of function assignment and financial transfers. In this quarter, the team is working on accountability issues (the third phase); a workshop on accountability will be held on 19 February 2009, and another on staff management on 5 March 2009. The fourth phase, concentrating on capacity building, will commence around the beginning of April, upon the completion of the third phase. A new research associate, Lun Pide, has been recruited to replace Kim Sean Somatra, who took leave for his PhD studies.

The Economy, Trade and Regional Cooperation programme is progressing well with its project, The Political Economy of the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The study has completed most of its in-depth interviews with key government officials, and the team has started to write up the first draft report. The Trade in Services study has completed its fieldwork; the first draft report has been written and sent to the International Trade Centre for comments. The Rubber Competitiveness Study is proceeding to analysis and writing despite the cancellation of planned fieldwork. The Poverty Dynamic Study survey data have been standardised as panel data and submitted to the World Bank. The project team has started analysing the panel data obtained from six surveys on various aspects of poverty, including identifying the poverty incidence, transient and chronic poverty and the factors determining the

two types of poverty. The results of the study will be crucial for policy makers to prioritise poverty reduction strategies for different areas. The team for the Chinese Investment in Cambodia project has been re-formed, and is expected to meet the revised project timeline, which will end in March 2009.

The Natural Resources and the Environment programme completed a core survey for the economic component of the Water Resources Management Research Capacity Development Programme (WRMRCDP). The programme will hold a consultative committee meeting to ensure that the research activities and outputs match the activities and indicators stated in the programme document. A working paper will be published on water resources management identifying research methodologies for governance and economic and physical themes of the WRMRCDP. A mid-term review of the WRMRCDP will be conducted in March. The programme has completed data entry for a joint project on Tropical Forests for Poverty Alleviation—from Household Data to Global Analysis. A dataset for this project was submitted to the Centre for International Forestry Research for cleaning and approval. A draft working paper on the tropical forest project will be prepared. The project Building Community Capacity for Poverty Reduction Initiatives in the Tonle Sap Basin completed a baseline survey in selected areas around the Tonle Sap. A draft baseline report was prepared and submitted to the Asian Development Bank for review. The programme continued discussing with the Stockholm Environment Institute on Sustainable Pathways for Attaining the Millennium Development Goals and the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Proposed Hydropower Development on the Mekong Mainstream in the Lower Mekong Basin.

The Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development programme has completed the standardised data from 2001 to 2008 for the Poverty Dynamic Study (PDS), and the quantitative panel data were submitted to World Bank. The PDS qualitative data cleaning was also completed, and the cleaned data sets were sent to the World Bank. As part of the PDS results, a research article entitled “The Impact of Increased Food Prices on Poverty Reduction in Cambodia” is being written for publication in the *Annual Development Review*. There will be consultation on the PDS report with World Bank poverty experts. The final draft report of the Youth

Situation Analysis project (in collaboration with the Social Development programme) was accepted by the UNICEF country team, and the final results were disseminated to the UN country team and others. The results of the Youth Situation Analysis were used for a research article entitled “Youth Situation Analysis: Challenges, Perceptions and Opportunities for Youth” in this issue of the Cambodia Development Review. Research instruments were developed for the Enhancing the Effectiveness of Rural Productive Service Delivery Systems project, and field data collections, semi-structured interviews with key informants and focus group discussions with farmers were completed. First draft reports on the six case studies are being written.

The Social Development programme has completed Child Poverty and Disparities in Cambodia as well as the Youth Situation Analysis, and is currently conducting research on Enhancing the Effectiveness of Rural Productive Service Delivery Systems in Cambodia, funded by

International Food and Agricultural Development (IFAD). The latter two projects are in collaboration with the Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development programme.

The training unit attached to Social Development conducted the following training:

- “Working for Peace” trained government and non-government peace-building practitioners in conflict management and resolution and trained the trainers for peace building at CDRI.
- “Working Together for Peace and Development” to commune and district officials and community leaders in Ban Lung and Ou Chum districts of Ratanakkiri.
- “The Role of Press in Peace Building” to press associations and journalists at CDRI.

The unit also completed Conflict Prevention in Cambodian Elections, which was created to provide open and neutral forums for the discussion of election-related issues and to prevent conflict, violence and misunderstanding in elections.

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