

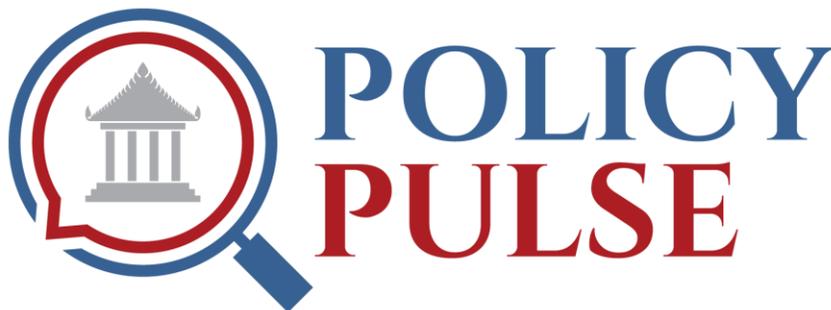
# NEWSLETTER FIRST QUARTER 2018

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Policy Pulse, formerly known as Reform Inventory Initiative, is an initiative of the Asia Foundation to bridge the information gap between the Cambodian government at the ministerial level and the general public through providing a platform whereby information on policy reforms at the Ministerial level are collected, inventoried, validated, and shared. Policy Pulse is intended to be a window for current information and insight on the government's progress on reform and serve as the basis for the review process that will be employed to identify and publicize the top reforms each year.

Policy Pulse Newsletter is a new medium created to provide the public with recent updates regarding recent policy developments in Cambodia.

[www.policypulse.org](http://www.policypulse.org)  
(under development)



During the first quarter of 2018, there have been a number of recent and notable policy developments in Cambodia. Below highlights some of those developments across the ministries.

## General Department of Taxation

The General Department of Taxation created a mobile application (GDT Audit Check) for business people to verify whether or not their audit documents are authentic by scanning QR Code in the document with the application that is available to download from Google Play and App Store. ([Fresh News, March 7, 2018](#))

## Ministry of Civil Service

The Ministry of Civil Service issued an amendment to 2013 Sub-degree on Civil Servants Administration that delegates rights to councils at provincial, city, district, and commune level to be in charge of staffing plans, setting compensation, appointing and withdrawing their staff. The amendment is to shorten the bureaucratic process and improve the work at the sub-national level. ([RFI Khmer, January 6, 2018](#))

## Ministry of Commerce

The Ministry of Commerce worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Cambodian Rice Federation to establish a new agency to inspect the production and supply chain of rice branded as “Made in Cambodia” to guarantee its origin and provide assurance to foreign buyers. The new agency has the authority to look into the production and supply process in order to prevent the sale of fake Cambodian rice in international market. ([Khmer Times, February 15, 2018](#))

## Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF)

Starting from 26 January 2018, the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) is used by ten ministries to improve complex financial implementation procedures, save time and resources, and ease the work of officials in charge of finance and budget at respective ministries. The FMIS is perceived as an important tool in improving public financial management in Cambodia. In the near future, FMIS will expand to all 25 provincial departments of Economy and Finance and remaining ministries. (RFI Khmer, January 26, 2018)

## Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS)



Female students from two high schools receive bicycles and study materials as part of scholarship program called “Improving Female Students’ Future through Education” in 2017/ Photo: The Asia Foundation

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport sent letters to heads of provincial departments of education throughout the country to reinforce regulation and staff management at public education institutions. The rules are to encourage the education personnel to adhere to working hours and responsibilities. This enforcement contributes to the implementation of school curriculum and students’ education. (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, January 18, 2018)

# Ministry of Environment (MOE)

The Ministry of Environment established the Koh Rong Marine Park covering 52,000 hectares of land area (5,000 hectares) and water area (47,000 hectares), including Koh Rong Island, Koh Rong Sanloem, Koh Koun, Koh Touch, Koh Ta Tiem, Koh Mnos Krao, Koh Mnos Knong, and surrounding sea areas. The objective of this Marine Park's establishment are to protect and preserve the natural and cultural landscape, ecological system and biodiversity of the park. (Sub-degree dated on February 2, 2018)



**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា**  
**ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ**  
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**អនុក្រឹត្យ**  
**ស្តីពី**  
**ការបង្កើតឧទ្យានជាតិសមុទ្រកោះរ៉ុង**  
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**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា**

- បានឃើញរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រឹត្យលេខ នស/រកត/០៩១៣/៩០៣ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែកញ្ញា ឆ្នាំ២០១៣ ស្តីពីការតែងតាំងរាជរដ្ឋាភិបាលនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រឹត្យលេខ នស/រកត/១២១៣/១៣៩៣ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២១ ខែធ្នូ ឆ្នាំ២០១៣ ស្តីពីការកែសម្រួល និងបំពេញបន្ថែមសមាសភាពរាជរដ្ឋាភិបាលនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រឹត្យលេខ នស/រកត/០៤១៦/៣៦៨ ចុះថ្ងៃទី០៤ ខែមេសា ឆ្នាំ២០១៦ ស្តីពីការកែសម្រួល និងបំពេញបន្ថែមសមាសភាពរាជរដ្ឋាភិបាលនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ ០២/នស/៩៤ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២០ ខែកក្កដា ឆ្នាំ១៩៩៤ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីការរៀបចំ និងការប្រព្រឹត្តទៅនៃគណៈរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០១៩៦/២១ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ១៩៩៦ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីការបង្កើតក្រសួងបរិស្ថាន
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/១២៩៦/៣៦ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែធ្នូ ឆ្នាំ១៩៩៦ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីកិច្ចការពារបរិស្ថាន និងការគ្រប់គ្រងធនធានធម្មជាតិ
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០៨០២/០១៦ ចុះថ្ងៃទី៣១ ខែសីហា ឆ្នាំ២០០២ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីព្រៃឈើ
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០៨០៦/០១១ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២១ ខែឧសភា ឆ្នាំ២០០៦ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីជលផល
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០២០៨/០០៧ ចុះថ្ងៃទី១៥ ខែកុម្ភៈ ឆ្នាំ២០០៨ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីតំបន់ការពារធម្មជាតិ

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Sub-Degree on the Establishment of Koh Rong Marine Park

## Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior plans to build three additional passport processing centers at border provinces such as Battambang, Koh Kong and Pailin in addition to three existing processing centers, two in Phnom Penh and one in Poipet town in Banteay Meanchey Province. Additionally, in order to help illegal workers in Thailand, the Ministry of Interior asked the general department of identification to work with provincial governors to monitor the registration of civil status documents at the local level in order to prevent documents from being issued improperly. (Khmer Times, January 23, 2018)



H.E. Chou Bun Eng (center), Secretary of State of Ministry of Interior, shared her remarks with the participants during the Workshop on Safe Migration and Anti-human Trafficking held by the Asia Foundation in 2016/ Photo: The Asia Foundation

Ministry of Interior intends to establish an inter-ministerial working group in Banteay Meanchey Province to deal with issues of illegal migrant workers deported from Thailand. The working group seeks to stop illegal border crossing by gathering information from deported workers to help authorities track down the brokers who arranged travel for the workers. (Khmer Times, February 6, 2018)

## Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MoLVT)

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training issued measures that factory owners have to follow in order to prevent their workers from fainting by ensuring air circulation inside the building, taking measures to guarantee that there is no leak of chemical substances including pesticide and other substances into the building, installing thermostats to measure temperature inside the buildings, equipping fire extinguishers and storing easily combustible materials from production buildings, supplying safe drinking water, training their employees on safety evacuation and signs, observing steaming system standard and assigning a properly trained person to be in charge of the system, among others. (RFI Khmer, January 4, 2018)



A female worker is sewing clothes inside a garment factory in Cambodia/ Photo: The Asia Foundation

MoLVT planned to launch a national policy to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving garment workers being driven to and from factories. The policy encourages employers and drivers to prioritize road safety. During 11 months of 2017, there were about 1,691 traffic accidents that killed 33 people and injured 2,193 people. Most of the cases involved drivers speeding, vehicle faults, and overtaking. (Khmer Times, January 23, 2018)

## Ministry of Public Works and Transport

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a three-year project on the development of vehicle registration system and technical check to ensure quality of vehicle and road safety in Cambodia. This agreement aims to address the challenges that the ministry has faced concerning the previous registration system that was out of date, the implementation, and the protection of owners' property. Additionally, this agreement would enable the General Department of Taxation to collect tax payment on means of transportation, reduce the number of illegally imported vehicles, and reduce the number of unregistered vehicles. ([RFI Khmer, January 30, 2018](#))

## Ministry of Women's Affairs

The draft of Surrogacy Law was completed. The draft law consisting of nine chapters and 62 articles aims to ban the commercial surrogacy industry, and to protect women and children from human trafficking. ([Phnom Penh Post, March 7, 2018](#))

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## Highlights on Surrogacy Issue in Cambodia

- 2011 | Surrogacy issues surfaced in the news in Cambodia (Phnom Penh Post, October 26, 2011)
- 2014 | Surrogate-born child was being raised in Cambodia (Phnom Penh Post, August 18, 2014)  
The first fertility clinic began its business in Cambodia (Phnom Penh Post, September 20, 2014)
- 2016 | The Ministry of Interior began to consider the issue as a form of human trafficking (Phnom Penh Post, January 02, 2016)  
US-based commercial surrogacy agency operated in Cambodia (Phnom Penh Post, July 06, 2016)  
Anti-human trafficking police arrested three people for their involvement in surrogacy industry (Phnom Penh Post, November 21, 2016)  
The Ministry of Women's Affairs planned the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to draft legislation on commercial surrogacy (Phnom Penh Post, December 15, 2016)
- 2018 | The draft of Surrogacy Law was completed, consisting of nine chapters and 62 articles aims to ban the commercial industry, and to protect women and children from human trafficking (Phnom Penh Post, March 7, 2018)

*The Policy Pulse's advisory groups include representatives from the American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia, the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia, the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, DFDL, the European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia, GIZ, JICA Cambodia Office, Mekong Strategic Partners, the NGO Education Partnership, the NGO Forum on Cambodia, OXFAM, PACT, the Reproductive and Child Health Alliance, Transparency International Cambodia, the United Nations Children's Fund, University Research Company, LLC, and other experts from bilateral agencies, multilateral institutions, NGOs and the private sector.*



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