

NEWSLETTER THIRD QUARTER 2018

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 a 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 updates regarding recent policy developments in Cambodia.

www.policypulse.org



During the third quarter of 2018, there have been a number of notable policy developments in Cambodia. Below highlight some of those developments across the ministries.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries issued a directive urging owners of swiftlet nest farms to register with the Forestry Administration, following the growing number of bird's nest industry. China has been the biggest market of the swiftlet nests, which cost over \$2,000 a kilogram. Indonesia and Malaysia are the world's leading suppliers. According to Cambodia Bird's Nest Federation, there were up to 3,000 swiftlet nest farms across Cambodia in 2014. ([Phnom Penh Post, September 24, 2018](#))



Students are seen at school compound during break / Photo: The Asia Foundation

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport launched a national policy to protect primary and secondary school students from both private and public schools against any form of violence and safeguard their welfare. A committee will be formed at schools to ensure safety and raise awareness on child protection among education professionals, communities and relevant stakeholders. Prior to the launch of this policy, a pilot project was conducted with UNICEF to hold workshops on the prevention of violence for teachers in Battambang, Kampot and Prey Veng provinces. Between 2014 and 2016, Plan International Cambodia has trained teachers' committees in 124 primary schools in Siem Reap and Tbong Khmum provinces. ([Phnom Penh Post, July 23, 2018](#))

Ministry of Environment



People are picking up trash in a public park during the Clean City Day in Phnom Penh / Photo: The Asia Foundation

Ministry of Environment is drafting an action plan to further strengthen its efforts to protect the environment and people's health, by looking into the financing for environmental protection measures that include solid waste management systems and the regular monitoring of water, soil, and atmospheric quality in the capital and provinces. ([Khmer Times, July 18, 2018](#))

Ministry of Industry and Handicraft



Villagers are setting up a water pump machine / Photo: The Asia Foundation

Ministry of Industry and Handicraft is expanding the coverage of clean water supply across the country, particularly areas considered to be more populated than others. In Cambodia, about 20 percent of residents in rural areas get access to clean water, and up to 70 percent in central populated areas. The ministry aims that by 2025 at least 50 percent of rural people have access to clean water and 30 percent have access to toilets. ([Khmer Times, August 15, 2018](#))

Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice has begun the construction of three provincial courts of appeal in Preah Sihanouk, Battambang, and Tboung Khmum provinces. Currently, Cambodia has only one Court of Appeal in Phnom Penh, making it difficult for provincial residents to access higher level court services. The construction is expected to finish within a year. After the construction of the three appeal courts, the Ministry will construct four more. ([Khmer Times, July 5, 2018](#))

The Ministry of Justice is conducting a study to draft a law on compensation for people wrongly convicted, given that some prisoners are found not guilty after arrest. However, their honor and reputation has been ruined. The ministry is now exploring various foreign countries' cases in order to write the law. The law would seek to compensate the victims and build trust among citizens on the judicial system. ([Khmer Times, August 30, 2018](#))

Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training issued a Prakas, directing garment and apparel factories in Cambodia to provide pension to its employees semi-annually. ([Ministry's Facebook, September 21, 2018](#))



Garment workers are working inside a factory in Cambodia/ Photo: ILO/ Better Factories Cambodia

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training delivered a Prakas, directing garment and apparel factories in Cambodia to issue payroll to its employees every two-week. The aim of the Prakas is to prevent factory workers from not being paid in case of sudden shutdown of the factory. ([Ministry's Facebook, September 21, 2018](#))

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Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism launched a new mobile app “Best Hospitality” to provide convenience for tourists and give them tools to evaluate the quality and cleanliness of venues across the country as well as the public service providers. The aim of launching this app is to promote the quality and standards of the tourism sector in Cambodia. ([Phnom Penh Post, July 27, 2018](#))

Play Store for Android phone: Best Hospitality, [link](#)



Hospitality-Public Services

GIGB Cambodia Social



This app is compatible with all of your devices.

The Policy Pulse’s advisory group includes 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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