



**POLICY
PULSE**

**NEWSLETTER
FIRST
QUARTER
2020**

January-March

Policy Pulse is an initiative of The Asia Foundation, founded in 2015 and formerly known as the Reform Inventory Initiative. It aims to improve the public's understanding of important policy reforms in Cambodia through high-quality research. Policy Pulse promotes thoughtful and inclusive policy dialogue and analysis in order to establish a resource for evidence-based policy recommendations. It is a platform through which researchers and stakeholders can gather to organize policy forums at the national and provincial levels to disseminate research and facilitate broad policy discussions.

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

www.policypulse.org

Government Ministry Updates



On January 16, 2020, The Asia Foundation and Cambodia Development Resource Center (CDRI) co-organized a Policy Talk on STEM Education: Teaching and Learning. Find the [link here](#).

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has soft-launched the “CamAgriMarket” mobile app, which will allow farmers to showcase their products to potential buyers and give them access to market information. This mobile app will be fully launched in March 2021. ([Phnom Penh Post, January 23, 2020](#))

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has launched a food safety campaign that appeals to all school principals to ensure that food served in cafeterias is hygienic, nutritious, and of good quality. The campaign aims to raise awareness among school committees, headmasters, cafeteria vendors, and other relevant stakeholders to provide healthy and clean food to students. The ministry has also issued a directive that bans the selling of six categories of food at all private and state schools, including expired food, alcoholic drinks, tobacco products, food with an unknown source of origin, energy drinks, and food and beverages with high sugar content. ([Phnom Penh Post, January 6, 2020](#))



Ministry of Civil Service

The Cambodian government has launched the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 that will focus on combat corruption. The Strategy outlines six priority areas, including increasing precautionary measures and legal action under the anti-corruption framework, expanding the dissemination of information on public services, legalising standard letters and documents involving national policies, examining the use of information technology to support policy implementation, strengthening the inspection and auditing mechanisms in the public sectors, and strengthening the integrity of governance in public and private institutions. ([Phnom Penh Post, January 27, 2020](#))

Ministry of Commerce

The Ministry of Commerce has committed to issuing D Forms as part of the larger Certificate of Origin (CO) certification by the end of the year. A CO is an official document that is used to certify that a product was wholly produced or manufactured in a country and the D Form is part of that verification process. This move to allow provinces to issue these forms means that exporters will not have to travel to Phnom Penh. Since this CO must be obtained by companies/firms that sell products to ASEAN countries, this is an important step in allowing provincial authorities to issue the form and enhance cooperation between national and provincial authorities. So far, 16 provinces have been given this authority in hopes that it will promote sustainable economic development. This move will also save exporters time, as the ministry estimates that applying for the D form will take approximately 16 hours at the provincial site compared to 10-14 days in Phnom Penh.

Last year, Cambodia exported around 7 million tonnes of agricultural products. The figure was made up of 4.78 million tonnes of formal exports and more than 2 million tonnes of informal exports, with Vietnam as the largest importer of Cambodian agricultural products. ([Khmer Times, January 6, 2020](#))

Ministry of Environment

The Cambodian government has issued a directive ordering all institutions to prevent and reduce emissions. According to a directive, pollutants are produced by factories, vehicles, forest fires, rubbish and waste burning at construction sites. This pollution has grave negative effects on health and leads to poor air quality. The directive said that officials will be charged with monitoring construction sites, gasoline depots, vehicles, and rubbish burning facilities, and that the ministry has equipped air quality control monitoring devices to monitor air pollution levels. ([Khmer Times, January 3, 2020](#))

The Ministry of Environment is in the process of developing a new policy to manage trash and solid waste in urban areas in the hopes of addressing and resolving outstanding waste management issues. The new policy will create new collection zones and establish additional dumpsites. According to the ministry,



about 10,000 tonnes of rubbish is produced in Cambodia daily. However, only about half of this rubbish is disposed properly at dumpsites, while the remaining is burned, ends up on the streets, or is dumped into urban waterways. ([Phnom Penh Post, January 27, 2020](#))

Ministry of Public Works and Transport

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport has drafted the Interim Master Plan on Intermodal Transport and Logistics Connectivity. This Plan aims to bring down the cost of transportation and logistics to boost Cambodia's competitiveness, attract more investments, and create more local jobs. ([Khmer Times, January 8, 2020](#))

Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has launched a 'code of ethics' for private recruitment agencies in order to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers. The 12-article Code of Ethics, developed by the Association of Cambodian Recruitment Agencies and the Manpower Association of Cambodia, states that all private recruitment agencies must respect national and international laws and be responsible and follow the code when recruiting, training, managing and sending migrant workers to other countries in order to ensure their rights and safety. According to the ministry, about 120 private agencies have been registered in Cambodia to send migrant workers overseas, and about 1.2 million migrant workers have been sent to Thailand, South Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. Subsequently, those workers have sent about \$2 billion home each year in remittances to support their families. ([Phnom Penh Post, January 29, 2020](#))

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications said that they are considering adopting a national single internet gateway (SIG) system to better control online security and network management nationwide. This SIG would connect different networks under a national common network, which will allow the ministry to control internet usage. The gateway can perform a variety of tasks, such as filtering traffic and keeping out unwanted traffic. ([Phnom Penh Post, February 25, 2020](#))

Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation



The Cambodian government has issued a sub-decree on the implementation of a program that will provide funding to support to pregnant women and children under two years old in order to improve the welfare of women and children. This sub-decree aims to address malnutrition in poor families, focusing on pre-natal health through children up to 2 years old to contribute to children’s physical and mental development. ([Fresh News; Sub-decree 245](#))



The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation.

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