



Concept Note

Virtual Policy Talk

School-based Mentoring

**Hosted by The Asia Foundation, Kampuchean Action to Promote Education (KAPE),
and the New Generation Pedagogical Research Center (NGPRC)**

18 August 2021 @10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

ID: 957 2017 1241; Password: 688525; Link:

<https://asiafoundation.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqdempqTooHtVp5funtFadOsZi3RRgARaN>

School-based mentoring

Teacher education has been a keystone of educational reforms in Cambodia since the release of the Teacher Policy Action Plan in 2015. Along with other initiatives, such as the New Generation Schools (NGS), School-Based Management, the reform of Teacher Training Institutions is a long and complex, yet inspiring endeavor.

So far, school reforms have scored many successes, and, of course a few setbacks. But, as every educator knows, mistakes are learning opportunities, as long as there is someone who can ask the right questions and draw lessons from the experience. But can we systematize that learning process and transform our struggles into teachable moments?

That is what a mentoring program proposes to do. The Master's Degree of Education in Mentoring of the New Generation Pedagogical Research Center is a good example, since it was created to address a recruitment crisis in the New Generation Schools. More fundamentally, feedback is the rationale for mentoring and distinguishes it from more conventional training methods, such as the cascading system of workshops that has been the dominant way to provide in-service training to Cambodian teachers.

Learning from mistakes also concerns the institutions themselves. How can we embed action research in their procedures in order to ensure a constant improvement of their syllabi and practices?

About the Event

The Asia Foundation, KAPE and NGPRC are organizing a virtual talk on "School-based Mentoring." Drawing on insights from researchers and practitioners, this panel explores four related themes:

1. Emergency and long-term strategy, the institutionalization of ad hoc solutions: How has the idea of mentoring been developed in the NGS context, from the analysis of poor teaching practices to the establishment of a unique system of school-based mentoring?
2. Training in a time of crisis: How has Covid-19 impacted the training of educators in the kingdom and how a crisis can be changed into an opportunity?
3. Embedding feedback in the system: What precautions should a young institution take to keep an innovative and untested mentoring approach on tracks? Ethical, epistemological and practical consideration on action research.
4. Mentoring at a crossroad: What could be the place of mentoring in the broader landscape of pre-service and in-service teacher training? What are the options in the middle of 2021?

Taken together, the panel seeks to contribute to our understanding of the challenges of teacher education and the potential contribution of mentoring to the improvement of the Cambodian school system.

Organizing Partners

- Host: KAPE and The Asia Foundation
- Funding: Supported by the Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia
- Type of Event: Virtual discussion
- Speakers and Moderator:
 1. Dr. Sun Somara, Training Coordinator of the New Generation Pedagogical Research Center, Speaker
 2. Representative from KAPE, Speaker
 3. Representative from the Cambodian Association for Mentoring, Speaker
 4. Ms. Sry Bopharath, Program Officer, The Asia Foundation, Moderator
- Audience: Participants for the Policy Talk include independent researchers, lecturers, students, think tanks, university, government officials, and non-governmental organizations. This event is open to external participants and general public.

Format

This Policy Talk will be organized virtually through an online platform as a moderated, panel discussion with representatives from co-hosting organizations and invited researchers. It will begin with a brief introduction and remarks followed by a panel discussion and a question and answer session. This event will be conducted in Khmer, and interpretation will be provided for non-Khmer speakers

House Rules

To encourage open discussion, this talk is a non-media event and will be conducted under a non-attribution policy. The discussion and remarks by the panelists and participants shall not be quoted or published in any form. If any participant would like to do so, please individually approach the speakers after the discussion. It will be the speakers' own decision if they want to be interviewed and/or quoted.

Technical Requirement

Participants will be required to access the internet to join this virtual talk, which will be conducted through Zoom. Invite link to the event will be shared with participants in the invitation letter/email. Participants are required to register prior to the event, and a Zoom link will be shared.

Tentative Program (90 minutes)

- 09:45-10:00 Zoom platform is open
- 10:00-10:05 Opening by the moderator
- 10:05-10:15 Brief introduction of guest speakers by the moderator
- 10:15-11:00 Panel discussion
- 11:00-11:25 Q&A
- 11:25-11:30 Closing

About the Organizers

Kampuchean Action to Promote Education (KAPE)

Kampuchea Action to Promote Education (KAPE) is the largest local NGO in the education sector in Cambodia. It is a nonprofit organization implementing projects and research at all levels of the education sector in Cambodia, with beneficiaries in primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary programs. Currently direct beneficiaries number well over 71,000 children and 1650 school directors and teachers at 165 schools across 13 provinces. KAPE enjoys a long-term partnership and close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), international organizations and local education partners. KAPE is the main implementor of the New Generation School reform, that comprises to this date 10 high-standard public schools.

The New Generation Pedagogical Research Center

The New Generation Pedagogical Research Center (NGPRC) is an autonomous part of the National Institute of Education. Since 2019, it trains mentors who provide technical and emotional support to teachers in the New Generation Schools and other key schools in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Those mentors are awarded a unique Master’s Degree in Mentoring. It is an evidence-based program and NGPRC conducts action research to help improve the Cambodian school system. Since 2020, it hosts the Cambodia International Conference on Mentoring Educators (CICME).

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.

Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia

In partnership with Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Asia Foundation is implementing Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia—an initiative to strengthen the capacity of knowledge sector institutions to undertake quality research that informs public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia.

Contact information

Email: ngprc.faculty@gmail.com

Phone: +(855) 69 528 444

Website: <https://www.ngprc.edu.kh/>

<http://www.kapekh.org/>

Email: ponlokchomnes@asiafoundation.org

Phone: +855 (23) 210 431

Website: <https://policypulse.org/>

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/ponlokchomnes>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PonlokChomnes>

LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/2UVJiYO>

