



Concept Note

Virtual Policy Talk on Learning Challenges and School Dropouts in Kratie Province

Hosted by The Asia Foundation and Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC)

27 October 2021 @10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Meeting ID: 951 4576 6511; Password: 975886

Link: <https://bit.ly/3AIT6PX>

Learning Challenges and School Dropouts in Kratie Province

Young students who experience learning challenges at the primary school level are likely to be significantly affected and may even drop out of school early. Not only does this have a bearing on their own career options, it also has a detrimental effect on the shaping and development of Cambodia's future work force. Kratie province is one of Cambodia's provinces where children, especially those from vulnerable groups, are slow to learn, and dropouts still persist.

It is critical for all stakeholders such as the government, civil society, education specialists, and communities, all convene to jointly address these issues and ensure younger students obtain proper education as needed in their early years. Several interventions have been taken by KAFDOC to address school dropouts and learning problems experienced by students at the primary schools in Kratie province. For instance, in partnership with both state and non-state actors, KAFDOC is running various projects, including the Easy to Learn (E2L) which aims to address school dropouts and learning issues in 30 primary schools in Kratie by providing vulnerable children with equitable access to quality education. However, lack of empirical evidence and data specifically related to slow learning and school dropout in Kratie Province poses challenges for KAFDOC's intervention.

About the Event

With the support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogues for Development in Cambodia program, KAFDOC conducted a study entitled "Learning Challenges and School Dropouts in Kratie Province." The objectives of the study are to describe the general situation of primary schools in Kratie province, identify the causes of slow learning and dropouts, and seek supporting mechanisms to address these concerns. The study was conducted between February 2020 and February 2021 in 15 primary schools in three districts in Kratie province, namely; Chhlong, Sambour, and Chetra Borie.

The Asia Foundation and KAFDOC are co-organizing a virtual policy talk on "**Learning Challenges and School Dropouts in Kratie Province**" to disseminate and discuss the findings of the study. Drawing on general insights from policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and KAFDOC's research findings, this panel will address several themes:

1. General situation at the 30 primary schools in Kratie: What is the current situation at the primary school level?
2. Causes of school dropout and student's slow learning: What are the causes associated with slow learning and school dropouts at these identified primary schools?

3. Key mechanisms to promote children's learning and address school dropouts: What are existing policies or interventions of various actors to address school dropout and student's slow learning issues?
4. Recommendations to promote children's learning and tackle school dropout issues: What are the recommendations or key takeaways for relevant actors and stakeholders to improve the existing mechanisms in addressing children's learning and tackle school dropout issues?

Taken together, the panel seeks to contribute to our understanding of primary school dropouts and learning issues and strategic decisions to address those issues in Kratie Province.

Virtual Policy Talk Details

Host: KAFDOC 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. Representative from Kratie's Provincial Department of Education, Speaker
2. Representative from Child Fund, Speaker
3. Uk Yuth, Executive Director, KAFDOC, Speaker
4. Representative from KAFDOC, Moderator

Audience: Participants for the Virtual 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 Virtual 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)

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| 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

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.

Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC)

KAFDOC is a non-profit NGO located in Kratie Province in Cambodia. It was founded on October 23, 1993 by a group of former refugees and professors who work for community development in Kratie province to analyze Khmer farmers’ needs in rural areas in order to improve the quality of life and sustainable social and economic development. Over 20 years, KAFDOC has worked with the rural communities to improve people’s living conditions. KAFDOC renders assistance to vulnerable and poor women, children, disabled people and farmer groups who live in economic hardship and who face constant barriers to their empowerment and their social participation.

Contact Information

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