



Concept Note

Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum

Cambodia's COVID-19 Recovery Pathway through Multi-Sectoral Approaches

23-24 November 2021

Phnom Penh

Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia is a four-year initiative (2019-2023) that aims to strengthen the capacity of knowledge sector institutions to undertake quality research that informs public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia. The program goal is to strengthen research institutions' organizational and technical capacity, facilitate networking and collaboration among Cambodian and regional research institutions, and support an enabling environment for policy dialogue. Ponlok Chomnes is implemented by The Asia Foundation (the Foundation) with support from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Background

In Cambodia, various studies have been produced by local research institutes, think tanks, non-government organizations, and government institutions to inform decisions and policies that respond to the country's needs, particularly in the context of COVID-19. This crisis has made the task of developing highly effective public policies and government programs even more critical than ever. Timely data and analysis are vital in this situation to enable policymakers and development partners to make better decisions and achieve better outcomes on health, security, social stability and inclusion, and economic resilience. The government has demonstrated an openness to data-informed approaches during the pandemic, a trend that the Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia program aims to support.

Subsequently, Ponlok Chomnes' Core Partners¹ and Emerging Research Partners² have conducted various pieces of research that examine the impacts of COVID-19 on various sectors in Cambodia, including education, tourism, urban issues, garment, economic, and others. The research provides on-the-ground and sophisticated data and contributes towards an increased and deeper understanding of the actual impacts of the pandemic on citizens as well as vulnerable groups.

The Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum (NPF) will be a platform for knowledge producers such as think tanks, academia, researchers and other non-traditional research organizations to showcase their findings, discuss, exchange knowledge and network with knowledge users, including policy makers and

¹ Ponlok Chomnes' Core Partners include Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI); Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP); Center for Khmer Studies (CKS); Centre for Policy Studies (CPS); and Future Forum (FF). For more information, please click this [link](#).

² Ponlok Chomnes' Emerging Research Partners include The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability – Cambodia (ANSA); Department of Tourism, Royal University of Phnom Penh (DoT-RUPP); Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC); New Generation Pedagogical Research Center (NGPRC), Kampuchea Action to Promote Education (KAPE); Komar Rikreay Association (KMR); My Village Organization (MVi); VBNK; Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC); Analyzing Development Issues Centre (ADIC); and Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability (CISA). For more information, please click this [link](#).

policy practitioners from state and non-state organizations who need knowledge to inform their policymaking for post-Covid-19 recovery.

Objectives of Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum

The objectives of the Ponlok Chomnes NPF are to:

- Communicate research and data that responds to policy needs to better inform Cambodia's Covid-19 response,
- Promote the knowledge exchange and policy discussion between policy makers and stakeholders that contribute to COVID-19 recovery plan, and;
- Create an enabling environment where knowledge sector actors meet to discuss and broaden their network to build a strong knowledge sector community in Cambodia.

Format

The NPF will be conducted using three types of formats:

1. *Keynote Addresses by Policymakers*: To be delivered during a high-level opening session to serve diplomatic, political, and visibility objectives.
2. *Plenary Discussions*: Aims to promote active discussion between participants that consist of policymakers, researchers, and policy practitioners from government, think tanks, and NGOs. Recognizes the valuable ideas and experiences of both speakers and participants.
3. *Young Researchers Platform: Policy Brief Presentations*: Presentation sessions focus on policy research convened through an open call for abstracts, to provide a platform to young researchers and thinkers to share their knowledge on policy issues and solutions.

While the NPF is anticipated to be a blended event, given the evolving situation of the pandemic, Ponlok Chomnes shall also be prepared to adapt its NPF into a virtual event. This is to be determined in alignment with government prescribed norms and regulations.

Expected Participants

The Ponlok Chomnes NPF will target diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, development partners, academia, experts and researchers, civil society, and the media.

Press or Media

A press release and press kit will be developed and shared with relevant news agencies via email. They will also be available for download from the Policy Pulse Initiative (PPI) website (www.policypulse.org) before the event.

Stay engaged with us on social media using the following hashtags: #PonlokChomnes, #KnowledgeSector, #NationalPolicyForum2021, among other related hashtags.

| DFAT | Ponlok Chomnes | The Asia Foundation |
|---|---|--|
| <u>Australian Embassy Facebook Page</u> | <u>Ponlok Chomnes Facebook Page</u> | <u>The Asia Foundation Facebook Page</u> |
| | <u>Ponlok Chomnes Twitter Page</u> | <u>The Asia Foundation Twitter Page</u> |
| | <u>Ponlok Chomnes LinkedIn Page</u> | <u>The Asia Foundation LinkedIn page</u> |

Hosted by



The Asia Foundation

Phone: +855 (23) 210 431

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

In Partnership with





Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum (NPF)
Cambodia's COVID-19 Recovery Pathway through Multi-Sectoral Approaches

Date: 23-24 November 2021

Venue: Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh

Organized by
Ponlok Chomnes Program, The Asia Foundation

DRAFT AGENDA

Objectives:

- Communicate research and data that responds to policy needs to better inform Cambodia's COVID-19 response,
- Promote the knowledge exchange and policy discussion between policy makers and stakeholders that contribute to COVID-19 recovery plan, and
- Create an enabling environment where knowledge sector actors meet to discuss and broaden their network to build a strong knowledge sector community in Cambodia.

23 November 2021

| Time | Agenda | Note |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 8:00 am – 8:30 am | Registration | The Asia Foundation Team |
| 8:30 am – 8:35 am | Forum Opening and National Anthem | MC |
| 8:35 am – 8:45 am | Welcoming Remarks | Ms. Meloney C. Lindberg Country Representative The Asia Foundation |
| 8:45 am – 9:00 am | Opening Remarks | H.E. Pablo Kang Australian Ambassador to Cambodia |
| 9:00 am – 09:15 am | Keynote Address | H.E. Ngan Chamroeun Secretary of State Ministry of Interior |
| 09.15 am – 9.30 am | Keynote Address | H.E. Academician Aun Pornmoniroth (TBD) |

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| | | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Ministry of Economy and Finance |
| 09:30 am – 09:45 am | Group Photo | Ponlok Chomnes Team |
| 09:45 am – 10:00 am | Coffee Break | |
| 10:00 am – 11:30 a.m. | <u>Opening Plenary Discussion:</u> Cambodia’s Knowledge Sector: Policymaking Process in Cambodia and Role of Think Tanks <i>Q&A Session</i> | Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Chea Chantum, Secretary General, General Secretariat of Population and Development, Ministry of Planning - Ms. Sem Sophea, Acting Director, Macroeconomic and Fiscal Policy Department, General Department of Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance - Dr. Eng Netra, Executive Director, Cambodia Development Resource Institute - Dr. Pak Kimchoeun, Senior Policy Researcher and Analyst (virtual) Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Meloney Lindberg, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation |
| 11:30 am – 1:30 pm | Lunch | |
| 1:30 pm– 2:45 pm | Plenary Discussion: Adoption of Technology in Higher Education <i>Q&A Session</i> | Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Ky Ravikun, Vice Rector for International Relations and Research, Phnom Penh International University - Mr. Lay Heng, Head of Information and Communication Engineering Department, Institute for Technology of Cambodia (virtual) - Mr. Eng Titya, Vice Rector, National University of Battambang - Dr. Chea Phal, Research Fellow, Cambodia Development Resource Institute - Student from Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (TBD) Moderator: Dr. Song Sopheak, Director, Center for Educational Research and Innovation, Cambodia Development Resource Institute |
| 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm | Coffee break | |

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| 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm | <p>Ponlok Chomnes Women Researchers Platform: Policy Brief Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This panel will include presentations by young researchers - Theme will be selected based on abstract submission <p><i>Q&A Session</i></p> | <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Lotte Van Praet, Strategic Education Advisor, Education for Development Cambodia (VVOB) - Ms. Phasy Res, PHD candidate, Institut D'études Du Développement De La Sorbonne (Iedes), Sorbonne Paris 1 University, France - Ms. BENGHONG Siela Bossba, Associated Research Assistant, CDRI and Ms. Pen Socheata Associated Research Assistant, CDRI - Ms. Reach Mony, Associated Research Assistant, CDRI <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Sry Bopharath, Program Officer, The Asia Foundation |
| 4.15 pm – 5:30 pm | <p>Plenary Discussion: Enhancing Cambodia's Post Covid-19 Recovery: How Foreign Policy Can Play a Role</p> <p><i>Q&A Session</i></p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Seun Sam, Policy Analyst, Royal Academy of Cambodia - Dr. Chheang Vannarith, President, Asian Vision Institute (virtual) - Mr. Sovinda Po, Project Coordinator and Research Fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (virtual) <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. James Lawler, Third Secretary, Australian Embassy |
| 5:30 pm | Closing of Day 1 | MC |

24 November 2021

| Time | Agenda | Note |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 8.30 am – 10.00 am | <p>Plenary Discussion: The Role of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Principles in Informing Policy Decisions</p> <p><i>Q&A Session</i></p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Bo Chankouluka, Director of Department of Policy, Directorate General for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport - Ms. Phean Sophoan, Country Director, Oxfam - Ms. Anne ROUVE-KHIEV, ACCESS Team Leader, Australian Embassy |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ou Virak, Executive Director, Future Forum <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Diya Nag, Governance and Legal Specialist, The Asia Foundation |
| 10.00 am – 10:15 am | Coffee Break | |
| 10:15 am – 11:30 am | <p>Plenary Discussion: The Role of Agricultural Labour in Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19</p> <p><i>Q&A Session</i></p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Kuoch Somean, Secretary General, General Secretariat of National Council for Minimum Wage, Ministry of Labour and Vocation Training - Ms. Kruey Narin, Deputy Director General, General Department of Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance - Dr. Ngin Chanrith, Research Director, Centre for Policy Studies <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Chan Sophal, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Studies |
| 11:30 pm – 1:00 pm | Lunch | |
| 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | <p>Plenary Discussion: Social Inclusion in the Context of COVID-19 in Cambodia: Experiences from Emerging Knowledge Sector Actors</p> <p><i>Q&A Session</i></p> | <p>Panelist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Prom Kimcheng, Executive Director, Komar Rikreay Association (KMR) - Mr. San Chey, Executive Director, The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) - Mr. Stanislas Kowalski, Technical Advisor, New Generation Pedagogical Research Center (NGPRC) of Kampuchea Action to Promote Education (KAPE) - Mr. Uk Yuth, Executive Director, Khmer Association for Development for Countryside (KADOC) - Ms. Yon Soknim, Field Facilitator, My Village Organization (MVi) (Virtual) <p>Moderator: Mr. Prak Rathyrea, Program Officer, The Asia Foundation</p> |
| 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm | <p>Plenary Discussion: Urban Development, Socio-economic Changes in Time of COVID-19 Pandemic and Policy Development</p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Vuth Lyno, Co-Founder and Director, Sa Sa Art Project - Dr. Try Thuon, Senior Researcher, Center for Khmer Studies |

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| | <i>Q&A Session</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Yen Yat, Senior Researcher, Center for Khmer Studies <p>Moderator: Ms. Suong Samedy, Head of Program, Center for Khmer Studies</p> |
| 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm | Coffee Break | |
| 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | <p>Plenary Discussion: Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery</p> <p><i>Q&A Session</i></p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Dr. Huot Pum, Undersecretary of State, Deputy Secretary General, National Committee for Economic and Finance Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance - Mr. Ivan Gonzalez de Alba, Country Economist - Dr. Teng Delux, Research Fellow, Cambodia Development Resource Institute <p>Moderator: Dr. Laura Beckwith, Research Fellow, Northumbria University</p> |
| 5:00 pm – 5:15 pm | Wrap-up and Ways Forward | Ms. Meloney C. Lindberg Country Representative The Asia Foundation |
| 5:15 pm – 5:30 pm | Closing Remarks | H.E. Pablo Kang Australian Ambassador to Cambodia |
| 5:30 pm | End of Program | |