

NEWSLETTER FOURTH QUARTER OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021

Ponlok Chomnes' Events



The Asia Foundation Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia program in collaboration with its core partners and emerging research partners held the first Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum on “Cambodia’s COVID-19 Recovery Pathways” on November 23-24, 2021, in Phnom Penh. This was a blended event which convened over 100 participants, including government representatives, researchers, civil society, policymakers, policy experts, and members of academia. Panelists presented and discussed their research findings and case studies on various topics ranging from the adoption of technology, urban and economic development, social inclusion, and foreign policy, all of which contribute to Cambodia’s COVID-19 recovery plan.

With support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), The Asia Foundation’s Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogues for Development in Cambodia program and KAFDOC co-organized a Virtual Policy Talk on “Learning Challenges and School Dropouts in Kratie Province” on October 27, 2021 via Zoom. The objective of the Policy Talk was to disseminate and discuss the findings of a study on Learning Challenges and School Dropouts in Kratie Province, which was undertaken between February 2020 and February 2021 in 15 primary schools in three districts in Kratie province.



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.

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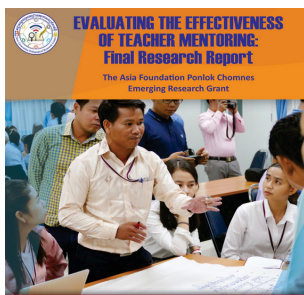
The Asia Foundation organized training on Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Research on November 4-5, 2021, with our new Emerging Research Partners, and subsequently, between November 11 and November 24, 2021, with our core partners under Ponlok Chomnes Program. The main purpose of the training is to provide our partners with practical GESI strategies in conducting social research throughout the research process, starting from planning, implementing, analyzing, and writing.

From November 25 to December 10, 2021, members of SheThinks Network participated in the #16Days Campaign to celebrate women's rights and promote public awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) by sharing their perspectives on gender-based inequality in research and policy.



To view more events, please visit: <https://policypulse.org/events/>

Publications



Kampuchea Action to Promote Education (KAPE) in collaboration with the New Generation Pedagogical Research Center (NGPRC) has released a final report on Evaluating the Effectiveness of Teacher Mentoring, which details a mixed-methods study of the Teacher Mentoring pilot and the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the research and the actual mentoring program.

Future Forum's Junior Research Fellow Digital Publication:

1. Op-Ed: Energy Drinks are Marketed as Healthy. This put Cambodians' Health at Risk
2. Working Paper: The Cambodian Labor Market and Skills Gap
3. Working Paper: A Discussion on Adequate and Affordable Housing in Phnom Penh
4. Working Paper: A Discussion on the Role of Buddhism in Contemporary Cambodian Gender Roles



To view more articles, please visit: <https://policypulse.org/publications/#section-publication-article>



Policy Updates from Ministries

Royal Government of Cambodia

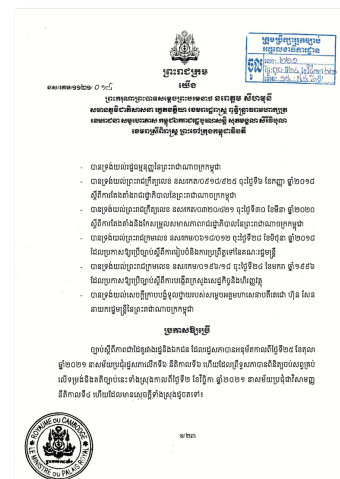
The Royal Government of Cambodia has approved and implemented the law on Public-Private Partnerships in November 2021.

Ministry of Planning

The Ministry of Planning has recently revised the national poverty line and the poverty rate using data from the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2019-2020.

Ministry of Land Management

The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction has released a ministerial decision on November 28, 2021 on the establishment of a working group to monitor and investigate into flooded forestland around the Tonle Sap Lake in Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, and Kampong Thom province.



To view more policy updates, please visit: <http://policypulse.org/policy-inventory>.

COVID-19 Response Updates

The Ministry of Tourism issued an official press release confirming that there is no requirement for quarantine for fully vaccinated travelers, dated November 15, 2021.

The Ministry of Health issued a decision on new procedures without quarantine for incoming travelers to Cambodia, dated November 16, 2021.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on November 17, 2021 released safety measures for the annual high school diploma exams set to take place on December 27, 2021.

The Ministry of Health has published a press release notifying the public about a new COVID-19 variant, Omicron, found in South Africa by the WHO, dated November 27, 2021.

The Ministry of Health issued a decision to ban travelers from 10 African countries or who had a history of travelling to those countries in the last three weeks on November 29, 2021.



The Ministry of Health issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to manage passengers arriving at Cambodian International Airports in the context of the 'new normal' during the COVID-19 pandemic on December 05, 2021.

The Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) released a joint statement on COVID-19 Omicron update on December 09, 2021.

Please visit: <https://policypulse.org/ponlok-chomnes/covid19/> to learn more about the COVID-19 Response updates.

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