

Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum

Forum Brief

THEME: "STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND RESPONSES TO COVID-19 IN CAMBODIA AND ASEAN"

WHEN & WHERE 26-27 October 2022
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

WHO ATTENDED

150
Participants



Government Representatives and Policymakers



Diplomatic Corps



Civil Society Organisations



Members of Academia and Youth



Researchers and Policy experts

TOPICS DISCUSSED



Agriculture - Food Security



Education



Public Service and Social Protection



Urban Development



Economy



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KEY POLICY TAKEAWAYS



1

ENABLE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION: While Cambodia benefits greatly from an increasingly successful focus on regional and global partnerships, particularly given the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is equally important that this engagement is strengthened by the meaningful participation of diverse provincial and local communities in policy-making at the national level.

2

BE CLIMATE-SMART: Communities and institutions should consider climate-smart approaches to agriculture development, which relies less on the intensive use of agro-chemicals and more on effective climate adaptation strategies that improve the management and sustainable harnessing of natural resources.

3

ADAPT TO NEW WAYS OF WORKING: Strengthening resilience and mitigating the negative impact of events such as a global pandemic requires government, private sector and civil society institutions to come together and help the workforce develop skills that can adapt to a shifting economic landscape and new ways of working in future. Such adaptation requires the promotion of problem-solving and creative thinking as being fundamental in primary, secondary and higher education systems.

4

ENSURE INCLUSION: Inclusive development is a commendable national and regional objective, whether this relates to gender, disability, age, background or other factors. However, policy-making will be truly effective and responsive to citizens needs when institutions and the enabling environment are themselves inclusive; ensuring that inclusive policy becomes inclusive in practice.

5

PROMOTE PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT: Smart cities are not only smart by virtue of adopting digital technology. They are truly smart when they adopt a people-centered policy-making approach that enables ease of access to basic needs and services, as well as opportunities which ensure a higher quality of life.

6

DEEPEN RESILIENCE: Efforts towards strengthening the digital economy and building accountable and responsive government institutions will deepen community and national resilience to withstand shocks, such as was experienced by the Covid-19 pandemic or other man-made and natural disasters in future. In such situations, strong public-private partnerships will enable timely and effective responses that are suited to the local context.

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 aims 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 with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.