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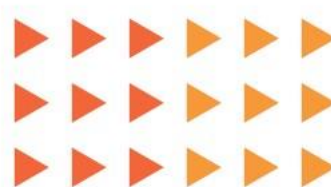


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# UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY IN CAMBODIA:

## AN ANALYSIS OF SCOPUS-INDEXED PUBLICATIONS

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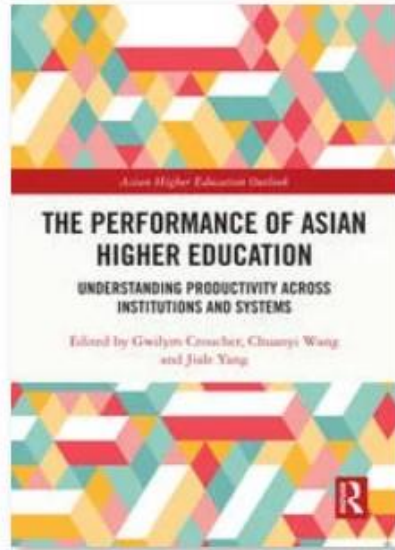
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**25 May 2023**



Chapter

# University research productivity in Cambodia: An analysis of Scopus-indexed publications

*By Vutha Ros, Kimkong Heng*

Book [The Performance of Asian Higher Education](#)

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# Research aim

- Research productivity = research and scholarly publications
- University research productivity in developing countries like Cambodia is **underdeveloped**, despite government and institutional initiatives.
- **No bibliometric data** on research productivity from Cambodia universities/higher education institutions (HEIs).
- To analyze Scopus-indexed publications from Cambodian HEIs between **1999 and 2019** (20 years)

# Research questions

1. To what extent have publications by HEIs increased compared to other non-HEIs in Cambodia?
2. Which HEIs have the most significant number of publications?
3. Which fields have the most significant number of publications?
4. Which fields attract the most funding for publications?

# Higher education and research capacity in Cambodia (literature review)

- Dramatic expansion/development in higher education
- 8 HEIs and about 900 lecturers and 5,000 students in early 1990s.
- 130 HEIs, 16,400 lecturers/staff, and about 200,000 students in 2022.
- Research-promoting projects (HEQCIP and now HEIP).
- University research grants (RUPP)

# Measuring research productivity in Cambodia (literature review)

- Modest research output by Cambodian universities
- Only 15% of publications from Cambodian academics (n = 483) were international publications.
- Few could publish in peer-reviewed (international) publications.
- Lack of research on university research productivity in Cambodia

# Methodology

- Data extracted from Scopus database.
- Scopus, launched in 2004, is the largest abstract and citation database for peer-reviewed literature.
- Scopus is used by leading university ranking bodies such as Times Higher Education and QS.
- **Scopus-indexed publications from Cambodia between 1999-2019.**



# Methodology – cont.

- The analysis was conducted in April-May 2020.
- Various publications were included: **articles, books, book chapters, conference papers, reviews, editorials, etc.**
- Divided the analysis into two periods: **1999-2008 and 2009-2019.**
- Analysis of publications by **Cambodian/foreign authors affiliated with Cambodian HEIs.**
- **28 Cambodian HEIs** were found in Scopus database.

# Results

*Table 3.1* Number of Scopus-indexed publications from Cambodia between 1999 and 2019

<i>Types of document</i>	<i>Total number</i>
Article	3,600
Review	235
Conference paper	215
Book chapter	212
Letter	110
Note	56
Editorial	32
Book	19
Erratum	17
Short survey	8
Data paper	3
Undefined	4

# Results – cont.

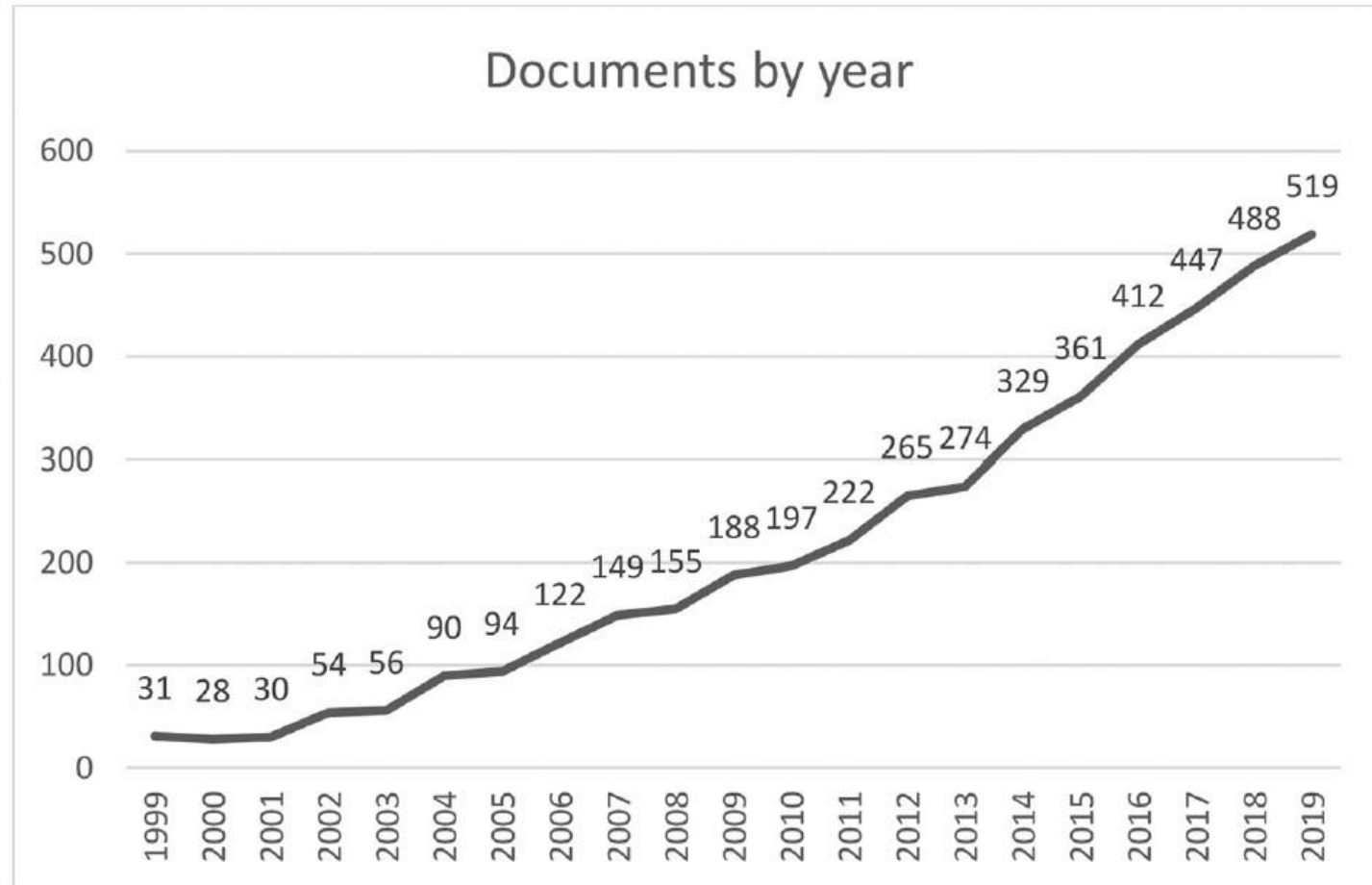


Figure 3.1 Growth in Cambodia's scientific output between 1999 and 2019

## Results – cont.

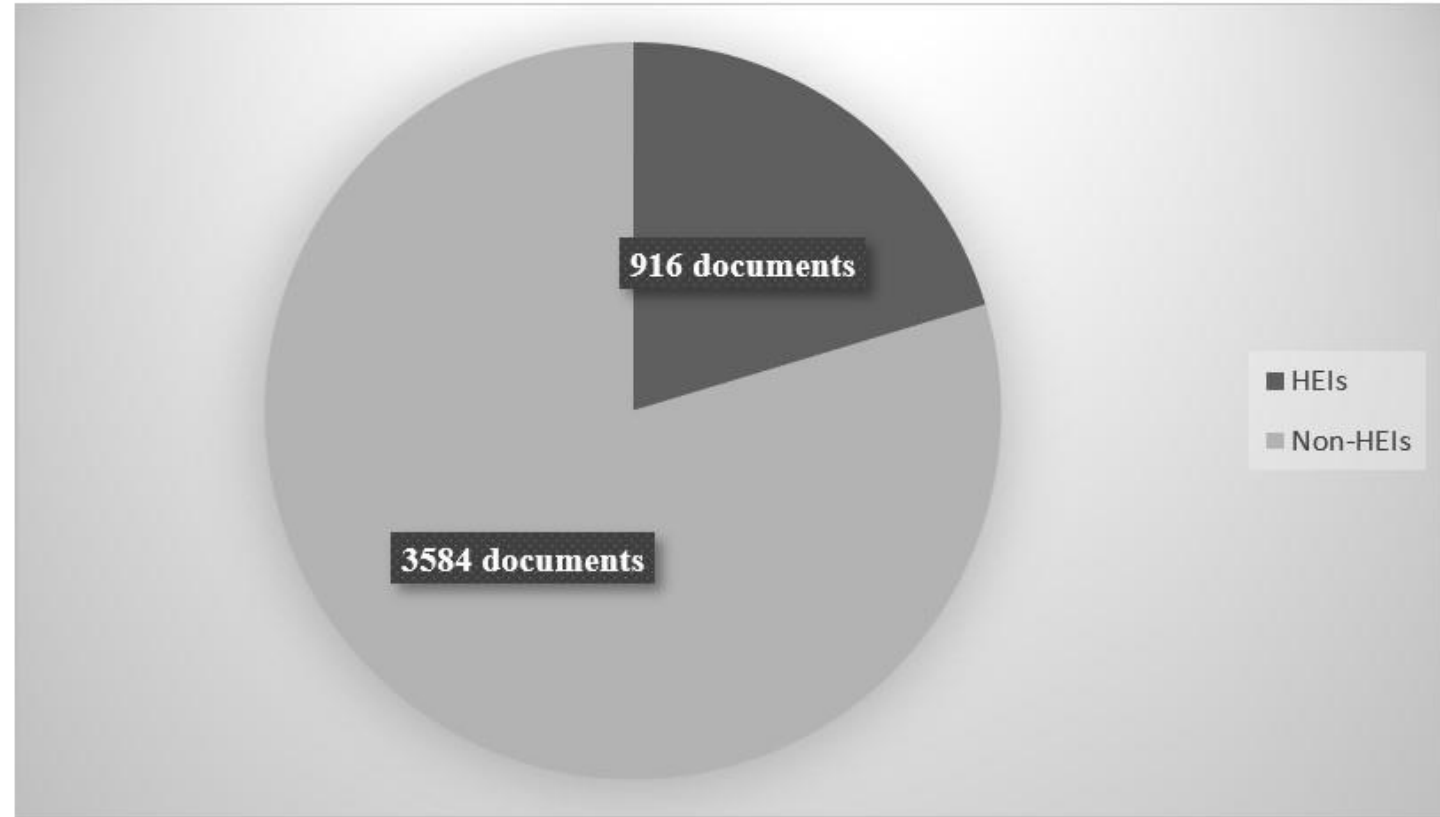


Figure 2: *Number of publications by HEIs and non-HEIs*

## Results – cont.

*Table 3.2* Number of Scopus-indexed publications by year

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of publications</i>
2019	174
2018	165
2017	121
2016	87
2015	66
2014	66
2013	41
2012	41
2011	30
2010	24
2009	22
2008	18
2007	14
2006	10
2005	10
2004	6
2003	4
2002	7
2001	4
2000	4
1999	2
1998	Not analysed

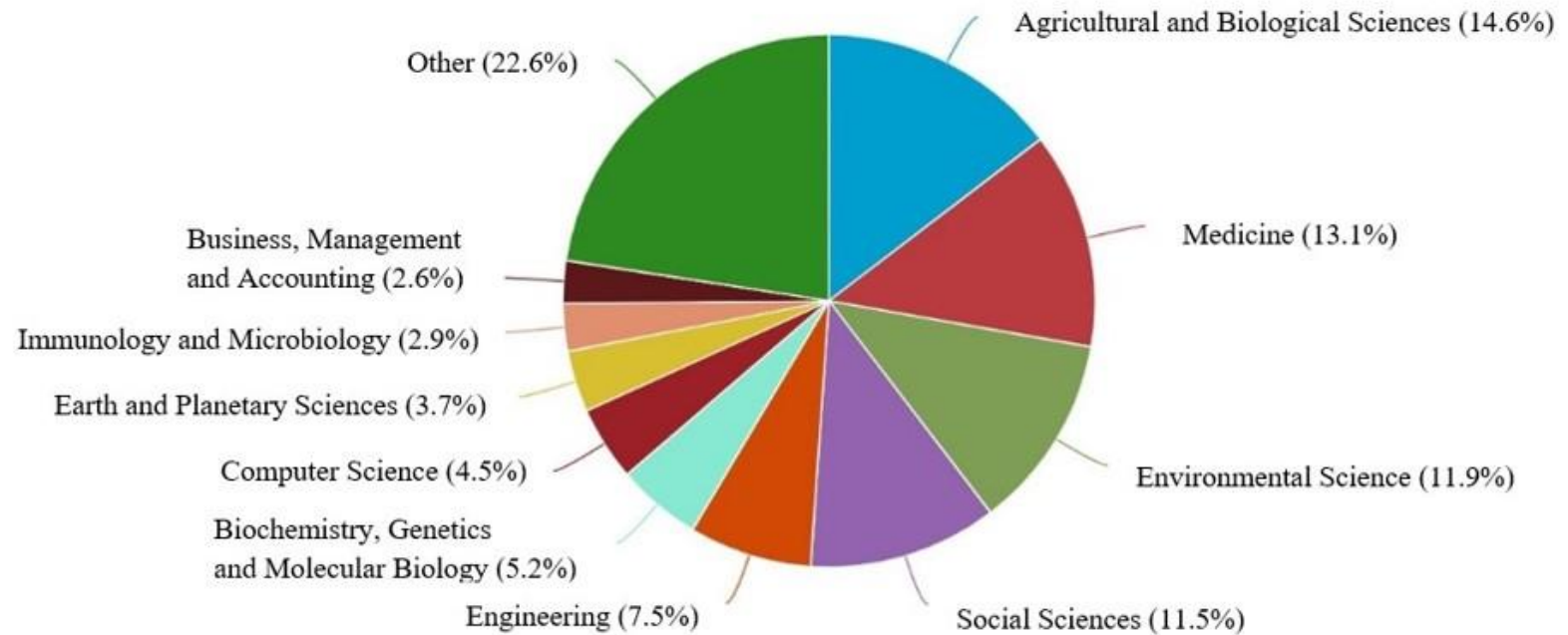
# Results – cont.

Table 3.3 List of Cambodian universities and HEIs and number of publications indexed in Scopus between 1999 and 2019

Rank	Universities and other HEIs	Types	Number of publication 1999–2008	Number of publication 2009–2019	Total
1	Royal University of Phnom Penh	Public	19	224	243
2	Institute of Technology of Cambodia	Public	14	160	174
3	University of Health Sciences	Public	10	147	157
4	Royal University of Agriculture	Public	22	104	126
5	National Institute of Education	Public	0	30	30
6	University of Battambang	Public	0	26	26
7	Paragon International University (formerly Zaman University)	Private	0	19	19
8	University of Puthisastra	Private	0	17	17
9	International University	Private	2	13	15
9	Royal University of Fine Arts	Public	3	12	15
10	IIC University of Technology	Private	0	13	13
10	Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia	Private	3	10	13
11	Royal University of Law and Economics	Public	1	9	10
12	National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia	Public	1	8	9
12	Svay Rieng University	Public	0	9	9
13	American University of Phnom Penh	Private	0	5	5
13	Life University	Private	0	5	5
13	The University of Cambodia	Private	2	3	5
14	Preah Kossamak Polytechnic Institute	Public	0	4	4
15	Prek Leap National College of Agriculture	Public	0	3	3
15	National University of Management	Public	0	3	3
15	Build Bright University	Private	1	2	3
15	Cambodian Mekong University	Private	0	3	3
16	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology	Private	0	2	2
16	National Institute of Business	Public	1	1	2
16	Angkor University	Private	0	2	2
16	CamEd Business School	Private	0	2	2
17	Khemerak University	Private	0	1	1

# Results – cont.

Documents by subject area



*Figure 3. Cambodia's scientific output by subject areas*

# Results – cont.

*Table 3.4* List of top funding sponsors

<i>No.</i>	<i>Institution/affiliation</i>	<i>No. of documents</i>	<i>Country</i>
1	Japan International Cooperation Agency	22	Japan
2	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	20	US
3	National Institutes of Health	19	US
4	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science	18	Japan
5	United States Agency for International Development	15	US
6	European Commission	14	EU
7	National Natural Science Foundation of China	14	China
8	Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development	13	Japan
9	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	11	US
10	Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	10	US



# Results – cont.

Table 3.5 List of common fields supported by the top ten funding sponsors

<i>No.</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>No. of documents</i>	<i>Funding sponsor (number of documents)</i>
1	Medicine	64	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (20); National Institutes of Health (19); Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (11); Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (10); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2); European Commission (2)
2	Engineering	40	Japan International Cooperation Agency (16); Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (10); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (6); European Commission (3); National Natural Science Foundation of China (3); United States Agency for International Development (2)
3	Environmental science	15	European Commission (6); Japan International Cooperation Agency (4); Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (3); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2)
4	Maths	7	National Natural Science Foundation of China
5	Science	7	Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (4); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (3)
6	Social sciences	2	United States Agency for International Development (1); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (1)

# Discussion and conclusion

- We strongly call for **a reconsideration of the roles and aims of Cambodian HEIs** concerning academic research and publication.
- Cambodian HEIs, especially universities, **should prioritise research and scholarly publications** indexed in globally recognised databases such as Scopus and Web of Science.

# Discussion and conclusion – cont.

- Cambodia may consider transforming **a few leading universities into research-oriented universities** to push the development of a viable research culture.
- More attention and investment, including a public budget for research, should be channeled into **research in humanities and social sciences** because research in these disciplines is essential for **a critical understanding of social, cultural and political issues confronting Cambodia**.

# Suggestions for future research

- Further research should look into the **impact of publications and how Cambodian academics perceive research and scholarly publication.**
- Future research should explore **publications by both HEIs and non-HEIs** to provide a more comprehensive understanding of research productivity in Cambodia.
- **Strategies and mechanisms** that support academics in resources-deficient contexts such as Cambodia to increase their research engagement and productivity are also welcomed.
- Research into how to **foster a research and publication culture** in Cambodian higher education.

Thank you for your attention.

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