

SEMINAR ON EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Date: April 21 2016

Venue: Conference Room, Dep. Human
Development (2nd floor), Kobe University

Education is widely accepted as the key to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Generally, new technology - a crucial factor in improving productivity and economic output - is associated with uncertain returns and up-front costs of adoption. The speed at which producers and employees can adapt to a changing set of production possibilities partly depends on their human capital and their knowledge of the new technology. Education and information is believed to play an important role in reducing adoption costs and uncertainty, and thereby raise the probability of technology adoption.

Cambodia aspires to reach the status of an upper-middle income country and a high-income country by 2030 and 2050, respectively. The Cambodian government has set out policy documents which highlight education as one of the significant factors to direct the country toward this goal. Cambodia needs to prepare itself for those ambitious plans by speeding up reform efforts in the education sector to provide youth and adults with high quality education and to equip them with skills that are relevant and responsive to domestic demand and to the ASEAN region's labor market.

Tentative Schedule

Time	
16:00-16:15	Opening Remarks
16:15-17:15	Lecture on Education and Development Issues in Cambodia by His Excellency, Dr. Kol Pheng, President of Pannhasastra University of Cambodia (PUC)
17:15-17:45	Q & A session
17:45-18:00	Closing Remarks
18:30-20:30	Welcome Dinner & MOU Discussion in Takigawa Memorial Hall

Biography of Dr Kol Pheng



Dr. Kol Pheng is president and founder of Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC), a private and independent higher education institution that uses English-based instructions and adopts international standard programs and curricula. Dr. Kol was Senior Minister and Vice Chairman of the Supreme National Council on Education in the 4th legislative mandate of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Dr. Kol Pheng was Senior Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the 3rd legislative mandate of the Royal Government. As Minister of Education, Youth and Sports and University President, Dr. Kol has promoted loving-kindness, peace and friendship and cooperation through extracurricular for youth training and seminars. He always advocates for peace, non-violence, and lovingkindness.

Prior to his appointment as Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Dr. Kol was a member of parliament and Secretary-General of the National Assembly (1998-2003). In addition, he was a founding member and Secretary-General of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace established in September 1999 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In this capacity, Dr. Kol has participated in several peace summit religious interfaith, (i.e., Buddhist in Cambodia, India, and Philippines).

While in the United States of America, Dr. Kol Pheng founded the Cambodian Network Council (CNC), which was an umbrella organization representing over 50 Cambodian-American Mutual Associations in the country. Then, he served as president of the CNC, the organization that assisted and empowered refugee communities in the U.S. to adjust to the new social and economic environment. At the same time, he was the founder of a USAID funded project called Cambodian-American National Development Organization (CANDO) that enlisted Cambodian and American college graduates to work as volunteers in Cambodia with various local and international organizations and agencies before and during the UN Peace Development Process in Cambodia.

Notably, Dr. Kol Pheng has also engaged himself with the public sector in Cambodia and in the United States. In Cambodia, he served the Ministry of Economy and Finance for eleven years (1963-1974) as a Finance Officer prior to his graduate studies in the U.S. In the U.S., he worked for more than six years as Budget Analyst and Senior Research Economist in the State of Missouri, the Department of Revenue and the Public Service Commission respectively.

Before returning to Cambodia in 1998, Dr. Kol had served more than fifteen years at the Public Utility Commission of the State of Texas (PUCT), holding different positions as Manager of Cost of Service and Electric Rates Analysis, Chief Economist, and Deputy Director of the Commission administration, respectively. While at the Commission of the State of Texas, Dr. Kol was also a guest lecturer in economic Regulations at LBJ School of Public Administration, University of Texas at Austin, Texas.

Dr. Kol Pheng received his Diploma Superior of Commerce - Insurance from École des Arts et Métiers of Paris, his B.S. in Economics from the Royal University of Phnom-Penh, his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri, United States of America.

Dr. Kol Pheng is a writer since he was young. He received the National Literature Contest Award for his novel entitled “The Destiny of an Orphan” while he was in senior High School. Lately, he has written a popular Buddhist Literature book entitled “Bodhisattva: On Becoming Buddha”, describing lives of hardship and long struggles of Gautama Buddha for the development of his perfect virtues prior to his full enlightenment, along with the Ten Great Birth Stories of Bodhisattva. He is the co-author with Professor Michael O. Forney of The Principles Microeconomics and Macroeconomics textbooks.