

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORT

POLICY
on
RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT
IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Approval on the 1st July 2010 at Ministerial Meeting

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Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

Policy
on
Research Development
in the Education Sector

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Preface

The Education Law of Cambodia, Article 18, states that higher education determines to promote scientific, technical, cultural and social research. Article 28 further reinforces the development of science and technology for education and the promotion and support of research. This encourages the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to formulate the Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector. This is a new stage in improving education in Cambodia by building capable and professional human resources for developing local, regional and international labor markets. It responds to the regional and world development in the globalization era and facilitates the implementation of the Royal Government's Rectangular Strategies.

The Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector focuses on enhancing the quality of education, increasing new knowledge and developing the society, economy and culture. First by ensuring that a wide range of research is conducted in all disciplines in higher education institutions. Second by improving the capacity of researchers and to develop the research capability of all higher education institutions. Third by promoting respect for research ethics, protection of research achievements and dissemination of research results. And fourth by encouraging the utilization of research results for producing new knowledge and developments.

This policy is expected to achieve its vision, goal and purposes through seven strategies, which require the participation of the institutions involved. The Commission for Research Development in the Education Sector will be established to be responsible for developing supportive legal framework and mechanisms to ensure the successful implement of the policy.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport expects that all relevant institutions and development partners contribute to and support the policy to ensure its success in strengthening the quality of higher education in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, August 19, 2010

Minister of Education, Youth and Sport

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Introduction

Higher education plays a primary role in responding to globalization. The experiences of advanced and developed countries demonstrate that developing human resources in institutions of higher education is essential for advancing the country. Globalization brings both opportunities and challenges to education in Cambodia. Challenges to the higher education sector include: increasing numbers of students accessing institutions throughout the country, growing need for research, building the knowledge society and advancing the economy, and increasing autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions. Higher education institutions need for academic freedom, good governance, respect for intellectual property, higher level of academic qualification, will improve the quality of education to gain regional and international recognition.

Education for sustainable national development demands that the country pays more attention to improving education strategies and developing the research capacity of higher education institutions throughout Cambodia. Currently, due to the lack of human resources, higher education institutions in Cambodia still primarily focus on teaching rather than research and the provision of professional services. Building a research culture in higher education institutions is a new initiative that will motivate people working in the sector to become more creative, innovative and accountable.

Higher education institutions should provide opportunities and encouragement to students, lecturers and researchers, to develop research and professional skills, and participate in local and international scientific research forums.

The Education Law, Article 18, paragraph 2:

“Higher Education shall teach learners to have complete personality and characteristic and promote the scientific, technical, cultural and social researches in order to achieve capacity, knowledge, skill, morality, inventive and creative ideas and enterprise spirit to the development of the country.”

Article 28, paragraph 1:

“The state shall promote and support research, development, invention and production, which are scientific and technological for education to meet the needs of the labor markets and globalization to promote human resource capacity and to enhance the development of the country.”

These articles clearly state that research in education is an important catalyst in the long term development of the Cambodian economy and society.

The Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector introduces a new stage in the reformation and enhancement of the quality of higher education in Cambodia by paving the way for human resource development in the era of globalization and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Chapter I

Vision, Goal and Purposes

I- Vision

To build the capacity of human resources in terms of knowledge, skills, ethics, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship to maximize the long term development of Cambodian society and economy in the globalization context.

II- Goal

The policy will build research culture in all higher education institutions, transforming them into outstanding institutions to link education and research to develop the country.

III- Purposes

Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector has the following purposes:

1. To enhance the quality of higher education in Cambodia by transforming the institutions into research centers for developing and creating new knowledge.
2. To increase the opportunities for cooperation with national and international networks.
3. To advance human resource capacity, creativity and innovation.

Chapter II

Core Principles of the Policy

Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector encapsulates the following core principles:

- To ensure that a wide range of research is conducted in all disciplines
- To improve the capacity of researchers and to develop the research capability of all higher education institutions.
- To promote respect for research ethics, protection of research achievements and dissemination of research results.
- To encourage the utilization of research results for producing new knowledge and developments.

Chapter III

Strategies and Implementation

The following strategies will drive the achievement of the vision, goal and purposes of the policy.

I- Strategies

Strategy 1: Research Capacity

- Encourage the level and development of research capacity in major fields which respond to the priority needs of the country.
- Reward high achieving researchers working within the country.
- Develop the capacity of researchers in all aspect of the education system in Cambodia.

Strategy 2: Research Quality

- Encourage researchers to present their research findings at national and international conferences.
- Support the organization of both national and international conferences in Cambodia.
- Establish structures which facilitate meetings between researchers from many institutions and provide opportunities for them to present their findings.
- Allocate resources to enable the development of a multi-purpose scientific research journal and develop procedures to ensure articles are evaluated by panels of experts before publication.
- Encourage researchers to study topics that are particularly relevant to Cambodia and to publish their findings in Cambodia.
- Support the establishment of electronic research journals on appropriate websites.

Strategy 3: Cooperative Research

- Foster cooperation between research institutions, both private and public, and national and international researchers.
- Support projects related to a wide range of disciplines as well as interdisciplinary projects.

Strategy 4: Research Reports

- Develop a mechanism and culture of reporting research results regularly and appropriately.
- Develop a research management system database.

Strategy 5: Research Ethics and Permission for Research

- Prepare regulations and inform students, staff, and researchers about plagiarism and protection of intellectual property.
- Research and review international conventions and ethics policies.
- Develop research permission procedures and forms that reflect research ethics principles.

Strategy 6: International Cooperation

- Provide opportunities for Cambodian and international researchers to work together.
- Promote compliance with the code of research ethics among researchers in Cambodia.
- Encourage national and international cooperation through exchanging research results and expertise.
- Promote cooperation amongst research institutions and universities.

Strategy 7: Marketing Research and Development

- Ensure researchers gain appropriate benefit from their research.
- Encourage research to link with new scientific, technological, economic, social and cultural initiatives.
- Facilitate links between research institutions and the production and service sectors.

II- Implementation

Establish the Commission for Research Development in the Education Sector (CRDES) that has the following duties:

- Provide technical and administrative support for the relevant institutions and development partners
- Encourage and improve research in the education sector at the national and institutional level.
- Seek funding sources and manage funds for administrative support for the CDRES.
- Improve research through developing a culture of research in the education sector.
- Develop a legal framework and other mechanisms for CDRES to obtain the rights and define the responsibilities required to improve the effectiveness of the policy implementation.
- Assist universities, higher education institutions and related institutions to develop their research policy.

Conclusion

The Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector will improve research capacity in higher education institutions which is the key to developing the quality and connectivity of the education systems. This policy will bring long term benefit to the Cambodian labor force, economy, society and political development by enabling Cambodia to effectively and efficiently reach its national potential in regionalization and internationalization in the globalization era.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is working consistently to mobilize, attract, manage and utilize resources to build and develop the culture and research capacity of students in higher education institutions, using the education principles of sustainable development as the foundation.

The development of relevant legislative framework to implement the Policy on Research Development in the Education Sector will include the:

- Preparation of mechanisms and legal framework to establish the CRDES
- Setting up plans, programs and procedures to support short, medium and long term research development.

The institutions concerned and relevance authorities shall promote and implement this policy, and widely disseminate it to students, researchers and development partners.



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