



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

*Workshop organised by the Manpower Training and Overseas Sending Board of the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MTO SB), and the OECD LEED Programme as part of its ESSSA initiative
22 June 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

As Cambodia's economy emerges from the global economic crisis, it will be important not to lose the long-term perspective of employment and economic development. In order to lift living standards and raise prosperity, employment and training policy must address the new challenges which stem from globalisation and recognise the numerous different factors which can have an impact on the skills base.

Human resources and skills are becoming increasingly important to economic development. Challenges such as youth unemployment call for a collaborative approach between local administrations, educational institutions, migration agencies and wider social and economic partners. Employment and skills development strategies must be responsive to change, and shift policy interventions towards a focus on contemporary problems and issues, such as the need to promote decent employment, lift workers out of informality, and upgrade the skills of the low-qualified.

In Cambodia, significant efforts have been made recently to ensure that migrant workers possess high levels of primary skills and general knowledge. These actions help Cambodians abroad to get and keep better jobs, progress in employment and share the benefits of greater prosperity with their family back home. Greater efforts are also being devoted to facilitate re-integration of migrant workers to spread and extend the rewards of migration.

These programmes and services contribute to build a more resilient local economy through stronger labour markets and healthier flows of migration. They complement in this way other actions to develop skills and stimulate job creation led by the government and its agencies. There is a lot to gain from joining forces locally: actions on skills can reinforce each others; they can contribute to attract investment from abroad; they can stimulate the development of local small and medium-sized enterprises; and they contribute to tackle social exclusion problems. A flexible, cooperative and innovative approach is vital if localities, cities and regions in Cambodia are to reap the full benefits of globalisation and lift their living standards in a sustainable way, and respond in a fruitful way to the challenges raised by the current economic conditions.

In today's global economy it is essential for countries to share policy experience to develop a good understanding of what works best and how obstacles can be overcome. The OECD LEED Employment and Skills Strategies in Southeast Asia (ESSSA) initiative is designed to stimulate this learning process. In guiding policy makers in the design of policy approaches able to tackle complex cross-cutting issues and building the capacity of practitioners in implementing effective local employment and skills development strategies, ESSSA provides an essential contribution to achieving a fundamental goal of sustainable and growing prosperity in the region.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss ways to increase the effectiveness of actions to boost skills development to stimulate good quality employment both abroad and in the country. How can a joined-up approach be taken locally? How can policies be better co-ordinated and adapted to local conditions for maximum impact? How can skills development best support sustainable economic development in the country and better quality employment abroad? What are the international lessons applicable to Cambodia in training workers for work abroad and re-integrating them in the local labour market?



AGENDA

08:00 – 08:30	Opening remarks	<p>H.E. HENG Sour <i>Director General, and Chief of Admin and Finance Unit of MTOSB</i></p> <p>Mr. Sylvain GIGUERE <i>Head of the LEED Division, OECD</i></p> <p>H.E. PICH Sophoan <i>Secretary of State, and Chairperson of Manpower Training and Overseas Sending Board, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training</i></p>
08:30 – 09:00	Break	
09:00 - 10:50	Presentations on policies and practices in Cambodia and abroad	
09:00 – 09:20	Building more and better quality jobs: Lessons on skills development from the OECD	Mr. Sylvain GIGUERE <i>OECD</i>
09:20 – 09:40	Migration: An opportunity or a threat	H.E. HENG Sour <i>Director General, and Chief of Admin and Finance Unit of MTOSB</i>
09:40 - 10:00	Current priorities for local labour market policy in supporting the local economy	H.E. Dr. HONG Choeun <i>Director of National Employment Agency</i>
10:00 - 10:20	Current priorities for skill development to fulfil the economic aspiration of Cambodia	H.E. LAO Him <i>Director General of TVET</i>
10:20 - 10:40	Q&A	
10:40 - 11:00	Break	



<p>11:00 - 12:30</p>	<p>Implementing policies and programmes in practice: Issues and obstacles</p> <p>A panel of experts will discuss results on the ground and ways to improve the impact of policies. How can agencies join up their action locally? How can local strategies help to develop skills with maximum impact abroad locally and abroad? Are there examples of good initiatives?</p>	
<p>11:00 - 11:15</p>		<p>Mr. HING Vutha <i>Researcher on Migrant Labour from Cambodia Development Resource Institute</i></p>
<p>11:15 – 11:30</p>		<p>Mr. UNG Luyna <i>Researcher of Senior Economic Council (SNEC), Representative of DONBUSCO Vocational Training School</i></p>
<p>11:30 – 11:45</p>		<p>Mr. TEP Oeun <i>Deputy Director General of TVET</i></p>
<p>11:45 – 12:15</p>	<p>Comments and questions from a panel of international experts</p> <p>A panel of international experts will comment on the Cambodian experience and ask questions to the panel of Cambodian experts and other government representatives. This will be followed by answers and general discussion.</p>	
		<p>Mr. Sylvain GIGUERE <i>OECD</i></p>
		<p>Mr. Gerry McALINDEN <i>Gerry McAlinden Associates, LEED expert, Ireland</i></p>
		<p>Mr. Randall EBERTS <i>President, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, LEED Partner, United States</i></p>
<p>12:40 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	



14:00 - 15:30	Learning from international experience	
14:00 – 14:30	Helping migrants to get good jobs abroad and facilitate their integration when they return: lessons from Ireland and elsewhere in Europe	Mr. Gerry McAlinden <i>Gerry McAlinden Associates, LEED expert, Ireland</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Building effective partnerships between industry and training to tackle skills mismatch and support SMEs: lessons from international practice	Mr. Randall Eberts <i>President, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, LEED Partner, United States</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Comments by a panel of government officials and academics from Cambodia: key issues for improving employment and skills development in a comprehensive way in Cambodia	Mr. CHAN Sopha, <i>President of Cambodian Economic Association</i> H.E. HENG Sour <i>Director General, and Chief of Admin and Finance Unit of MTOSB</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Q&A	
15:45 – 16:00	Conclusions from the discussions	H.E. HENG Sour, <i>MTOSB</i> Mr. Sylvain GIGUERE <i>OECD</i>