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## DOCKSIDE Mobility Report

PhD Student Mobility between the University of Battambang (UBB)-Cambodia  
and University of Southern Denmark (SDU)- ESBJERG ,Denmark

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### Introduction

Environmental security and climate change themes is a part of Doctoral program in Khmer universities Strengthen the International Development of Environmental and Maritime (DOCKSIDE) project which enhances the Khmer Ph.D students capacity and development research skills through either long-term and short-term mobilities in European countries, to learn and get experiences with expertists between Cambodian Universities and European partners. Being a Khmer Ph.D student at the University of Battambang, Cambodia, I'm very excited to be selected to attend a great opportunity, three-month international mobility scholarship in higher education under project DOCKSIDE in University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Denmark from March 01 to May 29, 2019.

### Academic outcome

During three-month PhD student mobility, the international mobility provided me with a unique academic experience particularly in research skills, and independendly study. Firstly, the clear research objective was provided after I worked closely with my supervisor Dr. Seng Ratha, Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Community Development, UBB, co-supervisor Dr. Professor Dewan Ahsan, Esbjerg, University of Southern Denmark (SDU) and MERE reserchers group in the meeting and international presentations and as well as individual meetings. In fact, before I presented to MERE group in SDU, I met Prof. Niels

Vestergaard, Head of Department of Sociology, Environmental and Business Economics and I attended the Bangladesh PhD students presentation to MERE group. Then, I presented to MERE researchers and scholars group. Now, I have conducted two clear research objectives related to socio-economic factor and migration: 1. factors to determinate migration in the temporal and spatial community change in the Tonle Sap and 2. Household livelihood strategies adapt in the temporal and spatial community change in the Tonle Sap.

Secondly, I wrote literature review through EDUROAM that is online free downloads international published academic and scientific research journals. I spent several weeks for literature reviews and critical analyse on resources in order to get ideas for my research. I also spent some time writing research methodology so that my study is scientific, that is following the appropriate methods to reach my research objectives I personally enjoyed my research work in one room at SDU where I could access the facilities such as printers and documents. Then, I could start writing independently. I'm interested in what the learning environment is. Moverover, SDU staff are kind as they offered some fruits, and coffee.

Thirdly, I studied the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey (CSES) that has undertaken by National Institute of Statistic of the Ministry of Planning for every five years with a big sample size for household throughout the country: 2011 and 2016. I choosed the data size and study site around Tonle Sap: Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Kampong Thom. The study areas was selected the different places by GIS tools in order to compare the interconnection between the areas and migration. The CSES data was cuted mainly based on variables related to my research objectives.

Finally, after I discussed with Dr. Seng Ratha, Dr. Dewan, Prof. Lars. Ravn-Jonsen who are experts in the R program analyse. They gave me R-package and R-scripts to treat the data. The MERE group helped me with my research methodology. The statistical analyse proposed is clear primarily and is known how to get better scientific results for publication in the near future. Data analyse is used for regression, logic model, multivariate analysis and machine learning techniques with R. After my discussion with advisors and MERE group, I could form expected data analysing and could write the drafted scripts to analyse data scientifically. I found there are expected significant results that interconnected between the environment and migration through analyzing factors affect migration and household's livelihood strategies in Tonle Sap in the face of socio-economic and ecological change. More

importantly, the expected result of study helps provide empirical evidences on the factor influencing migration and four livelihood strategies under current conditions; percentages of allocated area for each strategy and migration to current location and distance around Tonle Sap. The study shows how the household's respondents act to the available resources, choice of livelihoods in the condition of the temporal and spatial variation of community change.

Finally, expected findings would provide the guidance to predict the sustainable socio-economic model development and possible future migration management and as well as policy making to control possible population movement in Tonle Sap.

### **Social and academic Network**

The mobility not only provide me with academic knowledge, skills and experiences but also build my social and academic network. I enjoyed networking with staff and local neighbours. MERE researchers group are helpful and help me to deal with my PhD study challenges in the future. In addition, I shared apartment with three Greece who are good neighbours and friends. We will keep in touch with each other by e-mail and facebook.

### **Environmental area**

Based on previous study and mobility, Denmark is a place where people are most happiest in the world. I'm living in ESBJERG where is really quiet, peaceful, beautiful and clean environment and highest income as well as highest consumption expenditure. In fact, Danes is very kind, helpful and warm-hearted. For instance, MERE researchers and scholars group was warmly welcome and help me either academic skills or living dormitory challenging.

### **Further actions**

I will finish the first result on July 2019. I will send my daft research paper to Prof. Dewan on July 2019 before in the DOCKSIDE's Summer School on 20-29 July 2019 at the National University of Management (NUM), Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Then I'm writing abstact in order

to present in the international symposium on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services (ISBEC) on 12-14 September 2019.

## **Conclusion**

International mobility supported by DOCKSIDE is a unique program that provided me with very important strategies for building my academic outcomes and experiences, social and academic network and understanding environmental areas and cultural aspects especially my personal development. This program improved my capacity research skills for future career where I'm working in a higher education institution. I will share what I had in this mobility experience to my students as well as my colleagues. I highly encourage PhD students and high potential future researchers to apply for this project.

## **Acknowledgement**

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