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**Doctoral program in Khmer universities strengthening the international development of
environmental and maritime research/DOCKSIDE**

PhD student mobility

Final mission report

August 2017

1. Identification of the home and host institution

Name of the home higher education institution: Royal University of Law and Economics

City: Phnom Penh

Country: Cambodia

Name of the host higher education institution: Université de Nantes

City: Nantes

Country: France

2. Identification of the student

Name: SRUN Sopheak

Sex: M

Subject area of degree: PhD in economics

E-mail: Sopheak_srun@yahoo.com

3. Mobility period and motivation

My mobility at the University of Nantes started from April 25th until July 31, 2017. The motivation for me to participate in this mobility is to exchange my PhD research experience with other PhD students and researchers at the University of Nantes. This mobility is also a good opportunity for me to receive new ideas and expertise provided by highly qualified professors and researchers at the host university. Another reason, which encourages me to participate in this mobility program, is having an opportunity to live in a foreign country like France and to experience its cultures and language.

4. Activities during mobility period

During my three months of stay in Nantes, I was warmly welcome by university's staffs and DOCKSIDE project coordinator and project manager. I would like to address my sincere gratitude to Ms. Ria Deniska, DOCKSIDE project manager, Professor Thomas Vallée, DOCKSIDE project coordinator and Director of LEMNA laboratory, and Ms. Gaëlle Rodriguez, coordinator of LEMNA, for their warm welcome and their assistance during my stay.

During these three months, I was working on my PhD researches at the laboratory LEMNA (Laboratoire d'Economie et de Management de Nantes-Atlantique). I got a comfortable working office with other PhD students of the laboratory. More importantly, I was allowed to access to data base and research journals of the University of Nantes which enable me to conduct effective research on literature reviews and data for my PhD thesis.

In term of integration into the team, the PhD students at LEMNA are very friendly. The team composes of diver nationalities students from Asia, Africa, and Europe. Therefore, it was a good opportunity for me to explore different culture as well as people from different country. We have shared our own research experiences to each other and help each other in solving problems related to the topics of our research. For instance, the problems regarding econometrics techniques and the data to use in our research. There are two PhD students in LEMNA who are working on the similar topic as minds. This is good a chance for us to exchange research experiences and share data and information to each other regarding the topic on economic integration, foreign direct investment and on international trade.

Regarding academic supervising, Professor Thomas Vallée helped correct the first and second chapter of my thesis. I was also given a chance to present my research results to him and to other PhD students. I received many useful feedbacks to improve my thesis as well as new ideas for my next chapter. I had the opportunity to participate in the seminar organized by PhD students of University of Nantes. During this seminar, PhD students presented the results of their research to the audiences who are specialized in the field of their research. This was an interesting seminar as it helps me comparing between my results and the other students results. I also participated in thesis defending of other PhD students during June and July 2017. This is another good chance for me to understand the processes of thesis defending.

5. Cost of living and accommodation

During my mobility in Nantes, I stayed at the Maison des Chercheurs Etrangers located at the city centre of Nantes. It is a convenient place where I can find many stores and super market near by. The room is comfortable to stay for one or two persons. The rental fee is a little higher than the room at the suburb of Nantes. I spent 635 euros per month for the rental. The living cost is around 300 euros

per month including local transportation. The public transportation in Nantes is operated by a company call TAN, and the cost of subscription for unlimited service, for my case, was 66 euros per months because I am over 26 years old. However, I used the alternative mean of transport, which is cheaper and more environmental friendly, the city bicycle called Biclo. The subscription fee for one year is only 29 euros. It is a very convenient and secure to ride the bicycle in the city because there are roads for bike everywhere in the city.

6. Mobility evaluation and Impression

Overall, I am very satisfied with my mobility at the University of Nantes during three months. It was a useful mobility, which helps me to progress in my thesis. During three months, I have written almost one chapter of my thesis. I have gained new experience of living in the northern of France and have met and shared my research and cultural experiences with many people thanks to the DOCKSIDE project funded by Erasmus plus of the European Union, which provided me this valuable opportunity.