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

Ph.D. student mobility

Final mission report January 2019

I. Identification of Student, home and host institution

Student: **Mr. LONG Sarapech**, Ph.D. student in international law, Associate researcher (CREAD research centre, RULE); Email: sarapechl@yahoo.com

Home higher education Institution: Royal University of Law and Economics, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Host higher education Institution: University of Nantes, Faculty of Law, The Maritime and Oceanic Law Centre (CDMO), France.

Mobility duration: 3 months (from 1st November 2018 to 31th January 2019).

II. Activities during the mobility

1. Research activities

Under the supervision of Professor Odile Delfour-Samama, I have conducted my intensive research in the Law Faculty's Maritime and Oceanic research Center as well as in its Law library; I have enjoyed the daily work with other Phd and

master law students who frequented the Center regularly, some of them are providing legal courses in the attached Faculty.

Meanwhile, I had the chance to attend an international law course provided by professor Delfour-Samama with the interesting topic of *Protection of maritime environment*. The course is very complementary to my Ph.D. research project, where it allowed to observe both the fundamental and the latest jurisprudences applicable to maritime and environmental legal issues.

The Resources available in the CDMO which mark the specialisation of this research Center in maritime law are relatively rich and helpful; thus allowed me to enrich my Ph.D. dissertation. The concentration of the subject make available rare resources, i.e. historical documents and latest legal and international Journals and the Centre's publications on the maritime legal issues; in other term, one could hardly find such beautiful specialised resources available in a common law library. From this, I would assert that the fact of having specialised research centres, even though annexing to University seems quite useful and encouraging the development of higher level of research experience in a specific field.

Meanwhile, I have spent quality time working in the University's law library for generalised focus on international law study, by using resources available in French and English language. The place allowed me to get access to international legal books and French/international journals both written in English and French; the legal literatures directing various background of law is quite helpful to my research which adopt *cross-cutting research approche*, knowing by the way that historically, the international law concepts and theories were mainly grounded in European legal doctrines and writers. I appreciate the exchanges with certain Cambodian, French and foreign masters students who also frequent the library.

2. Other activities

Beside the research, I have got the opportunity to meet with foreign researchers at the Association of Foreign Researchers of Nantes City; certain fruitful exchanges in multicultural, helped to extend personal perspective of doing research, its broaden utility in a common scientific domain, especially in term of methodologies applicable to different fields, natural or social science.

During the stay, I have also put interests in observing activities in the campus; this is not limited to attending two doctoral thesis defences, one conducted in law field (The consideration of environmental issue in EU's Human rights court) and another in economic science.

The result of work during this mobility is clear: it contributes effectively to my Ph.D. research project which is under preparation, while focusing cross-cutting legal approach of international law; as a matter of fact, the lack of specialised resources in the field of international law constitutes a critical limit to conducting research properly from Phnom Penh, especially when those sources are not available on the internet. Hence, the stay allowed me to complete the thesis's *bibliographical requirement* specifically those related the law of the sea and the environmental law, by focusing on its application modality and methodology in national context not limited to the Cambodian one ; in somme, the inputs I have made represents quantitatively not less than *a chapter of my thesis*.

Furthermore, with guidance of Professor Delfour and available legal literature review done during the stay, allowed me to prepare an annex research topic on *equitable principles as legal norms applied in the field of maritime law and environment law*; yet, due to limited time left the producing in written form is to be conducted in home institution.

III. Mobility's general appreciation and conclusion

I would like to take this occasion to express gratitude to Mr. Laurent Mesmann for having introduced to me this mobility program DOCKSIDE, his supports for making this mobility achievable. Also thanks to Ms. Oeurn Sambo of RULE's Pole of French cooperation of law secretariat for handling logistic help.

I would like to thank DOCKSIDE project manager Ms. Ria Deniska for various administrative guiding and her anticipative facilitation not limited to searching accommodation or transportation, to make sure that this research mobility performs as what it should be done.

Last but not least, my sincere gratitude to Ms Professor Odile Delfour-Samama for accepting as my supervisor, thanks to her research guiding and encouragement during the three-month stay at the legal campus of Nantes.

My general gratitude remark to the dynamic work of DOCKSIDE international mobility program for having granted me this mobility opportunity and the Erasmus+ program of the European Union ; I have appreciated this program, personally reflected by its act of sharing, in both scientific and human aspect, in multi-cultural dimension and multi-disciplinary approaches, that I could have noticed successively from the fact of joining the Summer school at University of Battambang (Cambodia) in early October 2018 to this student mobility abroad at the hosting University of Nantes (France).

The research mobility is hence a unique experience; it was the valuable time used for learning and understanding from others, experiencing an independent research environment; while doing it among engaging academic people, including Professors, Ph.d. and master students in a European legal university. Having observed that the three-months-stay passed relatively fast; this is to mention finally the enjoyable atmosphere of livelihood of Nantes city during winter, its sympathetic region of “Pays de la Loire” of France.