



SDU

SYDDANSK
UNIVERSITET



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

**INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY
BETWEEN
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
AND
SOUTHERN DENMARK UNIVERSITY
ESBJERG, DENMARK**

August 13th - November 08th, 2018

**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON MARITIME ECONOMICS
Factors Determining Maritime Transport Market and Strategic Policy for
Cambodia: Econometric Time Series Analysis on Container Throughput of
Cambodia's Ports**

****Mr. Kirirom Cheav***
Ph.D. Candidate



1. Introduction

With a special joint doctoral program specializing in maritime economics and management in European Universities such as the Southern Denmark University (SDU) in Denmark through the implementation of DOCKSIDE Project and International Mobility by taking part in the Ph.D. candidates Mobility Programme and Scholarship, is to strengthen the International Development of Environmental and Maritime Research in academics as well as in professionals, I am **Mr. Kirirom Cheav**, a Ph.D. Candidate who is really lucky and privileged to be awarded the three-month international mobility scholarship.

Within three-month research and stay at Southern Denmark University (SDU), I am the first Cambodian Ph.D. candidate and researcher who has completely attended and fully stayed to conduct the scientific research on the maritime economics as on the topic of “Factors Determining Maritime Transport Market and Strategic Policy for Cambodia in the application of Econometric Time Series Analysis on Container Throughput of Cambodia’s Ports.

My goal of this research is to publish the international journal of maritime economics, and to complete my explicit obligation of Ph.D. research in order to conduct presentation and defend at the last stage. This outcome of research will has many contributions and much importance for the port authorities or port operators of country and government and the globe center around the maritime economics and logistics and management as a special tool to help the economics growth and development the regulation and policy, business activities and also the national and global interests. And in very near future, it will become healthy backbone and high potential of other future researchers to make it real and do in real application in both private and government bodies. So this research was borne to replace and reveal or uncover the things hidden in the maritime transport sector in Cambodia.

Within three-month stay and research conducting was initiated from August 14th, 2018 to November 08th, 2018, I was warmly welcomed and hosted by Southern Denmark University and MERE Group Scholars and Researchers. I have worked closely with Prof Niels Vestergaard, Prof Eva Roth, Prof Dewan Ahsan, Prof Brooks Kaiser and Prof Lars Ravn Jonsen and Prof Melina Kourantidou, as well as the MERE Group Researchers on my research in meeting and person-to-person discussion. I have been given a comfortable and convenient office with every facility access of SDU. More importantly, I have been allowed to access EDUROAM to download and read the good scientific research journals which help me to conduct effective research. The mobility was very a good opportunity for me to receive new critical ideas learned, shared and provided by highly qualified professors and researchers to fertilize and contribute to my dissertation.

2. Challenge and Opportunity

Traveling to European Countries is not easy. Everything should be well-prepared for including, accommodation, cultural adaptation, language food weather and budget so on; particularly, when choosing to stay and live in Denmark for study and research. Denmark is one of the world most happiness and highest income as well as highest consumption expenditure in Scandinavian countries. Some places are really quiet and peaceful and environmental. The people are really independent and highest education. I am really fond of and interested in the cold weather and the way of living there. During my living in Denmark, i have also met some challenges and difficulties as shown below;

- The budget received from Dockside was very limited, so i was willing to allocate some of my personal budget to support the consumption and other basis of expense during the stay because Denmark was the best countries to have highest CPI and living standard.
- The rental was more expensive and i had to process the payment from Cambodia which was costly. The deposit for housing rent was kindly supported by my prof. Niels.
- The transportation cost was also high price, walking was the better way to save up.
- Exchange rate fee also charged so much.
- My computer broke down during my research, but it was no problem because i brought two computers to manage the risk.

Besides the difficulties i have taken over and managed over, the benefit and opportunity i have obtained from my international mobility was much precious and priceless than expectation ever.

- Visited the interesting place in Denmark
- Understood the culture and lifestyle
- Attended seminar and meeting with the Mere Group and Nobel Prize Winner
- Networked with the other European students and professors
- Enjoyed good living and delicious food
- Had Party with Neighboring and students of SDU
- Received special advice and idea and comment from my supervisors and professors
- Learned new things from SDU to improve the background of study and research

3. Output and Outcome

- Found out and addressed the problems and difficulties in research conducting
- Understood how to write the scientific research into the professional way
- Realized the technical analysis and interpretation econometrics in the advance levels.
- Completed scientific research on maritime economics with best findings.
- Received the highest capacity and experience in professional life.

4. Acknowledgement

The completion of this international mobility and research would not have been possible without the continuous support from many individuals. I would like to thank Dockside Project and Erasmus Plus who provided funds for my three-month research in SDU.

Professor Niels Vestergaard, my main research supervisor, has given me valuable advice, time consultation and constructive comments which enabled me to broaden my understanding of the subject, problem in gathering ideas toward the complete organization of the research by producing the output derived from writing (Reading helps smart clever, and thinking enables understanding, yet both of these are useless. Writing produces the output and helps improve outcome).

I am inspired by and owe my profound gratitude for his immense knowledge, supportive guidance and patience throughout the whole process of research. Moreover, I am grateful to Professor Eva Roth, Dewan Ahsan, Brooks Kaiser, Lars Ravn Jonsen and Melina Kourantidou and MERE Group Scholars at SDU for their helpful comments, questions and advice to further improve my research. Their contributions are highly appreciated.

I gratefully acknowledge the National University of Management (H.E Prof. Hor Peng, Rector of NUM, and Prof. Kang Sovannara, Director of SGS), and the Dockside project (Prof. Thomas Vallée, Ms. Ria Deniska, Ms Sokunthy Ly) for facilitating me this priceless opportunity to pursue my research and education in the country with highly developed educational system and human resource.