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DOCKSIDE NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL BY Pr. Thomas VALLÉE

University of Nantes

As the coordinator of this project, it is my pleasure to write the editorial of this first Newsletter. DOCKSIDE is an ERASMUS + Capacity building in higher education project. As such, it aims to promote exchange of good practices between European and Cambodian Universities. It aims also to support the reforms of the MoEYS to implement PhD Schools and to promote high research quality. Since its starts in October 2016, DOCKSIDE already organized one summer school, one workshop and many training sessions. But, more than that, DOCKSIDE managed to create opportunities for people to meet, to discuss, and to start research projects all together. This is how the world should be, a world of friendship and scientific exchanges in order to make the world smarter and smaller. I hope this newsletter will be useful and that you will visit us, either at our website or facebook page. Feel free to contact.

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WHAT IS OUR PROJECT MANAGEMENT BOARD (PMB) ?

Our PMB, as we call it, was set up at the beginning of the DOCKSIDE project to ensure a participative, democratic and smooth management by all partners of the project, may they be from Europe or from Cambodia. The 8 partners of the project : National University of Management (NUM - Kh), Royal university of agriculture (RUA - Kh), Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE - Kh) and University of Battambang (UBB - Kh), the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Kh) as well as the University of Nantes (UN - Fr), the University of Southern Denmark (SDU - Dk) and the university of Vigo (VIGO - Sp) designated one representative who attended the kick off meeting at Nantes on December 2016 and who regularly gather, through internet or on site, to decide on the strategy and the main aspects of the project. At DOCKSIDE, we endeavor to consult with each university for every important decision. We are honored to make you discover them below:

WHO ARE THEY ?



NEANG Malyne
RUA



MESMANN Laurent
RULE



VESTERGAARD Niels
SDU



SAM OR Angkearot
MoEYS



SEAV Sovanna
UBB



VARELA LAFUENTE Manuel
VIGO



VALLEE Thomas
UN



LY Sokunthy
NUM



KAING Khim
FiA (External)

OUR PARTNER'S POINT OF VIEW



SAM OR Angkearot,

Deputy director general of Policy and Planning department at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

COULD YOU BRIEFLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO OUR READERS?

My name is SAM OR Angkearot. I am a deputy director general of Policy and Planning department at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. I am a member of the scientific committee and management board of DOCKSIDE project.

WHAT IS THE MINISTRY'S IMPLICATION IN THE DOCKSIDE PROJECT?

Let us not forget that the Ministry is a rightful contributor to the project. The main goal of the project is to help finding some recommendations or advice for the development of doctoral programs in Cambodia. And since the Ministry manages most of Cambodia's Universities, it contributes widely to the project's success. The Ministry ensures that the project's activities remain in accordance with our political stands as we will be in charge of making this project last regarding the research activities and the doctoral development. The Ministry is in charge of making sure that the expertise brought by the European partner university fit the Cambodian situation and demand. Actually, as mentioned in the project, the Ministry is in charge of Work Package 5 "Quality control and monitoring". At the end of each year, two Ministry representatives work closely with Southern Denmark University (SDU) to present a detailed report on the quality of the project.

"LET'S KEEP IN MIND THAT THE MINISTRY IS IN CHARGE OF FIVE MAJOR TASKS FOR DOCKSIDE"

1. Supervising the project's activities and publishing an annual report on their quality.
2. Tracking the implementation of the foresaid activities.
3. Expressing recommendations about the quality of the activities.
4. Supporting and strengthening the partnerships established between the Cambodian and European Universities.
5. Supporting the implementation of all the project's activities.

HOW DID THE MINISTRY BENEFIT FROM THE DOCKSIDE PROJECT?

The impact on the Ministry has been immense. The reform of the higher education system engaged by the Ministry is one of the five main aspects of our reforming program. Research is crucial to the improvement of higher education which simply cannot survive without it. According to the 2016 Scimago Journal Country Ranking, Cambodia ranks 116/232 in terms of research and scientific publication, with only two ASEAN members ranking lower. The DOCKSIDE project is a structural program coordinated by European Universities and the Ministry of Education and our goal is to improve the quality of our doctoral programs and the proficiency of our researchers in Cambodia. This project is, therefore, in accordance with the Ministry's reform in higher education in Cambodia, particularly regarding the transfer of skills in project management and research as well as the organization of the doctoral programs.

WHAT IS YOUR EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS FOR THE DOCKSIDE PROJECT?

We are already halfway through and so far, many elements have been implemented to improve the research and doctoral programs in Cambodia. According to the quality report, things are on the right track. Right now, it is a bit early to measure an actual impact, we should be able to see it in about 3 years. For the time being, the next step is to get together to review what we have done so far and draw some recommendations for what is coming.

DO YOU CONSIDER CREATING A DOCTORAL PROGRAM NETWORK IN CAMBODIA?

Actually, according to the principles of doctoral programs in Cambodia mentioned on the research reform documents, the universities will have to manage a doctoral program. The doctoral program network implemented on Feb 20th, 2017 as part of the Prakas no 246 is crucial in strengthening higher programs in Cambodia.

HOW IS THE EU AND ERASMUS + SUPPORT IMPORTANT FOR CAMBODIA?

Their support is definitely requisite for this program to exist and develop in Cambodia. We must protect that partnership in order to keep growing up and gaining competitiveness internationally.

HOW DOES CAMBODIA MANAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES? IS THERE AN INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF SUCH RESOURCES?

The development of human resources is one of the Cambodia Royal Government's prime concerns. Based on the rectangular strategy of development implemented, human resources and capacity building constitute two main angles of that strategy. The annual budget for education has kept growing since 2013. The teachers' salaries have almost tripled in 5 years. Public investment in education keeps growing, everyday we build new schools all over Cambodia. The quality of education is at the heart of the Ministry of Education's reforms. These concrete elements are undeniable proof that the Royal Government is committed to improving the management of human resources in Cambodia. As for our partnerships, we are committed to preserving them as in today's world, no country can survive on its own. It is common knowledge that the international community supports (logistically and financially) the development of human resources globally, aiming for high quality dialogue among the research and scientific community. Dockside completely epitomizes such an aim. The European and Cambodian partners involved in Dockside are reaching for better support of the development of beneficiaries' human resources skills by granting logistic and financial aid.

DOCKSIDE PROJECT'S LIFE

A lot of things have been done during the last 6 months, since the last Khmer New Year (April 15th 2018). We entered the year of the dog and astrologists say that it is a year of good augury.

And indeed for DOCKSIDE a lot of things already happened.

3 training sessions already happened : Professor Niels Vestergaard from University of Southern Denmark shared his knowledge and experiences on "Cost-benefit Analysis, Bio-economic Modeling, Renewable Resource Economics on May 2018 whereas Dr. Dewan Ahsan from University of Southern Denmark trained our lucky trainees on Risk Management Strategies in Natural Resource Management on June 2018. The same month, Associate Professor Eva Roth hold a session on conceptual frameworks and valuation of non market goods"

"TRAINING SESSION ON : COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, BIO-ECONOMIC MODELING, RENEWABLE RESOURCE ECONOMICS"



In the mean time, Ms Van Daneth HING, a staff from RULE was lucky enough to participate to participate in the 1st International Compliance Congress in the Fishing Sector, 6th & 7th June 2018, World Compliance Association and to the fifth international conference Redexmar, organized by our partner University of Vigo. According to her: Staff mobility provides tremendous mutual benefit and strengthens the cooperation between RULE and Vigo in terms of research collaboration and doctoral degree programs to enhance research quality.

"STAFF MOBILITY BETWEEN ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW AND ECONOMICS (RULE) AND UNIVERSITY OF VIGO"



After waiting more than one year, our Cambodian universities finally got the IT equipment delivered (Video Conference material, Computer Lab) : this is being used to enhance cooperation between European and Cambodian Universities and to provide online PhD courses for the coming year

"IT EQUIPMENT DELIVERED : VIDEO CONFERENCE MATERIAL, COMPUTER LAB"



Our DOCKSIDE Team was able to publish its first Stakeholders analysis in the environmental and maritime fields in Cambodia. This impressive 130 pages report, edited by Pr.Vallée, Dr. Kutin and Dr. Ahsan was accomplished thanks to the participation of researchers from all partner universities in Europe and Cambodia. It can be downloaded on our website (www.dockside-kh.eu)
 Finally, our big annual event took place in Battambang: the 2018 DOCKSIDE Summer School. It gathered more than 120 trainees and more than 15 trainers. It was a great success and we hope to build on it to organize even a more successful event in 2019 at NUM, Phnom Penh

"BATTAMBANG: THE 2018 DOCKSIDE SUMMER SCHOOL"



DOCKSIDE AGENDA OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2018

- ▶ Training Session on New ways of Teaching : **October 30th / 31st 2018, NUM**
- ▶ 3rd Call for Mobility for Staff and Researchers : **Launched in October 2018**
- ▶ Ministerial Seminar : **December 3rd 2018, with representatives from SDU, UN and VIGO as well as Rectors from Cambodian Public Universities**

CONTACTS & MORE INFORMATIONS



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