

Cambodia Gets ADB Loan to Boost Quality, Access to Technical Training

Date **26 September 2014**
Countries **Cambodia**
Subjects **ADB funds and products; Education**

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending a \$30 million loan for a nationwide program to raise the quality of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Cambodia leading to more job opportunities for women and the poor.

“The TVET system remains in its infancy and needs reform and additional investment to address gaps in access, quality and institutional capacity in order to make a sustained contribution to the development of a skilled workforce,” said ADB Principal Education Specialist, Norman LaRocque. “The program will overhaul the existing system to make it more responsive to labor market needs and help provide disadvantaged groups with more opportunities for formal training.”

Specific measures include support for the establishment of a competency-based assessment and certification system, including the development of flexible pathways between different qualification levels and types of training. The program will also introduce a quality assurance system for TVET institutes and establish an instructor apprenticeship program for public TVET teachers to gain industry experience. Sector skills councils, made up of industry associations and large employers in four priority sectors—construction, auto mechanics, electrical works and manufacturing— will be established to help develop centers of excellence.

The program—which builds on earlier ADB support for basic education and the TVET sector—incorporates a number of innovative features. These include (i) development of a system for the recognition of prior learning, (ii) strategies to enhance private sector and employer engagement in TVET, and (iii) strengthening performance-based management to increase accountability and the efficiency of TVET resource use.

Many Cambodians, especially the poor and women, cannot take part in the formal TVET system due to low educational attainment and the grade 9 entry requirement for formal training. The program will provide stipends to individuals from poor households identified under a government household support scheme, and to women’s dormitories. A gender action plan establishing quotas for females receiving training stipends will also help increase female enrollment and retention in formal TVET programs.

To strengthen governance and management, TVET institute directors will get training and other support for planning, budgeting and other skills. Start-up finance will also be provided to allow TVET institutes to offer courses in construction, auto mechanics, information and communications technology and business at levels 2 to 4 under the Cambodian Qualifications Framework.

ADB’s assistance, from its concessional Asian Development Fund, includes project and policy-based loans, while the Government of Cambodia will provide cash and in-kind contributions totaling \$2.6 million, for a total investment of \$32.6 million. The full program will run for almost 5 years, with an estimated completion date of December 2019.

[About ADB](#)

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Sundari, Ayun
Tel: +63 2 632 4744
[Email contact form](#)

Ros, Sothea
[Email contact form](#)

DOWNLOAD FILE

[Khmer Translation](#)

RELATED LINKS

[Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector Development Program](#)

[More on ADB’s Work in Cambodia](#)