

PRESS RELEASE | April 26, 2018



## New Financing Will Support Cambodia in Improving Higher Education for Industrial Development

**WASHINGTON, April 26, 2018**— The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved today US\$90 million in financing to support Cambodia's efforts in improving the quality of higher education and research in the country and broadening access to higher education for disadvantaged students.

*"We welcome World Bank support in higher education and research, which is well aligned with the priorities of our Industrial Development Policy for 2015-2025," said H.E. Senior Minister, Aun Pornmoniroth, Ministry of Economy and Finance. "This project will help us establish a holistic strategy for higher education development and enable Cambodian graduates to meet the rapid demands and increasing opportunities – for mobility and technology transfer – of the ASEAN Economic Community and beyond."*

Over the next six years, the **Higher Education Institutions Capacity Improvement Project** will strive to improve the quality of education and research at targeted institutions, broaden access to higher education, and improve governance in the sector.

The focus on science, technology, engineering, mathematics – otherwise known as STEM – as well as agriculture, is expected to equip Cambodian graduates with more relevant and transferrable skills that can support the country transition from a labor-intensive economy to one driven by knowledge.

The project's five key activities include: providing research funds in the priority subject areas; expanding classrooms and laboratories; building dormitories for disadvantaged students (such as students from poor households and remote areas, as well as female students); strengthening quality assurance and information systems; and working with international partners to improve the curriculum and methodology of the priority subject areas.

The dormitories are planned for Phnom Penh, and the schools that will be expanded are in Battambang and Svay Rieng provinces.

*"Building high-quality research capacity and preparing a critical mass of highly-skilled graduates of tertiary education is a priority for both Cambodia and the Bank. Actions taken now can help Cambodia advance in human capital and strengthen the effectiveness of higher education," said Inguna Dobraja, the World Bank's Country Manager for Cambodia. "This project supports the reform agenda implemented by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in building Cambodia's capacity to meet the needs of labor markets in a rapidly changing environment."*

Financed by the International Development Association, the project also follows the Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement project, which from 2010 to 2017 built a foundation of sectoral capacity and created a policy environment conducive to more investment.

### RELATED

WORLD BANK  
[Loan & Credits](#)

PRESS RELEASE NO: ECR/155/EAP

### Contacts

#### Phnom Penh

Saroeun Bou  
(855 12) 414 088  
[sbou@worldbank.org](mailto:sbou@worldbank.org)

#### Washington DC

Marcela Sanchez-Bender  
(202) 473 5863  
[msanchezbender@worldbank.org](mailto:msanchezbender@worldbank.org)

Julian Palma | Apr 29, 2018

**Making schools more resilient in Afghanistan**

Adeline Choy | Apr 27, 2018

**Better forecast, better preparedness – investing in improved weather services**

Douglas Dubois Sebamala | Apr 26, 2018

**Uganda can use the arts to end gender-based violence**

Tatiana Peralta Quiros | Apr 26, 2018

**The future of transport is here. Are you ready?**

[About](#)  
[Data](#)  
[Research and Publications](#)  
[Learning](#)

[News](#)  
[Projects and Operations](#)  
[Countries](#)  
[Topics](#)

#### FOLLOW US



#### NEWSLETTER

Enter email to subscribe... [▶](#)

This Site in: [ENGLISH](#)

[Legal](#) | [Access to Information](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Contact](#)

[REPORT FRAUD OR CORRUPTION](#)