

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sector has been supported by development partners since 1996. Early support to the TVET sector (i.e., from 1994 to 2000) contributed to rebuilding Cambodian society after the Khmer Rouge by establishing the National Training Board and National Training Fund; providing direct employment skills for the rural and urban poor (including returnees, displaced persons, demobilized soldiers, and disabled and female heads of households) through short vocational training programs for identified employment opportunities; and by developing systems and support mechanisms for skills training and implementation through a national training framework and training of officers from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS). Assistance was provided to the MoEYS for planning a national TVET system. Since 2000, the major development partners working in the TVET sector have been the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Much of the support since 2000 has contributed to transferring TVET from MOEYS to the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT), establishing a decentralized nonformal TVET system through development of the Voucher Skills Training Program, addressing the needs of out-of-school youth through the Skills Bridging Program, and creating the Cambodian Garment Training Institute.

2. The table below provides an overview of TVET projects supported since 1994. Development partner support to the TVET sector after 2000 has been limited to supporting MLVT to develop the TVET system, with ADB providing substantial support through the Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project.¹

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount
ADB	Basic Skills Project	1996–2002	\$20.000 million
ADB	Education Sector Development Program	2002–2004	\$20.000 million program loan; \$18.000 million project loan
ADB	Local Governance and Community Development Program	2008–2013	\$106.300 million
ADB	Second Education Sector Development Program	2005–2008	\$20.000 million program loan; \$25.000 million project loan; TA \$0.500 million
ADB	Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training	2010–2015	\$27.500 million
ADB–JFPR	Piloting the Post-Harvest Technology and Skills Bridging Program	2009–2012	\$2.000 million
AFD	Support to Vocational Training – Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia	2012–2015	\$3.260 million

¹ Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2009. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Grant Assistance to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education Project*. Manila.

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount
ASEAN–India	Technical Assistance for the Support of the Cambodia–India Entrepreneurship Development Center	2006–2007	
CCA	Cooperation in TVET of Construction	2012–2015	\$0.096 million
JICA	Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program		
JICA	Japanese Vocational Center Workshop and Technical School	1990–2000	
Korean Development Institute	Korean Research Institute for Vocational Training	2005–2009	\$1.200 million
SDC	Not Specified, pipeline project		
UNDP/ILO	ILO Employment Generation Program Vocational Training for Employment Generation	Phase 1: 1992–1997 Phase 2: 1997–1998	\$18.000 million
UNDP/ILO	Vocational Training for Poverty Alleviation	1994–1998	\$12.000 million
UNDP/ILO/German development cooperation through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	National Strategy Plan for TVET	1994–1996	
UNESCO	Policy Review of TVET in Cambodia	2012–2013	\$0.282 million

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AFD = Agence Française de Développement, CCA = Cambodia Construction Association, ILO = International Labour Organization, JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, SDC = Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

3. In 2006, ADB and the Ministry of Economy and Finance developed institutional arrangements and processes for international development coordination, endorsed by ADB. The government's Standard Operating Procedures for All Externally Financed Projects/Programs in Cambodia, updated May 2012, specifies the development coordination and procedures required for externally funded projects.² The MLVT substantially complies with the operating procedures specified in the ADB's Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training project.

4. In 2009, the MLVT developed its Action Plan to Implement the Rectangular Strategy (Phase II), 2009–2013. This formulates a common policy and program framework for TVET reform to ensure consistency and coherence across TVET programs and projects, utilizing a program-based approach. Conceptually, capacity building programs are aligned with MLVT development plans, implemented by relevant departments and units, and through the Government of Cambodia's financial management system. In 2013, the MLVT began preparing

² Government of Cambodia. 2012. *Standard Operating Procedures for All Externally Financed Projects/Programs in Cambodia*. Phnom Penh.

the TVET Strategic Plan, 2014–2018. The plan aligns with the government's Rectangular Strategy (Phase III), 2014–2018, and National Strategic Development Plan, 2014–2018.³

5. The government's public financial management reform proposes increasing accountability to national agendas and plans of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The incorporation of industry advisory groups and sector skills councils into the TVET quality assurance system also builds opportunity for increased dialogue with industry and other TVET providers, and offers the National Training Board further opportunity for greater oversight and coordination of TVET and alignment with national priorities.

6. The TVET coordination working group (CWG) was established in 2013 to promote policy dialogue and coordination of support in developing and implementing the TVET strategic plan. The TVET CWG consists of representatives from development partners and the Cambodia Federation of Employers and Business Associations. The Directorate General of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DGTNET) is the chair of the TVET CWG. Consultation with the TVET CWG took place during the design of the program.

C. Achievements and Issues

7. The MLVT has demonstrated increasing ownership and leadership in policy development and implementation of TVET reform. This was undertaken in a period of change, including the introduction and implementation of the Public Financial Management Reform Program and its associated heightened accountability framework. Linkages between the major projects—e.g., the strengthening TVET project (footnote 1) and the Post-Harvest Technology and Skills Bridging Program for Rural Poor,⁴ funded by a Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction grant—have been relatively strong, but knowledge of and linkages with other vocational training related programs that may exist in other ministries (such as education, health, and agriculture) is lacking. These issues are central to the rationale of the TVET sector development program in strengthening TVET management, especially in the area of policy planning and system quality assurance, and development of the labor market information system and TVET management information system.

D. Summary and Recommendations

8. The program design supports the operationalization of a coordinated and comprehensive TVET system focusing on vocational training. It provides for aligning, consolidating, and integrating TVET development plans to achieve more effective and efficient vocational skills development while responding to poverty alleviation and economic development. Close alignment with the TVET strategic plan, continuing dialogue with industry, and cooperation with relevant development partners and actors in TVET will be maintained.

³ Government of Cambodia. 2013. *Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, and Efficiency, Phase III*. Phnom Penh; Government of Cambodia. 2013. *National Strategic Development Plan 2014–2018*. Phnom Penh.

⁴ ADB. 2009. *Proposed Grant Assistance to the Kingdom of Cambodia for Piloting the Post-Harvest Technology and Skills Bridging Program for Rural Poor*. Manila.