



**UMAP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium**  
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**New Trends of Inter-University  
Cooperation in Asia –  
*The Case of Cambodia***

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# 1. Cambodia Higher Education at a Glance

## **HE in the Past :**

The 1940s – First Born HEIs

The 1960s – Glory Period

The 1970s – Tragic Period due to Civil War and Killing Fields

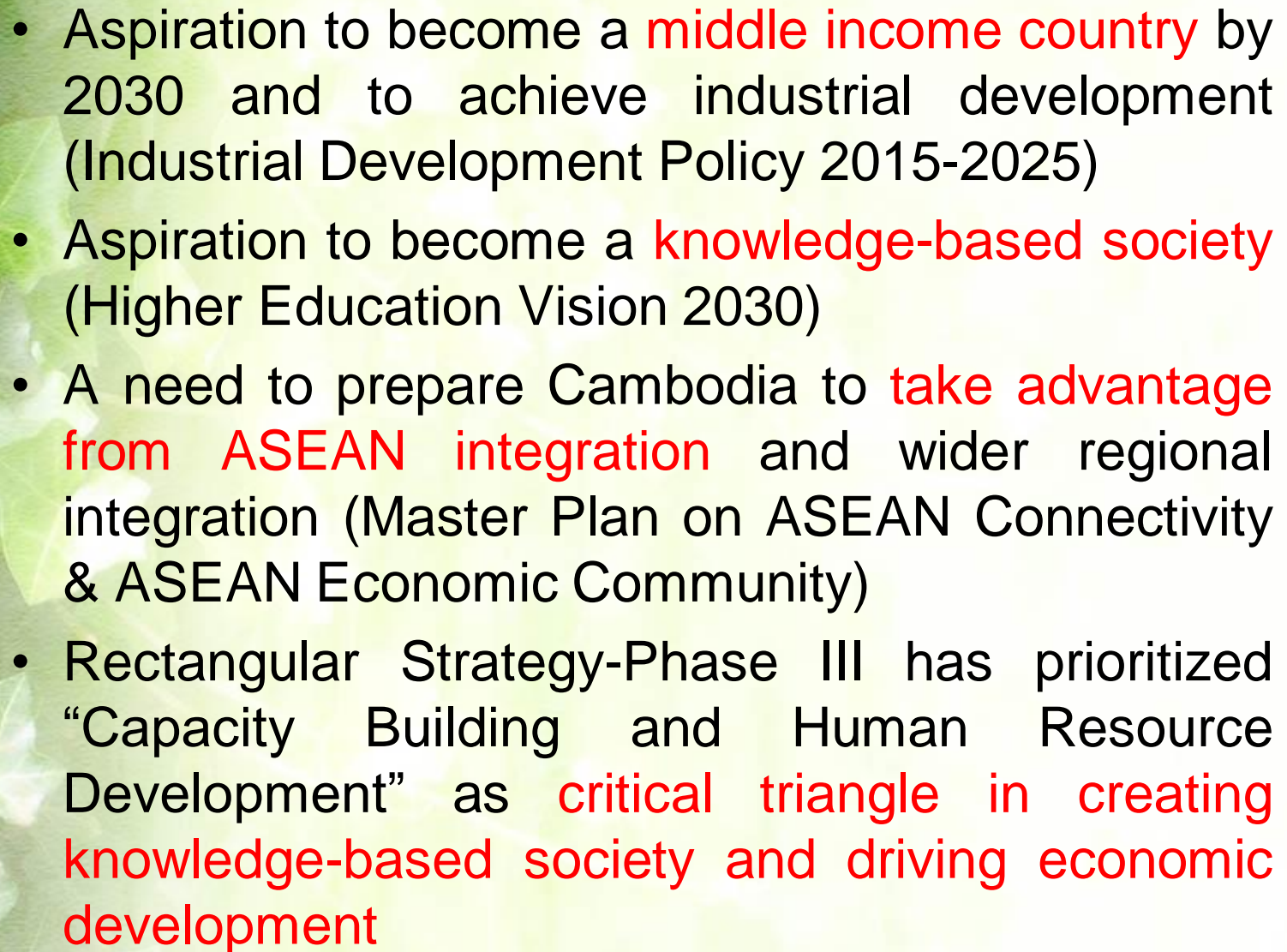
The 1980s – Reborn Period, establishment & rehabilitation

The 1990s – Reforming/Restructuring/Development;

The Early 2000s – Growth of Private HEIs

## **HE at Present :**

- 119 HEIs (supervised by 14 different ministries)
- Around 250,000 students in HE at Present
- Quantity Vs. Quality

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- Aspiration to become a **middle income country** by 2030 and to achieve industrial development (Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025)
  - Aspiration to become a **knowledge-based society** (Higher Education Vision 2030)
  - A need to prepare Cambodia to **take advantage from ASEAN integration** and wider regional integration (Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity & ASEAN Economic Community)
  - Rectangular Strategy-Phase III has prioritized “Capacity Building and Human Resource Development” as **critical triangle in creating knowledge-based society and driving economic development**

## 2. HE Vision 2030 & Roadmap 2017-2030

### ❖ Vision, Mission & Goals



#### Higher Education Vision 2030

To build a quality higher education system that develops human resources with excellent knowledge, skills and moral values in order to work, [learn] and live within the era of globalization and knowledge-based society



#### Higher Education Mission

This roadmap aims to develop an accessible higher education system that is diverse, internationally-recognized, and conducive to teaching, learning, and research, by enabling HEIs to:

1. Generate and equip students with scientific and social concepts and principles, recognizing the importance of local and global wisdom and values; and
2. Instill in students the capability to meet society's needs and participate in the changing labor market and society.



#### Higher Education Goals

- (1) Quality & Relevance;
- (2) Access & Equity;
- (3) Internationalization & Regionalization;
- (4) Governance & Finance

# Higher Education Roadmap Structure



## **Goal 1: Quality & Relevance**

- Objective 1: To improve teaching and learning
- Objective 2: To promote research and innovation
- Objective 3: To upgrade faculty and staff

## **Goal 2: Access & Equity**

- Objective 1: To enable more students to enter higher education (HE)
- Objective 2: To retain students in HE

## **Goal 3: Internationalization & Regionalization**

- **Objective 1: To promote academic mobility and collaboration**
- **Objective 2: To promote international and regional academic programs**

## **Goal 4: Governance & Finance**

- Objective 1: To enforce and enact policies and legal frameworks
  - Objective 2: To strengthen the quality assurance system
  - Objective 3: To improve financial management and increase funding
- ➔ **Each goal has several Key Indicators divided into 3 phases of action 2017-2020, 2021-2025, and 2026-2030**



# 3. Inter-University Cooperation

## I. In-country mechanism

- Higher Education Sub-Sector Working Group
- Directorate General of Higher Education
- Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project (HEQCIP)
- Rector Council of Cambodia (public HEIs)
- Cambodia Higher Education Association (private HEIs)

## II. Regional/International mechanism/programs

- SEAMEO RIHED, UMG-UC, UMAP, AIMS, Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus+, New Colombo Plan ....and many other schemes under bi- or multi-lateral agreements of the university

### III. Current Practices

- Curriculum consultation
- Joint-research projects
- University Consortium (for similar disciplines)
- Credit Transfer
- Student Exchange Programs
- Academic Exchange Programs
- Cultural Exchange Programs
- Community Engagement Programs
- Student Mobility (mostly outbound)
- Staff and Mobility (mostly inbound)
- Regional and International Network

## IV. Issues/Challenges

- Credit Transfer Mechanism not in Conformity
- Academic Calendar
- Student Visa
- Quality Assurance
- International Office Poorly Functional

- V. New Trends
- Research Collaboration (Erasmus+...Etc.)
- International Program
- Double Degree Programs
- Twinning Programs
- Satellite Campus
- In-bound Student Mobility (in key programs)
- Out-bound Faculty Mobility

## 4. Conclusion

- Inter-university cooperation in the region will help achieve Higher Education goal of “Internationalization and regionalization”
  - Committing to more active engagement in UMAP
  - Attention will be on the strengthening of Quality Assurance, Credit Transfer System, International Programs, and Capacity of International Relation Offices
- ➔ Directorate General of Higher Education can play a coordinating role in any regional and international network or cooperation programs