

SNUAC Visiting Scholars Brown Bag Seminars Series, 2016 Fall

Labor Force Characteristics in the Economic Pole of Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk and Siem Reap

Chea Chantha

Joblessness, unemployment, professional training, and skills are the main issues to be considered and solved. In general, Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Preah Sihanouk poles are areas where jobs and labor forces gather. The study of economic characteristic in these areas is useful for understanding the size of labor force, professional training, work experiences, knowledge, skills, and vocational training in order to set proper strategies and solutions to answer to the needs of jobs, and migration workers. According to census in 2008, and my own survey, unemployment in Phnom Penh is remarkably higher than those two areas, Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk. This indicates that youths who graduate from high school or universities seeking for jobs have increased. Creating new jobs is necessary to improve employment opportunity and youth's income because lots of children born between 1980 and 1990 are now job seekers and reach married ages. The rates of labor force participation of men are higher than those of women in each pole. One of the factors is work experiences which allow men and women work by their skills. Moreover, economic development in Preah Sihanouk pole in the near future (2013-2018), such as establishing factories, enterprises, and many service sectors, will go up and it will lack labor forces to work in those fields. It can also absorb and attract migration workers to this location. Most migration workers work and stay in their working places around 1 to 4 years, before census 2008, when garment factories, and constructions in Cambodia increased and progressed. Creating small family business through low interest loan from organizations, Micro-Finance Institutions, and government enable farmers to develop their farm work, planting, animal raising, and to generate jobs, contributing to improvement of remote people's living status, helping reduce migration workers and illegal job seekers in the neighboring countries.

Chea Chantha is a senior researcher in Royal Academy of Cambodia, where he got a Ph.D. in Geography and Urban Planning in 2014. Since 1998 until now, he has been involved in many research activities for Royal Government of Cambodia, United Nation Agencies, and Non Government Organizations. At the same time he has been teaching at university, both private and public universities. He is also a member of Geographical Committee which is part of National Council of Khmer Language in Cambodia. His recent work includes: *General Technical Term Glossary*, published in 2016; *Number of Fatalities by province and type of transportation in Cambodia*, published in 2015; and *Labor Force Characteristics in the Economic Pole of Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk and Siem Reap*, published in 2015.

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