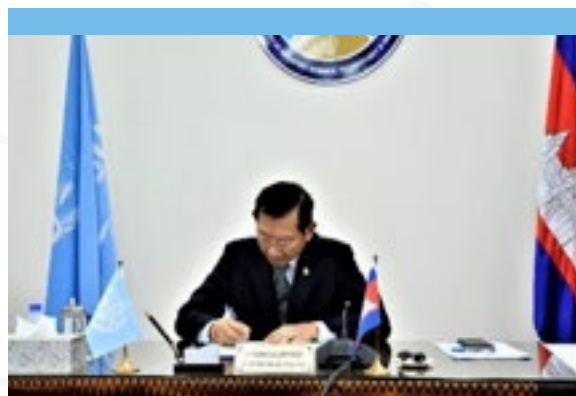


UNIDO AND THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA SIGNED PROGRAMME FOR COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP

10 December 2020 – UNIDO Director General, LI Yong, and Cambodia's Senior Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, Kitti Settha Pandita Cham Prasidh, signed Programme for Country Partnership. The PCP is built around two main components namely agro-value chains, including linkages to the tourism sector, and industrial diversification and innovation, including through SEZs development. Five cross-cutting components in the area of industrial policy and statistics, quality infrastructure, sustainable energy, and the circular economy, as well as women's empowerment and youth employment will provide a framework to ensure the achievement of the development objectives set by the Government.

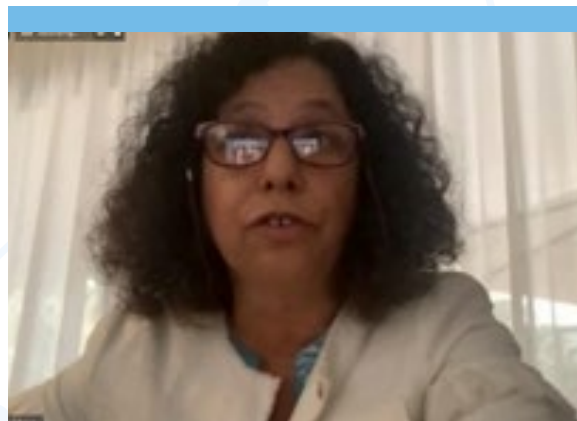


"The PCP plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of key policy documents and in achieving the government's priorities, especially in regards to the immediate recovery strategy devised to respond to the COVID-19 crisis," said Cham Prasidh. He also strongly encouraged relevant government agencies, donors, partners and the private sector to join forces to maximize the PCP's development impact.

The Director General emphasized that "by focusing on sectors with high growth potential, the PCP will help the country to achieve its industrialization objectives, in line with the national development agenda. The PCP is a multi-stakeholder partnership at the country-level. Therefore, UNIDO will join hands with all development partners active in the country, not only for the short-term recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, but also in efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs."

The signing ceremony was witnessed by senior government representatives from all relevant Ministries and high-level international development partners. Ms. [Pauline Tamesis, UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia](#), stressed that "Partnerships drive the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – and building back better from the pandemic – requires a whole of society approach - different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling resources, knowledge and expertise. UNIDO PCP is an embodiment of this partnership – an innovative mechanism for accelerating inclusive and industrial development through mobilization of blended funds, in line with Cambodia's national industry development policy". Ms. Tamesis added that "The PCP can enable the United Nations in Cambodia at large to successfully implement the socio-economic response framework to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic."

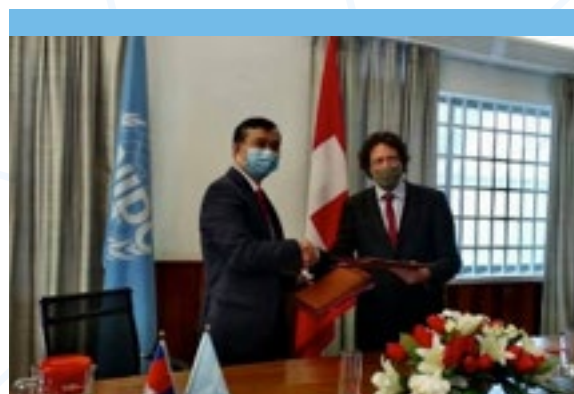




As a donor for major UNIDO projects in Cambodia, Ms. Carmen Moreno, the EU's Ambassador to Cambodia, stated that "UNIDO PCP will create a new framework in which all stakeholders: government, development partners, private sector and civil society, can work together for an inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Cambodia". Ms. Moreno added that: "EU is starting to design the new development cooperation program for the years 2021-2027, that will set the direction of our partnership with Cambodia for the coming period. The PCP provides us with further possibilities to strengthen our work in this sector. It also offers us the opportunity to develop a strong cooperation with the Ministry for Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, building on our ongoing partnership around patents, intellectual property and market access".

The signing of the PCP was accompanied by the launch of one of the key projects to be implemented. The Agro-Food and Tourism Enterprise Recovery Programme addresses the challenges of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the midst of the current COVID-19 crisis. The Programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which was represented at the virtual signing by its Director of Cooperation, Mr. Markus Buerli.

Mr. Buerli noted that: "PCP priorities are of great importance to SDC. As part of our existing Mekong Region programme that Cambodia is part of, we are glad to work with UNIDO to deliver its technical expertise, in particular in collaborating with the private sector. SDC is already joining hands with UNIDO through the UN Joint Programme on Decent Employment for Youth, as well as with the Agro Food and Tourism Recovery Programme. We are confident that achieving objectives of these two projects will contribute to realizing the overall objectives of the PCP and mitigate impacts of Covid-19 on MSMEs and employment in the country".



As a first follow-up to the signing of the Programme Document, UNIDO and MISTI agreed to convene the first meeting of the PCP National Coordination Body (NCB). The NCB is the highest PCP-governing body and will provide overall strategic direction for the Programme. The NCB is endorsed by the Prime Minister and is chaired by the Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation. Secretaries of State from the Ministry of Economy and Finance and from the Council for Development of Cambodia (CDC) act as deputies, with other line Ministries represented as Members of the NCB, so to ensure the widest possible governmental support and coordination.

PCP CAMBODIA – MILESTONES

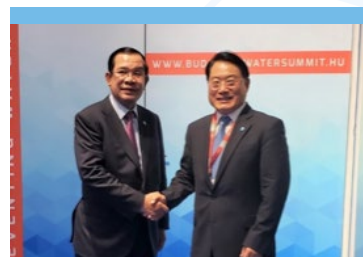
- **June 2017:** UNIDO Executive Board approves the development of PCP Cambodia.
- **November 2017:** Kitti Settha Pandita Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of Cambodia, and LI Yong, UNIDO Director General, [signed a Joint Declaration](#) to develop the PCP Cambodia. This makes Cambodia the first country in Asia to pilot the PCP initiative.
 
- **March 2018:** UNIDO and the Council for the Development of Cambodia jointly [organized the Cambodia-China Business and Investment Forum](#), aimed at creating trust and explore cooperation opportunities between Chinese and Cambodian business leaders, and to promote trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.
- **May 2018:** UNIDO and the Council for the Development of Cambodia [hosted a high-level delegation](#) from the Shenzhen Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation (SFIEC) to share experiences on the development of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and to explore investment opportunities in education, trade, commerce, agro-industry and infrastructure. The meeting laid the foundations for cooperation on SEZs development in Cambodia.
 
- **August 2018:** UNIDO and UNDP will work with the Worldbridge group, a leading logistics service provider, to develop SME clusters and reduce the barriers faced by most SMEs in Cambodia, while providing new business opportunities for foreign manufacturing investment and local startup companies, as well as enabling technology transfer into Cambodia.
- **October 2018:** UNIDO and Cambodia's Ministries of Industry and Handicraft (MIH) and of Environment (MoE) launched a GEF-funded project to foster low carbon development for productivity and climate adaptation through the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST) methodology, extending the TEST model in Cambodia, within the PCP framework.
 
- **May 2019:** UNIDO develops a project – funded by the Republic of Korea - to support the effective implementation of major development strategies of Cambodia through institutional capacity building and industrial competitiveness enhancement. In July 2019, UNIDO conducted an executive briefing and a four-day training on industrial policymaking.
- **August 2019:** With the financial support of the EU, UNIDO will develop the [fishery post-harvest value chain in Cambodia](#) towards improved food safety systems, value addition and trade competitiveness for better market access as well as to create additional employment opportunities. The project is worth \$ 16 million and it is part of a larger EU intervention and will be implemented in coordination with FAO and the Agence Française pour le développement.



- **September 2019:** UNIDO develops a project – funded by China – which aims at enhancing the institutional capacity of the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning to produce timely, accurate and internationally-comparable industrial statistics to support evidence-based policy-making, especially for industrial development and for the monitoring of its contribution to achieve the SDGs.



- **October 2019:** Director General LI Yong met with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia. Both parties agreed that UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) with the Government of Cambodia has achieved successful results in supporting industrial development, economic transformation and the advancement of the Government's Rectangular Strategy and Industrial Development Policy.



- **January – September 2020:** UNIDO initiates an in-depth revision of the PCP Cambodia Programme Document, in close cooperation with relevant line ministries, under the leadership of the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The revised Programme Document was approved by the Royal Government of Cambodia in September 2020.

Relevant outreach efforts were made in parallel, to present the PCP approach to other relevant partners active in the country. In particular, IFIs and DFIs – such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – will have a critical role in mobilizing additional funding, maximizing the impact of PCP interventions.

- **October 2020:** The Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation and UNIDO have jointly published guidance for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Khmer language. The materials are based on the guidance notes, factsheets and checklists in UNIDO's Response to the COVID-19 Crisis. Given the increasing reach of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world, more and more micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) are facing lockdowns and knock-on effects resulting from disruptions in the supply chains they are integrated with. The guidance document is intended specifically for owners, managers, and staff of MSME, who seek some orientation while dealing with the effects the pandemic may have on their businesses.



For more information, please contact:

Email: pfc@unido.org

r.bredel@unido.org