

The University's Engagement and Strategy towards the Promotion of Korean Studies

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Abstract

KOICA and MoEYS have cooperated to strengthen education in Cambodia in accordance with the policy and strategy of MoEYS which aim to enhance the quality of education to meet the regional and global standards in the future. To share and contribute to the human resource development in Cambodia, several Korean foundations/organizations are playing their roles in providing scholarships, assistance, schools' buildings, schools' libraries and other educated activities to Cambodian students. Many young Cambodians start to learn Korean language in order to work with Korean businessman, some Korean movies become very popular to Cambodian audience and some institutions or universities are providing Korean class for Cambodian students such as the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville College. It is also improving mutual culture of the both nations through the relation can be seen in Angkor Gyeongju World Culture Expo (AGWC EXPO), a joint cultural festival, held in November 2006 at Siem Reap, was the biggest cultural exchange event between the two countries. In addition, Korea-Cambodia Culture and Welfare Center founded in December 2006 and Korea Culture Center founded in July 2008.

Background

The Republic of Korea and the kingdom of Cambodia have developed their relationship for over the last decade after the both countries had officially established the bilateral diplomatic relations in 1997. The two countries signed several cooperation agreements including the grant

and loans for Cambodia's road rehabilitation, waste water treatment, Seim Reap River's development and cooperation in the fields of construction, energy, mines and communications. The development cooperation between the two countries has been implemented with special focus on priority areas encompassing infrastructure, health-care, education and rural development in light of Korea's comparative advantages and Cambodia's national development strategy. In terms of economic relation between the two countries, Korea's grant aids, soft loans and investment have been contributing to enhance economic environment in Cambodia through providing jobs opportunities for Cambodian employments. Align with its diplomatic policy towards Asia, Korea would actively share its development experience with Cambodia including providing ODA for Cambodia's educational development.

To contribute to the development of Cambodia's education sector, Korea through KOICA has cooperated and collaborated with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) since 2001. Up to date, Korea provided 14 undergraduate and graduate scholarships to Cambodian students to study at Korea's universities; dispatched 141 volunteers to help in Cambodia's education sector through teaching Korean language, information technology, arts, and physical educations.

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Under the grants and support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and through the efforts of KOICA, Korean language becomes popular in Cambodia. Many young Cambodians start to learn Korean language in order to work with Korean businessman, some Korean movies become very popular to Cambodian audience and some institutions or universities are providing Korean class for Cambodian students such as the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville College. It is also improving mutual culture of the both nations through the relation can be seen in Angkor Gyeongju World Culture Expo (AGWC EXPO), a

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Overview of the Royal University of Phnom Penh

The Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) is Cambodia's oldest and one of the largest public universities. It hosts more than 16,286 scholarship and full-fee paying students, across a diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. It is unique in Cambodia for offering specialist degrees in fields including the sciences, humanities and social sciences, as well as professional degrees in fields such as information technology, electronics, psychology, social work, and tourism. RUPP also provides Cambodia's foremost degree-level language programs through the Institute of Foreign Languages. Due to its many achievements, RUPP has full membership of the ASEAN University Network (AUN).

RUPP has over 497 full-time staff. All of its 350 academic staff members hold tertiary qualifications, including 17 PhDs and 309 Masters Degrees. They are supported by over 137 administrative and maintenance staff. In addition, the university maintains links with Cambodian and international NGOs, local and international universities and government ministries. As a result, various international and non-government organizations and government offices regularly contribute visiting faculty members to help expand RUPP's capacity.

RUPP is located on three spacious campuses. The main campus lies roughly five kilometers from the center of Phnom Penh. Adjoining the main campus is the Institute of Foreign Languages, which boasts peaceful landscaping features alongside its modern architecture. Roughly one kilometer further from town lies RUPP Campus II, in which the departments of History, Sociology and Philosophy reside.

Vision

The Royal University of Phnom Penh will continue to be the leading higher education institution in Cambodia, focused on excellence in teaching and learning, committed to research for the development of the country and making a contribution to Cambodian society.

Mission

The Royal University of Phnom Penh has as its mission:

1. To educate graduates who strive for excellence in their chosen academic fields and in their capacity to put this knowledge to work;
2. To foster high-quality research which will assist the development of new knowledge and create paths for national development;
3. To conduct research and provide service to the public and private sectors for the advancement of national self-reliance;
4. To continuously expand its programs to respond to emerging needs in Cambodian and regional society; and,
5. To promote cultural preservation, exchange and development.

Goals

1. The Royal University will achieve accreditation from the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia of its institution and programs within the next three years.
2. Each department will have both teaching and research as part of their mandate and will be able to demonstrate excellence in these areas.
3. A graduate school of arts and sciences will be established within the next two years.
4. The Royal University of Phnom Penh will have an integrated Information and Technology system.
5. Community service will be integrated into various departments and programs.

Draft Policies and Strategies

1. To ensure national and regional standards of education.
 - ❖ Strategies
 - Existing management and academic policies;
 - Reform policies necessary to fulfill RUPP's vision and mission;
 - Strengthen planning and evaluation;
 - Develop new faculties.
 - ❖ Management
 - Management structure;

- Decision making process;
 - Faculty and staff responsibilities and competencies.
- ❖ Human Resources
- Promote faculty and staff development and training;
 - Procedures for recruitment;
 - Establish staff/faculty performance self-appraisal system;
 - Encourage ethical behavior of students, faculty and staff.
2. To promote research activities, exchange programs and community service programs.
- ❖ Strategies
- Develop policy handbooks and standard of Master and Ph.D programs and allocate budget and find fund for research;
 - Establish an integrated University Library Network;
 - Adopt AUN-ACTS for exchange programs;
 - Encourage the exchange and research activities within the region and the globe;
 - Create fundraising unit.
- ❖ Human Resources
- Require to have Ph.D or experience Master degree holder to teach in Master programs;
 - Promote research culture to faculty and staff.
3. To ensure the quality assurance or assessment mechanisms to meet the national and international standards.
- ❖ Strategies
- Establish university's quality policies;
 - Create an internal assessment mechanism;
 - Follow adopted standard of QA.
- ❖ Human Resources
- Strengthen each department's capability to take responsibility for student evaluation;

- Strengthen the QA unit;
- TrainQA staff on quality assurance.

Government Links

The support of the Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) is critical to the Royal University of Phnom Penh. All degrees and programs at RUPP have been approved by the Government.

Government's support covers utility costs, staff salaries, and important resources such as some computers and laboratory equipment. The Prime Minister and other government representatives also regularly participate in the University's graduation as well as other ceremonies throughout the academic year.

ASEAN University Network (AUN)

In 1999, RUPP became a member of the ASEAN University Network (AUN). The AUN, established in 1995 to enable capacity building and collaboration among South East Asian higher education institutions, provides opportunities for staff and students to attend training courses, meetings, forums and conferences in other ASEAN nations.

International Links

RUPP has a strong international focus. It has signed Memoranda of Understanding with many international universities. These MOU provide for academic cooperation between the universities, including staff and student exchanges and curriculum development assistance. In 2011-2012, the RUPP holds active MOUs with the following universities and research centers in Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Vietnam, USA and Thailand.

Link with International Organizations

RUPP has also fostered direct links with donor groups such as bilateral, multi-lateral and NGOs across the world.

Promotion of Korean Studies at RUPP

Department of Korean Studies and University's Strategies. The Korean Department located in the Institute of Foreign Languages offers the degree of B.A. which is designed for the practical needs of learners. The B.A. course combines study of the written and spoken language along with courses that focus on Korean culture, society, literature, history and business. It aims to cover the advanced-level Korean language and a wide range of Korean cultures. The B.A. program is undertaken over a four-year period.

All students are required to successfully undertake the university Foundation Year Program and in their second and third years, they are required to focus on intensive language training. The fourth year is devoted to applying and furthering their language skills through courses that involve reading and analyzing advanced texts and literary works.

A Korean language short course was established in October 2002 with support from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Cambodia. The first course was offered by an instructor provided by the Korean Research Foundation (KRF), affiliated with the Ministry of Human Resources in Korea.

In March 2007, the University officially established a Bachelor of Arts in Korean language through a grant from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. A good number of students have applied to take the degree since then. The Academy of Korean Study (AKS) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) have continued to support the Department of Korean language.

There are two types of programs offering at the Department of Korean: Bachelor of Art in Korean Language and Non-degree Korean Language Course.

Bachelor of Art in Korean Language:

- Two types of programs: scholarship and fee-paying program.
- These two programs operate based on the same curriculum.
- Students will be selected based on their high school grades to give scholarship supported by the government. They will pay only US\$80 yearly.
- For fee-paying program, students require to pay US\$450 per year for tuition fee.

Non-degree Korean Language Course:

- This program was established in 2012 to meet the needs of learners who wish to get basic knowledge of Korean language.
- A three-month course conducts during lunch time.
- Students have to pay US\$100 for the whole course.
- It is divided into 3 classes: level 1 and level 2 and level 3.

Teaching Staffs:

- At present, there are a total of 12 teaching staffs which includes native Korean lecturers (9) and Cambodian lecturers (3).
- Native Korean lectures including visiting professors from Academy of Korean studies (AKS) and EwhaWomans University, volunteers from KOICA and native Korean currently staying in Cambodia.

Club Activities

- Department of Korean offers students a chance to share a broad range of social, cultural and academic interests.
- There are various clubs such as:
 - ✓ Samulnori Club: students learn to play Korean traditional music, Samulnori.
 - ✓ K-Pop Club: students learn and sing Korean pop songs and get to understand more about Korean culture.
 - ✓ Drama Club: students write their own scripts and learn to act in the play.
 - ✓ Interpreting Club: students get ready to assist Korean medical volunteers who come to Cambodia.
 - ✓ Translation Club: students translate children's story books and prepare for translation project for graduation.
 - ✓ Librarian Club: students prepare newsletter for the department.

Cambodia-Korea Cooperation Center (CKCC)

Cambodia-Korea Cooperation Center (CKCC) is a project funded by Korean Government through Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for the period of five years in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and the Royal University

of Phnom Penh. The project title is the “Project for the Establishment of a Human Resources Development (HRD) Center in Cambodia.” CKCC is located in the RUPP’s main campus. The project is implemented by KOICA and RUPP with clearly define their responsibilities.

Project’s objectives

The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- Strengthen capacity building for human resource development in Cambodia.
- Provide human resource development programs in order to reinforce the professional knowledge of professors and students at RUPP.
- Improve the capacity of government officials and teachers and instructors of relevant organization.

Operation of the center

- KOICA will be responsible for the pilot program for the operation of the center during the project period in cooperation with RUPP.
- RUPP will be responsible for the operation of the center in cooperation with KOICA after the project period.
- The center will provide various HRD programs such as Korean Language, ICT, MBA& MPA, Korea’s Development Experience, Entrepreneur course and Cultural Exchange.

The CKCC will play an important role not only in strengthening human resource development in Cambodia, but also in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between both countries, Cambodia and Korea.

Cooperation between Korea’s Universities and RUPP

In order to promote international educational cooperation especially with the objective of facilitating mutual friendship between Cambodia and Korea, RUPP has so far established amicable academic partnership with 29 prestigious Korea's Universities respectively by ratifying agreements for academic exchange and cooperation, and memorandums of understanding.

Through the agreed and remarkable cooperation, they potentially contribute fruitful outcomes and major strides in enhancing academic research and educational opportunities for faculty members and students in terms of encouraging the exchange of the faculty members and researchers, the exchange of students, the exchange of information and publications, and organization of joint research projects, including conferences and meetings.

With regard to aforementioned activities and implementation, the faculty members and students of RUPP have gained extraordinary knowledge, hang-on experiences, and intercultural perspectives from esteemed Korean's universities. Frankly speaking, it is fascinating to highlight that all expenses including round trip airfare, tuition fee, accommodation, living expenses, health insurance, and other necessary expenses are commonly covered by our universities' partners and favorably provided to RUPP faculty members and students. In return, due to financial constraint of our party and RUPP as a public university funded by Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports in Cambodia, RUPP has been still encountering these facing challenges in offering an entire support to international students who wish to study a full bachelor program or academic exchange program of any available majors at our university.

So far, RUPP has afforded to solely waive tuition fee for our international students. Despite this difficulty, our university partners especially Korea's universities do understand our situation since our university has a strong commitment to facilitate the process of developing educational cooperation and fulfill the students' needs. More significantly, RUPP is always optimistic to develop and enlarge a university network and link intra the Asian region and around the globe.

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