

# I BASIC INFORMATION ON CAMBODIA

## I-1 Geography and Climate

### Geography

Cambodia is situated on the southwestern part of the Indochina peninsula. It shares a 2,615 km boarder with Vietnam (1,270 km), Thailand (805 km), and Laos (540 km). Its total area is 181,035 square kilometers, which is about half the area of Japan.

### Climate

Cambodia has a tropical monsoon climate with two seasons: a wet season from May to October and a dry season from November to May. The annual average temperature is about 27.7 degrees centigrade, and the average temperature exceeds 30 degrees centigrade in the hottest months, April and May.

## I-2 Political System

Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy. The present King, His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, acceded to the throne on 29 October 2004. The Constitution stipulates that Cambodia adopts a policy of liberal democracy and pluralism, and that the Cambodian people are masters of the country. The Constitution also sets out that the power of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches shall be separated. (Article 51) The country has a bicameral legislature, which consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. The election of National Assembly for 4th

mandate was held on 27th July 2008 in which the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) won landslide victory and currently occupied 90seats, followed by Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), Human Right Party, FUNCINPEC and Norodom Ranaridh Party which won 26 seats, 3 seats, 2 seats and 2 seats respectively. The election of National Assembly for 5th mandate will be held on July 28, 2013.

Cambodia’s Senate election is held once in six years. The Election for the Senate members of 3rd legislature was held on 29th January 2012. According to the official results released by the National Election Committee, the CPP gained 46 seats and SRP gained 11 seats. Remaining 4seats were appointed by the King and the National Assembly (each 2 seats).

Above all, the CPP has formed the Royal Government with FUNCINPEC Party and Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN has been elected as the Prime Minister OF the Kingdom of Cambodia.

## I-3 Legal System

### Legal hierarchy

In the current legal system in Cambodia, the hierarchy of laws and regulations is understood as shown in Table I-3-1.

### Legislation process

The process of legislation by a member of the National Assembly is shown in the flow chart in Figure I-3-1. After the adoption by the National

Table I-3-1 Legal Hierarchy in Cambodia

1) <b>The Constitution:</b> The Supreme Law of the Kingdom of Cambodia
2) <b>Treaties and Convention:</b> According to Article 26 of the Constitution, the King shall sign and ratify international treaties, both multilateral and bilateral, and conventions, following the approval of the National Assembly and Senate. After such ratification, international treaties and conventions shall become laws and may be used as the basis for judicial decisions.
3) <b>Laws (Chhbab):</b> Laws adopted by the National Assembly
4) <b>Royal Kram (Preah Reach Kram) and Royal Decree (Preah Reach Kret):</b> To be issued under the name of the King for executing his constitutional powers
5) <b>Sub-Decree (Anu-Kret):</b> To be signed by the Prime Minister after adoption by the Cabinet Meeting. In case the sub-decree has not been adopted by the Cabinet Meeting, countersignature by the Minister(s) in charge shall be required. The Prime Minister can use this in exercising his own regulatory powers.
6) <b>Ministerial Order (Prakas):</b> To be issued by members of the government in exercising their own regulatory powers.
7) <b>Decision (Sechkdei Samrech):</b> Individual decision of the Prime Minister and Decision (Prakas-Deika) of a Minister or a Governor, which is used in exercising his own regulatory powers.
8) <b>Circular (Sarachor):</b> In general, to be issued by the Prime Minister as head of government, and by a minister as an official of the ministry either to explain or clarify certain legal regulatory measures or to provide instructions
9) <b>Provincial Deka (Arrete):</b> To be used by a provincial governor within the geographical limits of his province

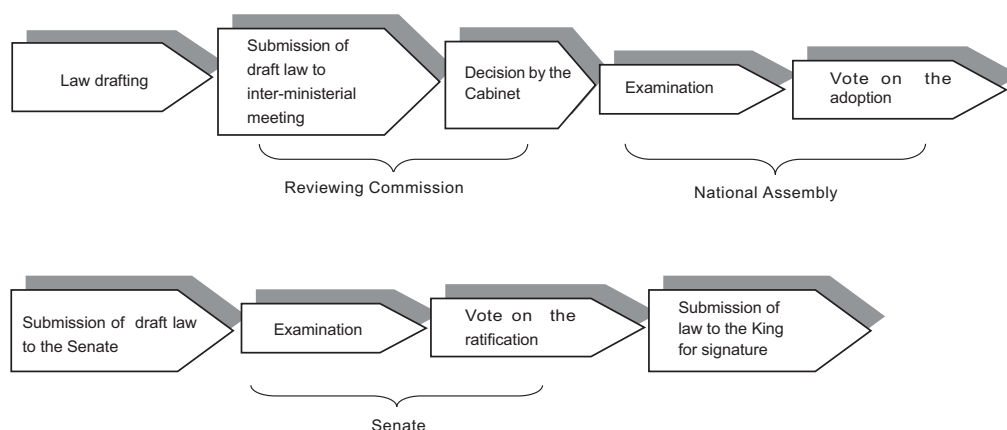


Figure I-3-1 Process of Legislation by Member of National Assembly

Assembly, the Senate reviews the law, followed by the Royal Kram of the King to promulgate the Law.

The preliminary review will be undertaken by the Private Sector Working Group, the Judicial Council and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council before the draft law is sent to Cabinet for examination.

## I-4 International Relations

### Foreign Policies

The Constitution declares a policy of permanent neutrality and non-alignment for Cambodia. The Kingdom of Cambodia follows a policy of peaceful co-existence with its neighbors and with all other countries throughout the world, shall not invade any country, or interfere in any other country's internal affairs, directly or indirectly, and shall solve all problems peacefully with due respect for mutual interests. The Kingdom of Cambodia shall not join in any military alliance or military pact that is incompatible with its policy of neutrality (Article 53).

### Membership in Major International Organizations

Cambodia joined the UN in 1955. After the prolonged civil war was ended in the early 1990's, the pace at which Cambodia joined various international economic organizations picked up. Table I-4-1 shows some of the Cambodia's membership in international organizations to which Cambodia belongs. In addition, Cambodia is also a member of FAO, IMF, Interpol, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO, etc.

Table I-4-1 Membership of Major International Organizations

Organization	Member Since
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	1950
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	1952
United Nations (UN)	1955
International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)	1956
International Civil Aviation Organization	1956
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	1961
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	1966
Universal Postal Union (UPU)	1969
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1970
International Development Association (IDA)	1970
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	1992
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	1995
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	1997
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)	1999
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	1999
International Labour Organization (ILO)	1999*
World Customs Organization (WCO)	2001
World Trade Organization (WTO)	2004
Asian Productivity Organization (APO)	2004
International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)	2005
Asia-Pacific Telecommunity	2007
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	2009

Note: \* Cambodia ratified six fundamental conventions of the ILO in 1999.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

## I-5 Social Climate

### Population

According to the 2008 Population Census, Cambodia's population was 13.4 million with annual growth rate of 1.54%. Phnom Penh, the capital and the largest city, has a population of 1.3 million. Percentage of urban population is 19.5% and density of population per square kilo meters is 75. "Report of Population Projection of the 2008 Population Census" projects the population of major provinces in 2012 as shown in Table I-5-1.

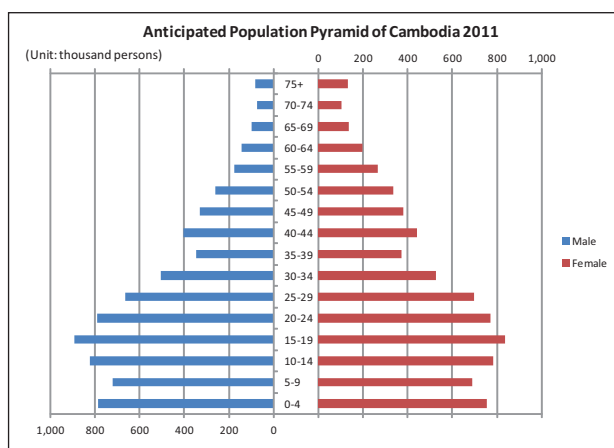
Table I-5-1 Projected Population in 2012: Top Ten Provinces and National Total

Rank	Province	Projected Population in 2012	% to Total Population
1	Kampong Cham	1,745,184	11.8
2	Phnom Penh	1,637,473	11.1
3	Kandal	1,383,298	9.4
4	Battambang	1,148,444	7.8
5	Siem Reap	1,023,990	6.9
6	Prey Veng	980,811	6.7
7	Takeo	879,328	6.0
8	Kampong Speu	775,704	5.3
9	Banteay Meanchey	760,770	5.2
10	Kampong Thom	673,247	4.6
	Cambodia Total	14,741,414	100.0

Percentage of national population by age and sex group in 2011, projected in 2008 Census, was as follows.

- Children (0-14 age): 31.4%,
- Economically productive age group (15-64): 64.3 %
- The elderly population (65+): 4.3%.

(Source: General Population Census 2008<sup>1</sup>, NIS)



Source: General Population Census 2008, NIS

Figure I-5-1 Anticipated Population Pyramid of Cambodia 2011

### Ethnic groups

The majority are Khmer (90 %). Small ethnic groups include Cham, Vietnamese and Chinese.

### Religion

Buddhism is established as a national religion by the Constitution (Article 43, The Constitution) and 90 % of the population is Buddhist. Other religions practiced in Cambodia include Islam, Christianity and others.

### Language and literacy

The official language is Khmer. The adult literacy rates in 2008 were 77.6 % in total, 85.1 % for males, and 70.9 % for females. (Source: General Population Census 2008, NIS)

### Education system

The educational system in Cambodia consists of primary school (grade 1 to 6), junior high school (grades 7 to 9), senior high school (grades 10 to 12) and university and other institutions of higher education. Compulsory education is until grade 9.

The situation of schools at various grades in 2011-2012 is shown in Table-I-5-2.

Note 1: General Population Census of Cambodia 2008: National Report on Final Census Results, which was released in September 2009.

Table I-5-2 Schools, Students, Teaching Staff in Cambodia

	# of Schools	# of Classes	Enrolment	Repeaters	Teaching Staff
Pre-school	2,575	4,006	121,306	-	3,881
Primary School	6,849	58,594	2,142,464	127,068	45,296
Lower Secondary (Grade 7-9)	1,597	12,251	541,417	10,005	27,067
Upper Secondary (Grade 10-12)	426	6,750	318,165	7,472	10,160

Source: Education Statistics and Indicators\_2011-2012, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia

The percentages of enrollment and completion by education level in 2011 are shown in Table I-5-3.

Table I-5-3 School Enrollment Rate and Completion Rate in 2011

Education Level	Gross Enrollment Rate <sup>2</sup>	Net Enrollment Rate <sup>3</sup>	Completion Rate <sup>4</sup>
Primary school (grade 1 to 6)	123.3	96.4	89.75
Junior high school (grade 7 to 9)	55.0	35.1	42.13
Senior high school (10 to 12)	30.6	19.6	27.83

Source: Education Statistics and Indicators\_2011-2012, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia

The school attendance situation by age group in March 2008 is also shown in the Table I-5-4.

Table I-5-4 School Attendance by Age Group in 2008

Attendance Status	Age Group	Male	Female	Total	% to Total Population by Age
Never	5-6	220,596	208,957	429,553	73.1
	7 - 12 yrs	142,220	126,264	268,484	14.6
	13 - 15 yrs	42,044	38,615	80,659	7.6
	16 - 18 yrs	47,134	51,798	98,932	9.9
	19-22 yrs	65,973	95,215	161,188	14.4
Now	5-6 yrs	79,924	78,474	158,398	26.9
	7 - 12 yrs	796,487	759,211	1,555,698	84.3
	13 - 15 yrs	449,000	405,870	854,870	81.0
	16 - 18 yrs	281,019	220,812	501,831	50.3
	19-22 yrs	146,674	91,897	238,571	21.2
Past	5-6 yrs	0	0	0	0.0
	7 - 12 yrs	10,935	9,686	20,621	1.1
	13 - 15 yrs	56,119	63,792	119,911	11.4
	16 - 18 yrs	182,576	215,044	397,620	39.8
	19-22 yrs	342,803	380,598	723,401	64.4
Total	5-6 yrs	300,520	287,431	587,951	100.0
	7 - 12 yrs	949,642	895,161	1,844,803	100.0
	13 - 15 yrs	547,163	508,277	1,055,440	100.0
	16 - 18 yrs	510,729	487,654	998,383	100.0
	19-22 yrs	555,450	567,710	1,123,160	100.0

Source: General Population Census 2008,  
NIS: <http://celade.cepal.org/khmnis/census/khm2008/>

As for higher education, there are 97 higher education institutions consisting of 38 public institutions and 59 private institutions in Cambodia. 57 of them are under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Performance (MoEYS)'s supervision. As can be seen from the Table I-5-5, there are 207,666 bachelor level students in 2011, which increased by 19.9% comparing to 2010. Both the numbers of master degree and doctorates also slightly increased from 2010 to 2011.

Table I-5-5 The Number of Higher Educational Level Students in 2010 and 2011

	2010			2011		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Bachelor</b>						
The number of students	102,310	70,954	173,264	124,203	83,463	207,666
Sex ratio	59.0%	41.0%	100.0%	59.8%	40.2%	100.0%
<b>Master degree</b>						
The number of students	10,544	2,343	12,887	11,487	2,787	14,274
Sex ratio	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%	80.5%	19.5%	100.0%
<b>Doctorates</b>						
The number of students	926	55	981	950	56	1,006
Sex ratio	94.4%	5.6%	100.0%	94.4%	5.6%	100.0%

Source: Education Congress Report\_2011-2012, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia

### Currency

Although the official national currency is the Riel, US dollars are commonly used in business and commercial transactions.

### Public holidays

Public holidays in 2013 are as shown in Table I-5-6.

Table I-5-6 Public Holidays in Cambodia in 2013

1 January	: International New Year's Day
7 January	: Victory Day Over Genocide Regime
25 February	: Meaka Bochea Day
8 March	: International Women's Day
14, 15, 16 and *17 April	: Khmer New Year's Days
1 May	: Labour Day
13, 14, 15 May	: King Norodom Sihamoni's Birthday
24 May	: Visaka Bochea Day
28 May	: Royal Plowing Day
1 and *3 June	: International and Cambodian Children's Day
18 June	: Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk's Birthday
24 September	: Constitution Day
3,4,5 and *7 October	: Pchum Ben Day
15 October	: Tribute Day of His Majesty the late King Father Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia
23 October	: Paris Peace Agreement Day
29 October	: Coronation's Day of King Norodom Sihamoni
9 and *11 November	: Independence day
16,17,18 and *19 November	: Water Festival
10 December	: International Human Rights day

Note: Any holiday falling on the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) shall move to the following day of next week. However, if the holidays fall on both Saturday and Sunday, only one day shall be carried over into the next

Note 2: Gross Enrolment Rate : The number of pupils or students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage in the age group for the same level of education.

Note 3: Net enrolment Rate: The number of pupils or students in the age group for the given level of education enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

Note 4: Completion Rate to Primary Education: The number of new pupils in grade 6 in that year, expressed as a percentage in total number of population aged 11,