International Research Experience for Students and Young Researchers Program (IRE) 2011
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I've been studying in GSICS since 2006 from master degree till now my final year of Ph.D. program. For collecting data and information about Cambodia's currency economic environment for my final thesis theoretical analysis, I applied for IRE program and got accepted to Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from September 2nd to November 3rd. Two months internship there was great useful for my research as well as working experience in research center.

Research Background
I am doing the analysis of the impact of dollarization on macroeconomic in Cambodia. The notion of dollarization emerged as novel economic phenomenon in the 1980s in Latin America. The phenomenon in the literature revolved around countries experience with increasing use of the U.S. dollar along with national currencies. Dollarization is described as a situation where a foreign currency is used for the same purposes as the national currency, i.e., as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, and a store of value. Since the open to the world in 1990 and national election in 1993, Cambodia received a massive inflow of U.S. dollar from abroad by United Nation aid, foreign direct investment, tourists, etc. Without promotion, Cambodia became dollarized countries. My study implicates the suitable solution for Cambodia macroeconomic policy of dollarization. The result can contribute to the policy for the future of dollarization in Cambodia whether to go full dollarization which is not likely or de-dollarization. Comparing between economic stability, growth and the loss, risk of dollarization, what is the suitable level of dollarization for Cambodia.

Research Activities in Cambodia
Activities during these two months in Cambodia divided into two parts. One is inside CDRI and other is outside CDRI. Activities outside CDRI mostly concerned about collecting data from other data centers. I had been to Central Bank of Cambodia for collecting financial data such as recent foreign currency deposit in commercial bank, domestic currency (Riel) circulation, number of financial institutions. I’d also visited National Institute of Statistics of Cambodia for data such as export and import in quarterly. Data that are available from International Financial Statistics or World Bank most are yearly data which is not enough for time series
analysis.

In CDRI, I was accepted to Economy, Trade and Regional Cooperation Programme (ETRC). CDRI is an independent Cambodian development policy research institute. The mission of CDRI is to contribute to Cambodia's sustainable development and the well-being of its people through the generation of high quality policy-relevant development research, knowledge dissemination and capacity building. CDRI partners with Cambodian public institutions, civil society and their regional and international development partners. CDRI has five departments: economy, trade and regional cooperation; poverty reduction, agricultural development and rural livelihoods; democratic governance and public sector reform; natural resources and the environment; human security, peace building and conflict transformation.

There I was allowed to access to all inside data as well as working papers. There are survey data taken by CDRI staffs and data from other ministries that are difficult to get by the individual. CDRI library also has useful monthly bulletins published by other institutes.

Research room in Economy, Trade and Regional Cooperation Programme, CDRI

Besides my personal research, In ETRC, CDRI, I was assigned to research for methodology for the pass-through of external shocks to domestic prices. I read journal
papers related to external shocks to domestic prices as well as price behavior in Cambodia in the context that how domestic prices in Cambodia response to shocks from outside. How many percent domestic prices are affected by a percent change in international price or oil price by using econometric time series VAR model. Finally, I made a presentation to CDRI staffs. There are around ten people attended.

Other than research activities, I had jointed other programs organized by CDRI such as presentation made by CDRI staffs as well as from other institutes. Besides, it was a great pleasure to be able to join staffs coffee break every morning as well as many other meetings and outside activities. I got to know many associate researchers, researchers, senior researchers, and many other staffs. I exchanged experiences and got plenty of useful information concerning recent Cambodian economy as well as work experiences.

Coffee break every morning at 9

This was a great opportunity and I am really happy I was able to intern in CDRI. I wish I can work for CDRI for my future career: And thanks to CDRI staffs for warm welcome, especially Dr. Tong Kimsun for great guidance.
Finally, I would like to express my great appreciation to Professor Fujita and GSICS for letting me apply for IRE program. Without going to Cambodia, I will not be able to collect useful data and information for my thesis. And it was also great experience in overseas research for my career path.