

Kosal Nith

Curriculum Vitae

Last Updated: January 7, 2026

Center for Development Economics and Trade
Cambodia Development Resource Institute
No. 56, Street 315, Khan Tuol Touk
120508, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Website: <https://kosalnith.github.io>
Email: kosal.nith@cdri.org.kh
Phone: +855 12 340 226
ORCID: 0000-0002-6976-4733

Research Interests

Macroeconomics, Economic Growth, Economic Development, Economic Uncertainty

Education

Lumière University Lyon 2, B.A., Economics, July 2019
Royal University of Law and Economics, B.A., Economics, July 2019

Primary Appointments

Research Associate, Cambodia Development Resource Institute, February 2024 –
Data Support Officer, Cambodia Development Resource Institute, July 2023 – January 2024
Program Coordinator, Future Forum, January – December 2022
Junior Research Fellow, Future Forum, January – December 2021
Young Research Fellow, Future Forum, January – December 2020

Other Appointments

Writer, Growth and Distribution Lab, October 2025 –
Research Fellow, Inclusive Fellowship Program, Future Forum, June 2025 –
Fellow, 2025 Global Post-Neoliberalism Fellowship Program, Oxfam America, May 2025 –
Coordinator, East Asia Working Group, Young Scholars Initiative, January 2024 –
Co-Funder, Sethakech, July 2020 –
Member, Young Scholars Initiative, Institute for New Economic Thinking, February 2020 –

Past Appointments

Research Fieldwork Supervisor, WorldFish, May – June 2023
Junior Research Fellow, Future Forum, January – December 2023
Member, Elsevier Advisory Panel, Elsevier, October 2019 – November 2022
Country Leadership Trainer, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, July 2018 – December 2019
Student Representative, Royal University of Law and Economics, October 2016 – September 2019
Program Assistant Intern, Youth Resource Development Program, July – October 2018
Market Research, Royal University of Law and Economics, February – April 2018
Project Coordinator, Youth Resource Development Program, July – December 2017
Volunteer, Market Research, Koonsoor Kampuchea Training Academy, June – September 2017
Executive Committee Member, Chea Sim Reak Chey High School Alumni Association, May 2017 – April 2025
Volunteer, International Francophone Day, Royal University of Law and Economics, January – March 2017
Volunteer, Campaign to End Violence Against Women, ActionAid Cambodia, January – March 2017
Volunteer, Roadmap to University Success V, Our Own Projects, June – October 2016
Volunteer, Angkor Sankranta, Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia, March – April 2016

Research Articles

“Determinants of Informal Borrowing: Evidence from Households in 11 Villages in Cambodia,” with Sovannroeun Samreth.
Journal of International Development Studies, forthcoming

Book Chapters

“Cambodian Cassava and COVID-19: An Analysis of Production, Productivity and Gender Impacts,” with Kanayama Yuki.
Navigating Through Crisis: The Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in the Mekong Delta Countries. In Sovannroeun Samreth, Netra Eng, and Budy Prasetyo Resosudarmo (eds). *New Frontiers in Regional Science: Asian Perspectives*, vol 84, Springer, Singapore, November 2025. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-1637-7_3

“Food Science in Cambodia”
Chapter 13, in Michael Renfrew (ed.), Micro-Policy Intervention: Contemporary Policy Discussion in Cambodia, Future Forum, 2021, pp. 115–129.

Other Publications

“Assessing MSME Market Dynamics and Resilience in Phnom Penh: Challenges and Opportunities,” with Dina Chhorn, I Younan An, Sivly Houy, Muny Nhim Kean, and Sosengphyrun Mao
CDRI Research Report. <https://doi.org/10.64202/rr.202511>

“Government Ownership of Banks: Diversifying of Potential Products and Factors to Subsidize Agriculture”
Future Forum, December 2025.

“Mapping Study: Youth and Civil Society in Urban Cambodia,”
Future Forum, October 2022.

“Household Saving and Debt,” with Summer-Solstice Thomas.
Section 4, in Revisiting the Pandemic: Rapid Survey on the Import of Covid-19 on MSMES in the Tourism Sector and Households in Cambodia, The Asia Foundation, June 2021, pp.50–54.

“Rapport de Stage : Assistant de Programme de l’Engagement des Jeunes pour l’Action Sociale”
Royal University of Law and Economics, January 2019.

“Reinvigorating Cambodian Agriculture: Transforming from Extensive to Intensive Agriculture,” with Singhong Ly.
The National Bank of Cambodia, December 2018.

Working Papers

“Does Social Capital Strengthen the Stability of Household Income? Evidence from Cambodia,” with Sovannroeun Samreth and Dina Chhorn.
August 2025.

“Measuring SEZ Spillovers in Data-Scarce Regions: Evidence from Cambodia’s Open Building Data,” with Daniel Yonto, Yudo Angorro, and Vuthoun Khiev.
Submitted to *South East Asia Research*, July 2025.

“20 Years of FDI in Cambodia: Towards Upper Middle-Income Status and Beyond,” with Simona Iammarino and Sumontheany Muth.
CDRI Working Paper 149, April 2024. <https://doi.org/10.64202/wp.149.202410>

“Monetary Policy and Household Income Distribution: An Empirical Analysis from Cambodia”
Future Forum, December 2021.

Policy Briefs

“Monetary Policy: How Does It Become a Tool to Support Poor Households Afford to Purchase an Affordable House?”
First draft on November 2022.

“How should Cambodia Prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution?”
Essay Contest 2019, Cambodia Development Center, May 2020.

Work in Progress

“Dollarization and Monetary Policy in Cambodia: Challenges, International Lessons, and Policy Implications,” with Sovannroeun Samreth, and Hang Panha Hour

“International Trade and Globalization in Cambodia: The Role of International Cooperation,” with Ronald A. Ruran

“The Survey on Skills Demand in Cambodia” with Dina Chhorn, Sivly Houy, and Kean Muny Nhim

Op-Eds and Commentaries

I write my thoughts at *The Growth and Distribution Lab*, a newsletter that explores the dynamic relationship between economic growth, income distribution, and structural change. It focuses on understanding how macroeconomic policies, technological progress, and institutional factors shape inequality and long-term development outcomes.

“Transforming the Tax System with Personal Income Tax,” Cambodianess, January 4, 2026.

“Cambodia Needs Progressive Taxation to Invest in Its Future,” Camboja News, October 17, 2025.

“Connecting Communities to Support Cambodia’s Vulnerable,” East Asia Forum, August 13, 2025.

“Ascending the Development Ladder in Cambodia: Progressing Towards Higher Income Status,” with Sovannroeun Samreth and Sopheak Song, The Cambodia Outlook Conference, December 7, 2023.

“Explainer: How Cambodia’s Central Bank Addressed Economic Challenges During the Pandemic,” The Camboja News, July 7, 2023.

“Will Cambodia Commit to Protecting Its Forests?” The Diplomat, November 13, 2021.

“Pandemic Offers Chance to Consider Higher Taxes, not Donations, From Rich,” VOD, August 13, 2021.

“How Cambodia’s Agricultural Lending Can Get a Bigger Bang for Its Buck,” East Asia Forum, May 29, 2021.

“Rising Inflation Threatens to Swamp Cambodian Households,” The Diplomat, May 26, 2021.

“Lockdown’s Food Security Crisis Must Address Demand and Supply,” with Kimly Lay, VOD, May 4, 2021.

“Cambodia’s Economic Recovery Uncertain Amid Covid,” The Phnom Penh Post, April 6, 2021.

“Cambodia Will Lose Its Fight Against Deforestation If Change isn’t Made,” Southeast Asia Globe, March 16, 2021.

“Kingdom’s Agro-processing Potential,” The Phnom Penh Post, June 8, 2020.

“Cambodia’s Agricultural Sector is in Dire Need of Revitalization,” South East Asia Globe, May 21, 2020.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Conference Project Grant, United Nations Development Programme, Project Lead, \$3,000, March 2025

Travel Grant, Institute for New Economic Thinking, \$180, April 2025

Travel Grant, Global Development Network, \$3,500, November 2024

Travel Grant, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, \$600, October 2024

Travel Grant, Institute for New Economic Thinking, \$1,126, August 2024

YSI Project Grant, Institute for New Economic Thinking, Principal Investigator, \$41,079 , 2023-2025

Travel Grant, Center for Khmer Studies, \$500, November 2023

Travel Grant, Future Forum, \$500, May 2022

Travel Grant, Institute for New Economic Thinking, \$1,100, April 2022

First Prize in Article Award Competition, Cambodia Development Center, \$400, June 2020

Best Paper Award, National Bank of Cambodia, with Singhong Ly, \$1,250, December 2018

Ba Phnom Outstanding Student in Literature, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, March 2015

Invited Seminars (including *scheduled and †virtual)

2025	Cambodia Development Resource Institute
2024	National University of Management
2023	Voice of America, Politico 360, Glocator Research and Consulting
2021	Youth Resource Development Program
2021	IR’s Talk, Social Breaking News, Sethakech, Youth Resource Development Program
2020	Future Forum, Markets and Markets Research Private Ltd [†] , Politikoffee [†] , Youth Resource Development Program
2019	Cambodia Development Center, Future Forum, VOD, Royal University of Law and Economics
2018	Youth Resource Development Program

Invited Keynote Presentations (including *scheduled and †virtual)

The Extractive Industry Sustainability Workshop, Youth Resource Development Program, Phnom Penh, February 2023
YRDP Extractive Industry Campaign, Youth Resource Development Program, Phnom Penh, 2021, 2022

Conference Presentations (including *scheduled and †virtual)

- 3rd Southeast Asia Economic Research and Development Conference, Siem Reap*, Cambodia, October 2025
PHC Conference on Monetary Innovations in Support of Riel Promotion, Financial Inclusion, and Green Financing, Phnom Penh*, Cambodia, October 2025
3rd Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, September 2025
6th Pluralumn* Workshop on Empowering Young Mind, Hamburg†, Germany, August 2025
6th Nordic Post-Keynesian Conference, Aalborg, Denmark, April 2025
28th Forum for Macroeconomics and Macroeconomic Policies Conference, Berlin, Germany, October, 2024
China-Southeast Asia Sustainable Development Workshop, Suzhou, China, October 2024
Workshop on Southeast Asia Economic Development in the Post-Pandemic Era, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 2024
1st Southeast Asia Economic Research and Development Conference, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2023
32nd Association of Southeast Asian Studies Annual Conference, Depok, Indonesia, November 2023
CDRI Regional Symposium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, November 2023
ELADES YSI Alumni Workshop, Santiago†, Chile, July 2022
5th Nordic Post-Keynesian Conference, Aalborg, Denmark, April 2022

Participation in Courses, Conferences, and Seminars (including *scheduled and †virtual)

- International Conference on Climate Change and Its Impacts on the Economy, Business, and Society, Pondicherry Central University, Pondicherry*, India, July 18–20, 2026
Blueprints for a New Economy Fellowship Program Convening, Oxfam America, Lusaka, Zambia, August 29–September 1, 2025
Global Development Conference 2024, Global Development Network, Suva, Fiji, November 26–28, 2024
Summer School in Advanced Methods for Economics and Political Economy, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, June 22–26, 2024
Workshop on Gender in Labor Market and Mobility, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, November 4–8, 2023
Summer School on the Professions of Francophone Tourism, École Normale Supérieure de Luang Prabang, Luang Prabang, Laos, July 21–26, 2019

Teaching Experience

- Data Analysis for Social Science with RStudio, Future Forum, 2021 – 2022
HYLB Leadership Academy, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, 2018 – 2020

Refereeing

- Journal of International Trade and Economic Development (2x), East Asia Forum (4x)

Other Professional Activities

- Co-organizer, Webinar Series on Rethinking Capitalism and Economic Order, September 2025 –
Co-organizer, International Conference on Climate Change and Its Impacts on the Economy, Business, and Society, Pondicherry, February 2026
Co-organizer, Untold Stories Behind Financial Crises (1825-2025): Plurality of Causes and Multidimensional Consequences, Lyon, December 2025
Co-organizer, China-Southeast Asia Sustainable Development Workshop, Suzhou, October 2024
Co-organizer, Workshop on Southeast Asia Economic Development in the Post-Pandemic Era, Kuala Lumpur, September 2024
Lead organizer, Southeast Asia Economic Research and Development Conference, 2023, 2024, 2025
Lead organizer, CDRI Regional Symposium, Phnom Penh, 2023, 2024
Co-organizer, Sethakech Webinar Series, Sethakech, Phnom Penh, 2020 – 2021
Lead organizer, Econ Study Trip, Siem Reap, 2019
Co-organizer, Econ New Year Day, Phnom Penh, 2016, 2017, 2018
Co-organizer, Ligue de la Filière Spéciale Francophone, Phnom Penh, 2016, 2017, 2018
Co-organizer, Econ Juniors' Day, Phnom Penh, October 2018
Co-organizer, Extractive Industries Exposure Trip, Preach Vihear, September 2018
Co-organizer, Extractive Industries Advocacy Workshop, Phnom Penh, August 2018
Lead organizer, Potluck Social Discussion, Phnom Penh, 2018

Co-organizer, Youth's Perspective on Space for Social Activism, Phnom Penh, October 2017
Co-organizer, Extractive Industries Campaign, Phnom Penh, 2017, 2018

Other Information

Computing Stata, R, MATLAB, L^AT_EX, HTML, CSS, Photoshop, Lightroom, Final Cut
Languages Khmer (native), English (proficient), French (advanced low)
Citizenship Cambodian, Born in December 1996

References

Prof. Rebeca Gomez Betancourt
Full Professor of Economics
Université Lumière Lyon 2
Email: rebeca.gomezbetancourt@univ-lyon2.fr
Phone: +33 4 72 72 64 70

Dr. Michael Renfrew
Director of Research
University of Puthisastra
Email: mrenfrew@puthisastr.edu.kh
Phone: +855 70 925 620

Dr. Sopheak Song
Deputy Executive Director
Cambodia Development Resource Institute
Email: sopheak@cdri.kh.org
Phone: +855 11 802 879

Prof. Sovannaroeun Samreth
Professor
Saitama University
Email: roeun99@mail.saitama-u.ac.jp
Phone: +81 90 3712 5723