Panhavuth Sar

Professor Christopher Seeger

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Final Project Proposal

Title: Urban Transformation and Housing Typology in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Brief: The goal of this project is to understand the pattern of urban changes in the capital city of

Cambodia, Phnom Penh, which has recently achieved significant economic development and

attracted plenty of foreign direct investments.

Overview: After Cambodia successfully switching from state-led to market-led economy, its

capital city, Phnom Penh, has perhaps undergone the most changes, with the majority of

financial flow going directly into the city. As the city expands both horizontally and vertically, its

housing typology has also experienced gradual changes in relative to the overall socioeconomic

the country. Being a developing country, the spatial changes are mostly happening with very

little planning and regulation, which often leaves negative consequences on the average and

lower middle-class population. The main goal of this project is to visualize both the achievement

of economic development in the city as well as the overall impact on its environment and its

people. I am also hoping to use the contents of this project as part of my thesis research.

Program to be used:

QGIS or ArcMap

HighCharts and HighMaps

Leaflet and GeoJSON

Google Data Studio (possibly)

Data Sources:

- Open Development Cambodia: free open-source GIS and mapping website focusing on various socio-economic and socio-political topics. The website contains shapefile, excel data, high-res images that can be presented and overlayed with other types of data https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/
- OpenStreetMap or Google: mostly using raw-data of new places and events happening around the city. I will try to combine the data to show the spatial changes over a time period.

Possible Research Questions:

My main challenge would be to gathering sufficient data and GIS map for the project. Since Cambodia does not have an official census bureau platform, I will have to rely on NGOs website and scholarly documents for both the quality and quantity of my research. I might need help the most in converting the raw data from Google or OpenStreetMap into QGIS or ArcGIS, in order to visualize the maps better. Also, it will be difficult to find the data specifically for the city of Phnom Penh, rather than the overall Cambodia.