



Phnom Penh, May 24, 2021

Announcement

8th NBC Annual Macroeconomic Conference 2021

“Challenges for Cambodian SMEs Development and Policy Options”



Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for more than 90% of businesses in Cambodia, contributing to nearly 60% of the GDP and providing employment to more than 70% of those employed. SMEs have significantly contributed to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty, especially among people living in rural areas. Despite playing an important role in supporting economic growth and reducing poverty, studies on SMEs in Cambodia have shown that SMEs are faced with a number of challenges in their businesses and struggle to achieve sustainable development.

In addition, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted SMEs’ businesses causing them to be more vulnerable to economic shocks. In this context, to address the limited research on how to develop and strengthen the resilience of SMEs, the National Bank of Cambodia is delighted to select this year’s research theme for the 8th Macroeconomic Conference 2021: **“Challenges for Cambodian SMEs Development and Policy Options”**.

Similar to previous years, the 8th Macroeconomic Conference aims to promote research on the above-mentioned theme, and to provide a forum for discussion on the challenges and development of SMEs in Cambodia, which would serve as inputs for designing development policies towards a more resilient and inclusive economy. The conference is also attended by experts, researchers, and other national and international stakeholders.


Candidates can either choose a topic that is related to the above main theme or any of the following topics:

- Roles of SMEs in Cambodian economic development and their challenges
- Productivity and export competitiveness of SMEs in Cambodia
- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on SMEs by sector
- Digital usage and modernization of SMEs, and
- Promoting women entrepreneurs in Cambodian SMEs.

Interested candidates can submit their CVs and research proposals, an abstract or a complete draft of the paper, to the Directorate General of Central Banking. The submitted proposals should contain research backgrounds, including problem statements, research objectives, hypotheses and contributions of the research study.

Important deadlines:

Submission of proposals/papers:	June 14, 2021
Announcement of selected proposals/papers:	June 21, 2021
Submission of complete drafts of papers:	November 15, 2021
The 8 th Annual Macroeconomic Conference:	December 2021

Only the final papers that are deemed satisfactory will be selected for the presentation at the conference. Authors presenting their papers at the conference will be rewarded, and their papers will be published in the NBC's working paper series. 

Directorate General of Central Banking

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