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Cambodian
Higher education Advancing
in Internationalisation

Report on National Round Table 2

Task 5.2

Erasmus+ Capacity Building

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Work Package 5 – Strategic Development

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) (Work Package Leader)
& National University of Management

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I. Background and Purpose

The National Round Table 2, conducted under the title “Cambodia National Dialogue - Higher Education through Internationalisation and Communication”, was held on 17–18 November 2025 at the National University of Management (NUM), Phnom Penh. The event was officially led and organised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) as part of Cambodia’s ongoing higher education reform and internationalisation agenda. The Dialogue was implemented within the framework of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) programme, specifically under the Cambodian Higher Education Advancing in Internationalisation (CHAIN) project. In view of thematic alignment and shared objectives, the event was jointly supported and branded in collaboration with the Erasmus+ CBHE UNICATION project, reinforcing coherence and regional cooperation while maintaining MoEYS’ leadership role in steering national policy dialogue.

MoEYS together with USAAR served as the principal organising authority, responsible for defining the policy direction of the Dialogue, issuing official invitations, confirming speakers, and overseeing the utilisation of project budget resources. The National University of Management hosted the event, providing venue facilities, logistical coordination, technical preparation, and operational support throughout the two-day programme. The CHAIN project supported the implementation of the Round Table as part of its Work Package 5 activities, which aim to contribute to the preparation of Deliverable D5.1 – the Policy Paper on the Implementation of Internationalisation in Cambodia’s Higher Education sector. The UNICATION project contributed through active participation of consortium members and experts, coordination between project teams, and support in preparing dissemination materials and participant items in collaboration with the local coordinators.

The Cambodia National Dialogue brought together approximately 150 participants, exceeding the minimum consortium participation target outlined in the project proposal. Attendees included MoEYS officials, university leaders, International Relations Office representatives, quality assurance practitioners, academic staff, European partner institutions, and regional stakeholders. The Dialogue provided a structured national consultation platform to exchange perspectives on internationalisation strategy, quality assurance systems, curriculum design, and joint academic programmes. Through this collaborative and policy-oriented engagement, the event strengthened institutional networking between MoEYS and universities and generated substantive input to support the drafting of the D5.1 policy paper, contributing to the broader objective of advancing internationalisation and quality enhancement in Cambodia’s higher education sector.



National Round Table 2 was proposed under Work Package 5 of the CHAIN project as a national-level policy dialogue event to support the preparation of Deliverable D5.1 – Policy Paper on the Implementation of Internationalisation in Cambodia’s Higher Education sector. The objective of the Round Table was to convene top management representatives and International Relations Office (IRO) leadership from consortium higher education institutions, together with experts from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and European partner institutions, in order to generate structured input and strategic recommendations for national internationalisation policy development. The event was designed to facilitate networking and strengthen institutional interrelation between MoEYS and Cambodian universities, while integrating perspectives from European experts and regional stakeholders. Through moderated discussions, expert contributions, and exchange of good practices, National Round Table 2 aimed to create a consultative platform where governance, quality assurance frameworks, curriculum internationalisation, and joint academic programmes could be discussed in alignment with national education priorities and international standards.

II. Input

The implementation of National Round Table 2 was supported through a strategic combination of Erasmus+ CBHE financial resources, institutional in-kind contributions, and active consortium engagement. A specific budget allocation was made available through the project, under the coordination of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), to support direct implementation costs and networking. In addition, staff costs under Work Package 5 (WP5) were used by the National University of Management (NUM) to ensure quality preparation, coordination, documentation, and on-site event management.

MoEYS provided strategic leadership, including official invitations, confirmation of speakers, and policy oversight of the Dialogue. As hosting institution, NUM contributed substantial in-kind resources, including the conference hall, technical equipment and technical staff, event facilities, refreshment for coffee breaks, on-site coordination staff, master of ceremony (MC), registration management, preparation of the attendance list, and documentation through photography and video recording. NUM staff prepared the event space, managed technical requirements, and ensured professional operational delivery throughout the two days.

Consortium partners contributed to the National Round Table 2 through both intellectual and material support. European and regional partners actively participated as speakers and panelists, contributing their expertise and international perspectives to the thematic discussions on internationalisation, quality assurance, and curriculum development. In addition to their substantive contributions, project partners prepared and displayed institutional posters and project exhibition materials. These dissemination efforts enhanced project visibility, promoted



inter-institutional networking, and facilitated exchange among participating higher education institutions.

Participant materials were jointly provided by the two Erasmus+ project coordinators. A total of 150 branded conference bags, 150 notebooks, and 150 lanyards were prepared, with 75 units contributed through the UNICATION coordination team and 75 units through the CHAIN coordination team (Saarland University). These jointly coordinated dissemination materials reinforced the shared identity of both projects and strengthened EU visibility throughout the event.

International partners and representatives from Hungary, Germany, EU higher education institutions, the Philippines, France, and diplomatic actors participated in person and online, further strengthening the cross-project and international dimension of the Dialogue.

Overall, the combination of financial allocation, NUM’s substantial in-kind operational support, MoEYS’ and USAAR’s leadership, and coordinated partner contributions ensured high-quality implementation of National Round Table 2, demonstrating strong institutional commitment and effective resource mobilisation beyond the initial proposal framework.



Exhibition Materials



Material contributions for participants



Hall, technical equipment, media, Refreshment for two days, operational Staffing

III. Activity

National Round Table 2 was implemented as a two-day high-level policy dialogue on 17–18 November 2025 at the National University of Management, Phnom Penh, under the leadership of MoEYS and with the collaboration of the CHAI and UNICATiON projects. The official programme structured the event into keynote addresses, thematic presentations, panel discussions, and institutional networking sessions.



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**Cambodia National
Dialogue**
Higher Education through
Internationalisation and
Communication

Conference Program

By the Ministry of Education,
Youth and Sport


and


at National University of Management,
Phnom Penh

Day 1 | November 17

17:30 p.m. | Welcome
H.E. Prof. Hor Peng - NUM, Cambodia
Ms. Bettina Jochum - CHAI
Ms. Natacha Moniz - UNICATiON
Mr. Adrian Jambé - German Embassy to Cambodia
Ms. Petronela Burceag - Education and Culture
Executive Agency, Brussels

21:00 p.m. | Education Strategic Plan – Impact
on Society
H.E. Dr. Som Rotana - MoEYS, Cambodia

23:30 p.m. | Coffee Break

3:00 p.m. | Quality Assurance
Panel discussion
H.E. Dr. Rath Chhang - Accreditation Committee
of Cambodia
Ms. Niya Sear - MoEYS, Cambodia
Mr. Langdy Khut - NUM, Cambodia
Prof. Dr. Astrid Fellner - USAAR, Germany
Mr. Tamás Kersánszki - OU, Hungary
Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis - UA, Spain

4:30 p.m. | Poster Exhibition
Topic: University Profiles & Networking

Day 2 | November 18

09:30 a.m. | Southeast Asian Perspectives on
Internationalisation in Higher Education
Intro
Dr. Sothy Mean - USEA, Cambodia

Presentation
Dr. Laurene Chua-Garcia
Transnational Education
Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
Philippines

10:30 a.m. | Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. | Curriculum Design
Panel discussion
Dr. Kao Sovannasopha - MoEYS, Cambodia
Dr. Pichmony Ek - ITC, Cambodia
Mr. David Vuth - NUM, Cambodia
Prof. Dr. Imre Felde - OU, Hungary
Prof. Dr. Astrid Fellner - USAAR, Germany
Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis - UA, Spain

12:30 p.m. | Farewell & Closing

1:00 p.m. | End of Program



3.1. Day 1

Day 1 commenced with an official Welcome Session that positioned the Dialogue within Cambodia’s higher education reform agenda and within the broader framework of EU–Cambodia cooperation under Erasmus+ CBHE. The welcome segment brought together national leadership and European and project partners, with remarks delivered by H.E. Prof. Hor Peng (NUM), Ms. Bettina Jochum (CHAIN Coordinator), Ms. Natacha Moniz (UNICATION Coordinator), Mr. Adrian Jambé (German Embassy to Cambodia), and Ms. Petronela Burceag (EACEA, Brussels). This opening confirmed the Dialogue’s role as a national engagement mechanism supporting evidence-informed reform, institutional capacity development, and sustained international partnership building.

The policy anchor of Day 1 was the keynote address by H.E. Dr. Som Ratana (MoEYS) on “Education Strategic Plan – Impact on Society.” The keynote provided strategic guidance linking internationalisation to national education priorities and highlighted the importance of strengthening governance and quality systems to ensure higher education contributes effectively to societal and economic development. This intervention established the policy baseline for subsequent technical discussions and ensured that institutional perspectives were framed within MoEYS strategic priorities.

Following the keynote, Day 1 delivered the first technical consultation session: Panel Discussion Quality Assurance, convening representatives from MoEYS/DGHE, the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC), Cambodian HEIs, European partner institutions, and student representation. The discussion focused on practical implementation issues related to quality assurance frameworks, including accreditation processes, institutional quality improvement mechanisms (including Internal Quality Assurance guidance), and the ways in which international cooperation can strengthen national quality objectives through benchmarking, capacity building, academic partnerships, and mobility-linked standards. The panel format facilitated direct exchange between regulators and institutions and generated structured discussion points relevant to D5.1, particularly regarding the implementation conditions required for internationalisation to support quality enhancement in Cambodian HEIs.

Day 1 concluded with a Poster Exhibition and Networking Session on University Profiles and Networking, enabling participating institutions and projects to showcase internationalisation initiatives, Erasmus+ CBHE results, and cooperation models. This segment strengthened dissemination and created an enabling space for partnership discussions (e.g., future mobility, joint programmes, and institutional cooperation), while also supporting the proposal objective of reinforcing MoEYS–university interrelation and broadening national engagement beyond consortium members.





3.2. Day 2

Day 2 was structured to deepen the Dialogue’s regional and comparative dimension and to translate internationalisation priorities into curriculum and programme-level implementation. The programme opened with a high-level session on regional developments, strengthening the Dialogue’s ASEAN relevance and situating Cambodian reforms within a wider Southeast Asian context.

The keynote component of Day 2 featured Dr. Mean Sothy, President of the University of South-East Asia (USEA), delivering “Southeast Asian Perspectives on Internationalisation in Higher Education.” This session highlighted regional cooperation trends and underscored the value of international partnerships for strengthening institutional competitiveness, programme relevance, and mobility pathways. The programme also integrated external expertise from the Philippines through Dr. Laurene Chua-Garcia (CHED, Philippines), who contributed regional technical insights on internationalisation strategy and cross-border collaboration, reinforcing the Dialogue’s comparative learning function and the relevance of ASEAN-linked cooperation for Cambodia.

The core implementation-focused session of Day 2 was the Panel Discussion – Curriculum Design, bringing together MoEYS technical leadership, Cambodian HEIs, European partners, and student perspectives to address practical mechanisms for internationalisation at programme level. The panel included technical contributions from Dr. Kao Sovansophal (MoEYS) and Dr. Ek Pichmony (ITC), alongside European partner expertise from Óbuda University (Hungary), Saarland University (Germany), and the University of Alicante (Spain). Discussions focused on curriculum modernisation, outcome-based education approaches, curriculum internationalisation, and practical models for cross-border academic cooperation including joint programmes, double degrees, mobility-linked curriculum alignment, and quality-consistent programme governance. This session generated actionable institutional and policy reflections that directly feed into D5.1,

particularly on implementation pathways for internationalisation through curriculum reform and structured cooperation mechanisms.

The Dialogue concluded with a formal closing segment consolidating key takeaways from both days and reaffirming commitment among MoEYS, HEIs, and international partners to strengthen international engagement, quality assurance, and sustainable cooperation in Cambodian higher education.





Across both days, the Dialogue combined strategic policy framing, technical consultations, and structured networking, ensuring alignment with EU expectations for policy-oriented national events. The event design deliberately linked national policy priorities (MoEYS keynote) with operational implementation mechanisms (quality assurance and curriculum design panels) and complemented formal sessions with dissemination and partnership exchange (poster exhibition). NUM provided core operational support including venue readiness, participant management, technical facilitation, documentation, and media capture, contributing to implementation quality and ensuring the event met or exceeded proposal targets in terms of participation breadth and stakeholder diversity.



IV. OUTPUT and OUTCOME

The Cambodia National Dialogue (National Round Table 2) generated substantial, measurable, and proposal-aligned outputs across four key dimensions: participation coverage, policy content generation, dissemination & visibility, and institutional networking.

4.1. Participation

The proposal foresees structured participation from:

- 4 Cambodian partners per HEI
- 4 MoEYS representatives
- 2 partners from University of Alicante
- 2 partners from Saarland University
- 4 European expert group members
- 1 student representative per HEI

= 42 consortium participants + expected non-members

Outcome Achieved:

- ✓ Approx. 150 total participants (in-person + hybrid)
- ✓ Participation significantly exceeded minimum consortium baseline
- ✓ Representation included:
- ✓ National Level (Annex):
 - MoEYS (DGHE technical units + senior representation)
 - Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC)
 - Rectors and Vice-Rectors from multiple HEIs
 - IRO Heads and QA managers
 - Academic staff
 - Student representatives
 - Provincial and Phnom Penh-based HEIs.
- ✓ International Level:
 - European universities (Germany, Spain, Hungary, Portugal)
 - Philippines partner institutions (CHED & HEIs)
 - Embassy representation
 - EU-level presence (EACEA reference during opening)

This represents sector-wide engagement, not limited to consortium partners, thereby fulfilling and exceeding networking objectives.

4.2. Policy & Technical Output (Direct Contribution to D5.1)

The Dialogue delivered two fully structured technical panels aligned with proposal objectives:



Panel 1 – Quality Assurance (Day 1)

Produced structured discussion outputs on:

- Operationalization of accreditation standards
- Cambodian Qualifications Framework alignment
- Institutional Internal Quality Assurance implementation
- Assessor capacity strengthening
- Linking internationalisation with QA reform

Panel 2 – Curriculum Design (Day 2)

Produced policy-relevant reflections on:

- Outcome-Based Education (OBE)
- Curriculum modernization
- Double-degree and joint programme structures
- Academic mobility integration
- Co-supervision mechanisms
- Alignment between curriculum and internationalisation strategies

Outcome Achieved:

- ✓ Structured, practice-based policy content for D5.1 drafting
- ✓ Clear linkage between QA reform and internationalisation implementation
- ✓ Strengthened alignment between Cambodian and European/ASEAN governance approaches
- ✓ Practical translation of reform vision into implementable considerations

4.3. Networking & Institutional Strengthening Output

The event operationalised the proposal's objective of:

“Networking and interrelation between MoEYS & Universities.”

- ✓ Outputs achieved include:
 - Direct MoEYS–HEI dialogue in structured panel format
 - National networking among 150 cross-institutional participants
 - Strengthened IRO–QA–Leadership interaction
 - Student participation integrated into policy panel
 - Follow-up expressions of interest for network engagement (captured through registration mechanism T8.1)

Outcome Achieved:



- ✓ Reinforced the developing National Network of Partners
- ✓ Strengthened readiness for sustained cooperation beyond the event
- ✓ Created pipeline demand for capacity-building and mobility expansion

4.4. Dissemination & EU Visibility Output

The Dialogue integrated strong Erasmus+ CBHE visibility and dissemination outputs:

Exhibition & Materials

- ✓ 6 institutional/2 project posters displayed
- ✓ Full two-day printed and digital programme
- ✓ Official registration and validated attendance records
- ✓ Photo and video documentation archive

Distributed Materials (150 Complete Participant Sets)

- ✓ 150 branded participant bags
- ✓ 150 notebooks
- ✓ 150 lanyards

Material contributions were coordinated between:

- ✓ UNICATION (75 participant sets)
- ✓ Saarland University / CHAIN coordination (75 participant sets)

Outcome Achieved:

This demonstrates:

- ✓ Cross-project synergy
- ✓ Strong EU visibility compliance

4.5. Institutional Capacity Strengthening Output

The Dialogue produced measurable institutional-level outputs:

- ✓ Increased policy awareness among HEI top management
- ✓ Enhanced understanding of QA–Internationalisation linkage
- ✓ Strengthened curriculum reform dialogue
- ✓ Exposure to EU and ASEAN best practices
- ✓ Structured comparison between Cambodian and European governance models

Outcome Achieved:

The event improved readiness among HEIs to:

- ✓ Develop internationalisation strategies
- ✓ Align QA systems with European standards
- ✓ Implement joint academic structures
- ✓ Expand mobility pathways

4.6. Participant satisfaction results (Day 1 and Day 2 survey evidence)

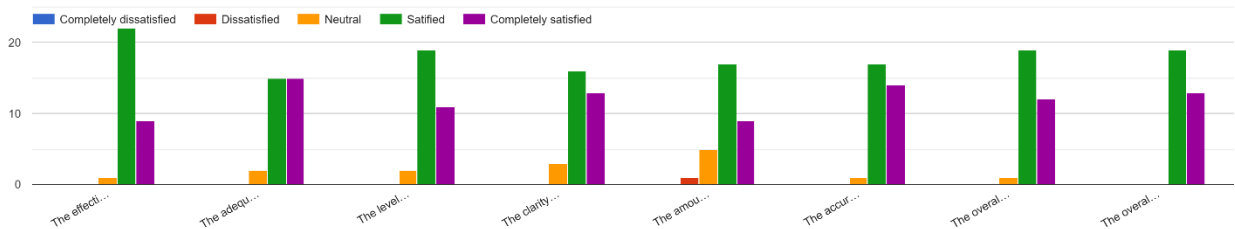
A post-event satisfaction survey was conducted at the end of each day of the Dialogue. A total of 60 participants responded (Day 1: 32; Day 2: 28).

The Dialogue produced measurable participant satisfaction and quality assurance evidence, providing credible proof of delivery quality for EU reporting. Survey results indicate strong perceived performance across key areas including organisation, logistics, agenda relevance, and contribution to Cambodia’s higher education objectives.

Qualitative feedback further reinforced the value of expert panels, the relevance of Quality Assurance and curriculum-focused discussions, and the opportunity for Cambodia–Europe exchange. The primary improvement area identified by participants was the allocation of time for discussion and audience interaction.

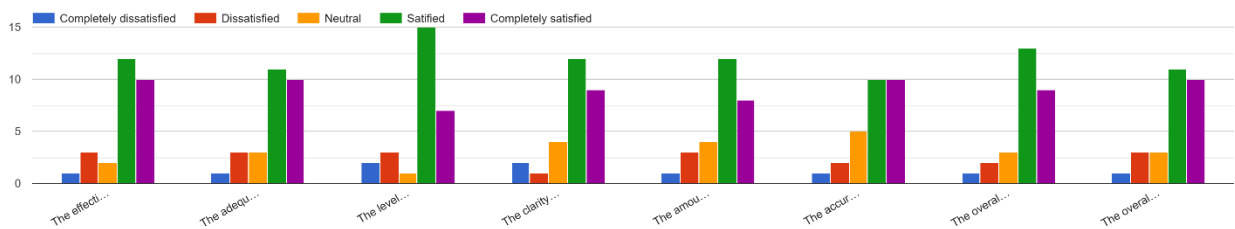
Day 1

1. How satisfied are you regarding:



Day 2

1. How satisfied are you regarding:





The strongest-performing dimensions on both days were event organisation, logistical arrangements, information relevance, and overall execution quality. The principal area for improvement particularly evident on Day 2 was time allocated for discussion and Q&A sessions.

Category	Day 1 Responses	Day 2 Responses	Key Themes
Main strengths	31	31	Strong panel expertise; QA & curriculum relevance; MoEYS–HEI dialogue; international exchange; networking
Challenges observed	25	28	Time allocation; limited Q&A; minor logistics (registration, seating, stage setup)
Suggestions for improvement	26	27	More discussion time; structured networking; provide materials; increase interaction
Additional feedback	16	23	Event meaningful and professionally organised; request continuation and expansion

The survey evidence confirms that the Cambodia National Dialogue successfully delivered a relevant, well-organised, and policy-anchored platform aligned with Cambodia’s higher education internationalisation objectives. While satisfaction levels were high across both days, participant feedback provides clear and actionable recommendations for future national engagement activities, particularly regarding time management and expanded audience interaction. These findings will inform enhancements in subsequent WP5 and WP8 activities.

V. Impact

The Cambodia National Dialogue (National Round Table 2) is expected to contribute to stronger and more coherent implementation of higher education internationalisation reforms in Cambodia by consolidating a ministry-led national consultation mechanism and strengthening practical coordination between MoEYS and higher education institutions. By generating structured, stakeholder-validated inputs for Deliverable D5.1, the Dialogue supports the development of policy guidance that is grounded in implementation realities particularly on quality assurance (IQA/EQA alignment and accreditation processes) and curriculum modernisation (OBE, joint programmes, and mobility integration). Over time, this is expected to enhance institutional readiness to design and operationalise internationalisation strategies, strengthen academic quality frameworks, and expand cross-border cooperation (mobility pathways, joint/double degree structures, and partnership mechanisms) between Cambodian HEIs and European and regional counterparts. The strengthened national network pipeline, reinforced through WP8 outreach, also supports sustainability beyond the event by enabling continued engagement, capacity-building, and partnership matchmaking, contributing to a more



connected, internationally engaged, and quality-oriented Cambodian higher education ecosystem.

Annex

A. Cambodian Public & Private HEIs Represented

The Dialogue achieved broad national institutional coverage, with participation from public and private higher education institutions in Phnom Penh and multiple provinces, including:

No.	Higher Education Institution (HEI)	Institutional Type
1	National University of Management (NUM)	Public
2	Royal University of Agriculture (RUA)	Public
3	Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)	Public
4	University of Puthisastra	Private
5	Svay Rieng University	Public
6	National Meanchey University	Public
7	National University of Battambang	Public
8	University of Heng Samrin Thbongkhmum (UHST)	Public
9	Phnom Penh International University (PPIU)	Private
10	Pannasastra University of Cambodia (PUC)	Private
11	ACLEDA University of Business	Private
12	Dewey International University	Private
13	Police Academy of Cambodia	Public
14	Phnom Penh University of the Arts	Public
15	Kampong Cham National Institute of Agriculture	Public
16	University of Management and Economics	Public
17	CamTech University	Private
18	Khemarak University	Private
19	Build Bright University	Private
20	East Asia Management University	Private
21	National Institute of Education (NIE)	Public
22	Phnom Penh Teacher Education College (PTEC)	Public
23	International University	Private
24	Western University	Private
25	University of South-East Asia (USEA)	Private

Additional provincial institutions (including representation linked to Battambang, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, and other locations)

B. European & International Participation

Category	Institution / Partner	Country / Affiliation
Europe / International Universities and Partners	Óbuda University	Hungary
	Saarland University	Germany
	University of Alicante	Spain
	Université Côte d'Azur	France
	Instituto Superior Técnico – University of Lisbon (ULisboa)	Portugal
	University of Lisbon	Portugal
	University of Auckland (scholar participation)	New Zealand
	ASEAN	University of the Philippines (System Office + OIL)
	Batangas State University	Philippines
	CHED-linked representatives	Philippines (Commission on Higher Education)
Embassy-level representation	Embassy-level participation (as reflected in opening / attendance)	Germany