

College of Education, Lehigh University

## **EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA**

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### **Course Description**

This course focuses on the critical role education plays in the economic development of a country. This involves a deep understanding of the country's culture, education system, and economic development strategy. This course serves as the foundation for creating K-12 "child centered" schools in Cambodia and the takeaway is a labor market analysis in Siem Reap, which will be used for the development of "life-skills" curriculum in secondary education as a part of the spring 2011 coursework.

The course "Education and Economic Development in Cambodia" is divided into three modules. Module one introduces a framework for approaching single country studies. This framework includes Cambodia's unique culture and its trajectory as a post-conflict nation. Seasoned experts (education policymakers and practitioners) are brought into the classroom via webcasting to discuss their working experience in Cambodia and answer student questions. Module two investigates Cambodia's educational structure, graduation rates, and equity. Students gain policy and theoretical perspectives through education and economic development readings and Cambodia education policy reports. The module concludes by analyzing student employment capacity based upon Cambodia's education structure and content. Module three evaluates the economic drivers and growth sectors in Cambodia. The course concludes by identifying and contacting potential organizations and businesses which may serve as viable employment opportunities for the graduating secondary students of the "child centered" schools.

Education and Economic Development in Cambodia is appropriate for those seeking to work for non-profit organizations, in development or in the public sector. The course has a strong focus on secondary education and a lesser focus on tertiary education. It is more qualitative than quantitative in nature.

### **Course Format**

The course will be offered in a "hybrid" format, combining online learning with face-to-face classes. Some students will have an opportunity to travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia for a week to do course-related fieldwork during the semester.

**This course will count towards the CIE International Development in Education (IDE) Graduate Certificate.**