



VANNARITH CHHEANG

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Dr Vannarith Chheang has over ten years of work experience as a public policy analyst and advisor. Currently he is an associate fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and lecturer (part-time) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Prior to this, he was a Southeast Asia consultant at the Nippon Foundation, lecturer of Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Leeds, and Executive Director of the leading think tank in Cambodia - Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)- where he worked closely with the government. He was also appointed as technical advisor to the National Assembly of Cambodia and Assistant to Defence Minister of Cambodia. Chheang earned his PhD in Asia Pacific Studies from the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Japan), MA in International Relations from the International University of Japan, and BA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. He has published widely on the political economy of Cambodia and Southeast Asia. He has been honored a Young Global Leader (2013-2018) by World Economic Forum.

Skills Highlight

- Public policy analysis and geopolitical risk analysis with a focus on Southeast Asia
- Knowledge communication and public communication skill
- Teamwork, fast-learning and adaptability skill

Languages

- Khmer (native), English (Advanced), Vietnamese (Advanced), French (Basic), Japanese (Basic)

Education Background

PhD in Asia Pacific Studies

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Oita, Japan (June 2006-May 2009)

Graduate Certificate in Leadership

East-West Center, Honolulu, USA (August 2008-May 2009)

MA in International Relations

International University of Japan, Niigata, Japan (April 2004-April 2016)

BA in International Relations

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam (September 1998-October 2002)

Work Experience

Associate Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (September 2018-Present)

Visiting Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (April 2017-August 2018)

- Research projects: Cambodia's domestic politics; Cambodia's foreign policy; the geopolitics of elections in Cambodia; the political economy of Chinese investment in Cambodia; the political economy of Belt and Road Initiative; Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle; Lancang-Mekong cooperation mechanism; and ASEAN

Lecturer (part-time), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) (August 2017-Present)

- Courses offered: International Politics of the Asia Pacific Region and Politics and Governments in Southeast Asia

Consultant, The Nippon Foundation/The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (March 2016-March 2018)

- Analyze emerging regional issues and identify regional stakeholders in Southeast Asia
- Develop Asia Program for the Foundation (regional dialogues, fellowship programs)

Lecturer, University of Leeds (February 2013-January 2016)

- Courses offered: Contemporary Southeast Asia; Governance and Development in Southeast Asia; International Politics of the Asia Pacific Region

Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and peace (June 2009-May 2013)

- Develop and implement projects
- Organize multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Draft policy recommendations

Assistant to Defence Minister, Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia (2011-2012)

- Lead a working group meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)
- Draft policy briefs and speeches for the Minister of National Defence

Technical Advisor, National Assembly of Cambodia (2011)

- Organize trainings for the members of parliament on ASEAN
- Draft joint communiqué of the 11th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

Translator and Field Officer, Japan's Assistance Team for Small Arms Management in Cambodia (JSAC)
(January 2002 to March 2004)

- Translate and interpret (English-Khmer)
- Coordinate field visits and organize events

Publications

Books and Monographs

- (2017) *Selected Works on Contemporary Perspectives on Cambodia and the Asia-Pacific (Volume II)*. Phnom Penh: CISS.
- (2014) *Selected Works on Contemporary Perspectives on Cambodia and the Asia-Pacific (Volume I)*. Phnom Penh: CISS (with Phoak Kung).
- (2013) *Tourism and regional integration in Southeast Asia*. Chiba: IDE-JETRO.

Journal Articles and Working Papers

- (2018) China's Economic Statecraft in Southeast Asia. *ISEAS Perspective* No. 45, August 2018. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- (2018) The Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle. *ISEAS Perspective* No. 30, June 2018. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- (2017) The Political Economy of Chinese Investment in Cambodia. *Trends in Southeast Asia* No. 16. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

- (2017) Cambodian Power Shift in 2018? *ISEAS Perspective* No. 53. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- (2017) Cambodia embraces Belt and Road Initiative. *ISEAS Perspective* No. 48, July 2017. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- (2017) Regionalism in the Mekong. *VNU Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 232-240.
- (2017) The Mekong Region: From a Divided to a Connected Region. KAS Cambodia, February 2017.
- (2015). Cambodia in 2014: The Beginning of Concrete Reforms. ISEAS: *Journal of Southeast Asian Affairs* 2015. pp.89-101.
- (2014). Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam: Economic reforms and sub-regional integration. *Kyoto Sangyo University Economic Review* No. 1, pp. 225-254 (with Yushan Wong).
- (2014). Impediments to Growth of the Garment and Food Industries in Cambodia: Exploring potential benefits of the ASEAN-People's Republic of China Free Trade Agreement. *Journal of GMS Development Studies*, Vol.6, pp.1-20 (with Shintaro Hamanaka).
- (2014). External shocks and tourist arrivals to Cambodia. *Tourism Analysis*, Vol.19, No.3, pp.311-322 (with Sohel Azad and Ahsan Amirul).
- (2013). Cambodian security and defence policy. Tokyo: National Institute for Defense Study.
- (2013). Geopolitical implications of an ice-free Arctic for the Asia-Pacific. *CSIS Issues & Insights*, Vol. 13, Issue No.15, pp. 1-10 (with Akazawa, Ellise and Ekmektsioglou, Eleni).
- (2011). Angkor Heritage Tourism and Tourist Perceptions. *Tourismos : An International Multidisciplinary Journal of Tourism*, Vol.6, No.2, pp.213-240.
- (2010). Environmental and Economic Cooperation in the Mekong Region. *Asia-Europe Journal*, Vol. 8, Number 3, pp.359-368.
- (2010). Cambodia's Maritime Security Challenges and Priorities. *CICP Working Paper No.32*. Phnom Penh: CICP.
- (2010). Tourism and local community development in Siem Reap. *Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*. pp.85-101.
- (2009). State and tourism planning: A case study of Cambodia. *TOURISMOS Journal*, Volume 4, Number 1.
- (2009). ASEAN between China and India. *The Cambodia Journal of International Affairs* Vol.3, Issue 1. pp. 40-49.
- (2009). Security challenges in the Asia-Pacific. *The Cambodia Journal of International Affairs* Vol.3, Issue 1. pp. 61-66.
- (2008). Cambodia's economic relations with Thailand and Vietnam. *CICP Working Paper 25*. Phnom Penh: CICP.
- (2008). The political economy of tourism in Cambodia. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research*, Vol. 13, No. 3, 282-297.
- (2008). The cultural challenges to the decentralization process in Cambodia. *The Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies Volume 24, 1-16* (with Rotha Chan).
- (2007). China and the creation of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area: Implications for Cambodia. *CICP Working Paper No. 19*. Phnom Penh: CICP.

- (2007). Cambodian, from a Killing Field to a Court of Justice: Challenges Ahead. *The Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies Volume 22*, 115-130.
- (2006). The Establishment of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal and the Issue of Justice. *RCAPS Working Paper No. 06-02*. October 2006, 1-31.

Book Chapters

- (2018) “Vietnam’s Foreign Policy Towards Its Smaller Neighbours”, in Le Hong Hiep and Anton Tsvetov (eds) *Vietnam’s Foreign Policy Under Doi Moi*. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (pp.166-186).
- (2018) “FDI, Services Liberalization and Logistics Development in Cambodia”, in Tham Siew Yean and Sanchita Basu Das (eds) *Services Liberalization in ASEAN*. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (pp. 269-296).
- (2017) “Greater Mekong Subregional Cooperation and Cambodia’s Foreign Policy” in Deth Sok Udom, Sun Suon, Serkan Bulut (eds) *Cambodia’s Foreign Relations in Regional and Global Contexts*. Phnom Penh: Kondrad-Adeneur-Stiftung (pp. 387-412).
- (2016) “The future of ASEAN and the role of the United States”, in The Asia Foundation (2016) *Asian Views on America’s Role in Asia*. San Francisco: The Asia Foundation (pp. 68-75).
- (2015) “Social protection in Cambodia”, in the Japan Institute of International Affairs (ed.) *Towards a more resilient society: Lessons from economic crises*. Tokyo: JIIA (pp.69-91).
- (2015) “Regional migration in Southeast Asia: A case study of Cambodian migrants in Thailand”, in the Nippon Foundation Fellowships for Asian Public Intellectuals (ed.) *Connecting “Infrastructure” and “Superinfrastructure”: Developments Towards Far-Reaching Impacts*. Tokyo: The Nippon Foundation (pp.240-250).
- (2014) “Joint development in the South China Sea: divergent and convergent forces”, in Wu Shicun and Nong Hong (eds), *Recent Developments in the South China Sea Dispute, The Prospect of a Joint Development Regime*. London and New York: Routledge (pp.172-180).
- (2013) “Towards the WTO’s Bali Ministerial Meeting: A View fro Phnom Penh”, in Fukunaga, Y., J. Riady, and P. Sauve (eds), *The Road to Bali:ERIA Perspectives on the WTO Ministerial and Asian Integration*. ERIA Research Report 2012-2013, Jakarta: ERIA, UPH and WTI (pp.69-74).
- (2013) “Migrant workers in a people-centered ASEAN Community and ASEAN-Japan Cooperation” in *Beyond 2015: ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Democracy, Peace, and Prosperity in Southeast Asia*. Tokyo: JCIE (pp.281-295).
- (2012) “Cambodia, Between China and Japan” in Lam Peng Er and Victor Teo (eds) *Southeast Asia between China and Japan*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publication (pp.161-178).
- (2011) “Investing in agriculture and rural infrastructure for a robust economic growth and accelerated poverty reduction in Cambodia: Challenges, prospects, and issues for regional cooperation”, (with Sok S. and Chap S.) in Ponciano S. Intal Jr.; Sothea Oum; & Mercy J.O. Simorangkir (eds). *Agricultural Development, Trade and Regional Cooperation in Developing East Asia*. Jakarta: Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (pp. 78-125).
- (2010) “Constraints on SMEs in Cambodia and their Participation in Production Networks” (with Oum S. and Leng T.) in Vo, T. T., D. Narjoko and S. Oum (eds.), *Integrating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) into the More Integrate East Asia*. ERIA Research Project Report 2009-8, Jakarta: ERIA (pp.134-164).