



NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA

Number B13-016-339 INF

ANNOUNCEMENT: CALL FOR PAPERS
3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA MACROECONOMIC CONFERENCE
“THE MICROFINANCE SECTOR IN CAMBODIA: OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS”

The microfinance sector started operating in Cambodia in the early 1990s and since then it has been growing rapidly with national and international recognition of its contribution to poverty alleviation and economic growth. Initially, microfinance institutions were established in the form of NGOs, playing the role as micro-credit operators to improve the living standards of people in rural areas. After the Law on Banking and Financial Institutions was promulgated in 1999, the microfinance sector has been developed based on market mechanism. In the meantime, the total asset of the microfinance sector has reached 14,626 billion KHR, which accounts for 18 percent of total bank asset. The sector has provided loans to about 2.2 million people and taken deposits from 1.5 million people so far. Very recently, the National Bank of Cambodia celebrated the 2nd National Summit on the Development of the Microfinance Sector, which was presided over by Samdach Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of Cambodia, to commemorate the development of the sector in the last 10 years.

While the microfinance sector has experienced remarkable growth and accomplished much over the last two decades, it also faces increasing risks within the sector resulting from the rapid expansion of its size and network in line with the development of Cambodia's economy. In order to manage those risks and to continue to support the microfinance sector, the National Bank of Cambodia has been strengthening the legal and regulatory frameworks as well as conducting regular supervision on this sector. Regular monitoring the stability of the microfinance sector's development plays crucial role in contributing to financial stability as well as fostering the growth of economic activities, especially to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and poor people.

In order to get wider view and deeper sight from various researchers as the inputs for further enhancing robust, stable, and sustainable microfinance sector, the National Bank of Cambodia has selected the topic **“The Microfinance Sector in Cambodia: Opportunities and Risks”** for the 3rd Annual National Bank of Cambodia Macroeconomic Conference, to be held in November 2016.

In preparation for the conference, the National Bank of Cambodia would like to invite interested experts, economists, and researchers to submit their CV and research proposal which is relevant to the abovementioned topic to the **Directorate General of Central Banking of the National Bank of Cambodia** by **May 9, 2016**. The National Bank of Cambodia will select 4 or 5 research proposals and the result will be announced on **May 13, 2016**. Please note that only qualified and suitable research papers will be selected; and the selected researchers will be invited to deliver presentation at the 3rd Annual Macroeconomic Conference. The selected researchers will be rewarded, and their papers will be published on the National Bank Cambodia's website and its quarterly bulletin.

Please contact us at:
National Bank of Cambodia
Directorate General of Central Banking
Economic Research and International Cooperation Department
Tel: 023 990 196 / 012 567 848 / 017 707 709
Email: nbccommunication@nbc.org.kh



CHEA SEREY