

The University of Cambodia
10th Graduation Ceremony 2014
Conferring of Honorary Doctorate Degrees, Doctoral, Master's and Bachelor's Degrees
By
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The University of Cambodia proudly hosted the 10th Annual Graduation Ceremony 2014: Conferring of Honorary Doctorate Degrees, Doctoral, Master's and Bachelor's Degrees at the Southeast Asia Television Studio on December 30th, 2014.

H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, presided over the graduation ceremony and conferred degrees of Honorary Doctorate, Doctor of Philosophy, Master's, and Bachelor's to all graduates.

In his welcome speech, **H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn**, Founder and President of the University of Cambodia and Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister, expressed his personal gratitude to **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron**, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport for his continuous support of the University of Cambodia. He also congratulated to **Ouknha Chear Ratana, Professor David Cohen**, and **Mr. Wang Jiemin** for receiving Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Cambodia. **H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn** addressed that Education is not just to help ourselves, but also to help our family, relatives and society. He also mentioned his appreciation and his support of the Education system reforms initiated and led by the Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport, **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron**.

H.E. SamraingKamsan, Member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cambodia, presented his report on the Annual Graduation by expressing that the day bares witnesses to a very momentous event for the University of Cambodia in which the university highly honors and welcomes the presence of **H.E. Dr. Hang Choun Naron**, Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport.

On behalf of the UC Board of Management, faculty members, staff and all graduates of the University of Cambodia, he would like to express his sincere thanks to **H.E. Dr. Hang Choun Naron** for spending very valuable time to preside over this event and to motivate all of us, especially candidates of Honorary Doctorate Degrees and other graduates, who are going to be awarded certificates of completion on this joyful occasion.

He then briefly reported about the background of the University, academic training activities, and the graduation of students from the University of Cambodia as follows:

The University of Cambodia was established by Sub-Decree No. 51, dated June 20th, 2003, previously located about 50 meters south of Independence Monument. In September, 2011, the University of Cambodia relocated to the current campus: Northbridge Road, Sangkat Toe kThla, Khan Sen Sok. So far, the University of Cambodia has been operational for 11 years, consisting of 6 Colleges—College of Arts, Humanities and Languages, College of Education, College of Law, College of Management, College of Science and Technology, and College of Social Sciences—offering degree programs from Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree to PhD degree.

In order to support training and research, the University of Cambodia also launched various centers and institutes such as the Center for ASEAN Studies, the Center for English Studies,

and the Institute of Research and Advanced Studies (IRAS). In addition to this, the University of Cambodia established the University of Cambodia Student Senate (UCSS), UC Debate Club (UCDC), and the University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth (UCCRCY) in order to provide extra-curricular activities, to compete with students from other higher education institutions and to build good relationships with students from other universities. What's more, students are given the opportunity to contribute to community development.

Currently, the University of Cambodia has a total number of 283 staff and faculty members. Among this, there are 98 administrative staff (29 females) and 185 faculty members (26 females).

Within 11 years (2003-2014), 2036 students (825 females) have graduated from the University of Cambodia and among this total number of graduates, there have been 3 PhD graduates, 200 Master's degree graduates (43 females), 1691 Bachelor's degree graduates (726 females), and 142 Associate Degree graduates (55 females).

According to the last survey on employment opportunity of University of Cambodia graduates in academic year 2012-2013, over 90% of graduates are employed, and 4% are pursuing their studies in graduate programs locally and overseas. University of Cambodia alumni are currently pursuing their academic careers in other countries such as South Korea, China, Japan, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Australia, Germany, The UK, The US, India, France, New Zealand, Sweden, The Czech Republic, and Hong Kong.

In academic year 2013-2014, there are 345 graduates (145 females). Among this total number, there is 01 PhD graduate, 17 Master's degree graduates (07 females), and 338 Bachelor's degree graduates (137 females).

Apart from this, 3059 students (1432 females) are currently studying at the University of Cambodia in academic year 2014-2015.

The University of Cambodia has been training and providing degree programs to students by implementing its own strategic plans, in alignment with the policies and strategic plans of the Royal Government of Cambodia under the leadership of Samdech AkeakMohaSena PadeyTecho Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, strategic plans of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the nine minimum standards set by the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC), in ensuring high quality education in response to local, regional and international labor market needs. To achieve this goal, the University of Cambodia continuously develops and improves its curriculum, physical facilities, and materials to support learning and teaching in order to maintain its status as one of the leading private universities in Cambodia, and to work collaboratively with the government to produce highly-qualified human resources. Significantly, the University of Cambodia also pays much attention on promoting research and publications to produce resources and references for future scholars.

In addition, to ensure high quality education, the University of Cambodia has fostered collaboration and cooperation with developmental partners at the national level such as the Cambodian Red Cross, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Cambodian Higher Education Association, the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia, the People Health Development Association, and other international institutions in various countries such as the US, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Israel, India, Indonesia, and China. This

cooperation has given students more learning experiences in addition to the exchange of experiences in management and leadership, teaching methodology, and joint research. This is one of many other priorities which the University of Cambodia has consistently focused on. The University of Cambodia has worked collaboratively with partner universities to organize workshops in order to share experiences, teaching methodology, and research methodology to faculty members to improve their knowledge in ensuring high quality education. In addition, the university also promotes exchange programs for faculty members and staff to pursue their studies abroad.

More importantly, to contribute to poverty reduction with the Royal Government of Cambodia, so far the University of Cambodia has sought for funds from donors to provide scholarships to 3,002 financially constrained, yet qualified students, who passed the high school exam to continue their studies at the University of Cambodia. (This excludes scholarships offered to senior political figures in the government and tuition fee discounts)

The achievements as briefly mentioned earlier have come into reality because of great efforts made by the UC board of management, faculty members and staff with active support from students' parents and guardians, especially the most generous support from **H.E. Dr. Haruhisa Handa** for granting tremendous amount of scholarships to our students each year. We have also received support from **Dr. Rikhi Thakral**, manager of Thakral Holding Ltd of Singapore; China Fairwind Cambodia Investment Company Limited; Khmer Brewery Company; PengHout Investment Co Ltd, as well as many other donors.

In 2015, the University of Cambodia is going to launch a new college—the College of Media and Communications, offering degree programs from Associate Degree to Bachelor's degree and a new school—the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations, offering Master and PhD degree programs. The University of Cambodia has already completed working papers and other administrative documents and submitted to MoEYS. Currently, we are waiting for the approval from H.E. Hang Chuon Naron and hopefully, His Excellency will take our proposal into the kindest consideration.

In an inspiring keynote address, **H.E. Hang Chuon Naron**, Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport, acknowledged the many contributions of the University of Cambodia in producing qualified human resources for the country. **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron** also provided his personal advice for “success in study” as follows:

1. Study rigorously on your chosen major and improve your general knowledge as well.
2. The importance of quality teachers in transferring knowledge.
3. Strong support from parents.
4. Supportive living, working and learning environment.
5. Right skill to right demand; and
6. Life-long learning to keep with globalization and rapid growth of knowledge and technology.

H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron also emphasized the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia towards the quality of higher education as stated in the third mandate of the rectangular strategy:

1. Ministry has started reform on the education system.
2. Establish new policy for 2014 to 2030.
3. Strategic plan for 2014 to 2018.

4. Higher Education in private sector had been expanding since 1997; there are now 105 universities and institutes (39 public, and 66 private).
5. Comparing the education sector in ASEAN member states with the Kingdom of Cambodia; education in CLMV nations is still far behind original ASEAN member states.
6. Education is the main source to develop the country.
7. It will take 30 years to develop the country once it has enough human resources;
8. Cambodia will face challenges in competitiveness with neighboring countries in the context of the three pillars of the AEC 2015.
9. In 2030 Cambodia will be a medium income nation, and in 2050 Cambodia will be a developed nation.
10. He expects that today's graduates will use their knowledge to help Cambodia.
11. Finally, he suggested that all sectors: public, private, and individual, work together to develop the nation.

After the speeches and keynote address, a short video clip was played that highlighted the achievements of UC over the years, including a comprehensive list of all honorary doctorate recipients since opening.

Following the video clip, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn awarded the certificates achievement to outstanding faculty and staff at UC.

After all certificates to faculty and staff had been awarded, **Ms. Samantha Smith**, Director for the Office of the President read the citations for each honorary doctorate recipient for 2014. **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron** then conferred an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Humanitarian, Law, from the College of Law, to **Professor David Cohen**, an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Business Administration, from the College of Management, to **Mr. Wang Jiemin**, and an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Business Development, from the College of Management, to **Oknha Chear Ratana**.

Directly following the conferring of the honorary doctorate degrees, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn conferred medals of honor to the top three graduating students, and certificates of outstanding academic achievement to all outstanding students for academic year 2014-2015.

Finally, **H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron** conferred degrees to the 345 graduates in academic year 2013-2014; which concluded UC's 10th annual graduation ceremony.