

Editorial

CJIS is pleased to announce that we have been formally recognised by an ISSN: 2663-1253.

This reflects our aim to be both a credible and creditable vehicle for publishing studies of Cambodia in the region and beyond, as well as those focusing on Cambodia alone but set in a broader context.

- Thus we have attracted and published quality articles from not only our Cambodian colleagues but others elsewhere in ASEAN and beyond.
- This has allowed us to establish a basic standard for acceptable articles, in terms of both information content and its objective presentation as such.

Arising out of this, we will shortly appoint an International Board of Editors.

The present issue includes two Opinion Pieces on the Cambodian education system: papers which present their authors' views of a particular aspect from their personal perspectives in a reasonable and rational manner, with constructive recommendations based on the evidence presented.¹ We present these pieces in the hope of promoting dialogue amongst various stakeholders on the matter at hand, each with their different starting-points, to achieve a positive, nuanced and balanced approach to the spectrum of underlying issues and how to resolve them in a meaningful, constructive way.

- The aim is to encourage individuals to offer their opinions, based on their particular perspective from past experience (including their exposure to ideas whilst studying abroad), for *integration* with, rather than reflex *denigration* by, those views of others with different standpoints.
- Thus we would like to hope that such papers might act as 'seeds' to encourage various stakeholders, with their diverse starting-points for the analysis of Cambodia's issues regarding education (as just one example, based on Opinion Pieces in the current issue), to come together and come up with ideas and proposals regarding how to further develop on the existing system's continual efforts to better meet the aspirations of society at large as well as its individual members.
- To this end, The University of Cambodia would like to offer a platform for promoting such a necessary dialogue and for promulgating its output through *CJIS*, including through the publication of what emerges from roundtable discussions, for example.
- However, as noted in the Instructions for Authors, authors are ultimately responsible for their papers' content, including the views expressed, which cannot be construed to reflect those of The University of Cambodia.

This reflects a more general approach where, rather than promoting the publication of critical viewpoints in dissenting, polarising isolation, we want to encourage efforts to find a 'middle way' through maturing rational discussion which incorporates the views of the various primary stakeholders involved on a particular topic, together with those of others as appropriate.

¹ Related to this, see also a paper by Phirum Din on 'Cambodian Women's Roles in Education and Leadership: Empowerment' (*CJIS* 2, 217).

- One way to achieving this goal would be through the hosting of specific forums and workshops to discuss issues of pressing national and international concern and thereafter publish a compendium of the outcomes for each as a means to seeking consensus on ways to move forward for the common good.