

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS 2025

Inaugural EPIC Summit - Siem Reap - Cambodia



Cambodian and international teacher educators, policy makers and researchers gathered in Siem Reap in July 2025 for the first EPIC Summit - Enhancing Pedagogy in Cambodia.

This landmark event was the initiative of SBB in collaboration with Phnom Penh Teacher Education College (PTEC), Mary Immaculate College (MIC) and Maynooth University.





Summit Keynote

Her Excellency Dr Chankoulika Bo, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), opened the Summit with an overview of the challenges, policies and innovations in education in Cambodia in 2025. She highlighted recent progress in learning outcomes and policies to address educational inequality, both within Cambodia and between Cambodia and other countries, as well as the proposed registration system for Cambodian teachers.

She strongly endorsed the work of SBB, drawing attention to learnings from the [Professional Identity of Khmer Teachers Project](#) and how this project showcased exemplary practice in international and Cambodian collaboration.

I am pleased to be part of this inspirational summit. I want SBB programs operating in more provinces - I want them to get increased funding.

H.E. Dr Chankoulika Bo,
Undersecretary of State, MoEYS



Panel Response

The panel responding to Her Excellency's address featured **His Excellency Dr Set Seng, Director, PTEC**, **His Excellency Dr Samsideth Dy, Deputy Director, MoEYS**, and **Professor Marie Mc Loughlin, Maynooth University**, with **Pheung Pov, Managing Director, SBB Cambodia**, as chair.

They discussed educational reforms in Cambodia, teacher training, and why listening and learning are essential in international research partnerships.



The EPIC Alliance

This Alliance of Cambodian and international education and development organisations evolved out of a recognition of the unique circumstances of the Cambodian education sector and the need for relevant, evidence-based research to guide policy-makers and practitioners.



A highlight of the Summit was the presentation of key insights from the [PIKT Research Project](#) featuring *Principal Investigator Professor Leo Casey, SBB Cambodia, Dr Chanphirun Wam, Deputy Director, PTEC, Sreyphet Phan, Provincial Manager, SBB Cambodia and Linda Seang, Deputy Head of Office, Department of Policy, MoEYS.*



As a result of the PIKT project, Teacher Professional Identity is now addressed in Cambodia's National Teacher Policy Action Plan 2024-2030.

H.E. Dr Chankoulika Bo

Teacher Professional Development

H.E. Dr Set Seng, Director, PTEC and **Professor Dermot Nestor**, President, MIC shared their perspectives on the critical importance of Teacher Professional development in enhancing education systems in their countries.

Cambodia teaches us that authentic transformation does not begin by replacing local traditions: it begins by learning from them. Our aim is not replication, but resonance.

Professor Dermot Nestor, President, MIC



Teacher education is the key to the development of human capital.

H.E. Dr Set Seng, Director, PTEC

Annette Cregan delivered an interactive workshop on Teacher Professional Learning. Participants were asked to select memorable learning moments from their careers and outline what teacher professional learning should be.

This Summit is a reminder that education is not only a right—it is a bridge to dignity, opportunity, and justice.

Annette Cregan, Associate Professor, MIC



Teacher Professional Development in Cambodia



H.E. Dr Samsideth Dy, Deputy Director, MoEYS, spoke about improvements in Cambodian education as well as the challenges of putting the large number of improved policies into practice across the sector.



I really appreciate all of the support and leadership from so many impact-driven people here at the EPIC Summit as we enter this new chapter for Cambodia.

Pheung Pov, Managing Director, SBB Cambodia



Our study of the impact of student teachers' self-assessment on academic achievement and attitudes indicated significant improvement in learning outcomes and increased student engagement.

Dr Saint Meassnguon, Associate Dean & Expert Curriculum Consultant, PTEC

When I visited PTEC I was hugely impressed by the leadership of H.E. Set Seng and teacher pre-service there.

Professor Marie Mc Loughlin, Maynooth University; Chair SBB Ireland

Insights Into Education in Cambodia

Challenges in relation to access to quality education in skipped generation households need to be named and recognised, not overlooked.

Limon Bunn, SBB Senior Project Manager
From her thesis, Maynooth University



Lack of disability awareness means that superstitions, misinformation, and stereotypes have lingered in Cambodia, especially in rural areas, and affect how Cambodians with disabilities are perceived. Encouraging parents to foster the independence and autonomy of children with disabilities is instrumental in removing some of the barriers to inclusion.

Dr Jennifer Byrne, PhD University of Galway, SBB Ireland



Despite noticeable progress in education expansion and gender equity, Cambodia continues to face challenges in student retention.

Navy Sin, Department of Policy, MoEYS

Technology & Education

The future of Cambodian education will not be determined by whether AI is used — but by who controls it, what values it encodes, and what human work remains essential.

Thomas Gough, Australian Teacher, Glenwood Public School; NSW Teachers' Federation representative



I am truly humbled to have contributed to the first EPIC Summit. Teachers' stories of perseverance and the challenges they've overcome to stay in education were deeply moving and inspiring.

Shelly Nerney, Digital Technologies Senior Leader, Oide, Irish Department of Education



**Watch this Video:
EPIC Reflections**

The **Embassy of Ireland** in Hanoi provided major funding to support the EPIC Summit. **Seán Farrell, Deputy Head of Mission**, highlighted Ireland's focus on northern Cambodia, and helping those 'furthest behind first'. He also spoke of the Embassy's ambition to expand collaborations between Higher Education Institutions in Cambodia and Ireland.



Doing good is not the same as making an impact. This summit is about finding evidence we can share, and learning how to genuinely enhance pedagogy in Cambodia. I want to thank you all for being here. It matters, and it is important.

Colm Byrne,
CEO International Operations, SBB



**Watch this Video:
EPIC in a word**

EPIC Participating Organisations

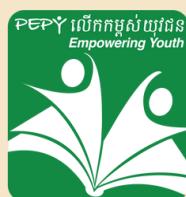


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