

**Remarks by Mrs. TEP Kolap,
Rector of Phnom Penh International University (PPIU)**

**At the opening of the NMT Workshop
“Academic Deans: Roles, Challenges, and Solutions”**

Phnom Penh, 25 November 2019

- **Your Excellency Touch Visalsok,
Secretary of State, Ministry of Education Youth and Sport,**
- **Dr. Jutta Fedrowitz, Dr. Duu Sheng Ong, International Experts,
Warm Welcome to Cambodia!**
- **Mr. Casey Barnett, President of CamEd,**
- **Dear Colleagues and Friends!**

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to be with you today, at the National Multiplication Training (NMT) workshop I, which will be held here at CamEd for 3 days, from 25 to 28 November 2019.

The workshop today would not be possible without the steadfast efforts of our organizing team from CamEd and PPIU. This is the results of their strong commitment and professionalism. As far as I know, the team had tried twice before their proposal was accepted. They have put a lot energy, intelligence, and time to make it happen. Finally their proposal was accepted in April 2019, under the theme - NMT on “**Academic Deans: Roles, Challenges, and Solutions**”. My sincere thanks to the organizing team!

You might have been already informed that the NMT is composed of two linked Workshops: Workshop I which is held here at CamEd, and Workshop II to be held in April 2020 at PPIU. It is my earnest hope that you would spend your valuable time so as to benefit from both workshops, and gain new knowledge

and friends, and you would take them back to put in practice at your respective workplaces!

The theme of this workshop, “**Academic Deans: Roles, Challenges, and Solutions**”, is indeed a concrete attempt to respond to the current situation in Cambodia as well as to the efforts to provide quality education in our country. Permit me to give a very brief introduction to the topic. As deans (or Vice-Deans), to put it simply, you have to or will have to work with the following stakeholders:

- 1) Top leadership (Rector, Vice-Rector) including educational program/curriculum;
- 2) Faculty including selection, promotion and development, physical facilities development; and also Finance;
- 3) Lecturers including selection, and promotion;
- 4) Students including related issues (exams, scorings, handling complaints);
- 5) Public and alumni (as part of external relations).

Given the comprehensiveness of responsibility, deans are not only required to be scholars but also to possess some measure of managerial and leadership talent.

I am sure you would be able to come out this 3-days workshop with new ideas and initiatives, and with your Project Action Plan (PAP) to be presented in April 2020.

**Your Excellency,
Distinguished International experts and participants,**

It is our country’s privilege to benefit from this project, the project funded by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and from all EU-SHARE (European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region) projects. Under the EU-SHARE, PPIU, along with a few other universities in Cambodia, has been involved in a few other activities include *Student Mobility and Credit Transfer*, and *Quality Assurance*. Our team has also been invited to series of meetings on *Policy Dialogue*, *Qualification Framework*, and *Quality Assurance*. PPIU was also

privileged to be given opportunities to test AQAF criteria in 2017; we were one among 11 SHARE Pilot Institutional Assessment vis-à-vis AQAF (ASEAN Qualification Framework), and we received recognition in July 2018 by international assessment panels that stated “...PPIU’s quality assurance system is aligned with the requirements of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework’s (AQAF)”, *Report on the SHARE Institutional Assessment, July 2019, p.2.*

Among the EU-SHARE projects, the DAAD/ Germany support to our joint-project of private higher education institutions like PPIU and CamEd, is the best example, and a good model for all universities, true to the saying, “...if you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together”.

I wish you all a very successful workshop!

Stay in touch! Build strong network! The network of educational experts and practitioners!

I’ll give you my card so that you would be able to be in touch with me. I for one like to have feedback and suggestions or recommendations from friends, as part of my own self-development.

Thank you!