



Government – Private Sector Co-Chairs Meeting

18th March 2022



The "Closing the Skills Gap Accelerator Project" is a local Initiative between the Government of Cambodia and the Private Sector in Collaboration with the World Economic Forum for which IBC is the National Co-Ordinator.

On 18th March, IBC organized the Government & Private Sector Co-Chairs meeting to discuss "Closing the Skills Gap Accelerator Project".

The meeting chaired by the Government Co-Chairs **H.E. Senior Minister Sun Chanthol**, Senior Minister, Minister of Public Works and Transport; and **H.E. Dr. Hang Choun Naron**, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports; and attended by the Private Sector Co-Chair **Mr. Mao Sreng**, Country Director of IDP Education; and **Oknha Ly Sopheap** (on behalf of Private Sector Co-Chair, **Oknha Ly Sopheary**) Board Director of Lyhour Group; (apologies were given for **Neak Oknha Sear Rithy**, Founder and Chariman of WorldBridge) and the National Coordinator supported by **Mr. Pierre Tami**, Social Entrepreneur of Shift360; **Ms. Lim Solinn**, Chief Skills and Gender Officer of IBC; and **Ms. Katherine McLean**, Executive Director of IBC.



The Public and Private Sector Co-Chairs reviewed a range of materials including the skills system quantitative and qualitative analysis of issues and opportunities as well as a set of 15 strategic priorities that require commit leadership, change in policy and structure as well as changes shifting in attitudes and mindsets.

Out of the 15 strategic priorities, the Public and Private Sector Co-Chairs adopted the following in descending order of priorities:

1. Create a high-level public, people, and private sector institution that is positioned to deliver on future technical education and skills development coordination. The public sector Co-Chairs commit to facilitate consultation and consensus among line ministries, whilst the private sector Co-Chairs will mobilize consensus among operators across six emerging high-value industries. Once consensus is reached across public and private actors, a proposal will be submitted to Samdech Prime Minister for approval.
2. Improve training quality and expand training colleges with income sharing agreement between employees and employers. Mainstreaming digital and technical trainings through education system based on future jobs analysis.
3. Invest more in digital skills and infrastructure. Develop and publish a meaningful job pathway framework to enable workers to identify opportunities for re-employment and re-deployment. Provide high quality future jobs analysis and effective career counselling.
4. Scholarships for women and PWDs for skills trainings. Develop tailored materials on courses and finance and more for workers with basic education, and vulnerable groups such as PWDs.

The first Co-Chairs meeting was a great success, with the leaders provided feedbacks to the rigorous analysis, prioritized strategic actions that are highly impactful and feasible for Cambodia's growth, and the next steps.