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## **HEQCIP Fellowship Award Information**

### **Project Background**

The higher education system in Cambodia has changed greatly over the past 10 years as the number of private universities has grown considerably. On the one hand, this development has expanded the opportunities for a large pool of students to further their education; on the other hand, it has highlighted the significant and complex challenges faced by the overall system of higher education and individual universities, both public and private, during this period of rapid growth. While the establishment in 2003 of the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) introduced much-needed elements of quality assurance into the system, the management of higher education in the country remains difficult and needs to be clarified and strengthened across several key dimensions, including the strengthening of institutional and organizational capacity. It is most urgent, however, to improve human capacity in the sub-sector in order to cope with the rapid expansion of the last decade.

In spite of the increasing share of postgraduate enrollments, university research outputs remain in dissatisfied standard and the fact that the quality of a professor's research has little influence on faculty promotion. To improve the quality of human resources and the sustainability of HEIs in global competition, it is critical to improve research and innovation outputs.

In order to support the development of the Higher Education Sector the World Bank has agreed with the Royal Government of Cambodia to fund a 5 years Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project (HEQCIP) 2010-2015. Funding comprises a Grant of US\$ 11.5 million and a Credit amounting US\$ 11.5 million.

### **Project Objective**

The development objective of this project is to improve: a) the quality of teaching, management, and research in project-supported entities and b) the targeting of disadvantaged students for enhanced access and retention.

### **Fellowship Background**

The HEQCIP Fellowship awards are a central feature of the Component 1 activities, and are designed specifically to allow selected HE staff members to undertake further study outside Cambodia so that they might gain postgraduate qualifications, mostly at Master degree level. The following information lays out the process by which this will be achieved.

### **Fellowship Objective**

The objective of the following selection criteria and approach is to lay out guidelines that will promote equitable access fall all those qualified to apply for the opportunity to pursue further upgrading of their academic qualifications, and to provide for further capacity development for (Higher Education) HE staff and officials. The guidelines aim to ensure transparency, accountability and informed, equitable selection processes are employed in the selection of those chosen for this qualification upgrade supported by HEQCIP.

