

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation, Religion, King



Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

Policy Guidelines

For

New Generation Schools

For Basic Education in Cambodia



September 2016

Preface

Building an education system of high quality is a key factor to ensure high living standards for any country. All countries require human resources of high competency, knowledge, and expertise in order to develop both the economy as well as the overall strength of society.

In order to address the needs highlighted above, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport has produced the present policy regarding the development of New Generation Schools with the goal of improving educational quality throughout the entire education system. At the present time, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport is currently rolling out the implementation of New Generation Schools as a continuation of Child Friendly School programming but at a much higher standard.

The New Generation School Policy will provide guidance to educators and students to better understand new methods of learning such as problem and constructivist-based learning. Through such methodologies, New Generation Schools will greatly enhance the presence of educational innovation throughout the school system. Other activities involving project work, subject clubs, and ICT in education will also greatly promote educational innovation. Finally, these guidelines will enable the Ministry and its development partners to make investments in selected schools in a way that achieves 'maximal' standards of learning for Cambodia's children and youth. The New Generation School idea will, therefore, empower the Kingdom's education system to effectively compete with other education systems in the ASEAN region where there is an urgent need for a work force with 21st Century skills. This refers above all to increased skill levels in the STEM subjects (i.e., Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport would like to express its deep thanks to all stakeholders for their contributions to making the New Generation School Policy possible. This policy will provide a clear pathway for the more effective development of human resources to address the needs of the 21st Century.

The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport hopes that all relevant institutions, development partners, and the national and international community will strongly support the successful implementation of New Generation Schools.

Phnom Penh, On __ day of _____ 2016

Minister

Ministry of Education, Youth, & Sport

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present policy has been developed to provide guidance to educators and administrators at all levels regarding the implementation of *New Generation Schools* (NGS) throughout the Kingdom. The establishment of New Generation Schools is now an official policy goal of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS) as per the new Education Reform framework promulgated by Ministry. Within the Education Reform framework, New Generation School activities are enumerated as Point 14. This policy is consistent with and further supports the National Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the National Education Law, Millennial Goals, the National Development Strategic Plan, and the Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

As the Kingdom enters the 21st Century, its education system faces many challenges. These challenges come from many sources including the integration of all ASEAN member states, increased economic competition, rapid penetration of Cambodian society by technology, increasing urbanization, the expansion of private schools, and a large youth population who require intensive guidance in today's world of competing choices and ideas. New Generation Schools can help the Kingdom address these challenges by raising the quality of human resources in a sustainable way.

MoEYS places a very high priority on improving the *quality of education* at both primary and secondary school level to meet the challenges elaborated above. Over the years, there have been some successes in this area but much more needs to be done. Given that the Kingdom has limited resources, spreading these resources across the entire country too thinly defeats the goal of increasing educational quality. What is needed is a *second development track* that will allow the government to continue to address the most basic needs of all schools while allowing for intensive and simultaneous investment in other schools to achieve *maximal* educational learning standards. New Generation Schools have been created to meet this need.

The establishment of New Generation Schools is a continuation of Child Friendly School development efforts and shows their continuing evolution. Such schools follow precedents in other countries where some public schools receive greater autonomy from the state to stimulate educational innovation. This speaks especially to the *Charter School Movement*. Such schools have helped restore a high measure of good governance and greatly enhanced the reputation of public schools in the areas where they have been tried. The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport has studied these precedents very carefully and with special adaptations to the Cambodian context, the Ministry believes that they can work effectively in the Kingdom as well.