

CANCHAM CAMBODIA

NEWSLETTER



ADVANCING WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS

On March 6, 2026, CanCham Cambodia was honoured to join the International Women’s Day Workshop, “Advancing Women’s Leadership: Organisational Roadblocks and Practical Solutions for Businesses,” co-organized by UN Women and EuroCham, with support from DFAT.

The workshop created space for the private sector to reflect on an important reality: advancing women’s leadership is not just about equality – it strengthens businesses, governance, and long-term growth. CanCham’s Vice-Chair, Ms. Monika Nowaczyk, contributed to the discussion, sharing practical ways companies can move beyond compliance and embed equality into leadership and workplace systems. This reflects who we are as a Chamber. As a majority women-led Chamber and the first in Cambodia to sign the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs), in March 2025, CanCham is committed to turning dialogue into action – shaping a business environment where inclusion is core to responsible leadership.

Any private sector entity can join the WEPs to signal its commitment to gender equality in business. Several CanCham members are already signatories, including Manulife Cambodia, Rosewood Phnom Penh, Pharmacie de la Gare, and Cambodia Knits. Reach out to Ms. Monika Nowaczyk to learn more.



STRONGER GOVERNANCE. GREATER IMPACT.

On March 24, 2026, the CanCham Cambodia Board of Directors took part in a governance workshop led by Trevor Sworn of the Cambodian Institute of Directors, focused on strengthening board effectiveness, clarifying roles, and improving decision-making.

This reflects our commitment to building a Chamber grounded in structure, transparency, and accountability – delivering real value to our members and earning trust through action.

We are shaping the next phase of CanCham Cambodia with clarity and purpose – together.



URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

On March 6, 2026, The Room Architecture & Design hosted an insightful session on “The Insider Angle: From Vision to Groundbreaking – An Architect’s Guide to De-Risking Development in Cambodia.”

The discussion offered practical insights into navigating Cambodia’s evolving development landscape. Speakers emphasized the critical role of assembling a trusted, multidisciplinary project team, conducting rigorous early-stage feasibility assessments, and maintaining cost discipline throughout the design process.

A key takeaway was the strategic use of Value Engineering—not merely as a cost-cutting tool, but as a method to enhance efficiency, mitigate risk, and maximize long-term project value.

These approaches provide developers and investors with a clearer roadmap to reduce uncertainty and deliver more resilient, well-executed projects in Cambodia’s dynamic market.

POLICY BRIEF: CURRENCY SHIFT IN CAMBODIA’S GARMENT SECTOR

On the 46th anniversary of the reintroduction of the Khmer riel, a policy brief by the National Bank of Cambodia and UNDP highlights a structural challenge in the garment sector: the gap between USD-based wages and KHR-based spending.

Key Insights

- ~89% of wages are paid in USD
- ~88% of spending occurs in KHR
- Workers lose ~1.2% of income to exchange costs
- 57% of workers and 53.5% of factories resist KHR wage payments

The Core Issue

Cambodia operates a dual-currency economy—USD for income and savings, KHR for daily expenses. This forces workers into frequent currency conversions, absorbing both costs and risks. Meanwhile, businesses remain deeply reliant on USD across their cost structures, complicating any transition.

Why It Matters

- Business Operations: Increasing pressure to adapt payroll, manage dual-currency accounting, and prepare for regulatory shifts.
- Workforce Dynamics: Currency choice impacts employee satisfaction, financial well-being, and retention
- Policy Direction: Gradual push toward KHR usage, supported by digital payments and incentives

What Businesses Should Do

- Prepare for dual-currency systems
- Pilot partial KHR wage payments
- Strengthen banking and fintech partnerships
- Monitor policy developments closely

Click [here](#) to read the reports



ADVANCING WOMEN’S HEALTH THROUGH OPEN DIALOGUE

As part of Women’s Month this March, a powerful space for honest conversation took shape at Java Creative Café Toul Kork — bringing women together to address important yet often unspoken health topics.

Led by Ms. Mona Tep — CanCham Board Member and CEO of Pharmacie de la Gare and Advance European Medicare Center — and organized in collaboration with the Women’s International Group and Java Creative Café, the sessions explored cervical and breast cancer awareness, as well as menopause, through expert guidance and shared experiences.

Participants gained practical knowledge, shared openly, and found a supportive space to connect. This initiative not only empowered women with knowledge, but also carried an important message: **we are not alone**. A clear reminder that what we don’t talk about can’t be treated — and understanding our bodies should feel empowering, not uncomfortable.

CANADA IN CAMBODIA NEWS

MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR ABA FIXED DEPOSIT CUSTOMERS

ABA Bank is introducing a new level of convenience and flexibility for Fixed Deposit customers. You can now request an ABA Credit Card directly through ABA Mobile, using your Fixed Deposit as collateral.

This new feature allows customers to enjoy the benefits of a credit card while keeping their savings intact. Cardholders can also take advantage of up to 45 days of interest-free grace period, all within the secure and trusted ABA banking experience.

Click [here](#) to learn more



MANULIFE RELOCATES SIHANOUKVILLE BRANCH

Manulife Cambodia is pleased to announce the relocation of its Sihanoukville Branch Office, effective March 2, 2026. The new location is designed to enhance the company's ability to better serve customers and support the growing needs of the community.

This move reflects Manulife Cambodia's ongoing commitment to expanding access to financial protection and making its services more accessible to Cambodian families across the region.

Click [here](#) for new location



OCIC AND CANADIA SUPPORT THE RETURN OF THE 74 KHMER ARTEFACTS

Cambodia marks a historic moment with the return of 74 Khmer artefacts from the family of British art dealer, Douglas Latchford.

Now on display at the National Museum of Cambodia, these treasured pieces give the public an opportunity to connect with the country's rich history and artistic heritage.

The welcoming ceremony at the National Museum last week was held in the presence of His Excellency Hun Many, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Service, and Mrs. Phoeurng Sackona, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, with Mr. Thierry Tea, Vice President of OCIC, and Ms. Yem Mach, Deputy Head of Consumer Banking Division at Canada Bank, underscoring the significance of this step in restoring Cambodia's cultural heritage.

OCIC and Canada Bank are proud to have supported the safe transportation of these artefacts, contributing to the preservation of Cambodia's cultural legacy and strengthening the nation's identity for future generations.



CIS SONGKRAN FESTIVAL A KHMER NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Canadian International School of Phnom Penh invites families to celebrate Khmer New Year at the CIS Songkran Festival on Saturday, April 4, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. Held at its Koh Pich Campus, the joyful morning will feature traditional games, Khmer treats, refreshments from Koi Thé, and a live performance by Phare Circus.

Open to the Phnom Penh community, the festival offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Khmer New Year in a vibrant setting. Learn more and [register now](#) to join the celebration.

STRENGTHENING CANADA–CAMBODIA TIES THROUGH CINEMA

On March 25, 2026, CanCham Cambodia joined an evening of cinema and dialogue at the Institut français du Cambodge, as part of the Cambodia International Film Festival, supported by the Embassy of Canada in Cambodia and the Québec Government Office in Singapore.

Through his short films, Cambodian–Canadian filmmaker, Laurence Ly offered a moving reflection on migration, identity, and resilience—echoing the journeys of many Cambodian families who rebuilt their lives in Canada. The evening closed with Mlle Bottine, a Québec comedy exploring family, healing, and strength.

A meaningful moment of cultural exchange, bringing Canada and Cambodia closer through shared stories.



CANADIAN ALUMNI NETWORK IN CAMBODIA — OFFICIAL LAUNCH

On March 31, 2026, CanCham Cambodia was pleased to join the official launch of the Canadian Alumni Network in Cambodia, organized by the Embassy of Canada in Cambodia.

Canada-educated alumni represent a natural bridge between our two countries, uniquely positioned to foster deeper connections across business, education, and investment. As Cambodia continues to evolve and diversify, this network plays an important role in strengthening bilateral ties and unlocking new areas of collaboration.

A big thank you to the Embassy of Canada in Cambodia for organizing this meaningful initiative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 3, 2026

Urban Development Committee Meeting

APRIL 30, 2026

Virtual Chat with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe