

Urban Mobility Ideation Pilot Workshop

UNDP, Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) and CKS

Background

Cities are home to millions of young people. Globally, 85 per cent of the world's young people live in developing countries and an ever-increasing number of them are growing up in cities. Young people, and particularly urban young people, should be supported and promoted as agents of change, innovators and leaders.

Cambodia has seen a drastic transformation of its cities, from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, from Battambang to Sihanoukville. Inside out structural and landscapes change, behavioral evolution to tradition shifts, new demographic fluctuations and cultural mix, new population and vehicle flows.

A youth ideation pilot format aims to give a platform to youth to openly discuss and express their ideas on how to improve road safety and urban mobility for Cambodia.

The ideation workshop is a creative way to explore new opportunities and generate solutions and ideas that would contribute to the design and preparation of possible urban related research projects, involving Cambodian students themselves as generators of those ideas without external influences.

Ideation workshop principles

Mastering creativity techniques is essential to getting the most out of every brainstorm session.

- ***The more the better:*** The best way to generate a good idea is to come up with lots of ideas. Setting an ambitious target to galvanize group discussion while establishing a way to create focus to spark ideas.
- ***Encourage ideas:*** Pretend to have a blank canvas - worry about whether the idea will work later down the track. Even if an idea doesn't seem realistic, it may spark a great idea for someone else.
- ***Remove judgment:*** Bad ideas do exist, but they are encouraged as sometimes they are the ones that lead to the breakthrough ideas.

Overall Summary

The youth ideation sessions were carried out in Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Overall, a total of 50 students participated in the sessions from various majors and departments such as IT, Development Studies, Engineering, Economics, International Relations and Geography. There was also a good balance of female and males who participated in the sessions. With the different backgrounds of participants, the sessions had interesting discussion as youth shared different opinions that facilitated discourse.

This format of engagement with students was a good way to facilitate discussion with youth because it provided them a space to share their ideas that was not an academic requirement, but out of their own interest and concern.

Summary of Findings

There were 3 different ideation facilitators who led three different themes during the workshop. The following themes were: 1) Mobility for All; 2) Safe and secure mobility; and 3) Green, clean and resilient mobility. The sessions had their own methods and processes on how to engage with youth through games, brainstorming, discussions and others.

From all three sessions, the most common issues shared by the youth groups were:

- 1) Disobedience/violation to the law;
- 2) Traffic congestion;
- 3) Poor urban planning & lack of road safety (pedestrian-friendly, parking spaces, unsafe commuting etc.);
- 4) Air pollution;
- 5) Road accidents; and
- 6) Lack of public awareness in traffic law and road safety

On the other hand, some solutions that were commonly raised by the different youth groups were:

- 1) A stricter enforcement of laws and regulations (CCTVs and other monitoring devices);
- 2) Better awareness on the issues of traffic law, air pollution, road safety, public transportation, etc. through public campaigns and youth engagement/involvement;
- 3) Improve quality of and promote public transportation;
- 4) Better urban planning/management to improve traffic congestion;
- 5) Improve regulations to ensure road safety, better behavior, safer public roads and spaces, cleaner environment (better air quality) amongst others.

In addition to the issues pointed out and the solutions recommended by the youth, the ideation facilitators also shared some recommendation as a way forward for engaging youth in the project and through the ideation.

The ideation workshop could lead to research themes opportunities and could take the form of a research competition with the best research paper rewarded because of its originality and quality of applied research methods.

Conclusion

The youth ideation process was an overall successful activity as it has empowered youth participation in social issues such as traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety. Through this activity, the perception of youth was shared on these several issues. Many participants expressed that ideations such as this enabled them to learn more about the road and traffic situation in Cambodia apart from experiencing the traffic congestion and hearing about road accidents, they have shared that these sessions have helped strengthen their knowledge and perspective on the issues.

Annex 1

Annex 1.1: Mobility for All

Moderated by Sotheary You

Mobility for All means:

1. Safe traveling
2. People follow the traffic law
3. Giving priority to the emergency vehicles

Three Key Priorities

The group came up with a list of issues that falls under four categories:

1. People do not follow the law in Cambodia
2. Poor public orders enforcement
3. People do not use public transport in Phnom Penh
4. Low capacity of the government in realizing technology and innovation to manage the roads and traffic

Solutions

1. Improve the quality of public transportation— public transport should have a dedicated lane
2. Use ICT to address the problems: the traffic light should be able to detect the priority transports such as firefighter, police and ambulant vehicles
3. Create different lanes for motorbike, car, and bike
4. Conduct a study on what streets Tuk Tuk can access (not everywhere)
5. Set up an area where people can sell on the streets (not everywhere)
6. Manage parking lots and increase knowledge of people on traffic law and parking
7. Conduct more researches on street light and traffic signs
8. Enforce the traffic law

Annex 1.2: Safety and Secure Urban Mobility

Moderated by: Ritthy Ou

Participants:

There are 16 students participating the session. 15 are from provinces and 1 is from Phnom Penh (5 Geography students and 11 Telecommunication, biotechnology and Engineering students).

Problems:

1. Traffic Congestion
 - Violations of traffic rules and regulations
 - Parking or stopping along the roads
 - Many small roads cutting across the main boulevards
2. Lack of Safe and Secure Commuting
 - Rubbery
 - Improper arrangements or logistics of transportations (trucks/taxis)
 - Inadequate street lights
3. Lack of Sanitation/Hygiene
 - Trash collection issue (CINTRI collects trash at day time and public also needs to put trash properly)

- Construction in the city (dusts of cement, sound pollution)
- Small and low quality of sewage system

Solutions:

1. Traffic Improvement
 - More parking lots needed
 - Civic character and moral education
 - Smart traffic lights

2. Safety and Security
 - Eliminations of gambling activities and drug uses/ trafficking
 - Demanding more responsibilities from transport companies
 - Installing more street lights

3. Sanitation/Hygiene
 - Trash collection at night and installing more trash bins
 - Strengthening rules and regulations on transportation and construction
 - Bigger and higher quality of sewage system

Annex 1.3: Green, Clean and Resilient Mobility

Moderated by Ngov-Veng Chheng

There are 15 participants—five female and ten male students.

Key issues concerning the theme:

To the group of students, ‘green, clean and resilient mobility’ is understood by a type of mobility that create less impact to environment and public health while prepare road users for safety and access to long-term development. There are some key issues preventing Cambodia’s mobility system from reaching there. Issues are prioritized by the student group.

1. Local air pollution caused by increased vehicles which leads to public health concern and greenhouse emissions;
2. Lack of public awareness about quality as well as high perceive cost of clean energy storage (for electric vehicles thus creating skepticism over its reliability);
3. Not enough trees along the sidewalk and green space to effective absorption of air pollutants;
4. Overuse side walk by businesses/street shops causing traffic congestion and road damage;
5. Public/city bus option is not very attractive or punctual;
6. Road conditions and road users’ behaviors when driving cause significant concerns about road safety;
7. Lack of public bicycles and sidewalks;
8. As sewage system is underdeveloped, storm water flooding is a big issue limiting the use of EV;
9. Limited transport means that are attractive to road users;
10. Road asset management is not properly done, no proper traffic light placements and arrangements;
11. Lack of proper educational program for young generation.

Solutions

The students were invited to suggest solutions for the problem(s) the top 3 problems. Given time limitation, they were able to discuss only the first problem (Number 1 above).

- Reduce fossil fuel-based vehicles and promote clean energy use via EV especially in the town like Phnom Penh;
- Increase number of parking areas which provides battery charging services there;