5-7th Floor, Building B, Sejong National Research Complex
370 Sicheong-daero, Sejong, Republic of Korea
www.stepi.re.kr
Contact Point: Dr. Dong Un Park (PM), dupark@stepi.re.kr

UNIDO Asia Industrial Policy Lab (IPL)

Application Form – Policy Challenge Pitcher

General Information	**Country**	CAMBODIA
	Organization Name	Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI)
	Type of Organization	***Please mark "√".*** (1) **√** Central/national government (2) □ Provincial government (3) □ Public organization (4) □ Others……[please specify]
	Main Role and Responsibilities	MISTI is to guide and manage the development and governance of industry, science, technology, and innovation. This includes promoting the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and fostering entrepreneurship. Additionally, MISTI plays a crucial role in promoting science, technology, and innovation to support public and private sector growth.
Point of Contact	**Name**	Dr. SIEV Sokly
	Position	Deputy Director General of General Department of STI
	Telephone / Mobile	+85512429952
	E-mail	siev.sokly@misti.gov.kh
IPL participation	**Title of the policy challenge**	Strengthening the foundations for quality research: Enabling legal/regulatory frameworks for sustainable innovation

	Please describe in detail what policy challenge your ministry/agency wants to study and tackle in the UNIDO IPL?	Cambodia faces a critical policy challenge in building a robust and sustainable research ecosystem capable of supporting national development goals. Despite increasing recognition of the importance of science, technology, and innovation (STI), the country continues to grapple with fragmented research governance, inadequate and inconsistent funding mechanisms, and a lack of coordinated national research agendas. Research careers remain poorly defined, offering limited incentives and progression pathways for emerging researchers. Furthermore, physical infrastructure and human capital—especially in higher education institutions—remain underdeveloped. Without deliberate and strategic policy intervention, these systemic weaknesses hinder Cambodia's ability to generate evidence-based solutions, attract and retain talent, and fully participate in regional and global knowledge economies. Therefore, policy challenges to be tackled are focusing on the improvement of regal or regulatory framework enabling research ecosystem in Cambodia.
	Describe your country's current policy landscape and issues. What is the main barrier and bottleneck?	Cambodia has established a strong strategic foundation to support research and innovation through several key national and sectoral policies: • Rectangular Strategy Phase IV (RS-IV) integrates research across all four pillars, especially in education, health, economic diversification, agriculture, and SME development. • Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) include explicit research targets under goals for innovation (CSDG 9) and food security (CSDG 2). • National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) prioritizes effective research, technology transfer, and innovation capacity-building to implement RS-IV and achieve CSDGs. • National Policy on STI (2020–2030) focuses on five strategic domains (agriculture, health, production, materials, and digital economy) and emphasizes technology adaptation and capacity development. • STI Roadmap 2030 outlines five pillars for improving governance, human capital, research quality,

		collaboration, and investment in STI. • National Research Agenda and sectoral technology roadmap for education, health, agriculture, tourism, energy and digital. The main bottleneck is the lack of a quality research requires adequate policy/regulatory/framework, such as: appropriate funding levels and funding mechanisms; a research system framework and a research career framework; adequate human capital and physical infrastructure for research and development; and enhanced research coordination. Cambodia has laid a strong strategic foundation for developing its research and innovation system. There is high-level political will and alignment across multiple policy documents. However, the challenge lies in operationalizing these policy/regulatory/frameworks through coherent implementation, consistent funding, institutional coordination, and robust monitoring.
	Provide names of other Asian countries that may be helpful on your country's current challenge?	Asian countries (e.g., Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines), including China, Israel, South Korea and USA
	What is your ministry/agency's plan to apply and implement from the suggestions at the IPL Asia?	MISTI is committed to leveraging insights, tools, and best practices gained from the UNIDO Asia Industrial Policy Lab (IPL Asia) to seek endorsement, implementation and strengthening the regal or regulatory frameworks through Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation and National Council of Science, Technology & Innovation (NCSTI). Through this structured approach, MISTI aims to not only apply IPL Asia recommendations but also create a dynamic, inclusive, and results-driven innovation ecosystem that supports Cambodia's industrial growth and economic transformation.

	Potential Beneficiary	**Direct Beneficiary**: ○ Government Agencies (MISTI and partner ministries) gain enhanced policymaking tools, inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and better implementation models. ○ Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) gain access to technology, innovation support, and improved business development services. ○ Universities and Research Institutions benefit from increased collaboration with industry, funding opportunities, and capacity-building programs. **Indirect Beneficiary**: ○ Startups and Entrepreneurs receive support through innovation hubs, incubation services, and access to talent, finance, and markets. ○ Students and Young Professionals gain from improved university curricula, internships, and job opportunities aligned with industry needs. ○ Investors and Private Sector Actors benefit from a more predictable and innovation-friendly environment for doing business. ○ General Public and Local Communities obtain experience long-term gains in job creation, access to innovative products/services, and improved quality of life through inclusive industrial development. ○ Foreign Partners and Regional Networks benefit from increased regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and market linkages with Cambodia.

I certify that all information provided above is accurate and truthful. I understand that STEPI reserves the right to refuse acceptance or to terminate the program if it is discovered that any false statement has been made.

Signature _____ _____ Date: *May 13, 2025*