



Press Release
“Women’s Digital Entrepreneurship Programme” (WDE)
Episode 5: Ed-Tech During Crisis
23rd July 2021, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

On 23rd July 2021, “Women’s Digital Entrepreneurship Programme” (WDE) hosted a policy dialogue on “Ed-Tech During Crisis” via Zoom and live-streamed on the Facebook page of Asian Vision Institute (AVI). The dialogue was moderated by **Ms. Hay Seangmey**, Junior Programme Coordinator in the Centre for Inclusive Digital Economy (CIDE) of AVI, and participated by two distinguished speakers: **H.E. Dr. Sann Vathana**, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS), and **Okhna Pech Bolen**, Executive Director of Westline Education Group Co., Ltd.

In this 5th episode, the dialogue aimed to demonstrate the important roles of education technology (Ed-Tech), and how public institution, private sector and women contribute to this new learning process.

During the discussion, **H.E. Dr. Sann Vathana** illustrated the 5 cores of Ed-Tech: education theory, education management, education methods, education subjects, and education infrastructure. In this regard, he expressed his high respect and admiration to MOEYS, educators, public and private sectors who have been working rigorously to maintain the education sector, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, **Okhna Pech Bolen** claimed that we should have had this Ed-Tech even before the pandemic. We need this type of new generation school to ensure the sustainability and quality of education in Cambodia. Within these two years, Ed-Tech has been rapidly developed, which is a critical infrastructure to ensure an equal access to education regardless of students’ location – urban or remote areas.

As per the challenges of Ed-Tech, **H.E. Dr. Sann Vathana** raised the issues of digital security, internet service, and expense on license and server required in each classroom, while **Okhna Pech Bolen** concerned about children’ mental health during virtual education, where more activities and tools are required to create a social environment that can help them grow up efficiently. Furthermore, both guest speakers agreed that even Ed-tech makes education more flexible, it cannot replace the physical classroom, which is necessary to promote human interaction and social awareness.

Last but not least, **H.E. Dr. Sann Vathana** and **Okhna Pech Bolen** shared the same opinion regarding women's role in Ed-Tech. Women have taken a lot of responsibilities and sacrifices for both family and society, but their contribution in education filed, especially in higher education, is still limited. Therefore, both guest speakers encouraged the ministry and relevant stakeholders to pay more attention and provide more assistance to women in education sector. More importantly, women themselves must not discourage themselves to participate in education despite difficulties and obstacle they have confronted.

Co-organisers:

