

Cambodia : A Road to Economic Reform

— Lessons from Korea's Experience —

Jungdong Park (University of Incheon, KOREA)

As a long lasting consequence of prolonged conflict in its political regime, developments in social service, educational facilities, social overhead capital, and economic system have been delayed. The number of residents in the slums and squatter camps increased from 80,000 in 1990 to 200,000 in 1997, public expenditure on education in 1999 was 1.3 percent of GDP, which was far below international standard and in turn will cause low labor productivity. Also the total lack of physical infrastructure, considered as the main barrier to greater economic development, and Cambodia's estimated annual GNP per capita in 2000 of approximately US\$ 300 rankings among the poorest in the region, shows the challenges to Cambodia's development.

Although Cambodia possesses many social as well as economical problems, it has promising potentials to rapidly develop as shown by the recent economic and institutional advancements. With the sailing new coalition government between CPP and FUNCINPEC in November 1998, transition to a market-oriented economy is being accelerated. Also international aid — for example, Tokyo meeting of the Consultative Group (CG) — is supporting the policy of structural reforms adopted by the government of Cambodia. In fact, in 2000, stability in macroeconomic conditions and politics was

found, which has allowed the government to concentrate on social and economic development processes. Public revenue as a percentage of the GDP in 2000 increased from 11.7% in 1999 to 12%, and public expenditure as a percentage of the GDP in 2000 recorded 17.4% compared to 16.1% in 1999. In addition, realistically, Cambodia is expected to achieve economic growth of about 5-6% in 2001-2002. Therefore, there are mixed feelings of hope and challenge in Cambodia.

In this context, Korea's past experience — as found in Korea's significant development path from its devastated state after the Korean War to its current status — may shed some light on the future of Cambodia. Therefore, we would like to derive some suggestions from Korea's experience in the following section, which can be applied to assist Cambodia in adopting some important, relevant and useful lessons to its development process. Therefore, Cambodia could be concern establishing a central economic planning body, 'Riel' ization of the financial and credit markets, the support of small-and medium-sized enterprises, establishing state-owned enterprise, education and vocational training, developing rural areas and improving rural people's living standards and growth of entrepreneurship.

COMMENT

本報告は、報告者のPark Jeong-Dong（朴 貞東）氏が自らカンボジアに赴き（カンボジア政府の招請）、実際に経済政策の立案に携わった経験に基づき、カンボジア経済の実情と経済改革の方向を提起した貴重なレポートである。本報告の力点は、カンボジア経済が朝鮮戦争後の韓国経済に酷似していることから、経済改革や経済政策の今後の方針として、韓国経済の経験を十分に認識し、その経験を生かすように政府が経済を主導すべきであるということにおかれた。

カンボジア経済の実情や経済政策の特徴を事細かに紹介された報告については、大変興味ある諸点が多く、自らの貴重な経験談にも教えられることが多かったが、現在のカンボジア経済を50年以上も以前の韓国経済と同一レベルで扱うことに多少の違和感を禁じえなかった。第一に、経済状態が低位な状態にあって、マクロ的な統計数値で示される諸指標がきわめて韓国の朝鮮戦後の状態と

西川博史（北海学園大学）

酷似しているからといっても、その歴史的発展の過程を共通にしているわけではない。第二に、現在のグローバル化の進展に示されるように、またASEAN共同体に組み込まれ自国の経済政策のみならず対外関係に大きく規制されるようなカンボジア経済を「冷戦体制化」におかれた韓国経済と同次元で論じることはできないのではないかと、いうことである。これらの点に関しては、会場からも、同様の趣旨の指摘があった。

カンボジア経済を現在の諸環境において十全に把握することがまずもって必要であり、そうした現状認識の下でそれにそくした経済政策の立案を行うことが求められるのではないかと思われたが、政策の選択肢はある意味で無限であり、いかなる政策が実効を有するかは、いちがいに学問的に決定されるものではない、という印象を強く受けた。