

Sok Udom DETH, Ph.D

Professor of International Relations
Paragon International University

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No. 8, St. 315, Toul Kork, Phnom Penh Cambodia.

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Work Experience

- **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**, Paragon Education Co., Ltd. (September 2023 - present)

Other Affiliations:

- Chair of the Paragon Institute of International Affairs (since 2024)
 - Professor of International Relations, Paragon International University (2011-present)
 - Senior Research Fellow, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (2016 - present)
 - Academic Advisory Board member, Future Forum (2019 - present)
- **Rector**, Paragon International University (December 2016 - August 2023)
 - **Provost and Vice Rector for Academic Affairs**, Paragon International University (September 2014 – November 2016)
 - **Head of Department of Political Science and International Relations**, Paragon International University (September 2013 – August 2014)
 - **Lecturer** at Paragon International University (February 2010 – August 2013)

Courses taught:

- Strategic Management (MBA); Advanced Strategic Management (DBA)
- A History of the Modern World (Undergraduate IR)
- Introduction to Political Science / Introduction to International Relations
- Khmer Studies / History of Southeast Asia
- Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis

Educational Background

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|-------------|---|---|
| 2010 – 2014 | : | Ph.D in Southeast Asian Studies (<i>cum laude</i>)
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (Germany)
Dissertation title: "Factional Politics and Foreign Policy Choices in Cambodia-Thailand Diplomatic Relations, 1950-2014."
Ph.D Adviser: Prof. Dr. Boike Rehbein |
| 2006 – 2009 | : | M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies
Ohio University (United States) |
| 2002 – 2006 | : | B.A. in Sociology (with High Honor's)
Boğaziçi University (Türkiye) |

Books and Edited Volumes

- Deth, S. U. (Ed.). (2025). *Cambodia's foreign relations in regional and global contexts* [2nd ed.]. Phnom Penh: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Cambodia.
- Deth, S. U. (2020). *A history of Cambodia–Thailand diplomatic relations, 1950–2020*. Berlin & Phnom Penh: Galda Verlag.
- Deth, S. U., Murg, B. J., Ou, V., & Renfrew, M. (Eds.). (2020). *Cambodia 2040* (Vols. 1–3). Phnom Penh: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Future Forum.
- Deth, S. U., Bulut, S., & Moldashev, K. (2016). The contemporary geopolitics of Cambodia in regional and global contexts. In S. Springer & K. Brickell (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of contemporary Cambodia* (pp. 17–28). London: Routledge.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- Deth, S. U. (2025). Cambodia–Thailand diplomatic quagmire: A reader's guide. *Journal of Greater Mekong Studies*, 8, 13–20.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "Tourism Recovery in the Mekong Region under Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship." *Journal of Greater Mekong Studies* 6 (2022): 39–45.
- Deth, S. U. (2022). Tourism recovery in the Mekong region under Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship. *Journal of Greater Mekong Studies*, 6, 39–45.
- Deth, Sok Udom, and Annaliza D. S. Tuazon. "Erdoğan's Turkey: Peace Built on Sand?" *Journal of Human Rights and Peace Studies* 4, no. 9 (2018): 99–134.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "Review of Inside Pol Pot's Secret Prison." *Education About Asia* 20, no. 1 (2015): 70–71.
- Deth, Sok Udom, and Serkan Bulut. "Civil-Military Relations and Coup Risk in the 21st Century: A Comparative Analysis of Turkey and Thailand's Bumpy Roads to Democracy." *Journal of Business Economics and Political Science* 2 (2013): 11–26.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "The Geopolitics of Cambodia during the Cold War Period." *Explorations* 9 (2009): 47–53.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "The Rise and Fall of Democratic Kampuchea." *Education About Asia* 14, no. 3 (2009): 27–30.

Book chapters

- Murg, B. J., & Deth, S. U. (2023). Cambodia–Taiwan relations: Of survival and soft power. In K. C. L. Lee & Y.-k. Chan (Eds.), *Taiwan and Southeast Asia: Soft power and hard truths facing China's ascendancy* (pp. 29–39). London: Routledge.
- Deth, S. U. (2023). The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP): Cambodia's perspective. In P. Sothirak, B. J. Murg, & C. Pich (Eds.), *ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and US–China rivalry* (pp. 21–29). Phnom Penh: The Asia Foundation and the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace.
- Deth, S. U. (2020). With great power comes great responsibility? Diplomatic battle amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In C. Pich & R. Hor (Eds.), *The impact of COVID-19 pandemic: National and regional implications* (pp. 20–31). Phnom Penh: CICP–KAS Cambodia.
- Deth, S. U. (2018). Cambodia–India relations in the context of 'Act East' policy. In H. V. Pant (Ed.), *Delhi Dialogue IX: Charting the course for India–ASEAN relations for the next 25 years*. New Delhi: Observer Research Foundation.
- Deth, S. U. (2017). Cambodia–Thailand relations: From hostility to harmony? In S. U. Deth, S. Sun, & S. Bulut (Eds.), *Cambodia's foreign relations in regional and global contexts* (pp. 24–49). Phnom Penh: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Cambodia.

- Deth, S. U., & Bultmann, D. (2016). The afterglow of Hun Sen's Cambodia? Socio-economic development, political change, and the persistence of inequalities. In B. Rehbein, S. Wunkaew, & C. B. Wungao (Eds.), *Twenty-first century globalization, democracy and alternative futures: Challenges and responses from Southeast Asia* (pp. 87–109). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Deth, S. U., Bulut, S., & Moldashev, K. (2016). The contemporary geopolitics of Cambodia in regional and global contexts. In S. Springer & K. Brickell (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of contemporary Cambodia* (pp. 17–28). London: Routledge.

Miscellaneous Articles

- Deth, Sok Udom. "Sustainable Peace Will Require Honest Political Will from Both Cambodia and Thailand." *CIVICUS*. <https://lens.civicus.org/interview/sustainable-peace-will-require-honest-political-will-from-both-cambodia-and-thailand/>
- Deth, Sok Udom. "Cambodia Security Outlook 2022." *CSCAP Regional Security Outlook 2022*, 67-69. <http://www.cscap.org/uploads/CSCAP%20RSO%202022%20Final.pdf>.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "Cambodia's Democracy: Prospect and Challenges." *The May 18 Memorial Foundation*, April 2021. <http://www.518.org/Mayzine/202104/subpage/sub0404.php?ckattempt=1>.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "Voices from Cambodia: Discourses on the Preah Vihear Conflict," *SEATIDE: Integration in Southeast Asia: Trajectories of Inclusion, Dynamics of Exclusion* Online Paper 3. <https://hal.science/hal-01963845/document>.
- Deth, Sok Udom. "Is Cambodia Ready to Go Nuclear?" *The Asia Dialogue*. <https://theasiadialogue.com/2017/08/08/is-cambodia-ready-to-go-nuclear/>.

Consulting Experience

- **National Resource Person**
ADB, Cambodia (March – June 2025), *Fundamental Framework of Science, Technology, and Innovation Evaluation for Public and Private Enterprises*.
Supported the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation establish the framework document.
- **National Advisor**
USAID, Cambodia (June – September 2024), Documentation Center of Cambodia Assessment Report (LER III).
Conducted pilot test, and supported international team members in fieldwork research, literature review and data analysis for the assessment questions.

Presentations in National and International Conferences

- "Lancang-Mekong Cooperation under Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship: Prospects and Challenges" at *Lancang Mekong Cooperation Symposium*, Sun Yat-sen University, PRC (7 April 2022)
- "The "ASEAN Way" after 50 Years: Cherish More of the Same?" at *ASEAN at 50: Introspection and Future Outlook*, Raffles Hotel, Phnom Penh Cambodia (27 September 2017)

- “Color Revolution in Cambodia: Too Much Ado about Nothing?” at *Religion and Politics in Southeast Asia*, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea (25-26 August 2017)
- “Cambodia-India Relations in the Context of ‘Act East’ Policy” at *The 9th Delhi Dialogue*, New Delhi, India (4-5 July 2017)
- “Cambodia from Civil Wars to Fragile Peace: A Secular Perspective” at the *World Buddhist Peace Conference*, Sagaing Hills, Myanmar (22-24 January 2016)
- “Cambodian-Vietnam Relations: Plus Ça Change” at the 3rd academic conference on Thai-Cambodian Relations on *Mainland Southeast Asian Relations: Transnational Agendas, Intraregional Affairs*, Mahidol University, Thailand (May 2015)
- “Heritage and Nationalism in the Preah Vihear Dispute” in *Dynamics of Integration and Dilemmas of Divergence in Contemporary Southeast Asia*, Penang, Malaysia (September 2014)
- “Cambodia Twenty Years On: A Political Dynasty in the Making?” at *The 5th International Conference on Southeast Asia (ICONSEA 2013)*, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia (December 2013)
- “Civil-Military Relations and Coup Risk in the 21st century: A Comparative Analysis on Turkey and Thailand’s Bumpy Road to Democracy” at *International Turgut Ozal Congress on Business, Economics and Political Science*, Turgut Ozal University, Türkiye (November 2013)
- “Remembering January 7, 1979: A 33-Year Debate in Cambodian Political History” at *The 5th Thai-Malay International Conference on Southeast Asia*, Mahidol University, Thailand (February 2012)
- “Cambodian-Thai Diplomatic Relations 1950 – 2010” at *The 11th International Conference on Thai Studies: Visions of the Future*, Mahidol University (July 2011); and at *7th Annual Asia Research Institute Graduate Forum*, National University of Singapore (July 2012).
- “Facebooking Khmer History: Social Networking Academia?” at *Transforming Cambodia Studies: Social Change and Cultural Transitions since 1979*, organized by the Center for Khmer Studies in collaboration with Northern Illinois University, UC-LA, University of Wisconsin – Madison and UC Berkeley (Siem Reap, July 2011).

Exclusive Interviews (English language only)

- Pravit Rojanaphruk (*Khaosod English*). “How Dark is the Dark-side of Thailand-Cambodian Relations: The Case of ‘Dangrek Massacre’ or So-Called ‘Ghost Mountain.’” September 14, 2025. <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/featured/2025/09/14/how-dark-is-the-dark-side-of-thailand-cambodian-relations-the-case-of-dangrek-massacre-or-so-called-ghost-mountain/>.
- Aok Sochenda (*ZEROW*). “Why Cambodia and Thailand Keep Clashing, and What Comes Next?.” July 31, 2025. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1459612968707191>.
- Phal Niseiy Sao (*Cambodianess*). “Nationalist Backgrounds Fuel Border Tension.” June 13, 2025. <https://cambodianess.com/article/nationalist-backgrounds-fuel-border-tension>.
- Phal Niseiy Sao (*Cambodianess*). “Cambodia’s Growing Appetite for Evidence-based Policy and the Importance of Academic Research.” *Cambodianess*, March 7, 2020. <https://cambodianess.com/article/cambodias-growing-appetite-for-evidence-based-policy-and-the-importance-of-academic-research>
- Soksreinit Ten (*VOA Cambodia*). “Ambitious Book Projects Take a Wider Look at Contemporary Cambodia.” June 2, 2016. <https://www.voacambodia.com/a/ambitious-book-projects-take-a-wider-look-at-contemporary-cambodia/3357396.html>.

- Sophat Soeung (*VOA Cambodia*). “Thai Coup Sets Bad Example for ASEAN: Cambodian Academic.” March 7, 2015. <https://www.voacambodia.com/a/thailands-junta-a-bad-role-model-for-asean-scholar-says/2670315.html>.

Quotes in the Media (English language only)

- Minea Son (*Kampuchea Thmey*). “Cambodian Experts Warn of Potential War Crime as Soldiers Remain in Thai Custody.” October 4, 2025. <https://www.kampuchearthmey.com/kpt-english/997739>.
- Phal Niseiy Sao (*Cambodianess*). “Thailand in Crisis: What It Means for the Cambodia Border Conflict.” September 3, 2025. https://cambodianess.com/article/thailand-in-crisis-what-it-means-for-the-cambodia-border-conflict?fbclid=IwZnRzaAMk7aVleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHvS2XOUqFseQ3ewnaRFmD2-wxR3ImwonzCCs4BZDD_6nngamf9FVmpmbtYUW_aem_20gH8BdyxjhrS_xxQcJ2YQ.
- Maria Siow (*South China Morning Post*). “Will a Leaked Phone Call Lead to a Thailand Coup?” June 19, 2025. https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3315098/will-leaked-phone-call-lead-thailand-coup?share=ce2qqaxqMNuOChk719YOe9iF%2FeIrWWfCegtKo3uA%2B%2Bgrdkp02SGnbNKGz3CVY4KxAhwYuokTHBvWJELkKaf1ndKJGvQKk1p8vDdU87C0iW4%3D&utm_campaign=social_share&fbclid=IwY2xjawLBqx9leHRuA2FlbQlXMQBicmlkETFpUWvhd1RhQldvZTk5eVIUAR7MKteU8wQs0aRL08qtxNe50BvBDGd-g3TmVhhOxy9brNwXRDsES-mAvQ6AFg_aem_fqLXs6LKg3uyxGKDtpTeIA.
- Maria Siow (*South China Morning Post*). “Outcome of the Thailand-Cambodia Border Talks in the Balance amid ‘trust deficit’.” June 12, 2025. https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3314117/outcome-thailand-cambodia-border-talks-balance-amid-trust-deficit?module=perpetual_scroll_0&pgtype=article.
- Nyshka Chandran (*CNBC*). “The Japan-China Rivalry is Playing out in Cambodia’s Election.” July 19, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/18/japan-and-china-compete-for-influence-incambodia.html>.

Awards, Recognitions and Fellowships

- Global Community Innovator Award from Global Tassels at the 10th Annual Founders’ Gala, held on June 15, 2024 in New York City.
(About GT: <https://globaltassels.org/>)
- Featured in *Cambodia’s Young Leaders & Influencers: 21 Stories of Grit and Resilience*. A book published by Kon Adenauer Stiftung Cambodia (2021):
<https://www.kas.de/en/web/kambodscha/ausgaben/detail/-/content/cambodia-2040-economic-development-1>
- ASEAN Youth Fellow (Singapore, 2018): <https://www.sif.org.sg/en/Our-Work/Cultural-Exchange/ASEAN-Youth-Fellowship>
- Recognition as a “Cambodia’s Rising Star” for the 3rd Global Alumni Convention, IDP Education (Cambodia) November 2017.
- Asia Research Institute Graduate Seminar, Singapore, July 2012.
- Graduate and Teaching Assistantships awarded by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Ohio University (2006 – 2009), United States.

Languages

- Khmer – Native Speaker
- English – Advanced
- Turkish – Fluent
- Thai – Intermediate