

**DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CAMBODIA**  
**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

*Searching for the truth.*  
[www.dccam.org](http://www.dccam.org)

**Quarterly Report: July–September 2003**

This Quarterly Report describes our progress at the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) during the past three months, from July 1 to September 30, 2003. It also cites challenges and constraints to our work, sets forth our strategies for improvement, and provides indicators of our performance and impact.

**1. NARRATIVE REPORT**

**1.1 SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECT IMPACT**

This quarter, we made significant progress on each of our seven major projects. Those projects relate to mapping, documentation, microfilming, historical research, translation, publication, and our monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*. We also branched out into a number of new activities. Our progress is summarized as follows:

**1.1.1 The Mapping Project**

Since commencing our Mapping Project in 1995, we have located 19,457 mass graves, 185 former Democratic Kampuchea (DK) security offices, and 78 genocide memorials constructed by survivors of the DK regime. Our Mapping Project entails mapping those sites with Global Positioning Satellite devices and displaying the data on digital maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. This quarter, our Mapping Team also continued to write a manuscript detailing the history of DK Security Offices, which served as interrogation centers and prisons. To date, team members have completed a 450-page draft report in Khmer. The report describes 185 prisons. Team members have edited 228 pages of the draft manuscript and are currently conducting field research to add to the current draft.

The report is intended for future publication in English and Khmer and will serve to demonstrate the widespread and systematic nature of the killing perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge (KR) regime.

1.1.1(a) *Forensic Study*

To complement our mapping activities, we began a forensic study in early 2003. It involves collaboration with a distinguished team of North American scholars: Dr. Craig

Etcheson, Dr. Michael Pollanen, and Dr. Katharine Gruspier. In April 2002, our Forensic Team (which includes the experts named above) completed Phase 1 of the project, determining that the project would be feasible and collecting sample skeletal remains for display and preservation at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Phases 2 and 3 of the study are now underway. Phase 2 involves a detailed reconnaissance of mass graves to identify appropriate sites for a full-scale forensic exhumation, as well as the collection and preservation of a representative sample of traumatized human skeletal remains. Between July and September, the team went to Prey Veng, Kampong Cham, and Kampong Chhnang to search for and examine sites at which human remains have yet to be exhumed. In Prey Veng, the team found three sites in Mesang district. The team also went to one district where unexhumed sites were flooded and another two districts where sites were already exhumed. Finally, in September the team visited three of the least disturbed sites, one in Prey Veng and two in Kampong Cham.

Phase 3 began in September and involves a definitive, multi-disciplinary forensic analysis of a representative sample of mass graves. The Forensic Team intends to complete preliminary work on Phase 3 and to undertake a long-term project if additional funds are forthcoming. Among other goals, the project intends to shed light on the ways in which individuals were killed or otherwise abused during the Pol Pot era. We will be producing a detailed report on our Forensic Study Project in the near future and already completed a report on Phase One of the project. It is available upon request.

### **1.1.2 The Documentation Project**

Our Documentation Project entails collecting and cataloguing documents and managing two major databases, the Cambodian Genocide Bibliographic Database (CBIB) and the Cambodian Genocide Biographical Database (CBIO). The CBIB and CBIO, set up in collaboration with Yale University and the University of New South Wales, contain detailed information on former Khmer Rouge leaders and cadres. They provide an organized and Internet-accessible information resource about the DK regime and many of its victims. The databases also facilitate our program of family tracing, whereby survivors of the DK era can search for information on lost loved ones.

During the third quarter of 2003, our Documentation Team continued to enter data into the CBIO by using the CDS/ISIS software program. The process of data entry includes two major steps. First, DC-Cam staff members read biographical documents and enter relevant information into 37 different fields. Second, staff members crosscheck that data against original DC-Cam documents and edit the database entries before loading the records into CD-ROMs and the Internet. By July 2003, our team had entered a total of 9,340 Khmer records from our "K" collection of documents. This quarter, the team worked to edit and crosscheck those records and enter them into the database in English. We have completed editing of 4,514 records in Khmer, and between July and September, the team entered 7,345 English data records as well.

This quarter, we also began to catalogue another collection of documents called the *Renakse* documents. These are petitions made in the 1980s to the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the successor government to the Khmer Rouge. Signed by millions of people, they

include accounts of horrific crimes and describe mass burial pits, prisons, and other evidence of Khmer Rouge terror. Out of 2,700 documents held at the Center, we have entered 150 into our new worksheet database.

#### 1.1.2(a) *Films and Photo Exhibitions*

DC-Cam holds a large number of photos in addition to handwritten documents and other materials from the DK period. To share our work with the public, we continue to arrange public displays of some of our photo archives. Between September 10 and October 7, photos from DC-Cam and photojournalist Heng Sinith were on display in Denmark. DanChurch Aid and Operation Dayswork sponsored our five-week exhibition, which profiled ex-Khmer Rouge cadres. It displays photos dating from the DK era and recent photos showing images of the ex-soldiers' lives today. The exhibition attempts to capture the flavor of the Khmer Rouge revolution and its aftermath and to explore some of the challenges of national reconciliation. This quarter, DC-Cam's work was also on display through Rithy Panh's award-winning documentary *S-21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*. The film has been shown in approximately ten countries in Europe, South and North America, and Asia during September 2003 and continues on tour in October.

#### 1.1.2(b) *A Film about Female Victims of Rape*

In cooperation with the Women's Media Center, DC-Cam started a new film project in July. The film will be based on true stories and will present the lives of women who suffered abuses in the DK era and have endured to care for their families and promote a better future for Cambodia. This quarter, we worked to identify appropriate women around whom to organize the film. After reading Khmer Rouge documents detailing abuses against women, our team made several field research trips to Kandal and Kampong Chhnang to follow up the cases. So far, the team has interviewed 27 women and two men. One example of an investigated case is a woman in Kampong Chhnang who described her rape at the hands of a Khmer Rouge cadre. Life after 1979 has not been easy for her, as she lost her husband and had to raise several children alone, reviled by her mother-in-law. The film plans to use cases like hers to show the processes of loss and reconciliation in Cambodia.

### **1.1.3 The Microfilming Project**

Our Microfilming Project, conducted in collaboration with Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library, is closely related to our documentation work. The project aims to preserve historical documents related to the Khmer Rouge through the use of microfilm. That process allows researchers and legal investigators to access our archival information without handling original documents, many which have become fragile with age. During the third quarter of 2003, our Microfilming Team continued to work on microfilming official CPK documents from the DK era (called our "D" collection.) Between July and September, the team microfilmed files numbered D21634—D22269. Those microfilmed records comprise 15,386 pages. Normally, we send microfilm to Yale's Sterling Memorial Library to be developed. One set of developed film is kept at Yale, and another is returned to us. This quarter, we also tried developing some

microfilm through the National Archives of Cambodia (NAC) to see if more cost-efficient microfilming options are available. We have now determined that the most cost-efficient option consistent with our demand for high quality will be to acquire our own microfilm developer/duplicator at a price of approximately US\$5,000. We are now in the process of reviewing quotations for that purchase.

#### 1.1.3(a) *Digital Photo Archiving Project*

In July, we began a one-year project on digital photo archiving. The project involves digitally imaging a survey of Khmer Rouge photographs and publishing them with accompanying narrative commentary as a book. The project manager is Wynne Cougill of PA Consulting, Inc. in Washington, DC. Ms. Cougill is writing the text that will accompany the photo presentation. This quarter, our team reviewed, selected, and scanned over 6,000 photographs showing the life of a Khmer Rouge family before, during, and after the DK period. Most are photos obtained from the Tuol Sleng Archives and our archival collection, but our team also took over 100 relevant photos on field research trips. At the completion of the project, readers of our book and other interested individuals will be able to order free electronic copies of photos through our website.

We plan to scan a total of approximately 24,000 photos by the end of the project and will begin cataloguing the photos shortly. To present the photos powerfully and attractively for the book, two team members—Sopheak Sim and Chhayrann Ra—are seeking training in computer techniques for graphics and photo layout in books. They have identified the West Lake training center in Washington, DC and are now applying for admission for a course in December. A more complete report on the project's activities is available upon request.

#### 1.1.4 **The Magazine Project**

Our monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*, disseminates our work to the public, facilitates public discourse on issues related Khmer Rouge, and otherwise promotes justice and reconciliation in Cambodia. The magazine contains five sections: documentary analysis, history, legal issues, public debate, and family tracing. From July to September 2003, articles in our documentation section analyzed documents in our archives. Our history section continued to focus on the personal histories of elderly survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime. We also published articles relating to former cadres identified in our work with the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (described below.) In our legal section, we published stories on the special tribunal in Sierra Leone and the situation in the Congo. The debate section of our magazine included pieces discussing people's views on the prospective KR tribunal and the need for an improved curriculum on KR history in high schools. It also analyzed discussions between the United Nations and the Committee of Victims of the Khmer Rouge. Finally, our family tracing articles this quarter focused on the personal and family experiences of DC-Cam staff members during the DK period. We also published announcements from aggrieved individuals in Kandal seeking information on lost relatives. To date, we have received approximately 60 letters from aggrieved family members through our family tracing program.

This quarter, we published issues 43-45 of our Khmer edition of the magazine. We published 7,000 copies of each issue (for a total of 21,000) and distributed 17,212 copies free of charge, mostly in Cambodia. We continued to work with LICADHO, PADEK, Partners for Development, and other organizations to distribute the magazine. DC-Cam field researchers also carried copies to Cambodia's villages and distributed them to local officials and interested villagers. Public responses continue to be strongly supportive. A few excerpts from letters to the editor are indicative:

- "I received *Searching for the Truth* magazines from you as I requested. That makes me most happy because I want to share to people in my village and commune in order to search for the true nature of the Khmer Rouge, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan. I want to know who committed genocide, for what, for land or race?" Chhay Chrun, Tramkak, Takeo province.
- "I found my cousin's husband's confession in the DC-Cam magazine... Hopefully, in the future we will all see the Khmer Rouge leaders brought to justice. Thank you for your work in searching for the truth." Phanacy Kong, Minnesota, USA.

This quarter, monks, military officers, rural citizens, and retired government officials were among those requesting copies of *Searching for the Truth*. As usual, these interested readers also shared useful stories with us about their own experiences during the DK era.

#### 1.1.4(a) *Special Quarterly English Issues*

In January 2003, we instituted a new practice of publishing special quarterly issues in English. That practice continues to be successful. Since May 2003, volunteer Jeff Strata has helped Bunsou Sour and Kok-Thay Eng edit our English version of the magazine. Our second special issue in July highlighted the process of negotiation that led to the signing of the KR tribunal law between UN Chief legal counsel Hans Corel and Cambodian chief negotiator Sok An earlier this year. The issue generated very positive feedback, and we received over US\$1,000 in revenue from sales of the issue.

#### 1.1.4(b) *Radio Broadcasts*

To reach a broader audience, we also continued to read selected articles on a local radio station, *Women's Media Center FM 102*. So far, Rachana Phat and Ly Sophal of our staff have read 59 of our articles on the radio program, which reaches almost all of Cambodia's provinces and some areas abroad.

#### 1.1.4(b) *DC-Cam's National Reconciliation Survey Project*

This quarter, we also continued work on our national reconciliation survey. The survey contains 28 questions designed to determine what our magazine readers feel about our work and what they think about the Khmer Rouge, justice, and reconciliation in Cambodia. In early 2002, we distributed over 7,000 survey, and by June 2003 we collected nearly 800 completed forms.

Ms. Suzannah Linton, a solicitor trained at the Universities of Bristol and Essex, has written a 228-page report and analysis of the national reconciliation surveys. Ms. Linton is currently a Carr Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. This quarter, her report approached final form, and we intend to publish it in the near future. Meng-Try Ea, Chhyrann Ra, Kok-Thay Eng, and other staff members helped her design the survey, collect completed forms, enter survey data, and translate and review the responses. In addition, four scholarly experts are currently reviewing and commenting upon the draft.

After receiving the scholars' comments and editing the text, we expect to be ready for publication by early 2004.

### **1.1.5 The Project to Promote Accountability**

Our Project to Promote Accountability (the "PA Project") focuses on fact-finding in advance of the prospective KR tribunal. It also seeks to build a better historical understanding of the workings of the DK regime. The June agreement between the United Nations and Cambodian government to convene a tribunal adds to the importance and urgency of the PA Project. As one Cambodian wrote to our Director, Youk Chhang:

"Thank Heaven, the Documentation Center of Cambodia, under your leadership, continues to help shed light on [the KR abuses] and to remind the world and the Cambodian government of their moral obligation and international and national responsibilities to bring the KR leadership to trial. Thank you so much for all the hard and dangerous work you and your team have done on my behalf and that of other KR victims."

Using information from our files and past interviews, PA Team members seek interviews with former cadres who served in the DK regime. Our normal procedure is to identify and investigate all relevant biographies from a given geographic area (see our description of the CBIO in Section 1.1.2 above).

Our four field offices in Kandal, Takeo, Kampong Thom, and Kampong Cham provinces are operating as normal. However, due to the political sensitivity of the national election, we operated only in Kampong Cham in July. In August the team operated in Takeo, Kandal, Kampong Cham. Kampong Thom has been postponed, due to the fact that our team leader in that province is now on academic leave. This quarter, our teams set out to search for the owners of 335 biographies. Of these, we found 72 alive and interviewed 32. The other 40 individuals had moved, and we intend to interview them later. Meanwhile, our team members in Phnom Penh transcribed 4,947 pages of interviews in July and August, making a total of 12,570 pages so far. Finally, our PA database team has entered 1,309 individual records into the database we begun this year to organize our research findings. We are now considering ways to make our findings accessible to interested scholars and members of the public.

### **1.1.6 The Research Project**

Our Research Project aims to develop historical understanding of the DK era and to build the capacity of young Cambodian scholars to produce high-quality writing and research. Our principal published products are manuscripts in the form of short books, which we refer to as our Documentation Series. This quarter, we published the Khmer and English versions of *The Khmer Rouge Division 703: From Victory to Self-Destruction* by Vannak Huy. We recently sent the Khmer version of *Oukoubah* by Osman Ysa to the print house. We have four other forthcoming publications at the editing stage:

- *Women as Perpetrators* by Pang Pivoine (Khmer);
- *The Cham Rebellion* by Ysa Osman (Khmer);
- *Khmer Kampuchea Kraom in Romlech village* by Kim Keokannitha (Khmer); and
- *Hilltribes under Khmer Rouge* by Sara Colm and Sorya Sim (English).

In addition, four manuscripts progressed to the editing stage after initial drafts were completed:

- “Hill-tribes under the Khmer Rouge Regime,” by Sara Colm and Sorya Sim.
- “Khmer Krom Under the Khmer Rouge,” by Keokannitha Kim.
- “Women under the Khmer Rouge,” by Pivione Pang.
- “Southwest Zone Security System,” by Ea Meng-Try.

One manuscript, “Pochemdam Village Vietnamese Family” by Sorya Sim and Dany Long, has been postponed due to the authors' other pressing work requirements.

#### 1.1.6(a) *Joint Project on Buddhism under the Khmer Communists*

This quarter, we began working with Dr. Ian Harris of Oxford and Lancaster Universities (UK) and DC-Cam on a study of Buddhism under the Khmer Communists from 1970 to 1990. The intended result of the project will be a published manuscript in our Documentation Series. DC-Cam's Phalla Prum is assisting Dr. Harris in the study, seeking access to the archives of Cambodia's Ministry of Cults and Religious Affairs and analyzing our relevant archives. This quarter, research focused on documents dating from the Lon Nol era and materials donated by David Hawk to DC-Cam. Mr. Phalla also used our documentary film collection to assist Dr. Harris. In September, our Buddhist study team took a field trip to Battambang province, visiting 12 pagodas and interviewing eight monks. The eight interviews have been transcribed and translated. Finally, we obtained a letter from HM King Norodom Sihanouk on the progress of Buddhist institutions in the *Sangkum* and the revival of Khmer Buddhism after 1979.

#### 1.1.6(b) *Research Forum: Preserving the History of the Khmer Rouge Regime*

Since early in summer 2003, we have been working with the Khmer Writers' Association on a project that will be completed by the end of the year. The project involves creating a research forum and aims to record a fuller history of the Khmer Rouge period for future generations. The research forum solicits narrative essays from the public by advertising in a number of different media. By writing essays, survivors of the regime help to preserve historical memory that will help to prevent crimes from occurring in the future. The process also gives

voice to the survivors of the DK regime and offers a chance for catharsis and progress toward reconciliation. The essays may also contribute to the search for justice. We plan to select the top submissions for compilation into a book by the end of the year. We have received many interesting and moving submissions to date.

#### 1.1.6(c) *Proposed Book on Cambodia's Minorities*

In addition to our Documentation Series, we are considering a book project that would take place over a two-year period beginning in November 2003. The book would include chapters from a number of our research staff members, including Sokha Irene, Ysa Osman, Kim Keokannitha, Dany Long, Ly Sokheang, and Chan Sambath. Each chapter would address the particular impact of the Khmer Rouge on a different minority group in Cambodia, including the Cham Muslims, the Khmer Krom, ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese, hill tribes, and others. Sorya Sim would write introductory and concluding chapters to framing the comparative study.

### 1.1.7 The Translation & Publication Project

We continued this quarter to translate and publish books in English and Khmer. Eight books are currently in progress at various stages, including the books produced through our Research Project (described in section 1.1.6 above). We completed and published our Khmer translation of *Voices from S-21* by Professor David P. Chandler. We are also approaching completion of our Khmer translation of *Brother Enemy* by Nayan Chanda. The same is true for *Seven Candidates for Prosecution: Accountability for the Khmer Rouge* by Steve Heder with Brian Tittlemore, which we will publish in both English and Khmer. As noted above, we also published our English and Khmer versions of *Division 703* by Vannak Huy. We are now in the process of seeking further funds for our Translation & Publication Project.

#### 1.1.7(a) *Survey on Anne Frank*

One of our most popular past publications has been Ser Sayana's translation of *Anne Frank's Diary*. In connection with that translated volume, Ms. Ser has given presentations around Phnom Penh and distributed a survey of 20 multiple and open-ended questions to 486 students at 15 area high schools in Phnom Penh. The questions aim to determine how young readers feel Anne Frank, the tragedies of modern Cambodia, and how to move toward justice and reconciliation. This quarter, we continued to collect the surveys.

We plan to begin our analysis of them soon.

## 1.2 CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Although our progress was good this quarter, we face a number of ongoing challenges and constraints related to our physical facilities, our need for fundraising and translation assistance, and our security.

### 1.2.1 Outgrowing our Physical Facilities



Space constraints continue to exist, through we have taken active measures to deal with the issue. We completed an extension of our main office this quarter, alleviating some of our constraints. The annex, which is attached to the top floor of our Phnom Penh office, now serves as a meeting hall and houses our department of accounting. Our reading room at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum also helps to accommodate some of our scholarly visitors, who have numbered approximately 60 during 2003. We also continue to operate four field offices, which help to relieve pressure on our crowded Phnom Penh facility.

Since we did not grow our staff appreciably this quarter, these measures have helped considerably. However, we did introduce a number of new volunteers, and demands from scholars and the public to access our materials continues to increase. Therefore, we are now seeking funds to open a space on our ground floor that can serve as an appropriate public information room for visitors, researchers, and journalists. This quarter, we began to look into possibilities for leasing additional space immediately adjacent to our existing office.

#### 1.2.1(a) *Plans for a Permanent Center*

We also remain committed to the creation of a permanent Center that will meet long-term demands for our work. Some time ago, we were given a plot of land by the Cambodian government adjacent to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, and we are currently seeking funds to build a permanent facility with better security, a library and exhibition hall, proper storage facilities, and increased office space. We have received some interest for the proposal. Unfortunately, the land given to us has come encumbered with a number of squatters. As a human rights organization dedicated to the welfare of all Cambodians, and particularly survivors of the DK period, we have not been eager to initiate legal proceedings for eviction.

A number of NGOs, most notably the Urban Resource Center, have helped the squatter residents to build up structures on the land, making our situation difficult. We are now in the process of trying to negotiate a solution that will enable us to utilize the land given to us without causing undue hardship for the current squatter residents.

#### **1.2.2 Need for a Fundraising Expert & USAID Financial Certification**

We continue to need assistance in fundraising. As the scope of our work grows and demand for it increases, we require additional resources. We do not have any fundraising experts at DC-Cam and very much seek the assistance of a qualified fundraiser to help us meet our goals. Drafting reports and proposals consumes a sizable fraction of the time that valued external advisors and our own staff members devote to DC-Cam. In particular, time that our advisors could use for our research and legal projects is often diverted to working on proposals and reports. That time would be more effectively spent performing their expert work activities. We have been discussing this matter with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. State Department, and the American Ambassador to Cambodia. We have also contacted the Network for Good Recruiting Volunteers Online, which may be able to help us recruit a volunteer

or consultant for fund-raising. We are hopeful that a qualified fundraising expert will soon be able to assist us.

We can also improve our fundraising capacity by demonstrating that we meet U.S. financial accounting requirements. We hope in the near future to meet such requirements and to receive certification from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Such certification would publicly reaffirm our financial transparency and integrity to our donors and enable us to deal with USAID directly, enhancing the efficiency of our fundraising efforts.

### **1.2.3 Limited Translation Capacity**

Translation capacity is also a continued challenge to our operations. We increased that capacity in September by hiring four new volunteers from a pool of 50 applicants. The volunteers have been assigned to help our PA Team conduct transcription of field interviews. Our new volunteers come from several academic backgrounds—law, history, literature, sociology, and anthropology. Despite their aid, we continue to seek ways to translate more of our work into English.

### **1.2.4 Security Issues**

As the prospective Khmer Rouge tribunal approaches, we have taken measures to review and enhance the security of our staff and documentary holdings. Dr. Craig Etcheson and other advisors have helped us to enhance our awareness of possible security concerns. In addition, we have sent back-up copies of approximately 70 per cent of our documents to the United States, Britain, and France as a precaution against security threats that may result from the Khmer Rouge tribunal. Documents are sent in the form of electronic files, photocopies, and microfilm.

## **1.3 LESSONS LEARNED FROM PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS**

This quarter, as we continued to broaden our scope of activities and respond to increasing demand for our work, we learned a number of valuable lessons.

### **1.3.1 The Importance of Public Outreach**

The most important lesson that we continue to learn from our program adjustments is that the fulfillment of our core missions of *memory* and *justice* requires us to engage the public as fully as possible. This means working on a grassroots level with the public in a number of ways:

- Sharing our work through our magazine, books, educational presentations, photo exhibitions, radio programs, and the like;
- Interviewing more and more Cambodians to help them tell their stories and increase our understanding of the DK period and Khmer Rouge phenomenon;
- Raising public awareness of human rights issues in Cambodia and elsewhere; and
- Interacting with the public to facilitate a healthy and cathartic discourse on justice and reconciliation.

We have learned time and time again that the public views our role as something akin to a "surrogate truth commission" in Cambodia. Even if the planned KR tribunal materializes, it will be a relatively brief episode in history and will deal only with a select group of surviving leaders. The reality of the DK experience for most Cambodians was local, familial, and personal. Our work needs to address the many needs that arise out of those experiences.

### **1.3.2 The Need for Cross-Border Cooperation**

As we broaden our work, we have also learned that we have much to give to similar organizations outside of Cambodia and much to learn from them. We have tried to play a more active role in international conferences and reach out to share our work and learn from others in Southeast Asia and beyond. In November, Youk Chhang, Rasy Pheng Pong, and John D. Ciorciari will attend a conference on regional history in Bangkok to share our mapping work. In addition, Mr. Ciorciari is in discussions with Patrick Pierce of the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB) to initiate a cooperative exchange program in 2004. HREIB has expertise in human rights training that will be very helpful to DC-Cam, and our experience in documentation and field research will be helpful to HREIB as they build their own documentation program.

This quarter, DC-Cam's potential leadership in human rights documentation was also recognized when U.S. officials requested our input on the establishment of a new documentation center in Serbia. We continue to work with the United States government on soldiers missing in action from the 1970s. We have also been approached for assistance with respect to Afghanistan, and one U.S. State Department official told us that we were seen as becoming a model NGO for combating crimes against humanity. All of these collaborative cross-border projects help build our capacity while we share our developed expertise with others. We have now made this an increased priority for the coming years.

### **1.3.3 Ways to Support the Planned Khmer Rouge Tribunal**

In addition to the recent expansion of our Phnom Penh office, we have found that effectively supporting a tribunal will require us to have increased day-to-day accessibility to international lawyers. After brief discussions with the United Nations, we are exploring the possibility of a small branch office in the United States. The office would provide documentary access and translation services to scholars and lawyers with an interest in Khmer Rouge history and the prospective Khmer Rouge tribunal. We are currently reviewing possible sites for office space and basic facilities. We have received expressions of some preliminary interest from Yale, Harvard, and Rutgers Universities and will continue discussions in October and November.

### **1.3.4 Ongoing Staff Development**

Finally, the broadening of our work has taught us that we need to keep developing the skills of our own staff members to meet new demands for our work. Staff development is thus one of our highest priorities. We seek both to enhance our work quality and to serve as a hub for

the development of local Cambodian expertise in research methodology, history, education, and law. This quarter, two of our staff members completed courses of study:

- *Ea Meng-Try* – MA, Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Coventry University (UK)
- *Chuong Sophearith* – Six-month professional certificate program, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Four of our staff members also embarked upon new courses and are currently candidates for the following degrees:

- *Vanthan P. Dara* – LLM in Human Rights Law, University of Notre Dame (USA).
- *Kim K. kannitha* – MA in Peace/Reconciliation Studies, Coventry University (UK).
- *Ser Sayana* – MA in Tourism & Museum Studies, The Netherlands.
- *Ysa Osman* – BA in English, Phnom Penh.

Finally, we hosted an American volunteer, Ms. Joanna Munson from the University of Chicago, as an English language instructor and research advisor for four months this summer. Her course was very helpful to attending staff members, and her advisory work for our editing and research helped to further build our staff capacity.

## **2. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

### **2.1 HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY WITH THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT & OTHERS**

DC-Cam is an organization with a long-term role to play in human rights promotion in Cambodia and abroad. We have sought to become a hub for work on issues of human rights related to the Khmer Rouge and the aftermath of the DK regime. Thus, we have recently undertaken or secured funds for four new projects in cooperation with the Cambodian government and other organizations active in the country.

#### **2.1.1 Helping the Victims of the Khmer Rouge**

As a joint project with the Transcultural Psychosocial organization (TPO), we have helped to identify and treat former Khmer Rouge cadres and victims for the psychological aftershocks of the Khmer Rouge experience. Our research helps the TPO experts identify appropriate people for study and counseling. “Helping the Victims of the Khmer Rouge” is the title of the project. Since January 2003, our project team has been treating 15 individuals and will continue until December 2003. The project has been featured in the national press for its contribution to national and personal reconciliation and healing.

##### **2.1.1 (a) *The Victims of Torture Project***

This quarter, we also proposed and received funds for a new project called the “Victims of Torture (VOT) Project.” The project will last for two years and involve counseling for

persons who suffered abuse under the DK regime and, when we encounter them, individuals who suffered torture at other times in Cambodia's history.

The project will involve continued work with the TPO. Our primary roles will be to assist the TPO in its identification of subjects for care and to work with children of the suffering individuals to assist them in coping with difficulties that may result from their parents' difficulties.

### **2.1.2 A Renewed Legal Training Project**

A critical part of our work with the Cambodian government is to train Cambodian leaders about human rights law and related subjects. In 1995 and 1996, DC-Cam and Yale Law School ran two very successful legal training courses in Phnom Penh attended by young leaders of Cambodia's government, academic community, and NGO sector. For years, funding limits prevented us from carrying out a legal training program. In September 2003, however, DC-Cam was very grateful to receive support from the Swiss government for a revival of our Legal Training Project. In 2004, we will organize a six-week course in legal training led by John D. Ciorciari, an international lawyer trained at Harvard and Oxford Universities. We will invite approximately twenty promising Cambodian participants to study the basic features of human rights law and related issues of accountability and reconciliation in Cambodia. In addition, we will publish a short introductory text to introduce readers to the basic features of human rights law relevant to Cambodian

### **2.1.3 Koh Sla Development and Reconciliation Project**

This quarter, we also committed to a social service project run by UNESCO that targets 12,000 participants in the Koh Sla commune in Kampot province, where most of the population is comprised of former Khmer Rouge cadres. The project will start December 2003 and provide villagers with literacy, small business, and other training. With our expertise on the Khmer Rouge and our staff's MA-level training in peace and reconciliation, we will coordinate a joint project to facilitate local reconciliation and healing. The Koh Sla community has welcomed the UNESCO project and looks forward to our contribution to the commune's development and reconciliation process.

### **2.1.4 Volunteer Human Rights Advocacy**

DC-Cam also continues to support staff endeavors to conduct volunteer human rights advocacy. For example, Sour Bunsou and Eng Kok-Thay volunteered as members of an international team that monitored the recent national elections in July. Various DC-Cam staff members and advisors also volunteered to give educational talks at schools and universities this quarter.

## **2.2 DC-CAM IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA**

At least 77 articles on Khmer Rouge issue published by at least 15 local and international media in July. The international media includes *The Globe*, Independent Digital (UK), Independent Media Institute, *Associated Press*, *Agence France Presse*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Bangkok Post*, *The Age*, BBC News, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Asia Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, Miyazaki Nichinichi (a Japanese newspaper), Radio Australia, Commonground Radio, *The Guardian*, and *Yale Herald*. Local news coverage has come from The Voice of Khmer Youth, *Cambodge Soir*, the *Phnom Penh Post*, *Cambodia Daily*, *Kampuchea Smei*, *Moneak Seka*, *Rasmei Kampuchea Daily*, and *Koh Sentepheap*. *Kampuchea Thmei* and *Rasmei Kampuchea* publish daily DC-Cam's monographs *Voices from S-21* and *Oukoubah*.

- Arianne Cohen, "Living in History," *Cambodia Daily*, September 27-28.
- Yoichi Funabashi, "Japan's Place in the World: Hun Sen on the Subject of Nation-building," *Asahi Times Weekly*, September 29.
- Youk Chhang, "As Cambodians Prepare to Mourn, Researcher Doubts Prospects for Khmer Rouge Trial," *Associated Press*, September 25.
- Youk Chhang, "Phcum Ben: Le Retour d'un passe toujours vivace," *Cambodge Soir*, September 25.
- Bill Bainbridge, "KR tribunal's Nuremberg model criticized for just targeting leaders," *Phnom Penh Post*, September 12-25.
- "Le regard de Heng Sinith Sur le passe Khmer Rouge expose au Denemark," *Cambodge Soir*, September 10.
- "Cambodians divided over Pol Pot theme park," *The Age*, September 3.
- Youk Chhang, "To ensure justice," *Rasmei Kampuchea Daily*, August 14.
- Sokha Irene, "KR Trial is More than Justice," *Cambodia Daily*, August 14.
- Reach Sambath, "Khmer Rouge Evidence Dispatched to US, France, Britain after Threats," *Agence France Presse*, August 13.
- Richard S. Ehrlich, "Making the case against the Khmer Rouge," *Asia Times*, August 7.
- "Draft Budget Lists \$ millions for KR Trial," *Cambodia Daily*, August 7.
- "Cambodia King calls genocide tribunal an 'an insult'," *Associated Press*, August 6.
- "King Criticizes KR trial," *Cambodia Daily*, August 6.
- Luke Hunt, "Cambodian political stalemate seen delaying Khmer Rouge tribunal," *Associated Press*, August 5.
- John Aglionby, "Pol Pot's soldiers escape justice for genocide," *The Guardian*, August 5.
- Luke Bearup, "Gang Rape: KR's Fault?" *Phnom Penh Post*, August 1-14.
- John D. Ciorciari and Kok-Thay Eng, "Family Fears for the Tuol Sleng Prison Chief," *Cambodia Daily*, July 30.
- Ker Munthit, "Khmer Rouge Tribunal Agreement Delayed by Election Campaigning," *Associated Press*, July 17.
- Sour Bun Sou, "Conviction Lacking for KR Trial Pact," *Cambodia Daily*, July 16.
- "Ex-Khmer Rouge get help for nightmares," *Phnom Penh Post*, June 20-July 3.

With the assistance from DC-Cam research team, documentary film "Inside Pol Pot's Secret Prison" of Bill Brummel Productions was nominated for two News and Documentary Emmy Awards and the awarding ceremony will be in early September in New York.

### 2.3 ANALYTICAL PAPERS AND BRIEFING REPORTS

This quarter, in addition to the many newspaper and magazine articles referenced above, DC-Cam staff members and advisors continued to present our work through presentations at conferences, university seminars, and policy institutes. Examples of recent papers presented include:

- Huy Vannak, "The Road toward Reconciliation in Cambodia," 7<sup>th</sup> SEACSN Regional Workshop in Phnom Penh, Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Network, August 25-27, 2003 (analyzing his experience interviewing ex-Khmer Rouge soldiers on reconciliation).
- Ea Meng-Try, "Justice and Reconciliation in Cambodia," presentation to 30 invited participants from ten ASEAN countries, August 2003.
- John D. Ciorciari, "Pol Pot's 'Paranoid' Foreign Policy: Lessons for North Korea?" at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (Singapore), October 1, 2003.

In addition, UNESCO and the Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organization have recognized the success of our Mapping Project by asking Rasy Pheng Pong and John D. Ciorciari to write a chapter in a forthcoming textbook entitled *Charting Time and Space: Digital Histories of Southeast Asia*. The chapter will describe DC-Cam's use of GIS technology to study Khmer Rouge history. A draft of that chapter is complete, and the authors will present an accompanying paper at the annual Pacific Neighborhood Consortium academic conference this November in Bangkok.

Finally, in November at the annual research congress of the Royal University of Phnom Penh, select DC-Cam researchers will present a paper on research methodology. That paper will describe means for interviewing perpetrators and address how historical study and understanding helped further reconciliation in the South African and Rwandan cases. We aim to reflect on our own strengths and weaknesses as well as to share our experience in doing research papers, writing magazines, and theses produced by staff while attending advanced study in South Africa and England.

*Report prepared by John D. Ciorciari & Sorya Sim, October 2003*