

2008 Summer Legal Associate Program

Each summer DC-Cam hires approximately 10 foreign law students, primarily from law schools in the United States, to work as volunteer legal associates. The associates receive funding from their law schools to cover their base expenses while in Cambodia. In summer 2008, we intend to have five of these volunteers research legal issues relevant to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). We propose to team the remaining volunteers with Cambodian law students so that they can teach each other about the history of Democratic Kampuchea, the work of the ECCC, and their domestic legal systems. In order to provide this opportunity, we seek funding to cover the living expenses of 5-6 Cambodian law students for a 10-week period from June to August.

Each team of foreign and Cambodian law students will assist core DC-Cam Projects, including Victim Participation, Student Outreach, and Living Documents

Victim Participation Project

In January 2008 DC-Cam launched a new Victim Participation Project, through which we intend to inform at least 10,000 survivors who were involved in the creation of the “*Renakse Documents*” about their opportunity to participate in ECCC proceedings. These documents include 1,250 petitions signed or thumb printed by over 1,000,000 Cambodians during the early 1980s. The petitions often detail the crimes that these survivors experienced during the Democratic Kampuchea period. In our view, the creation of the petitions gave ordinary Cambodians an opportunity to participate in a unique form of “truth commission.” DC-Cam Legal Associates will have the opportunity to help reactivate this truth commission process by provide legal training and assistance to members of DC-Cam Staff, informing victims about their ECCC participation rights, and helping interested victims to file a complaint or civil party application with the Court.

Student Outreach Project

Every summer DC-Cam recruits around 200 Cambodian students to work as volunteers during their summer vacation. The students are divided into groups to travel to 24 cities-provinces throughout the country with each group led by a DC-Cam staff member. The students distribute documents and explain the ECCC and its processes. They also conduct interviews with survivors using prepared questionnaire. DC-Cam Legal Associates assist this program by preparing materials for the students and leading training sessions to provide them with general information about the Center, Democratic Kampuchea, the ECCC law and agreement, and interviewing techniques and guidelines.

Living Documents Project

For the next stage of the Living Documents Project, the Center plans to bring 400 Cambodians to observe the ECCC proceedings for a week each month. Legal Associates would assist the orientation and training sessions in advance and draft monitoring reports on the proceedings they attend. They would also help DC-Cam staff lead discussions at public forums nationwide to discuss issues of justice, accountability, and reconciliation.