

**Documentation Center of Cambodia
Museum of Memory**

**The Opening Ceremony of an Exhibition entitled
“The Forced Transfer: the Second Evacuation of People
during the Khmer Rouge Regime”
at Siem Reap, Svay Rieng, and Kratie Provinces**

December 2-19, 2014

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*“Khmer Rouge history is not something about which we should feel ashamed.
On the contrary, I would feel ashamed if I did not know about this history.”*

*-- Preab Sreylin, a 16 year-old female student
at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School*



Memorial at Tep Povong Pagoda, Siem Reap Province. This pagoda was once Khmer Rouge prison and killing site.

¹ Edited by Elaine McKinnon

Introduction

In collaboration with the Ministry and Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts, the Documentation Center of Cambodia's Museum of Memory has installed and premiered three exhibitions entitled "The Forced Transfer: the Second Evacuation of People during the Khmer Rouge Regime." The exhibitions were established in Tep Povong Pagoda in Siem Reap Province, as well as in the Svay Rieng and Kratie Provincial Departments of Culture and Fine Arts on December 5, 11 and 18, respectively. About 1,150 people from various walks of life attended the events, including civil parties, Cham Muslims and other villagers living in communities near the provinces, high school and university students and teachers, provincial pedagogy students, provincial officials and cultural department officials.

During the opening ceremonies, participants had a chance to learn about the content of exhibition, which displays photos and information related to the forced transfers which took place in their provincial towns. The participants benefitted from presentations by the head of the Department of Culture and Fine Arts, the deputy governor, a representative of DC-Cam, an official from the National Museum of Cambodia, and a representative of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal's Victim Support Section, as well as from the question and answer session after the presentations.

Background of the Forced Transfer

On 17 April 1975, Khmer Rouge forces entered Phnom Penh and began the first phase of what they described as an 'evacuation.' This phase would later be termed a forced transfer. The Khmer Rouge classified Cambodians into social groups. People who lived in Phnom Penh were identified as 'new people' or '17 April People,' while people who were deemed to be loyal to the regime (generally from the rural areas) were identified as 'base people.' 'New people' were often discriminated against because of the assumption that they had enjoyed an urban, westernized, wealthy upbringing.

During the initial phase of the forced transfer, Phnom Penh was emptied of all its inhabitants, including men and women of all professions, the elderly, children and monks. Even sick people in the hospitals, pregnant women, and new mothers were forced to leave the city. While trains were frequently used to transfer the residents, many people were also forced to leave on foot, heading in all directions along the country's national roads. Everyone was told to travel to their birthplace, but many had no place to which they could return. People slept along the roads or under trees—wherever they could manage to take a quick rest. In many cases, rice was the only nourishment during their long journey. The population suffered serious health issues,



Students read exhibition panel at Tep Povong Pagoda, Siem Reap Province, during the Opening Ceremony of exhibition on Forced Transfer on December 5, 2014

including swelling in their limbs, dehydration and exhaustion. In total, close to a million people were forced to leave the city, and it is estimated that up to 3,000 people died along the way.

From around September 1975 until 1977, large numbers of people were moved from the central and southwestern parts of the country (provinces such as Kandal, Kampong Thom, Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Cham) to Siem Reap and Preah Vihear.

Some were also relocated to the Northwestern Zone (Battambang, Pursat and Banteay Meanchey provinces). Documents from the Khmer Rouge regime show that 400,000 to 500,000 people were added to the Northwestern Zone and 50,000 people were moved out of the Eastern Zone (Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces).

According to DC-Cam’s mapping report and interviews with Khmer Rouge survivors, the crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge in Siem Reap, Svay Rieng and Kratie provinces include the following:

From 1975-1977, Siem Reap Province was an independent zone in Democratic Kampuchea; then, in 1977, it merged with the Northern Zone. According to the most recent figures compiled by the Center’s Mapping Project, 24 burial sites (containing over 240 pits filled with approximately 42,000 corpses), 13 prisons and four memorials have been discovered in the province. In interviews, many Khmer Rouge survivors made reference to the atrocities committed at Phnom Trungbat Prison in Kralanh District, Siem Reap Province, providing first- and second-hand accounts of what actually took place there. According to their recollections, the Khmer Rouge sent those people who had been arrested in the area of Phnom Trungbat Mountain to this prison. Thereafter, the Khmer Rouge proceeded either to execute those prisoners and cremate their remains for use as fertilizer, or to burn them alive for the same purpose.

According to the Renakse Petitions filed in 1982-1983 by Khmer Rouge survivors, the prison had an area designated (allegedly in 1976) for the sole purpose of cremating the bodies of prisoners. An area with huge pits was filled with rice husks and set alight.

Once the number of prisoners had reached one hundred, the prison guards would throw people – both dead and alive – into those fiery pits. In some cases, prisoners were forced to walk along gangplanks over the pits to their deaths. Afterward, the Khmer Rouge distributed their remains as fertilizer. In the application forms of complainants which have been submitted to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, some individuals revealed that they had received fertilizer from Phnom Trungbat which contained bone fragments.



DC-Cam staff tours villagers during the Opening Ceremony of exhibition on Forced Transfer at Svay Rieng Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts on December 11, 2014

A similar situation existed in Svay Rieng Province. Svay Rieng Province was under the control of Sao Phim, the former Eastern Zone Party Secretary, who committed suicide in June 1978. Soon after his death, people who lived in the Eastern Zone were accused of betraying the revolution and supporting the Vietnamese. For this reason, they were evacuated to the Northwestern Zone (Pursat and Battambang Provinces) to be smashed and separated from enemies of the revolution. The majority of the Khmer Rouge cadres were likely imprisoned at S-21 and then killed. When the regime collapsed, 12 Khmer Rouge prisons and 11 memorials were found throughout Svay Rieng Province.

Likewise, there were 10 Khmer Rouge prisons and 10 burial sites in Kratie Province. Based on general observation, the location of the prisons likely coincides with that of the burials. One interesting former prison was Preah Kosomakk High School, which was the initial and largest high school in Kratie. It was converted into a ten-room prison, weapon warehouse and medical center. According to Khmer Rouge survivors, prisoners who were detained there were killed along the riverbank behind the prison at night.

During the Khmer Rouge regime, people were forced to work as slave labor to satisfy the production goals set by the CPK (Communist Party of Kampuchea), while their social welfare needs were entirely neglected. This practice ultimately led to widespread death from disease and exhaustion, in addition to the deaths by execution mentioned above. The population suffered until January 13, 1979, when the regime was toppled. Many



DC-Cam staff tours students during the Opening Ceremony of exhibition on Forced Transfer at Kratie Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts on December 18, 2014

people were accused of being spies for the CIA or KGB and thus were considered enemy of the Khmer Rouge revolution.

History: A human shadow which cannot be denied

During the opening ceremonies at the three exhibitions, lively discussions took place among the audience members. Young people who were born after the Khmer Rouge years as well as

older participants posed many questions to the guest speakers. A few of those questions included: who were the Khmer Rouge, why did they kill Khmer people, why didn't the population rebel against them, and who was Pol Pot.

Some students showed a keen interest in learning more about Khmer Rouge history. Though it is difficult to convince the younger generation to believe the facts about the atrocities which occurred during the Khmer Rouge regime, it is important to continue this educational effort because history is like a human shadow. It remains with us for our entire life and there is no way to avoid it. Ignoring our own shadow is like refusing to admit that we exist. If we do not acknowledge our past history, we are at risk of committing the same mistakes in the future. Thus, the history of the Khmer Rouge is like a person's shadow. Like it or not, it occurred in Cambodian history between 1975 and 1979. Like it or not, more than one million people died during the Khmer Rouge regime as a result of overwork, execution, starvation, torture, and disease. Like it or not, at least one relative in every Cambodian family died during the Khmer Rouge years. As a consequence, everyone must face this horrible truth and resolve not to repeat such a crime. If we are not willing to acknowledge the history associated with the Khmer Rouge, then neither can we honor our loved ones who perished during that genocidal regime or express gratitude for the efforts of Khmer Rouge survivors who rebuilt the nation with their bare hands in the aftermath of the destruction.

Praser, a 20 year-old female student at Siem Reap's Pedagogy School, admitted, "If young people do not know about the history of the Khmer Rouge, they may possibly commit the same mistakes as the Khmer Rouge leaders in order to gain power." Similarly Sreylin, a 16 year-old female student at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School said,

“Khmer Rouge history is not something about which we should feel ashamed. On the contrary, I would feel ashamed if I did not know about this history.”

Putrea, a 20 year-old male student at the University of Svay Rieng, commented that this exhibition conveys two main points: 1) to remind the future leaders of Cambodia, as well as leaders around the world, not to follow in the footsteps of the Khmer Rouge; and 2) to educate young Cambodian people about the facts associated with the Khmer Rouge regime so that they know it is not fiction. Therefore, everyone should join hands to prevent it from happening again.

The Forced Transfer Exhibition: Supplemental educational resource



Villagers visit exhibition panels during the Opening Ceremony of exhibition on Forced Transfer at Svay Rieng Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts on December 11, 2014

Mr. Noy, a 44 year-old teacher at Kratie Krong High School, whose childhood was shattered by the Khmer Rouge regime, expressed his feeling that the exhibition on Forced Transfer provides a chance for young students to learn about what happened during the Khmer Rouge regime. The photos in the exhibition panels reflect what occurred during that time—for instance, the photo of people carrying earth at a dam site. Mr. Noy himself used to carry earth at

the Sida dam site in Kratie. Additionally, Mr. Noy considers this kind of exhibition to be a valuable educational resource for students which supplements their school textbooks. Because this exhibition is important, Mr. Piseth, a 66 year-old civil party in Case 002 before the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, suggested that it be expanded to every district throughout the country so that local communities have access to Khmer Rouge history.

Links to Photos of the events:

Siem Reap Province:

[http://d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/The Forced Transfer Exhibition in Siem Reap Museum/index.html](http://d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/The_Forced_Transfer_Exhibition_in_Siem_Reap_Museum/index.html)

Svay Rieng Province:

[http://d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/The Forced Transfer Exhibition in Svay Rieng Museum/index.html](http://d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/The_Forced_Transfer_Exhibition_in_Svay_Rieng_Museum/index.html)

Kratie Province:

[http://d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/The Forced Transfer Exhibition in Kratie Museum/index.html](http://d.dccam.org/Projects/Living_Doc/Photos/2014/The_Forced_Transfer_Exhibition_in_Kratie_Museum/index.html)

Media Coverage:

The Opening Ceremony on “The Forced Transfer: the Second Evacuation of People during the Khmer Rouge Regime” at Svay Rieng Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts was featured in TVK’s (National Television of Cambodia) evening news from 7:20 to 8:00 on December 12, 2014.

Reaction of Participants:

Siem Reap Province

1. Rim Chan Srey Nou, a female student in grade 10 at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School: I think that the exhibition should be installed in other places as well as here. For example, I would like it to be in my school because my house is far from here and it is a bit difficult for me to travel this far. Some students may not be able to come here very often. It would be good to have the exhibition in public places which are visited frequently, such as schools.
2. Ving Dany, a female student in grade 10 at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School: My grandmother used to tell me about her personal experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime. She said that even when she wanted to cry, she could not reveal a sound because if she did she would have been killed by Khmer Rouge soldiers. She had to endure her suffering in silence. She often said that children nowadays would have been killed if they were being raised during the Khmer Rouge years. In general, I think that this exhibition is beneficial in teaching me about my own history.
3. Tiv Rotha, a male student in year one at Build Bright University, majoring in Law: Before I visited the exhibition, my parents had told me about the difficulties during the Khmer Rouge regime. Their relatives were separated. The Khmer Rouge did not allow their family to live together. I don’t want this kind of regime

to occur in the future, because I am afraid of living without my family. I think this kind of exhibition is beneficial for younger generations to learn about the genocidal war.



4. Sat Khorn is male: I understand your exhibit without being able to read the text on the panels. I feel overwhelmed when I recall the Khmer Rouge regime because it was such a difficult time in my life. During 1975-1979, I had to relocate to Wat Laork, Snay Douch Commune and was assigned as an ox cart driver. I had to transport rice from the fields to the barn. In addition, I was the chief of a mobile unit which had 10 people. At that time, I was desperate for somebody to help me get out of that situation. This exhibition helps the younger generation learn about their country's history. It makes me feel better when I can share stories of my experiences during the Khmer Rouge years with other people, especially with the students who did not live through that regime.
5. Preab Sreylin, a 16 year-old female student, is studying in grade 10 at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School: I participated in this opening ceremony because I would like to know more about Khmer Rouge history, which is part of the history of our country that everybody should know. I have learned very little about Khmer Rouge history at school. I think it is important for Cambodians to understand the history of the Khmer Rouge regime in order to develop the country in the future. Therefore, everyone should learn about this history. Khmer Rouge history is not something about which we should feel ashamed. On the contrary, I would feel ashamed if I did not know about this history.
6. San Sreynuch, a 15 year-old female student, is studying in grade 10 at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School: I am delighted to participate in this opening ceremony. I hope I can gain more understanding about Khmer Rouge history. As a Cambodian citizen, I would be ashamed if a foreigner inquired about our country's history and I could not respond. Frankly speaking, I did not completely believe what the elders told me had happened during the Khmer Rouge regime. However, now I truly believe that this regime really took place in Cambodia and its senior leaders have been brought to justice by the court. The overall design of this exhibition is attractive, and the text is easy to read. When I go back home, I will encourage my parents and siblings to visit this exhibition because my parents were very young during the Khmer Rouge regime and they do not recall much about what happened during those years.

7. Yann Chheab, a 25 year-old male student, is studying Tourism at Southeast Asia University in Siem Reap Province. When I was in high school, the teaching of Khmer Rouge history was very limited. We learned primarily about the history of the Angkor and Pre-Angkor periods. In my opinion, Khmer Rouge history should be shared with people all over the world, because this regime took the lives of more than one million people. The world should know that after the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodian people had to rebuild this country from scratch. Learning about Khmer Rouge history will ensure that we do not follow in the footsteps of the Khmer Rouge leaders. My parents told me that they had lived in Banteay Meanchey Province, where they were separated from their parents. They did not have enough food to eat and had to work very hard.



8. Vong Praser, a 20 year-old female student, is studying at Siem Reap's Pedagogy School: I aspire to be a teacher in the future because I want to educate young generations, particularly in my village, and contribute to the development of the country. In our village, we have only one primary school. If students want to continue to elementary school or high school, they have to travel about eight kilometers to the district town. By participating in this opening ceremony, I have gained more knowledge about the history of the Khmer Rouge, which will enable me to better explain this history to young children. I think that if young people do not learn about the Khmer Rouge, they are at risk of committing the same mistakes as the Khmer Rouge leaders in order to gain power. Thus, learning about Khmer Rouge history serves as a reminder that we should not repeat such criminal behavior.

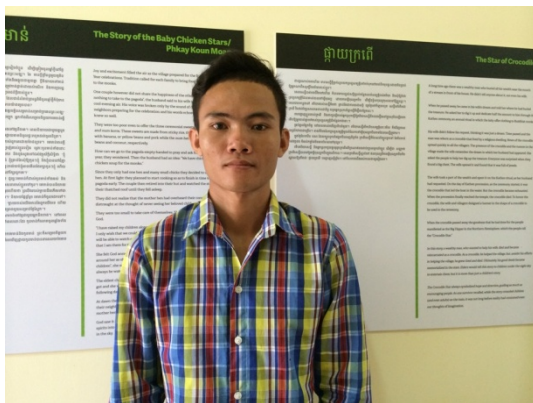
Svay Rieng Province

1. Roth Mony studies at Svay Rieng High School: My grandmother told me that life was very difficult during the Khmer Rouge regime. Workers had to fulfill quotas when transplanting rice in the fields. Some people were forced to collect excrement in order to make fertilizer. Being here at the Cultural Department in Svay Reing and viewing the photos in the exhibition validates what my grandmother told me about the Khmer Rouge. I don't want such a regime to happen again. I want this kind of exhibition shown in the high school so that other students can understand what their parents experienced, as I do. In addition to the Cultural Department and high school, I think it would be a good

idea to display the exhibit at other locations around Svay Rieng Province. If I have free time, I will visit here again with my friends.

2. Sou Sreyrath, a 20 year-old female student, is studying Finance and Banking at the University of Svay Rieng: I used to hear about the Khmer Rouge regime from my grandmother. She told me that her husband, my grandfather, was killed by being struck on the back of his neck. He was targeted by the Khmer Rouge because he had a fair complexion and was alleged to have been serving the Vietnamese. I think that this exhibition is a good initiative. Learning about the Khmer Rouge history will hopefully ensure that such a regime will never happen again. Among all the exhibition panels, the one with the Khmer Rouge leaders who have been brought to justice interests me the most. I wonder why those Khmer Rouge leaders caused such tragedy to their own country.

3. Yann Putrea, a 20 year-old male student, is studying Rural Development at the University of Svay Rieng: During the Khmer Rouge regime, the Khmer Rouge had planned to evacuate my parents from Svay Rieng Province to Pursat Province. For some reason, my parents ended up living and working in Kandal Province. During the evacuation, my parents suffered from diarrhea and skin disease. I believe what my parents have told me, and this exhibition validates what my parents have told me. In my opinion, this



exhibition conveys two main points: 1) to remind the future leaders of Cambodia, as well as leaders around the world, not to follow in the footsteps of the Khmer Rouge leaders; and 2) to educate young Cambodian people so that they know that the Khmer Rouge regime truly took place in Cambodia and is not fiction. Therefore, everyone should join hands to prevent it from happening again.

4. Mei Serey, a male pedagogy student in year 2, specializing in primary school education: I was born in Rormeas Hek District. Before I visited this exhibition, I used to hear my grandmother say that there was very little food to eat during Khmer Rouge regime. She would give her food to my mum, even though she herself was very hungry. She was assigned to take care of children while their parents were working in the fields. One day, Khmer Rouge soldiers planned to kill her family, but fortunately, they were spared because my grandpa was skilled at building bridges during the Khmer Rouge regime. I believe this is a good

exhibition because it educates the young generations about the Khmer Rouge. I would like this kind of the exhibition to take place in more places so that other people have a chance to see it. I will return to visit the exhibit because today I have just had a short time to view it.

5. Um Piseth, 66 years old, is a male civil party in Case 002 before the Khmer Rouge Tribunal: I am delighted to participate in this opening ceremony. This kind of exhibition is very important for Cambodian people, particularly the young generation. Though this exhibition is small, it informs the audience about one aspect of Khmer Rouge history. It would be beneficial if such an exhibition could be expanded to every district throughout the country so that local communities would have a chance to learn about Khmer Rouge history.



6. Chap Lida, a female pedagogy student in year 2 (primary school teacher) in Svay Rieng Province: Before I visited here, my grandparents shared their stories about the Khmer Rouge regime with me. Here at the Cultural Department in Svay Reing, I believe that the exhibit depicts the history just as my grandparents described. There was not enough food to eat and Khmer Rouge soldiers forced people to complete a lot of work with few team members, my grandpa said. The Khmer Rouge didn't care whether people had the skills to complete a task. I think that this exhibition is still limited and I would prefer if there were more panels to make it easier for students to learn when they encounter this kind of history lesson in their classes. Most of our lessons are about mythology, but I also want to learn about the real history. I would also like to see more red color in this exhibition. Sometimes, that can be attractive. I was born in Romdol District, which is a bit far from here. I wish this exhibition could be closer to my house. My family and I have never visited this place, so I will return here again to visit with my siblings.
7. Long Sokunthea, a female pedagogy student in year 2 (primary school teacher), in Svay Rieng Province: My mum told me about the Khmer Rouge regime. She said life was more difficult than ever during that time. There was not enough food; people had to work extremely hard and many people were killed. I believe what she told me. The story in the exhibition panels and my mum's story are the same. This exhibition teaches people about the suffering and forced transfers which

people endured during the Khmer Rouge regime. I would like to see this exhibition installed in my school. I will encourage my friends and relatives to visit here too. In this way, we can share the suffering of those who experienced such difficulty during the Khmer Rouge regime and ensure that such a regime does not happen in the future.

8. Hing Phal-lin, a 31 year-old female assistant to the village chief in Me Phleung Village: I was not alive during the Khmer Rouge regime, however attending this exhibition makes me feel emotional. What I have seen in this exhibition today is similar to the stories my father told me. My father said that it was a difficult struggle to survive during that time. I think that this exhibition is very good to educate the young generation about the Khmer Rouge regime, because they did not experience it directly. In this way, they can learn about what took place during the Khmer Rouge years and will be able to prevent such a regime from recurring in the future. This exhibition is small and therefore sometimes evidence can be omitted.

Kratie Province

1. Poue Samit, a 22 year-old female student studying at Kratie's Pedagogy School: I used to hear about the Khmer Rouge regime from my auntie. She told me that during the Khmer Rouge regime, people were separated from their family members and evacuated from their homes to rural areas. By participating in this opening ceremony of the Khmer Rouge exhibition, I hope to gain more knowledge about the Khmer Rouge regime. I would like to know what happened during that period. This exhibition is extremely important in order to remind the young generation about the severe suffering their relatives faced during that regime. When I graduate and become a teacher, I will share the knowledge I have gained about the Khmer Rouge regime with my students.
2. Pon Na, a 20 year-old female student studying at Kratie's Pedagogy School: By participating in this opening ceremony, I have gained more knowledge about the Khmer Rouge regime. Previously, I was not aware that the Khmer Rouge leaders had been brought to justice. But now, I understand that five Khmer Rouge leaders either have been or are being tried by the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. Now I realize that during the Khmer Rouge regime, people had no freedom. They were forced to work very hard and eat less-than-adequate meals. Children did not have the opportunity to attend school and even worse than that, they were separated from their parents.

3. Sa Noy, a 44 year-old male teacher of Morality at Kratie Krong High School: I have been a teacher for 25 years now. I currently teach students in grades 10 and 11. During the Khmer Rouge regime, I was about 10 or 11 years old and lived in Wat Village, Koh Chreng Sub-district, Kratie District, Kratie Province. I did not live with my parents, but was assigned to live and work in a children's unit. I had to help the adults with the farming, collect plants, and carry earth at the dam site. If I am not mistaken, I saw Pol Pot once while I was carrying earth at Sida dam in Kratie Province. It was during the dry season in 1977, when Pol Pot visited the dam site. During the Khmer Rouge regime, I did not lose any family members. Even though the Khmer Rouge regime is truly a part of Cambodian history, some members of the young generation do not believe that this regime actually took place in Cambodia. Therefore, teaching Khmer Rouge history is essential so that the country may never experience such a tragedy in the future. This installation of the Khmer Rouge exhibition in our province is highly welcomed. It provides a chance for young students to witness what happened during the Khmer Rouge regime. The photos in the exhibition panels reflect what occurred during that time, such as the photo of people carrying earth at a dam site. This exhibition supplements what students learn from their textbooks at school.
4. Suy Chanvisal, a 15 year-old male student studying in grade 10 at Preah Kosamak High School: I heard about the Khmer Rouge regime from my grandmother. She told me that during the Khmer Rouge regime, people were evacuated from their homes, separated from their family members and killed. My grandmother was evacuated from Phnom Penh to Prey Veng Province and assigned to work in the rice fields. One of her children, my mother's older sibling, died during the Khmer Rouge regime. Upon hearing those stories, I felt pity for all those people who endured endless hardship during that regime. I am delighted to participate in this opening ceremony because it will enable me to gain more knowledge about Khmer Rouge history. I will not follow the example of the Khmer Rouge leaders. Among all the exhibition panels, the panel depicting the Khmer Rouge leaders visiting railway stations most interests me because many people were forcibly transferred by train and separated from their families during that regime. I believe that young people, who do not know about Khmer Rouge history, could possibly commit immoral acts in order to achieve their personal interest.
5. Tim Vanny, a female grade 12 student at Kosamah High School: Before I visited here, my mum had told me about her experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime. She said she ran from her village in Svay Rieng Province to Phnom Penh. She lost her sibling along the road and has never seen him/her since. I believe that this exhibition provides a valuable lesson for the young generation so that

they do not emulate the Pol Pot regime. I learned a lot from this exhibition about the difficulty, patience, and struggles of the population during those years. I will return (to the Cultural Department) to visit this exhibition again with my friends. I want them to learn about the Khmer Rouge history, as I have.

6. Hear Linhun, a male student in year 1 at the University of Management and Economics, specializing in Public Administration: I have learned about the Khmer Rouge in school (from visits to Toul Sleng and Choeung Ek) and from stories told to me by my aunt. My aunt said that two of her siblings were killed by the Khmer Rouge. I think that this exhibition is well-organized and is important for everyone to view in order to prevent such a regime (Khmer Rouge regime) from recurring in the future.
7. Sem Choeun, male village chief of Doun Chrom Village, Kratie Province. In 1970, I was an ordinary person, but I was ordained as a monk in 1973. In 1975, I was disrobed as a monk by the Khmer Rouge. They assigned me to work in the cooperative where I was forced to dig earth every day in order to construct a canal. In 1977, I was evacuated to Snoul, where I worked as a blacksmith. It is heartening to know that the young generation is learning about Democratic Kampuchea and believes that this history really happened. If I have free time, I will return (to the Cultural Department) to visit this exhibition again.
8. Srey Chantou, a female village chief of Wat Village in Kratie Province: During the Khmer Rouge regime, I was assigned to weave bags from the dried leaves of *traeng*. In addition, I had to work as a tailor. In 1977, I was a cook in the cooperative hall. I was assigned to transplant rice in 1978. I had no free time to spend with my parents. There were spies everywhere. I did almost nothing aside from working. I have found photos of my relatives among the victims at Toul Sleng Museum. It shocked me to discover them. I have lived through almost five regimes. I believe this exhibition is beneficial for students. Since children's minds are a blank slate, it is easy for them to get caught up in social movements. Therefore, I would like to suggest that parents take the primary responsibility for educating their children about history. It would please me if the young generation understood and believed what happened during the Khmer Rouge regime.
9. Yim Kung Kear, a male mathematics teacher at Kosamah High School: Before I visited this exhibition, my parents had told me that life was very difficult and filled with torture and overwork (during the Khmer Rouge regime). I believe them. I think this exhibition is very good. It provides a message to the young generation

and new leaders not to follow in the footsteps (of the Pol Pot regime). I will return here (Cultural Department) with my students and relatives.

Team:

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Appendix A

Comments from participants during the Opening Ceremony of exhibition on "the Forced Transfer: the Second Evacuation of People during the Khmer Rouge Regime"

Svay Rieng Province
December 11, 2014

