

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា  
Anlong Veng Peace Center

Anlong Veng Peace & Human Rights Study Tour

**Villagers: A Source of Historical Knowledge**

By: Ly Sok-Kheang  
November 2018

The Anlong Veng Peace & Human Rights Study Tour program, involving 15 students as part of our monthly educational program to raise public awareness and to invoke discourse about the history of KR period (1975-1979) coincided with the pronouncement of the final judgement on two former Khmer Rouge (KR) leaders, Khieu Samphan, former President of State's Presidium of Democratic Kampuchea (DK), and Nuon Chea, former President of People's Representative Assembly of DK. Both were found guilty and were sentenced to life imprisonment.



*Participants taking group photo on a beautiful cliff of Dangrek mountain, Anlong Veng district.*

This November, ten pre-service teachers from the Regional Teacher Training Center-Kandal Province joined five from Anlong Veng High School. The four-day program has allowed them to work a little harder and take as much benefit as possible from it. On the first day, the team from Kandal traveled more than half a day from their Center to Anlong Veng. Upon their arrival, they started a journey into a few historical sites within walking distance from their accommodation. Among the designated 14 historical sites, the participants walked to Ta Mok's school, hospital and bridge as well as Anlong Veng lake. Guided by our local tour guides from the Anlong Veng community, participants admired the legacies that are in use and serve the local people. Chea Piseth, 19, a pre-service teacher, valued these structures, underlining that the local people need all these



*DC-Cam Director Mr. Youk Chhang talking to the group*

structures if they are to live in one place. Preserving the structures and being creative with them would preserve the memory of the past and also take great benefit from it.

The second day of the tour program involved a series of presentations, interview techniques, narratives of guest speakers and civil parties to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), better known as the Khmer Rouge tribunal, a film screening about Anlong Veng and its proposed master plan as well as some of its village history. It also provided intensive training on how to conduct video



*Interviewing a villager on camera*

interviews with villagers. Participants were so impressed by the presentations and a group discussion about war and peace that could potentially spiral out of control if any small, sensitive issues could not be properly and timely tackled. Chan Sambath, 20, said while being pleased with the good scenery of Dangrek mountain cliff overlooking the entire district of Anlong Veng, he valued personal narratives to give him raw, primary information about the past regime. This was echoed by Chhayti Thanith, 21, who viewed the interview technique session as useful in helping guide them in this inter-generational dialogue. One prompt response to the narrative was: “I feel that they are also Khmers whose love of our motherland the same as all of us ... They would sacrifice their lives to this cause”, according to Srei Meta, 21, who agreed with Thanith’s view.

Khak Sokha, 20, and Ken Sokka, 22, were interested in the presentation and discussion on peace and reconciliation and how these concepts could be defined differently. Working in groups and doing presentation on the groups’ opinions benefited everyone in the class. Sokha and her friends in class highly appreciated the sharing of opinions by DC-Cam director Mr. Youk Chhang, who encouraged us to be sensitive to any small issues that could lead to a disastrous conflict. Besides agreeing with the words of Sokha and Sokka, Tev Chan, 25, was so content with the Anlong Veng Master Plan by DC-Cam, a part of the Inter-Ministry Committee on Development and Preservation of Anlong Veng Historical Sites. Chan appreciated the environmentally friendly initiative of “one tourist; one tree.”



*Interviewing a villager*

Of particular interest to all the participants was a field study which gave them the opportunity to hear personal experiences of former KR members. Participants viewed each villager as “warehouse of stories” that could be pieced together to understand the complexity of conflict and genocide in Cambodia. Piseth wrote that: “each village is a great source of knowledge and stories of individuals.” He added that such a study tour was the best practice of learning process among the Cambodian youths and future educators.

## APPENDIX I: Photo link

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HzBqG9RzhQSXMuD88>

## APPENDIX II: Media coverage

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/15/world/asia/khmer-rouge-cambodia-genocide.html>

## APPENDIX III: List of Participants in November 2018

No	Name	Age	Sex	School
1	Chiem Srey Ann	21	F	Regional Teacher Training Institute-Phnom Penh (RTTI-PP)
2	Tev Chann	25	M	RTTI-PP
3	Ken Sokka	22	F	RTTI-PP
4	Khak Sokha	20	F	RTTI-PP
5	Srey Meta	21	F	RTTI-PP
6	Chan Sambath	20	M	RTTI-PP
7	Chhayti Thanith	21	M	RTTI-PP
8	Chea Piseth	19	M	RTTI-PP
9	Voeun Srey Minh	19	F	RTTI-PP
10	Huy Vuthea Rith	20	M	RTTI-PP
11	Luy Reay		M	Anlong Veng High School
12	Phut Phy		M	Anlong Veng High School
13	Kaeh Rithy		M	Anlong Veng High School
14	Ya Piev		M	Anlong Veng High School
15	Horn Veasna		M	Anlong Veng High School

**TEAM:** Ly Sok-Kheang, Phat Bora, Long Aun, Keo Theasrun, Un Vey and Hean Den

**REPORT:** Ly Sok-Kheang

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