

# មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

**CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL MONITOR (CTM)**  
Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)

## **Training Report**

For Training Conducted at:  
**Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE)**  
30 November 2012



### **Summary**

On 30 November 2012, the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM) team conducted training at the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE). The audience consisted of forty (40) law students attending the English program at RULE. All students were first-year students concentrating in international relations. The class was also the first semester for international relations. The training was tailored to accommodate the interest in international relations. It was conducted as a half-day program: (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon). The CTM team presented an overview of the CTM, ECCC, and DC-Cam websites. The team showed a short film, answered questions about the history of Democratic Kampuchea, and provided a short presentation on the establishment of the ECCC, including an overview of the cases and key legal concepts.

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## **Training Objectives**

The Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM) Training aims to...

1. Disseminate information related to the ongoing development of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC);
2. Raise awareness of the trials of the Khmer Rouge leaders among students;
3. Encourage more effective utilization of the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor website;
4. Provide a basic overview of key historical facts surrounding the Democratic Kampuchea regime (1975-1979).

## **Seminar Description**

The Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM) Project of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) is conducting a workshop for all universities in Cambodia, which will focus on the history of Democratic Kampuchea, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), and the resources provided by the CTM website. This outreach program will disseminate information relating to the ongoing development of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, raise awareness amongst university students on the trials of the Khmer Rouge leaders and ongoing developments, as well as encourage more effective utilization of the website for research purposes. To date, the CTM team has successfully conducted the workshop at more than 20 universities, reaching almost 5,000 students. While most of these workshops have been held for universities in Phnom Penh, the CTM team is looking forward to expanding its work to the remaining universities in the provinces and the entire country.

Almost three decades after the collapse of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979), a hybrid tribunal known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) was established by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations to address the serious human rights violations and crimes committed under the DK regime. The ECCC continues to prosecute the senior leaders of the DK regime and is helping Cambodians to achieve a measure of reconciliation. Yet, judicial measures alone cannot bring justice to the victims. There is a need to update students—who will be the future leaders of this country—on Khmer Rouge history and the legal process for prosecuting the senior leaders most responsible for the horrors committed under the regime. In addition, CTM sees a need for greater awareness on the CTM website, which contains the most up-to-date information on the trial and the history of the KR.

Looking ahead, CTM sees this workshop as a starting point to a more in-depth seminar for law schools, which will focus on KR history, the ECCC, and basic concepts of international law. It is through this awareness and greater access to resources that the CTM project hopes to preserve memory and enhance the access to (and understanding of) justice.

## **Details for 30 November 2012**

On November 30, 2012, CTM presented to a class of approximately forty (40) first-year law students at the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The students were attending a course in International Relations as part of their English-based

law school major in International Relations. The program began with an introduction to each of the CTM team members. Each team member discussed their academic and professional background for the purpose of giving the students some ideas on their own professional paths. After the introduction, a film on S-21 (the Khmer Rouge security center) was shown, showing how S-21 looked after the fall of Phnom Penh to the Vietnamese army in 1979. The class discussed the film and the general historical background of the Khmer Rouge and in particular S-21. The students asked many questions regarding the history of S-21 and its chief, Kaing Guek Eav (commonly known as “Duch”). The questions ranged from the logistics of running S-21 (e.g., “Why did S-21 house prisoners in small and large rooms?”) to Khmer Rouge ideology (e.g., “Why did the Khmer Rouge identify prisoners as ‘spies’ for the ‘CIA’?”). After the film discussion, CTM provided an overview of the CTM website, the ECCC website, and the DC-Cam site (d.dccam.org) to include a discussion on key functions and uses for the information stored on each site. After several questions related to the ECCC were answered, CTM presented a brief one hour lecture and discussion on the history and establishment of the ECCC, to include an overview on cases and legal concepts. In response to the professor’s request (Professor Rodolphe Prom), the presenter focused the lecture/discussion on the political dynamics and international relations that preceded the establishment of the ECCC (1945-2001). The discussion also highlighted key concepts on the structure of the court, the personality of the court (as an internationalized tribunal that sits within the Cambodian legal system), and the jurisdiction and framework of the court. The discussion closed with a very brief question-and-answer period.



## APPENDIX

### Phin Chhunteang: History Is Important for Law Students

*Socheat Nhean*

At the Royal University of Law and Economics Sciences (RULE) on November 30, 2012 Phin Chhunteang listened with curiosity to the lecture and presentations about the history of the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer Rouge tribunal. He was one of 40 Law and International Relations students in the cozy, air-conditioned classroom. Chhunteang, who already possessed some knowledge of the topics, bravely posed questions to the presenters, making opportunity for them to fill in gaps in his own knowledge and to introduce other students to the subjects. Initiated by the Documentation Center of Cambodia, this kind of lecture and presentation is organized at universities across Cambodia to raise awareness about the history of the Khmer Rouge and the on-going Khmer Rouge tribunal. RULE is geographically adjacent to the site where DC-Cam's permanent center will be built in the near future. The center will focus on education and research related to the Khmer Rouge period as well as house a museum.

An 18-year-old law sophomore, Chhunteang was one of the youngest students in the class and had learned about the Khmer Rouge history from his parents, media sources, and high school teachers. "I learned about the history of the Khmer Rouge regime when I was in [high] school," said Chhunteang as he held up the textbook *History of Democratic Kampuchea 1975-1979*. However, the history that he learned from school was just a basic one. Nowadays, he listens to radio and reads newspapers and books about the Khmer Rouge regime. He considered meeting with experts from DC-Cam a rare opportunity to expand his knowledge and one that he would never miss.

Chhunteang always wants to learn more about Cambodian history, particularly Khmer Rouge regime, which he said it is a period of time that Cambodians must not forget. He was particularly eager to know more about the operation of the S-21 security office which the lecture and presentation addressed in detail. He lives less than three miles from this notorious site of S-21 and was able to visit it once and had the opportunity to meet and talk briefly to the two survivors, Bou Meng and Chhum Mey, whose names he had heard on the radio.

The 10-minute documentary footage of the S-21 facility filmed by Vietnamese journalists following the arrival of Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia in January 1979 struck Chhunteang. He said that the images of the fresh, never-touched halls and rooms of S-21 in 1979 showed the real atrocity of the Khmer Rouge just before the perpetrators escaped to save their lives. "This is the first time I have seen the footage of S-21 in the early days after the Khmer Rouge left. I was trembling [as I saw the footage] and it is shocking" said Chhunteang, "Tuol Sleng [museum] is concrete evidence of the Khmer Rouge atrocity."

Learning about the history of this period more deeply is what Chhunteang intends to do as he dreams of becoming a lawyer. However before fulfilling that dream and finding a job, he said that it is important that he and other students have knowledge about Cambodian history

including the Khmer Rouge regime. Although some of his peers have said that this history is not really important, for Chhunteang, the Khmer Rouge regime is what he cannot skip when discussing Cambodian history. "We need to know the history of the Khmer Rouge because it is part of Cambodian political landscape. The historical and human issues arising from this period are legacies still influencing contemporary Cambodia," affirmed Chhunteang.

He added that it is important that law students know about the history of their own country. "Cambodia's history has informed and influenced our laws. Not knowing our history would be like a lawyer not knowing the law," said Chhunteang.

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