

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

THE CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL MONITOR

Outreach at Chea Sim University of Kamchaymea, Kampong Cham province



University Students clapped their hands to welcome the CTM Team

Kampong Cham province, during the Khmer Rouge regime, was administratively divided into two parts by the Mekong River. Districts at east of the river were placed under Eastern Zone and administered by So Phim, while the districts at west of the river were positioned in Northern Zone and controlled by Kuy Thuon, and later Ke Pok and finally Kong Chap. Some parts of Kampong Cham province were used by the Khmer Rouge communists as revolutionary bases in late 1960s and early 1970s and to stage war against the government of Khmer Republic. In 1977, the Central Committee of the Khmer Rouge regime began to lost trust on cadres from the Eastern Zone as tension with Vietnam at the borders deteriorated. Cadres from that Zone were accused of associating with Vietnamese soldiers in order to overthrow the Khmer Rouge regime. As a result, thousands of cadres and soldiers from Eastern Zone were purged. Knowing this, So Phim committed suicide in May 1978 before he reached Phnom Penh on the invitation of Pol Pot.

With this important site, on February 13, 2014, the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM) Project of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) conducted a workshop at Chea Sim University of Kamchaymea, Kampong Cham province. This is one of the several public universities to provide both student loans and accommodation for students, providing an increase in participation of students in higher education. The workshop started at 8:00 a.m., and was attended by 120 students. It focused on the history of Democratic Kampuchea, the

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, and the resources provided by the CTM website.

After director of the university welcomed the team to student and provided an opening remark, Ms. Chea Phalla Chea asked students questions to do assessment on their knowledge on the topics. It turned out that students have less knowledge on the topics. Presenters and topics of discussion include Chea Phalla discussed about history of the Khmer Rouge mainly events happened before and during the Khmer Rouge era; Lim Cheytoath presented about personal jurisdiction of the court, charges against the accused in Cases 001 and 002, compensation for civil parties, death of Ieng Sary and the release of Ieng Thirith, to challenges of the ECCC; and Kim Sovannany guided students to the CTM website.

Selected questions include:

- 1) Why did the KR have conflict with the Vietnamese?
- 2) How long does it take to try senior KR leaders?
- 3) What if the accused died before the trials?
- 4) What is the main policy of the KR leaders?
- 5) What would Cambodia be if there was no liberation front in 1979?
- 6) Were the KR leaders were be arrested before the establishment of the ECCC?
- 7) Why did Lon Nol overthrow King Sihanouk?
- 8) Why did the KR leaders evacuate people?
- 9) Where was King Sihanouk when the Khmer Rouge gained power?
- 10) Who else are the senior Khmer Rouge leaders or the most responsible ones at the ECCC?

Reflections from students:

1. Im Sina, female, sophomore accounting student: The presentation is good. It allows me to get a better understanding of history and the prosecution of Khmer Rouge leaders at the tribunal.

2. Chan Sitha, female, freshman accounting student: After I listened to the presentation and watched Tuol Sleng documentary film, I believe even more that there were actually torture and execution during the Khmer Rouge regime.

3. Youheng Kimhong, male, sophomore human resources management student: I learn more about history, politic during the Khmer Rouge regime and the Khmer Rouge tribunal. Besides, I would like the tribunal to increase the number of the prosecution. I hope the accused will not die before the prosecution.

4. Thy Phearom, male, sophomore human resources management student: After I listened to the presentation, I got a better understanding of Khmer Rouge regime history, starvation, and the torture of people during that regime.

5. Yon Socheata, female, accounting student: The presentation is very detail. It made me understand about our history and the torture during Khmer Rouge regime. I am happy to

have a chance to see pictures in Tuol Sleng that I have never been before. After seeing these pictures, I was very shocked. I have never thought that such cruel torture really happened. For me, I have never attended such program before. I hope the team could provide such presentations at more universities so students would understand more.

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