

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

Cambodia Tribunal Monitor Workshop at IIC University of Technology Education on Khmer Rouge History and the Khmer Rouge Tribunal



IIC University Students

Specializing in Information Technology, IIC University of Technology hosted a workshop conducted by the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM) of the Documentation Center of Cambodia on the history of the Khmer Rouge, the ongoing development trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders, and the project's website (www.cambodiatribunal.org) in which students can access updated information about the trial and relating materials.

Started at 8AM, the room was filled with 70 freshmen with one-sixth that were female. The workshop began with Vice Rector of the university who welcomed the CTM team. In his opening speech he emphasized on the significance of the workshop by uttering that without studies on the Khmer Rouge, history of Cambodia is incomplete. During the Khmer Rouge, he was another victim who underwent forced labor, working all day and all night in the rice field. He added that researching is part of the students' obligation, thus students should pay attention to the presentation and keep the provided materials as future research tools.

Schedule for the day included a film screening of a short documentary film from 1979 featuring Tuol Sleng Prison, also known as S-21. A discussion was followed after the screening on the regime on topics that included how the Khmer Rouge came into power and its collapse. The discussion also introduced the students to the CTM's website where researchers can access to all footage of ECCC's hearings, reports, commentaries, and interviews as well as updates on trials of the senior Khmer Rouge leaders focusing on Case 002/1 at the ECCC.

With no prior experience with this dark regime, students followed the presentation by the team with curiosity. Virtually all of them took part in the last session's discussion and posted questions to the speakers in which opinions were exchanged between students and speakers. Interesting questions from the students include:



Students Posted Questions to the Speaker

- 1) Why did the Khmer Rouge organized arrange marriage for people living in the regime?
- 2) Why was financial donation to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal reduced?
- 3) Why did Cambodia ask help from Vietnam instead of other countries to fight against the Khmer Rouge?
- 4) Why did it take so long to hold a Khmer Rouge trial?
- 5) Did all Vietnamese troops leave Cambodia after the fall of the Khmer Rouge?
- 6) Was King Sihanouk captured during the Khmer Rouge?
- 7) Why did the Khmer Rouge kill people?
- 8) Why did it a long time to set up the Khmer Rouge Tribunal?

- 9) What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal?
- 10) Why was the head of S-21 prison tried, given that there were many prisons during the Khmer Rouge?
- 11) How is decision reached, given the existence of both local and international judges?
- 12) Why did Vietnam help Cambodia fight against the Khmer Rouge?

Students' Reaction:

Ms. Sa Ratha, a 20-year-old English Literature sophomore, said she was delighted to know that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal Observation is available on the webpage, launched by Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) staff. She said that there is no doubt that the webpage is very crucial. Ratha added when her parents told her about the Khmer Rouge regime history and she found it hard to believe because there were no photos to serve as concrete proof. After listening to the presentation, she gained more knowledge than she originally anticipated.

Vor Kroeusna, a 22-year-old English Literature sophomore from Prey Veng province, said it was his first time listening to a presentation on the Khmer Rouge regime and the Tribunal proceedings. He added that he will tell his friends and the younger generation about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal Observation webpage when he visits his hometown in the near future.

No different from the other two students, 20-year-old Pho Phann Narin, from Takeo province, expressed his positive opinion and said that the webpage serves as an important source for his research.

Sieng Veasna, IIC University of Technology principal, commented that this was also the university's first time in hosting a presentation that dealt with the Khmer Rouge history and the Tribunal proceedings. He was extremely thankful for the DC-Cam staffs for spending their valuable time in informing his students about the webpage as well as how to get new information related to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. He hopes his university will have the honor of hosting such an incredible event again like that of the CTM workshop in the near future.

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