

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

Keeping a Close Eye on the KR Trial via Website

By Cambodia Tribunal Monitor and Trial Observation Teams
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On April 20, 2012, a workshop regarding the Cambodian Tribunal Monitor (CTM), a website that provides up-to date information regarding the trials being held in the Extraordinary



The Opening Ceremony at National University of Defense

Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), was presented to approximately one hundred police and military officers. The primary objectives were to 1) engage the participants in the trial proceedings and 2) expose them to the resources available on the site, which includes daily hearing footage. These objectives reflect the mission of Documentation Center

of Cambodia's (DC-Cam), which is to preserve memory and justice. A series of presentations, film screening and other materials were also shown to the participants for future reference.

To begin with the session, Ms. So Farina, DC-Cam's Office Manager, welcomed the participants and introduced them to CTM and Trial Observation team. She ended her remark by raising awareness of the need to remember the past and pursue justice through due process. She also highlighted the major DC-Cam projects contributing to these objectives.

Next, the group was addressed by Mr. Ly Sok-Kheang, who started his presentation by drawing the participant's attention to the atrocities that have occurred across the world in the month of April. He recalled that the month of April was so grim among the world population because mass atrocities happened in several places, including the Nazi's developing their plan to kill Jews, the atrocities in South Sudan, and the genocide in Bosnia, Cambodia and Rwanda. He then discussed the events on April 17, 1975 in Cambodia, and asked the participants whether they thought the day should be remembered. Almost all the participants support the remembrance of the day.

During the workshop, the team also screened a documentary titled "Tuol Sleng 1979" to remind the participants of the prison condition under the Khmer Rouge (KR) regime. The documentary serves as a lasting remembrance of the atrocities that occurred in addition to providing research and oral narratives.

Ms. Kim Sovannandy then started a presentation on CTM website and explained that its purpose is to capture all aspects of the tribunal, including people's reactions, in a medium that can be easily disseminated to the public, both within the country and overseas. She also mentioned the CTM has received three awards for its work to date.

In an effort to expand the participants' knowledge about the KR trial, a team of trial observers then presented on a variety of pressing topics. Mr. Lim Cheytoath discussed Case 001, explaining that Duch's received a 35-year sentence from the Trial Chamber after being found guilty of committing crimes against humanity, and the Supreme Chamber amended the sentence to life imprisonment. Mr. Lim also stressed that Duch apologized for his acts which left approximately 14,000 victims died.

Ms. Dy Socheata then presented and discussed Case 002, which is currently before the Chamber. She asked the participants how many accused there are in Case 002, and one of the students correctly replied that there are four. She then displayed photographs of the four accused. Next, she explained that the Chamber was holding a series of trials in order to not waste time. She also commented that the Chamber chose to have Duch serve as a witness in Case 002 because it is believed that one of the accused in the case, Nuon Chea, was his direct supervisor.



Participant posing question

Mr. Chan Prathna then had the participants' focus on the fact that Ieng Sary received amnesty by King Sihanouk in September 14, 1996. They were asked to recall that Ieng Sary was sentenced to death in absentia in August 1979 by the People's Republic Tribunal. Amnesty to the sentencing and the law outlawing the KR had become a bone of contention as Ieng Sary's defense council used it as a defense tactic to get their client out of the judicial process at the ECCC. However, this tactic was considered inapplicable for two reasons: 1) the People's Revolutionary Tribunal (PRT) was established on the executive power rather than judicial entity; and 2) the judges in those courts were not independent because they were recruited from the government.

The presentation ended with numerous questions and suggestions from the participants. For example, Mr. Nguon Sopheak expressed his view on the 17 April celebration. He said the day should be remembered. Almost all of the participants articulated their support of remembering the April 17.

Long Sarun approached the team after the conclusion and said he will never forget what happened 30 years ago and support the objectives of DC-Cam. He also stressed that it is important to make the next generation understand what happened during the KR regime. He also requested that the Center expand its research on a variety of topics, provide outreach to more people, and produce more materials to reveal the truth in order to stand against similar atrocity in the future. He stated "The truth reflected in these materials (Trial Observation booklet, Case 002 booklet, Magazine Searching for the Truth, and CTM handout) is important for people to remember the day and without which our truth may not have been represented). And I strongly encourage the Center to do more in order to prevent the atrocity from happening."



Participant posing question

Questions raised during the workshop included:

- How many S-21 prisoners did Duch killed [by himself]?
- Who will be responsible for reparation for the victim? The accused or the tribunal?
- If the accused die unexpectedly, will this case continue or end?
- Is it the UN's fault that a seat for the Khmer Rouge was retained at the UN assembly?
- Who established the KR regime? What did the KR want to achieve? Why was the regime used only the young people?
- Who were the most powerful people among the leaders?



In Front of Command and Staff College

Brigadier General Im Sarith concluded the event by thanking the team that brought the important session to his students and requested more training in the future. He said, "It is a source of knowledge for our students to receive up-to-date information on the Khmer Rouge tribunal and engage in the discussion on the KR and the materials

distributed." Each participant holding a bunch of "Searching for the Truth" magazine, DK textbooks, "Trial Observation" bulletin, hand-outs of CTM presentation and "liberating Phnom Penh" and Case 002 booklets. The event was captured by CTN channel which is available at http://www.ctn.com.kh/clipnews.aspx?News_ID=47

Photo:

http://d.dccam.org/Projects/ECCC_Trial_Observation/Photos/Presents_CTM_Website_to_Students_and_Officers_at_the_National_University_of_Defense/index.html