

**Genocide Education in Cambodia**

**The Teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)"**

**14<sup>th</sup> Commune Teacher Training, Kandal, April 5-10, 2014**

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) and the Ministry of Education are proud to announce the fourteen commune teacher training in Kandal Regional Teacher Training Schools on April 5-10, 2014 with 100 participants from Kandal. On April 5, 2014, at 8 A.M. H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, will be the guest of honor for opening ceremony. This training is critical in providing professional development to teachers on historical content and instructional strategies and promoting peace and reconciliation and genocide prevention.

Genocide scholars agree that genocide does not end. Genocide, human rights violations, political violence and mass killings continue to exist around the world as evident in South Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Tunisia and Central Africa. Most recently, the United Nations has warned of the seeds of genocide being sown and has urged for immediate intervention and humanitarian assistance.

Since the fall of the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) regime thirty-five years ago, Cambodia continues to struggle with the legacies of the genocide. Cambodia realizes the importance of education as an essential pathway to promoting healing, peace and reconciliation. In this endeavor, DC-Cam and the Ministry of Education have collaborated on providing a series of teacher training workshops. Since 2009, over 3,000 teachers in History, Geography, Khmer Studies, and Citizen Morality have been trained throughout the country. In the interest of broadening the impact of genocide education program, DC-Cam also developed curricula for other segments of civil society and government including universities, police and military academies, and National Institute of Education (NIE). DC-Cam and the Ministry of Education provided these institutions with instruction on the history of Democratic Kampuchea and genocide education. Furthermore, DC-Cam and the Ministry of Education have embarked on a new program that will train pre-service teachers in all six regional training schools: Takeo, Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Battambang and Prey Veng.

The young generations of Cambodia need to draw upon their nation's past experiences as lessons that can help shape their individual attitudes and overall social morality. A comprehensive understanding of the Khmer Rouge genocide and history of the Cambodian conflicts will mold the new generation of youngsters to be the catalysts of change. Cambodia needs to educate their youngsters to be informed citizens that will contribute to civic engagement and democratic practices to build a just, equitable and peaceful society.

**For additional information, please contact:**

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