

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

Genocide Education in Cambodia

The Teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)" 15th Commune Teacher Training, Koh Kong, September 7-12, 2014

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport are proud to announce the fifteenth commune teacher training—the first ever teacher training to incorporate the newly added chapter on forced transfer, which has been approved as an official judicial reparation project of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). This training will be held at Koh Kong High School on September 7-12, 2014, to provide 50 teachers from Koh Kong province with the historical content, skills, and materials to teach genocide education to their classrooms. This professional development is critical to the promotion of peace, national reconciliation, and genocide prevention.

Since the fall of the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) regime thirty-five years ago, Cambodia continues to struggle with the consequences of the genocide. On August 7, 2014, the Trial Chamber at the ECCC convicted former KR leaders—Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan—of crimes against humanity and sentenced them to life imprisonment. Accordingly, the ECCC approved 11 of the 13 proposed reparations projects, including DC-Cam’s addition of a chapter on forced transfer to the Teacher Guidebook (Chapter 3). This chapter was designed in coordination with the Court’s Victim Support Section at the request of the Co-Lead Lawyers for Civil Parties and will be taught, for the first time ever, at this upcoming commune teacher training in Koh Kong.

Today Cambodia realizes the importance of education as an essential pathway to prevention, healing, peace, and reconciliation. Accordingly, DC-Cam and the Ministry of Education have collaborated to provide a series of teacher training workshops, and since 2009, over 3,000 teachers in History, Geography, Khmer Studies, and Citizen Morality have been trained throughout the country. To broaden the impact of the genocide education program, DC-Cam has also developed curricula for other segments of civil society and government including universities, police and military academies, and the National Institute of Education (NIE). With these curricula, DC-Cam and the Ministry of Education provided institutions including universities, police and military academies, and the National Institute of Education (NIE) 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.

In order to shape the individual attitudes and social morality of Cambodia’s future leaders, the young generations of Cambodia need to understand their nation’s past. A comprehensive understanding of the Khmer Rouge genocide and the history of the Cambodia’s conflicts will mold new generations of young people to be catalysts of change. Cambodian youth need to be educated so that they may be informed, civically engaged citizens, able to contribute to the democratic processes necessary to build a just, equitable, and peaceful society.

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