



SLEUK RITH INSTITUTE
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GENOCIDE EDUCATION IN CAMBODIA **Khmer Rouge History Education**

Inauguration of Genocide Education Memorial and Khmer Rouge Textbook Distribution Ceremony

Prey Lvea High School, Prey Kabas District, Takeo Province

July 1, 2016

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)/Sleuk Rith Institute (SRI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, is pleased to announce the commemoration of a Genocide Education Memorial and Khmer Rouge Textbook Distribution Ceremony in the compound of Prey Lvea High School, Prey Kabas district, Takeo province. The event will be held on July 1, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. Her Excellency Ton Sa Im, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport; and a representative of Takeo Provincial Education Office will be the guests of honor for this ceremony.

The commemoration is part of DC-Cam's multi-stage Genocide Education Project in Cambodia which aims to bridge the gap between teaching of the Cambodian genocide and community awareness on the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge (KR) between April 1975 and January 1979. The memorial itself features two statements that call attention to the horrors of the period and the importance of remembrance, education, and peace:

1. Talking about experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime is to promote reconciliation and to educate children about forgiveness and tolerance.

2. Learning about the history of Democratic Kampuchea is to prevent genocide.

The statements are inscribed on marble, and they are displayed in a prominent location for students, educators, and the community's attention. The purpose of the statements is not only to remind, but also to inspire. Genocide education is as much a project in remembering the past as it is a struggle to create a better future that is based on genocide prevention, national reconciliation, tolerance, and forgiveness.

During the Khmer Rouge period, education in Cambodia was paralyzed and replaced with propaganda that consisted of blended ideas from Marxism, Chinese communism, and the regime





leaders' own beliefs about race and nation. This educational paralysis lingers in modern-day Cambodia and is most severe with regards to teaching on the Democratic Kampuchea period. These two statements, their message short but significant, represent the reversal of this paralysis created by the Khmer Rouge regime and a shift from ignorance to education about Democratic Kampuchea.

The memorial is being constructed with contribution from Chino Cienega Foundation (CCF) through Sally Benson of CCF. To date, the school is the nineteenth location to hold a memorial inauguration ceremony for high schools across Cambodia.

For additional information, please contact:

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