

កម្មវិធីបង្រៀនប្រយោជន៍
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GENOCIDE EDUCATION IS GENOCIDE PREVENTION

**25th Inauguration of
Genocide Education Memorial and History of Democratic
Kampuchea (1975-1979) Textbook Distribution**

At Bramouy High School, Veal Veang District, Pursat Province

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) in Collaboration with Ministry of
Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS)

October 23rd, 2017

Reported by Phat Sela



Photo Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GhIqzGaIc3nh4IKs1>

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Introduction

On Monday 23 October 2017, Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) in collaboration with Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) support by United State Agency for International Development (USAID) Ziviler Friedendienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) conducted the Inauguration of Genocide Education Memorial and the Distribution of



History of Democratic Kampuchea Textbooks at Bramouy high school, Veal Veng district, Pursat province. Veal Veng district is one of the last former stronghold of Khmer Rouge. This ceremony presided over by Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im, Undersecretary of Ministry of Education Youth and Sport as guest of honor and other guest speakers (Mr. Peung Sokha, Principle of Bramouy high school; Mr. Ly Sokunthea, Director of Department of Education in Pursat Province; Mr. Pheng Sopheakna, Head of District Official; Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy, Team Leader of Genocide Education Project of Documentation Center of Cambodia). There were around 400 participants in concluded villagers, teachers and students from Bramouy high school and district. The agenda of the ceremony this morning: 1) The open speech of Mr. Peung Sokha, Mr. Pheng Sopheakna , Mr. Ly Sokunthea, and Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy. 2) Remark from Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im. 3) The distribution of the History of Democratic Kampuchea Textbook and opened curtain of Genocide memorial slogans (by H.E Ton Sa-Im).

The memorial is being constructed with the contribution of GIZ and zfd. To date, this is the 22nd Genocide Education Memorial and this school is the 25th location to hold a memorial inauguration ceremony across Cambodia. These two slogans that engraved on iron plates cost \$500 and another \$500 was cost of installation with different constructor in each location. The memorial was possible because of the contribution from Ziviler Friedendienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Significance and Remarks from Honorable Guests

The Inauguration of Genocide Memorial represented one of the key aspects of genocide education project of DC-Cam. By teaching students about our darkest history, this project aim to educate

young generation of Cambodia citizens about the understanding of forgiveness, tolerance, empathy and national reconciliation as well as transitional justice. By doing this, they could reflex about the post war reality and move forward to the better future. DK text was incorporated in in school curriculum of grade 9th and 12th in majors of history, geography, and citizenship.

The event was started at 9 am after the arrival of H.E. During the arrival of H.E, participants and school hosted warmly welcome her and the event started. The agenda of event was briefed. National anthem song was sung by students. Next, Mr. Peung Sokha expressed about school and education situation in Bramouy high school. He also mentioned about school needs in order to order to facilitated students as well as the attention from MoEYS. Followed by Mr. Pheng Sopheakna described about general background and current situations in district included agriculture, education, infrastructure, district facilities and amenities. Mr, Ly Sokuthea, addressed about the current situations in Pursat Province as well as Veal Veang distict.

Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy, team leader of Genocide Education Project of DC-Cam addressed the partnership between DC-Cam and MoEYS as well as the initiative of this memorial and slogans. He stated that “These two slogans were written by Khmer Rouge victim which is H.E herself”. During his speech, he mentioned about the current projects of Genocide Education of DC-Cam as well as future projects. A newly Genocide Education Facebook page and Khmer Rouge history website were mentioned during the speech. He stated that “DC-Cam hope that teachers and students will use these two document sources as additional materials learning and teaching Khmer Rouge history”. Finally, he thanked to all participants that participated in this event.

H.E. Ton Sa-Im greeted to all participants and guests of honor. First, she mentioned about the development of infrastructure, social media and technologies in this district (Veal Veng) which created accessibilities included network for people. She also mentioned about the potential resources in district which are agriculture and human resource. She addressed the improvement of education system, curriculum, and changing (difficulty) on national exam (grade 12), increase teacher salary as well as year for retirement. She wanted both students and people remember about KR not to revenge. She stated “we study to understand, to prevent



genocide, to think critically”. By mentioned about KR and situation in Myanmar, she questioned to students “do you love war or peace?” The answered obviously people love peace. She added that we learn KR history to reconciliation. UN and international community compensated to Cambodia through education and KR court (ECCC). Finally, H.E reminded participants that we can’t avoid history as well as forget it either.

The Memorial

The memorial contained two slogans which inscribed on iron plates with back to back side. Placed in the middle of school ground where students always gathering. Khmer Rouge history website also engraved on iron plates with both side for students who did not able to participated in the event. A simple memorial with inspiring word which wrote by



H.E as mentioned above can bring both attention and awareness for people who walk across it. This memorial is new model of DC-Cam in 2017 which designed by volunteer of genocide education team, Mr. Boreyrath. Thanked to the contribution form the respectable situations that made this memorial possible. The slogans read:



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

Short but significant statements that drive Cambodia to promote learning on Khmer Rouge history as well as encourage students to learn it since this location is one of the last former Khmer Rouge stronghold.

The History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) textbooks were given to each student especially grade 9th and 12th students by H.E. Ton Sa-Im as well as with other guests of honor. Unveiled memorial began by H.E with students stand around the memorial. H.E called two students (male and female) to read each slogan for everyone.

Conclusion

As a part of the Genocide Education Project, the commemoration is created for the purpose of promoting forgiveness, tolerance, education and reconciliation especially in this region which was one of the last strongholds of Khmer Rouge. The commemoration also helps to remind the teachers and students after their learning about the KR history in the classroom.

At the end of the program, DC-Cam staffs and teachers distributed of DC-Cam's publications, the KR history textbook, and basic study materials (notebook and pens) to mark conclusion.

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Team: Pheng Pong-Rasy, Min Sanas, Phat Sela

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