

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**New website to educate young Cambodians about Khmer Rouge era**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, January 2, 2017 – The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), the world's leading Khmer Rouge archive, will launch an interactive multimedia website for young people later this year. Its aim is to shed light on the darkest era in the Kingdom's history in a way that is interesting for young Cambodians today. The site draws on the rich trove of material belonging to DC-Cam, whose one million documents make it the largest collection of genocide-related material in Southeast Asia.

In a request for comment, the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron agreed with the importance of history education. He stated: "The study of Khmer Rouge history is not only important for Cambodian young people to understand Cambodia's modern history, but also to have an insight into the root causes and the consequences of Cambodian tragedy, as well as to make sure that such tragic history will never repeat itself in the future."

Created with assistance from the German media development organization DW Akademie, the new website will present information on the Khmer Rouge in a variety of media. Users can navigate through historic film and audio material, rare photographs, and contemporary interviews with survivors and former KR cadres from across the country. The site will feature a timeline tracing events from the earliest days of the organization to the prosecutions at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, an encyclopedia of Khmer Rouge policies and practices, and profiles of people who lived through or died during this tragic period.

About 1.7 million Cambodians are believed to have died from starvation, overwork and execution during the regime, which ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979. Millions more were displaced in the organization's radical pursuit of a self-sufficient, purely agrarian state.

The new website will complement DC-Cam's educational mission, whose work is based on a belief expressed by Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past." DC-Cam is supported through long-term financial aid by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

"Our view of the past affects how we respond to our present circumstances," said Pheng Pong-Rasy, who leads DC-Cam's Genocide Education Project. "If our view of history is wrong, we are likely to make wrong choices today."

One of DC-Cam's central aims is to keep history alive and relevant to all Cambodians, 70 percent of whom were born after the Khmer Rouge era.

"This new interactive website will open up a new channel and provide information on a very important topic to young Cambodians in the place they all gather – online," said Kyle James, the DW Akademie consultant working with DC-Cam on the project. He added that the website will be optimized for viewing on mobile phones.

The new website is being designed and built by Endorphine Concept, a Phnom Penh-based creative agency which plays an active role in the Kingdom's emerging digital communications industry. After beta testing in early 2017, the site will be focus-group tested with young people before its public launch.

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