

DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CAMBODIA

Genocide Education in Cambodia

The Teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)"
Training for University Lecturers across Cambodia
July 25-27, 2011



H.E. Mr. Im Sethy and other pertinent government officials will preside over an official opening ceremony on July 25.

On December 6, 2010, the Cambodian government tasked the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) with training university lecturers and professors on Khmer Rouge history.

The decision stems from the Cambodian government's mandate of October 2009 that required all first year university students to

study the history of Democratic Kampuchea. Therefore, from July 25-27, 2011, DC-Cam will hold its first-ever university lecturer training with approximately 100 lecturers and professors. In all, over the next two years, DC-Cam will train foundation-year lecturers at nearly 200 higher education institutions.

These new initiatives are part of the ongoing genocide education project run by DC-Cam, the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC), and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport's (MoEYS), which seeks to implement genocide education curriculum in all public Cambodian high schools by 2013. In order to teach this complex, and at times, sensitive history, teachers must first be educated in the history as well as in methodology of how to grapple with enormous tragedies. To date, DC-Cam and MoEYS have trained over 1,000 history teachers; in 2011, they will train an additional 1,000 teachers on such subjects as morality and literature. They have also distributed over 500,000 Democratic Kampuchea textbooks with the goal of reaching 1 million.

The Cambodian government's new mandate will affect **70 universities in Cambodia** (21 state universities and 49 private universities) and hundreds of thousands of students. Through their studies, university students will be expected to understand DK history through practices of analyzing and evaluating DK ideology and policies; valuing survivors' knowledge and comparing notes with their elders; identifying the

root causes of genocide; examining state terror in the lead-up to the killings; evaluating the current effects on the Cambodian society; fostering compassion, empathy and reconciliation; and thinking critically about how to prevent future mass atrocities in Cambodia and the rest of the world.

Local and international trainers will train university professors using the same materials DC-Cam created for its high school teacher trainings. Additional university-level materials will be provided by international experts, including Professor David Chandler and other persons with relevant experience teaching about the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide. For this effort, DC-Cam has produced a new syllabus that meets university-level standards. The syllabus was written by a panel of experts and reviewed by a group of professors in Cambodia, the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. It was also discussed with university lecturers and government officials from MoEYS and ACC. **Starting from this July's university lecturer training, the syllabus will for the first time be officially introduced to university lecturers and professors across Cambodia so that they may incorporate teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)" into the university curriculum.**

The training sessions are expected to be both rewarding and challenging, as survivors often confront their own personal histories, albeit in a larger historical context. Often times, impromptu testimonial sessions will occur, allowing teachers to bear witness to each other. At the same time, students will learn about their families' and communities' past, information that was previously absent in Cambodian society. Many students either did not believe the genocide happened, or if it did, thought the stories were exaggerated. Sat Sorya, one of Long Vannak's students, struggled to make sense of the fragmented histories she heard from relatives. "I want to know why they killed so many of their own people," she said. "I want to know why they left their own country in such terrible condition." Genocide education seeks to answer these questions and provide a framework to put pieces of a larger historical puzzle together.

Yet, training about such difficult history is never easy. Due to personal traumas or political affiliations, teachers often avoid teaching Khmer Rouge history. Likewise, some students also resist acknowledging this past. As children of former perpetrators often sit (and live) side-by-side with children of victims, conflict may disrupt classrooms.

Despite these challenges, proper knowledge of history is important for any individual or society to reconcile with its past. As His Excellency Mr. Im Sethy, the Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport has said: "*Younger generations of Cambodians must understand and know about this grave past in order to learn from past mistakes,*

prevent such events from happening again, and recognize and know when to stand up for fundamental principles of humanity, integrity, and justice."

For this reason, on July 25th, H.E. Im Sethy and other pertinent government officials will preside over an official opening ceremony. A panel of experts from Cambodia, the United States and Australia are invited to present concept papers and new methodologies. The trainees will hear different perspectives on mass atrocities and genocide in a global context.

The university lecturer training represents an important step in teaching DK history to the younger generation from primary schools to the university level. Inspired by their country's turbulent past, thousands of Cambodian students from one generation to another will have the tools to expand their knowledge of conflicts globally and, more importantly, to unite with those outside Cambodia to deter mass atrocities of this kind from reoccurring. These youths will become agents for preventing future genocide and promoting tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation. The university lecturer training is part of a long-term effort to engage youths, who are the key to human rights and democracy in Cambodia.

For more information, please contact:

H.E Ms. Ton Sa Im
Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Education Youth
and Sport
012 869 458

Youk Chhang
Director, Documentation Center
of Cambodia
012 90 55 95

Ly Sok-Kheang
Project Coordinator,
Documentation Center of
Cambodia
012 57 04 65



Khmer Rouge Tribunal's international prosecutor, Andrew Cayley and Dy Khamboly, author of 'A History of Democratic Kampuchea' distributing the textbook to high school students in Anlong Veng – a former Khmer Rouge stronghold. Over 500,000 copies of the textbook have been distributed to high school graders 9-12 nation-wide. Thousands of the teachers of history from high school have been trained. The quality control of the teaching has been conducted. But the project is still facing many challenges.

The training is supported by the Government of Belgium, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

List of Universities under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport:

1. Royal University of Phnom Penh
2. Royal University of Law and Economics
3. National University of Management
4. University Chea Sim Kamchay Mear
5. University of Svay Rieng
6. University of Mean Chey
7. University of Battambang
8. Cambodian Technology Institute
9. Norton University
10. Build Bright University
11. Pannasastra University
12. Phnom Penh International University
13. University of Chamroeun Poly-Technology
14. Cambodia University of Specialties
15. International University
16. Cambodia University of Mekong
17. University of Cambodia
18. Western University
19. IIC University of Technology
20. Khemrak University
21. Angkor Khemarak University
22. Angkor University
23. Asia-Europe University
24. Human Resource University
25. City University
26. University of Management and Economics
27. Puthisastra Univesity
28. Larhor University
29. Southeast Asian University
30. Chenla University
31. Lim Kong Ving University
32. University of Khmer Technology and Management
33. Panha Cheat University
34. Zaman International University
35. Cambodia International University
36. Duvy International University
37. Vanda Institute
38. Citec University
39. Belti International Institute
40. Angkor City Institute
41. Asian Truth Development Institute
42. Institute for Sociology and Technology

43. Management and Development Institute
44. Institute for Cambodia Education
45. Bright Hope Institute
46. Institute for Education and Management
47. ICS Institute
48. Khemrasas Institute
49. Intered Institute
50. American Inter-continental Institute
51. Betel Institute
52. Santapol Institute
53. Institute for Rafel International College
54. Cambodia Financial Institute
55. Camed Institute
56. Management Institute for PCL
57. Institute for Economic and Financial Specialties

Institutes or Universities under the Ministry of Public Works and Vocational Training

58. National Management Institute
59. Preah Kosamak Poly-Technology Institute
60. Cambodia-India Entrepreneur Center
61. National Training Technology Institute
62. National Institute of Cambodia Poly-Technology
63. Battambang Poly Technology Institute
64. Battambang Technology Institute
65. Kampot Poly Technology Institute
66. Industry Technology Institute
67. Economic Development Institute
68. Center for Cambodian Electricity Vocational Training
69. Cambodia Management Institute
70. Neak Poan Management Institute
71. Khmer New Generation Institute
72. Cambodia Youth Future Institute
73. International Cooperation Institute
74. Student Development Institute
75. Pel Ton International Institute
76. Center for Don Bosco Vocational Training

Institutes or Universities under the Ministry of National Defense

77. University of National Defense
78. Tmat Pornng Military School
79. Royal Institute of Health Science
80. Infantry Institute (Kampong Speu)

81. Institute of Techo Hun Sen Military Technique (Kampong Speu)

Institutes or Universities under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery

82. Royal University of Agriculture

83. Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture

84. Prek Leap National School of Agriculture

Institutes or Universities under the Ministry of Health

85. University of Health Science

86. Medical Training School

Institutes or Universities under the Ministry of Cult and Religion

87. Preak Sihanouk Reach Buddhist University

88. Preak Sihanouk Reachea Buddhist University

University under the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts

89. Royal University of Fine Arts

Institute under the Ministry of Economic and Finance

90. Economic and Financial Institute

Institute under the Ministry of Interior

91. Royal Academy of Cambodia Police

Institute under the Ministry of Interior

92. Cambodia Naval Institute

Institute under the Council of Ministers

93. Cambodia Royal Academy

Institute under the Bank of Cambodia

94. Center for Bank Technique

NOTE: According to Mr. Kong Phoumida, Deputy Director of Department of Higher Education, these universities (1-57) are under the control of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. So, the Ministry could invite lecturers to attend the university lecturer training. Among the 57 universities and institutes, 15 are based in provinces and 42 in Phnom Penh. If **three lecturers from the 57 universities or institutes** are to be invited, there will be **171 lecturers in total**. As for those universities under the control of other ministries and institutions, we are required to seek direct permissions from them. The Ministry of Education has no authority over the below universities or institutes.