

# Improving the Delivery of Justice before the Khmer Rouge Tribunal

Progress Report, June - November 2009  
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During June to November 2009, the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) continued to engage in many important activities. The description of each project below details the achievements, challenges, impacts and lessons learned as a result of the projects' implementation. The progression of these projects shows the ongoing efforts to improve the delivery of justice by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) as well as to promote reconciliation while having raised public awareness of the purpose and process of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (KRT) and the history of Democratic Kampuchea (DK).

## 1) LEGAL RESPONSE TEAM

This semester, the response team responded to document requests from the Office of Co-Prosecutors, the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges, the Defense Support Section, civil party lawyers, NGOs, researchers and the public.

There were twelve requests in total from June to December 2009. The team was able to respond to every request from the ECCC and provided documents totaling 7,549 pages, free of charge.

Besides supplying documents, other services such as allocation of documents, clarification of documents, and research for documents have also been provided to the ECCC. During this semester, the team received some clarification questions about certain documents.

We also noticed that the questions from people looking for their relatives via ECCC's Public Affairs Section have increased. For example, Chief of Public Affairs phoned DC-Cam from the ECCC when he was asked by Victim's relatives for documents. DC-Cam took a few minutes to search from its databases and came back to him with positive answers. Among the five people he was looking for, we found four and informed him immediately. He said it was so effective and fast, adding that the victim's relatives were so happy with this and thanked us for the information we gave to them.

Sometimes, our response team received individual requests for documents to support his or her complaint like a case of one civil party living in Banteay Meanchey province. His name is Ros Narin. He came to DC-Cam to look for some documents to support his civil party claim before the ECCC. He told the team leader, Mr. Dara P. Vanthan, that VU told him to come to DC-Cam and ask for the needed documents. He showed Mr. Vanthan the photo of his deceased uncle (he used his cell phone camera to take the photo from an exhibition at Tuol Seng Genocidal Museum). He asked for help to locate further documents such as the confession of his uncle. He also let us know that the wife and children of his uncle are still alive and living in Banteay Meanchey.

In response to this, the team went to take that picture again from Tuol Sleng. We printed that picture on A-4 paper and sent it to him with three page confession of Hy Sary. Mr. Narin told DC-Cam via phone from Beanteay Meanchey that he is very thankful for the documents and photo. He said that he could not show all the photos and confession to the victim's wife because he is afraid that she could not stand it and it would make her heavily traumatized.

With the continuation of substantive hearings before the ECCC Trial Chamber concerning criminal case no. 001 against Kaing Guek Eav alias *Duch*, former chief of S-21 and criminal case no. 002 concerning other charges against other four KR leaders is on the investigation our response team is dealing with the ECCC as normal.

### ***Other Activities***

On June 10, students from the University of San Francisco's summer legal program took part in a moot court at DC-Cam. Students representing the defense, prosecution, and civil party perspectives debated issues related to the ECCC. Students from the Cambodian University of Law and Economics also attended the event.

## **2) LIVING DOCUMENTS**

### ***ECCC Tour***

This semester, the Living Documents project brought 759 villagers from provinces throughout Cambodia to attend Duch's trial and Duch's closing statement. Participants were composed of Cham-Muslim religious leaders, Khmer Kampuchea Krom, district chiefs, civil party applicants, and ordinary villagers.

#### **June 7-9: S-21 Trial**

Sixty-five participants from Prey Veng and Kratie provinces (Chhlong and Mesang) attended the Duch trial through DC-Cam. The villagers had expressed interest in participating in the hearing.

#### **June 14-16: S-21 Trial**

From June 14-16, 65 participants from Kratie and Pursat (Prek Prasap and Rumlech) attended the Duch trial through DC-Cam. We selected these locations because we wanted more Cham Muslims and Khmer Krom people to participate in the hearing. These districts also made numerous requests to participate.

Related activities included: giving introductory session and providing participants with Duch's brief biography and hearing contents, screening documentary films, and introducing villagers to the complaint filing process.

#### **Aug 16-18, 2009: Justice and Genocide Education Tour**

Participants met with DC-Cam staff and survivors of S-21 at the National Institute of Education. Topics presented at the meeting included an update on Duch's trial and the ECCC, the Cham Oral History project, and the Genocide Education project. Participants also had an opportunity to listen to former S-21 guard Him Huy and S-21 survivor Norng Chan Phal speak of their experiences living through the prison. The villagers then attended Duch's trial for one day before they saw the most barbaric prison of the KR, Tuol Sleng Prison the following day. They also saw a new Cambodian play titled "Breaking the Silence."

### **September 1-3, 2009: Justice and Genocide Education Tour**

Civil party applicants from different provinces participated in the tour. Similar to the last tour, participants listened to presentations made by DC-Cam staff on the Genocide Education project, the ECCC's development, and the issue of reparations. They then watched two films titled "Tuol Sleng 1979" and "Children of Cambodia." The group was well received by the new art performance "Breaking the Silence" on that day too.

### **November 22-24, 2009:**

One hundred district chiefs and 20 Chams from Svay Khleang village attended Duch's closing statement with the Living Documents project. They attended a meeting with an official from the ECCC's Office of the Co-Prosecutors and DC-Cam staff. They watched the films: "Behind the Walls of S-21" and "Tuol Sleng 1979."

### ***Village Forum***

The team conducted film screening/discussion and village forums in Kampong Speu in July, village forum in Pursat in August, and in Kratie and Kampong Cham provinces in October. There were about 900 villagers who attended these events.

Village leaders play an important role in disseminating information on the Khmer Rouge trial and victim participation to their members. As an example of this, *Hakem (religious leader in Islam)*, Soh Punyamin spoke to his villagers about the participation of villagers in the process of the tribunal by filing complaints against the Khmer Rouge leaders at the court. The *Hakem* who had filed complaint to the court himself recalled the sufferings of Cham people in Svay Khleang village under the rule of the KR. The *Hakem* asked his villagers to reconsider filing complaints to the Court so that their voices will be heard at the KR leaders' trial. Therefore, such forums are an important space for villagers to discuss the crimes committed under the KR and inform each other about the update of the ECCC and participation rights of the victims in the tribunal.

In addition to bringing the group of Khmer Krom to witness the trial, the Living Documents project traveled to Rumlech commune to conduct a village forum upon their request. The forum has helped promote discussion about the Khmer Rouge trial as well as the history of the Khmer Rouge. It also helped to relieve villagers' worries in fundraising to erect a memorial because DC-Cam has used this opportunity to call for personal, organizational, and even state contribution to the building of this site. The memorial, which will include a book with victims' names and a library to preserve documents and educate people, represents the memory for the victims of the KR and honors the innocent lives lost.

Because of the large amount of information pertaining to the horrific crimes at M-13 and S-21 during the trial, many participants had a hard time controlling their emotions and in particular, their emotions towards Duch. According to our interviews, some participants wanted to take revenge and physically harm Duch during the trial.

This problem is difficult to resolve because the pain and anger of survivors can never be fully eliminated just as their memories of these atrocities cannot be erased. It is understandable that the setting of a court room, in which they view with their own eyes one of the persons responsible for the atrocities, and in which court officials bring to light these atrocities in detail, their anger and pain will surface and be hard to control. We can, however, devote more time in the training session to describing what they should expect to see and hear during the

hearing. We will also focus on better explaining the complicated legal procedures involved to lessen the confusion of participants. We have noted that some participants, especially those from the countryside, were confused about the legal process of the ECCC. This confusion and frustration might have contributed to their anger that day. The number of women participating in both the trial hearing program and the village forum is much lower than the number of men. The team observed that women tend to be more occupied with housechores and child caring more than men. Women are not willing to engage in the kind of activities for it is more suitable with men than women.

### **3) PUBLIC INFORMATION ROOM AND ROAD TRIP**

This semester, PIR based in Phnom Penh received 562 visitors who came in as both groups and individuals for research, interviews, meetings with the director and staff members, reading books and magazines, requesting documents and materials such as DK books, Searching for the Truth magazine, brochures, filing complaints with the KR Tribunal, watching documentary films, touring the Center, purchasing DC-Cam's publications, and asking information about missing family members and relatives. Visitors included students, journalists, villagers, researchers, interns, and officials of other governments and NGOs.

Responding to these services, we provided 267 copies of Searching for the Truth, 100 booklets on ECCC tours, 173 copies of DK textbooks, and three copies of the Law on the KR Tribunal.

#### **PIR as a Place to Search for Information Related to Missing Family Members**

On September 7, a visitor from Strasbourg, France, came to do research about his uncle. This was the first time for him at DC-Cam with his cousin who lives in Phnom Penh. He knew that his uncle lived in Pursat province during the KR time with his wife. After that his uncle died. He tried to find his photo at the Center but he could not find anything. After leaving our center, DC-Cam staff went to find people who knew his uncle and wife in Pursat province to get more information.

Sun Phy, a 43-year old man from Banteay Meanchey province, came to visit and research for documents about his family. His father was arrested at Russey Keo and sent to Prey Sar. He believed his father died in prison. His mother was arrested with his father but he did not know whether she was sent to the same place. After spending some time to research in the document archive, he found names which were similar to his parents'. On September 25, he called DC-Cam to describe his stories and ask the Center to publish his story in the Searching for the Truth Magazine in order to search for his family members and relatives.

#### **Information Office**

PIR received visitors who want to know some information related to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (ECCC). There were villagers from Khan Dangkao, Phnom Penh, who wanted to receive information on the ECCC and how to get to courtroom. Two foreign journalists from GLOBUS Weekly wanted to visit the Court but did not know how, so they came to DC-Cam to seek information.

PIR road trips along with the Living Documents team visited to Kratie and Kampong Cham in October to screen video clips of Duch's trial, and the documentary "Behind the walls of S-21" as well as to hold discussion on Duch's apology, the trial and reparation issues.

There were 600 people attended the film screening and discussion.

Film screening at Svay Khleang village, in Kampong Cham province was an effective way in which memories of the atrocities were revived again. It also helped to educate children about the crimes committed by the KR. Duch trial's video clips were vitally important in leading a discussion on the forgiveness and apology made by Duch at the trial.

#### **4) CHAM MUSLIM ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

The team is working on transcribing from cassettes interviews, collecting data and statistics for launching a new website on Cham and Ethnic Minorities. The three volunteers are typing the names of Hakem of each mosque in the 24 provinces, summarizing and/or writing stories from the transcription.

The Cham Oral History team had prepared for meeting with Cham Muslim communities in Kampot province. They prepared name list of Hakem, Tuan and villagers, making phone calls to inform Hakem and Tuan of the mosques.

They are also working on preparing contact information of Hakem, Tuan, and other Cham Muslim, collecting the information of mosques, Cham villages, and invite them to participate in the Trial Hearings. The team is updating the contact information of Hakem and Tuan in Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kep and Kampot provinces.

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, two meetings were held in Kampot province, one in Tadid village, Andaung Khmer sub-district, in Kampot district with about 120 people attended the meeting. The second meeting was held in Kampong Keh village, Trapaing Sangke sub-district of Kampot district with 230 people joined the meeting. The meetings were joined by the Genocide Education Team, Student Outreach and Living Document teams, and all legal associates, director Youk Chhang updated the communities on the ECCC and asked them whether they can forgive Duch or not. Then Farina So spoke about the work of the Cham Oral History project, and Khamboly Dy talked about the textbook. After the speeches, 500 copies of the magazines and textbooks were distributed to the villagers and students that come from 20 different villages. Each participant in the meeting received one copy of DK textbook and SFT magazine.

The three volunteers of Cham Oral History project and other DC-Cam staff helped organize the ECCC and Genocide Education Tour on August 16-18. The team wrote invitation letters and made phone calls to inform those who participated in the tour. 350 Hakems and Tuans were invited from across the country. The group joined the smaller-scale groups of 30 nuns, 50 villagers and civil parties, 13 Khmer Kampuchea Kroam, and nine student volunteers. They visited Tuol Sleng Museum, attended the hearing, and watched the art performance of the play *Breaking the Silence* at the National Institute of Education in the evening.

The team also assisted in organizing the Genocide Education Tour on September 1-3. They were put in charge of transportation, accommodation and other logistic for the participants.

They are currently transcribing 16 pages of the interview with Math Nah, female, living in Banteay Meanchey province and 31 pages of the interview with Tuloas Kae, male, 68 years old, in Banteay Meanchey province.

From November 22 – 24, 20 Cham Muslims from Svay Khleang in Kroch Chhmar district of Kampong Cham province attended Duch’s closing statement with the Living Documents project. They attended a meeting with an official from the ECCC’s Office of Co-Prosecutors and DC-Cam staff. They watched the films: “Behind the Walls of S-21” and “Tuol Sleng 1979”. They also watched the play “Breaking the Silence” performed at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (Campus II).

### ***Cham Muslim Seun (Tower) in Cambodia***

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m., DC-Cam’s director, Youk Chhang met with a group of Cham Muslim from Svay Kleang, Kampong Cham province. The group was led by Nor Min, the village chief of Svay Kleang and Mei Chi Go whose deceased father, Haji Sulaiman or Ta Bortes was a local icon, built a Seun for the community in about 1834. According to local villagers, earlier residents of the village ascended to the top of the *seun* to announce prayer times and observe the moon to determine the beginning and end of Ramadan.

Nor Min handed the director two letters. One is a letter of thanks to DC-Cam for inviting the Cham Muslims to see the court and attended the hearings of Duch. Another one is a proposal with 264 thumb prints of 264 Cham Muslim families in Svay Kleang. They requested DC-Cam to assist and help restoring and conserving the Seun tower.

Mei Chi Go also asked DC-Cam to preserve an antique house that was built by her father more than 100 years ago.

(Please see Appendix attached herewith).

## **5) STUDENT OUTREACH**

The team is working with Andy Diamond, DC-Cam’s legal associate, on answering the youth questions collected from the student volunteers from 2005 to 2007. The team continues to update the answer and organizing the questions. We hope to complete everything including answering, writing the introduction, inserting photos and information background, and summarizing appendix, by the end of the year. The total number of questions is 236 and divided into 11 parts.

Two volunteer students of the team are typing the report feedback received from students in Chhouk of Kampot province, and Memot of Kampong Cham province. The report feedback are about the trip to Phnom Penh in March (Genocide Education Tour) that the student outreach team cooperated with the U.S. Peace Corps in Cambodia. The volunteers have typed 52 pages of the reports that include poems, slogans, and articles, and 41 pages of thankful letters.

The team has also received 53 more feedback reports from the students who joined the tour in late March (23 from students of Kralanh High school in Siem Reap, 21 from Dang Tung High School in Kampot province, and nine from Anlong Vil High school in Battambang). The feedback consists of letters of thanks, poems, slogans, essays, and drawings.

The team has also finished summarizing 44 catalogue reports (SO3689-SO3732) from the student outreach trip in August 2006. The team continues working on summarizing the catalogue, typing the report feedbacks, and answering the student questions.

On October 9, the student outreach team joined the genocide education team to distribute the textbooks on the Khmer Rouge to high school students in the Samrong district of the Takeo province. Deputy director Dara P. Vanthan updated them about the ECCC and Khamboly Dy talked about the book. Four students asked questions related to the ECCC and the Khmer Rouge.

On Saturday, October 10, the team distributed the textbook to 300 students of grade 11 and 12 in Youkunthor High School. The school deputy director, Norng Bun Heng opened the remark, and Director Youk Chhang asked the students if they ever heard about the Khmer Rouge and if so, how did they learn about it. After a while of question and-answers, the director introduced them Norng Chan Phal, a S-21 survivor and Him Huy, the former S-21 prison guard. The two guests told the students about their experiences during the Khmer Rouge and answered questions asked by the students. They then distributed the textbook and the sheet of questions for reflection and feedback on the Tribunal and Khmer Rouge regime to the students.

On October 20, the team distributed 200 textbooks to 200 students grades 9 and 10 at Youkunthor High School. Deputy director Dara P. Vanthan told them about the tribunal and Sayana SER talked about the importance and objectives of the book and genocide education.

### ***Genocide Education Tour***

Nine volunteer students from Phnom Penh and 30 nuns from Kampong Speu and Phnom Penh were brought together to join the groups of 350 Cham Muslim religious leaders and more than 50 civil party applicants and 13 Khmer Kampuchea Kroam to participate in the ECCC and Genocide Education Tour held from August 16-18.

On Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the tour, the program started at 3:30 p.m. with the groups gathering in the meeting at the National Institute for Education. There, the participants listened to three speakers of DC-Cam who updated them on the ECCC and talked about the projects of Cham Oral History and Genocide Education, two Khmer Rouge survivors told about their experiences at the S-21 and see a new Cambodian play called “Breaking the Silence.”

On the second day, the students and the groups visited the tribunal and attended the trial of Duch. The last day was used to visit the infamous site of former Tuol Sleng prison.

During the tour, the students also helped take care of logistics such as food, book and paper distribution to participants, bus-transportation of the nuns, and other groups.

From September 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>, the Student Outreach team helped organize the Genocide Education Tour of 150 Civil Party applicants to meet with S-21 survivor Norng Chan Phal, former S-21 guard Him Huy, and attend the hearing of Duch.

One hundred students from The Operation Smile program and 50 students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh were brought on the tour and watched the art performance of “Breaking the Silence” with the civil parties.

On Tuesday, September 29, the team leader joined a meeting with the Genocide Education Project and other Projects' leaders on the preparation for the second training of 186 provincial teachers. The training ran from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 and the more than 200 participants will be allocated into six zones. The outreach team will take part with the team in Battambang province.

On, November 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, two student volunteers and the team leader helped the Living Document team in organizing the ECCC Tour of 100 district chiefs, 186 provincial teachers, and 20 Cham Muslim from Kampong Cham province. The volunteers were in charge of the bus transportation, food, and accommodation.

### ***Student Volunteers and DC-Cam Scholarships***

There are six student volunteers working for different projects at DC-Cam. All are females.

Chan Phalla and Norng Chan Kimty are high school students. They are learning how to type Khmer font and assisting the Student Outreach project with typing student report feedbacks.

Sim Tina, Keu Sarath, and Ly Romas are working on transcribing interviews and reading articles extracted from DC-Cam's publications for voice recording to broadcast in the Radio program for two days a week. The three are living in poor Cham Muslim families that have tried to struggle with daily lives. They have just passed their final high school exam and started colleges. DC-Cam's director, Youk Chhang has provided them each a scholarship of 200 USD per year for their study.

Nith Thorong Kearan, female, 2<sup>nd</sup> year student from Royal University of Law and Economics, is working for the Cambodian Tribunal Monitor project on printing and copying news relating to the tribunal from the ECCC website while also working on the Radio program.

### ***Youth Exhibition***

The Student Outreach team leader, Sayana Ser, also worked with U.S Peace Corps volunteers in Kampong Cham to mount a traveling exhibition called "**Our Generation**" at the end of June. The exhibition includes drawings, photos and slogans by students from the three high schools who joined the March Genocide Education tour. Students at each participating school and grade level were asked to draw pictures or take photos that reflected their generation and how it differs from the older generation, especially those who lived during the Khmer Rouge regime. The team also contributed 11 photos from the Khmer Rouge period for the exhibition.

The objectives of the exhibit are to encourage students to reflect and share their thoughts and feelings about their country, history, and culture through art; to showcase student artwork and Khmer Rouge photographs and related documents; to encourage dialogue among the generations about KR history and the their daily differing experiences; and to promote awareness of, interest in, and appreciation of the Khmer Rouge genocide among Cambodian students.

The exhibition opened in Tbong Khmum High School on June 19, then traveled to Memot on June 27 and Stung Trang on June 29. It was brought to Phnom Penh from July 3-5. The



student outreach team leader had also brought all participants in the Genocide Education Training to see the exhibition. The participants were also brought to see the sites of Tuol Sleng and Choeung Ek.

- Number of students participating in the Art Project:

Tbong Khmum: 18; Memot: 30; Stung Trang: 26. Total: **74 student participants**

- Estimated number of guests visiting the exhibition:

Tbong Khmum: 300; Memot: 400; Stung Trang: 250. Total: **950 exhibition guests**

### ***Youth Festival***

On July 16<sup>th</sup> the team leader with four DC-Cam staff and a DC-Cam intern, Tony NGUYEN, travelled to Kampong Cham province to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Youth Festival organized by the Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC) and International Republican Institute (IRI). The Festival took place for two days of the weekend on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. It is the second time that Kampong Cham has hosted this particular event. The attendance level of that event reached somewhere close to 30,000 people.

The key focus of the festival is to reach out to the youth, which comprise an enormous 70 percent of Cambodia's population, about the importance of education in government and how it will contribute to the development of the country. Lux Mean, IRI's Program Officer feels that the youth are very limited when it comes to local and government participation and practices. He hopes that this event will "give the youth more practice in a social democracy and experience in organization" Moreover, he wants the "youth to obtain the knowledge of the government system."

STUDENTS was one of many private companies that was part of the exhibition. Numerous universities, private association, and NGO organization took part in the exhibition as well.

The Youth Festival invites organizations from all around the country to showcase their fields and specialties. Mas Pon Thyroth, YCC's Program Coordination, believes that "YCC and the supporting organization can benefit from each other." Each one of their presentations offer students something new and different, giving them options when it comes to learning what they truly like. Furthermore, the most important goal of their collaboration is for "the youth to benefit from it all." So she urges to the youth take time to explore and be exposed to these diverse exhibitions.

DC-Cam exhibited its publications in both Khmer and English and distributed free of charge 200 magazines in Khmer and 15 "History of Democratic Kampuchea" textbooks.

Around 400 people visited the booth, including students, teachers, officials, and villagers. They came to sit, reading the books including the "Brothers Enemy", "Breaking the Silence", History of DK, the SFT magazine, and other publications. The DC-Cam exhibition team also responded to some questions from visitors related to requests for documents, and answered questions about the DK.

Tim Sorat, 18 years old from Preah Sihanouk high school, let us know that "through some various documents I have read and studied at school, and after reading *Searching for the Truth* magazine, I believed that Khmer Rouge really existed in Cambodia and I think this is a bad deed and that the young generation should not follow that lesson. So, I would like to

request our youth to put effort in studying to gain more knowledge because there is only knowledge that can make us human being walk on to the good path toward right direction to build the country and not walk on the same path as KR did.”

All in all, the Youth Festival was a great opportunity for youths and adults alike to be a part of all the fun and educational activities. The experience and knowledge that can gain will not only benefit the individual, but the future of Cambodia.

### ***Other Activities***

From June 29 to July 7, the Student Outreach team leader, Sayana Ser, attended the Genocide Education Training held for one week and taking place at the Conference Hall of the Senate. This is the first phase of the training program which includes 24 national core teachers, 18 DC-Cam staff, foreign guest speakers and several other international facilitators.

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, the team joined the Living Documents team to travel to Kampong Speu province for a film screening to the villagers in Wat Ampe Phnom. There were three pieces of footage prepared by the film team for the showing: Duch’s apology at the court, S-21 child survivor Norng Chan Phal as witness in the court, and M-13 prison. There were also introductions to the purpose of the film screening to the villagers before the start of the film and discussion after the film. (Please see the Living Documents report for more detail.)

From July 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, the team joined the Genocide Education Team and Cham Oral History Project team in the Kampot province for the distribution of the DK textbook, SFT magazine and also updating the two Cham communities on the tribunal as well as the work on Oral History.

From September 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, the team leader joined Deputy director Kok-Thay Eng and Savina Sirik on the trip to Sweden for the opening ceremony of an exhibition titled “Dinner with Pol Pot” organized by the Living History Forum in Sweden.

On October 20, after the book distribution to Youkunthor High School, the team leader travelled with Sok Chamraen Ly, a team member of the Genocide Education Project, and Ming Chart to Kampong Cham province. We stayed working there with the VPA team and Magazine team until October 29. Sayana SER also helped the film team conduct interviews with Cham Muslim there about the old Tower and old house in the village of Svay Kleang, Kroch Chhmar district, Kampong Cham.

From November 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>, the student outreach team leader, participated in the second phase of the Genocide Education Training. She travelled to Battambang with Khamboly Dy, Yin Nean, and three other national teachers, to give presentations and model lessons for the DK textbook and teacher guidebook. There were 45 provincial teachers attending the seven day workshop. The teachers were from Pailin, Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey.

## **6) Museum Exhibition and Drama**

### ***Art Performance***

The play “Breaking the Silence” had been brought to the stage three times during this semester.

On Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>, at National Institute of Education (NIE), DC-Cam brought over 450 people including 350 Cham Muslim, 50 civil parties, 30 nuns, 13 Khmer Kampuchea Kroam and nine student volunteers to watch the play.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, the play was performed at the NIE for more than 300 people including 150 district chiefs, 100 students from Operation Smile, and 50 students from Royal University of Phnom Penh. There was a Q&A after the end of the play, with Mr. Youk Chhang and Professor Sambo Manara facilitating the discussion.

On Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sayana SER, with assistance from Pechet Men, organized the performance to more than 500 people including 186 provincial teachers, 100 district chiefs, 20 Cham Muslim from Kampong Cham province, 60 students and five teachers from Ang Snuol high school, 50 students and monks from Unaloam pagoda, 50 History students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), DC-Cam staff and other DC-Cam international guests. The play started at 7 p.m. at RUPP II and finished at 8:30 followed by a Q&A from the audience. The director, Youk Chang, Suon Bunrith, Sayana Ser, and two DC-Cam international advisors were there to answer to questions.

### ***Exhibition***

From September 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, Sayana Ser joined Deputy director Kok-Thay Eng and Savina Sirik on a trip to Sweden for the opening ceremony of an exhibition titled “Dinner with Pol Pot” organized by the Living History Forum in Sweden. Launched at 4 pm of September 8, 2009, the opening was attended by approximately 200 guests, including members of the Swedish press, government officials from the ministry of culture, officials from Swedish International Development Agency, professors, students and members of the public.

Although there are some pictures about communist revolutions elsewhere, "Dinner with Pol Pot" was mainly about the Swedish delegation's visit and Sweden's relations with the Khmer Rouge. Being a psychotherapist who works in a rehabilitation center for drug and alcohol addicts, Gunnar Bergstrom decided in November 2008 to come to Cambodia for the first time since that haunting visit thirty years ago.

The Living History Forums and the Documentation Center of Cambodia were honored to have organized this visit. The exhibition at Living History Forums in Stockholm, Sweden, is another exhibition aimed directly toward the Swedish audience. It was an educational and moving exhibition.

Professor David Chandler was also invited to the exhibition. He gave a talk the day before Bou Meng, the S-21 survivor, did about his knowledge regarding the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian history and the sociopolitical situation in general.

In Phnom Penh, 1,649 people visited DC-Cam’s exhibition at Tuol Sleng Museum. Some of the visitors expressed their comments in the guest book we placed in the exhibition room.

### **Selected comments:**

*May all these who died here never have to suffer again in their afterlife? God! This is crazy! Why did they do this?*

June 2, 2009. Meas Chan Boramy

*As long as everybody learns from other people's mistakes, this should not happen again. It is not easy to reacquire faith in humanity which is easily cracked after the first slap and totally destroyed after torture.*

June 6, 2009. Anand, Krishran, Nimal, Malaysia

*What reason in a land so lovely, so tranquil what mad mindless doctrine cold so enfeeble minds inclining them to bring time to a standstill, and exterminate mothers, brothers sisters their very own people.*

June 21, 2009. Jim Ewing, Australia

*Remembering the past is an important put one creating a better future, with strong! Resilient Cambodia People.*

July 16, 2009. Matt Cays, Canada

*Easy to "Say Never Again", but it goes on all over the world, even today. Pictures of beaten prisoners by all nations it just takes a couple of bad seeds to make a nation of war and devastation.*

July 23, 2009. Peter Halloween

*It's an excellent exhibition. The world does not know about this. It's a good way to open the eyes.*

July 23, 2009. Noimso Banaz, Argentina

*Thank you for documenting this unspeakable horror. May we all recognize our collective responsibility in this global society, and fight for the safety and future of all.*

August 08, 2009. Liza, USA

*We should never forget that we all carry what it is that transforms a man into a killing machine. Only this way a tragedy like what I just saw cannot happen again. How could Anne Frank have believed in the good in the?*

September 1, 2009. Helene Braddburn

*History has to be told again and again, so that we never forget the victim's and hopefully never will repeat what Cambodian people had to suffer.*

September 3, 2009. Jame Smith

*Coming here I was a little frightened my nerves would not do well witnessing the legacy of genocide in a museum like this. Although it is tough, I think it is important that all these atrocities are thouroughly documented. I just do not understand how anyone with even just a grain left in their conscience could do these: things to other people.*

October 10, 2009. Devin, USA

*I hope that in seeing this site and others like it; It only becomes more clear to everyone why it is so important why we all must love each other and that we are all one!*

October 21, 2009. Lara

*The Cambodian people cannot replace their relatives which were killed. The only hope is that as many people as possible come here and witnesses the after maker of these horrors, we hope that it cannot happen again.*

November 18, 2009. VM, UK

*Rest in peace, this place was shocking, you won't be forgotten. May your memory live on...*

November 22, 2009. Libby, Australia

## **7) DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT**

Besides providing films to the ECCC to serve as evidence, the project also uses film as a tool to document the memory of the survivor and to raise the awareness of their children's knowledge about the history of Khmer Rouge. During the last six months of this year, the scope of the film team's workings ranged from providing assistance to the media to the capturing of the memory of the survivor through the camera lens. By the end of this semester, through the activity with the Victim Participation Project, the team has filmed interviews in total with over **170 survivors in 10 provinces** of Cambodia. The length of each interview lasts from 1 hour to three hours. In total, the team has filmed over 350 hours of video testimony for the Center's audio and visual archive.

### ***Film Screening***

In June, the team screened "Cambodia Dream" and "Breaking the Silence" to a group of visiting USC students and DC-Cam legal associates.

In July, the film "Behind the Wall of S-21" was screened for law students and 30 Japanese students.

The team had selected a 60-minute video clip of Duch's hearing to screen to hundreds of people at Kampong Speu province and start a discussion about Duch's responsibility and his asking for forgiveness from the relatives of S-21 prisoners. After screening the film, we also did interviews with people about their reaction to Duch's apology. The reactions were edited and posted on the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor website.

In August, the film team in cooperation with the Club of Cambodia Journalists, conducted a film screening about the video footages from Vietnam. The two video clips, which show the Toul Sleng prison in 1979 and war between Vietnam and Khmer Rouge, were screened to a group of journalists. After the screening, a discussion was held with the journalists about the source of the film and its important role for the ECCC and the Khmer Rouge history. At the end of the event, we also distributed free-of-charge those two video clips to journalists for their broadcasting purpose.

In October, the film "Behind the Wall of S-21" and the video clip of "Duch Asking for Forgiveness" were screened to hundreds of Cham villagers in Svay Khleang commune. "Will you forgive Duch or not?" was the main topic of the discussion with villagers after the screening finished.

In November, the clip of "Toul Sleng in 1979" and "Behind the Wall of S-21" were screened to 100 district governors as a part of the tour to observe Duch's hearing.

### **Film Screening for Embassy Staffs from September to November:**

A new program was created in September to screen films related to the Khmer Rouge to the staff of some embassies in Cambodia. The embassies of Denmark, Sweden, British and US were our audiences during the last three months (from September to November). A discussion is always held after the film screening to talk about the history of the Khmer Rouge and the updated information on the ECCC.

### ***Detail activities of the program from September to November 2009:***

**4<sup>th</sup> September:** *Upon the request from the **British Embassy in Phnom Penh**, we did the screening of the footage from Vietnam to the staff and UK ambassador in Phnom Penh at the first week of this month. After watching of the footage about Cambodian Children after the Khmer Rouge, Toul Sleng prison, Cambodia August 1978 of Gunnar Bergstrom and the empty Phnom Penh city in 1979, we also had short discussion about the source of the footage and the DC-Cam film achieve as a whole.*

**29<sup>th</sup> October:** *The film “Cambodia: The Bloodiest Domino “and Cambodia August 1978” by Gunnar Bergstorm and film footage from Vietnam were also screened to **the staff of Danish Embassy in Phnom Penh**. “The US Bombing in Cambodia” & “The revolution of the Khmer Rouge” are mainly used to raise the topic for discussion after the screening.*

**13<sup>th</sup> November:** *The film screening at the **Swedish Embassy**: The film “Cambodia: The Bloodiest Domino “& “Behind the Wall of S-21” were screened to about 10 staff of the Swedish Embassy.*

**16<sup>th</sup> November:** *The film screening at the **US embassy**: The old film footage from Vietnam showing the Khmer Rouge leader like Khieu Samphan in the forest in 1973, empty Phnom Penh in 1979 and the footage of Cambodian Children situation in 1979 were screened to 17 staff of the US embassy.*

### **Activities with the Cambodia Tribunal Monitor**

“[www.cambodiatribunal.org](http://www.cambodiatribunal.org)” is the only website that posts the whole hearing proceedings of the ECCC online. The Film team is responsible for capturing the video of the whole hearing. The whole hearing of Duch since its beginning until the last day of the hearing were captured during these six months. Besides capturing the video to be posted on the website, the team also produced some short video clips about the people’s reaction to the hearing.

### **Providing assistance to media from June to November:**

#### **Assisting to a New Zealand filmmaker, Annie Goldson “Brother Number One”**

The film team has provided old film footage and the video clips of Duch’s hearing in the dramatic sequence, which shows Duch asking for forgiveness from Bou Meng to Annie Goldson, a New Zealand filmmaker. Annie Goldson is making a film “Brother Number One” which reveals the torture and murder of New Zealand yachter Kerry Hamill by the Khmer Rouge in 1978.

Visit the film website: <http://bno-documentary.blogspot.com/>

#### **Assisting a US filmmaker, “Do not Think I’ve Forgotten”**

We have provided the Vietnamese footage of empty Phnom Penh city and central market to insert into the film **“Do not Think I’ve Forgotten”**. Both clips last about 3 minutes in total. Visit the film website: <http://cambodianrock.com/>

**DVD distribution from June to November:**

- DVD of **“Behind the Wall of S-21”** was provided to Michael Cruz, who is a producer at the Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE. Michael is making a video that features some of the Khmer doctors and staff that work at the hospital. This video would mainly be used at public health conferences and other public venues overseas to raise awareness about the hospital and Cambodia.

- DVD of the film **“Preparing for Justice”** was provided to Lisa Hoven, a Legal assistant to the Civil parties at the ECCC.

- **Haruno Shintani** from Royal University of Phnom Penh requested a DVD **“Behind the Wall of S-21”** in English language for her study purpose.

**Field Trip with VPA to Svay Rieng Province**

From June 1-7, the Film team traveled to Svay Rieng province with the VPA project to capture footage of survivor stories and learn what happened to people in this province during the Khmer Rouge regime. Besides interviewing victims, the team also conducted interviews with members of the Victim Participation Project (VPA) about their impression of the project and the challenges they faced during their work.

**DC-Cam’s Newly Produced Film in 2009: “Victim Participation”**

By selecting the interview from this archive, the interviews with 17 survivors were selected to make a 40 minute film titled **“Victim Participation.”** **“Victim Participation”** reveals the participation of the Khmer Rouge survivors to file the complaint against the Khmer Rouge leaders by revealing the Khmer Rouge crimes that they witnessed and experienced during the regime. The film also wants to show the important work of VPA project in assisting the survivors to participate in the legal process of ECCC. To reveal the full picture of the **“Victim Participation,”** the real stories of 17 survivors are captured in the film to show their experience of starvation, forced labor, witness to killing and their loss during the Khmer Rouge regime, which can be served as important information or evidence against the Khmer Rouge leaders.

**“Victim Participation”** can be used as outreach material for village forum discussions for some DC-Cam project’s activities like VPA or Living Documents in the future.

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## APPENDIX

### Seun Svay Kleang

Seun (Tower) in Svay Kleang village is the heart of Cham Muslim in Cambodia.

Built in 1834, this majestic seun is located on the banks of the Mekong River in the village of Svay Kleang, Kampong Cham province. The village itself has been the heart of Cambodia's minority Muslim community for centuries and played a key part in the Cham Rebellion against the Khmer Rouge in 1975. After brutal and systematic persecution by the Khmer Rouge, the Cham community in and around Svay Kleang is now experiencing a revival, and have requested DC-Cam's assistance in preserving this unique cultural monument.

Previously, the seun was used five a day to announce the Muslim call to prayer and to observe the moon to determine the beginning and end of Ramadan. However, the structure has since fallen into disrepair and due to structural weakness, it is no longer possible to ascend to the top of the tower, rendering it unusable. This disrepair is exacerbated by the erosion caused by the waters of the Mekong River, which flows just 50 meters away. It is therefore vital to buttress the structural support of the seun in the short-term while also undertaking conservation efforts on the tower itself.

These efforts are designed to conserve and preserve the only Cham Muslim seun in Cambodia. A nearby house, over one century old, was recently donated to DC-Cam for preservation and it is hoped that these two projects can help raise interest in Cham culture and possibly bring tourists to this historic village.

This Cham Muslim seun (tower) is the only one of its kind in all of Cambodia. It is located in Svay Kleang village, Kampong Cham province. Svay Kleang has long been the heart of Cambodia's minority Muslim population. During the early 19th Century, a Svay Kleang villager named Sulaiman (also known as Ta Borates), who was a close friend of King Monivong, was named the royal representative for the Cham throughout Cambodia. Later, during the Sangkum Reastr Niyum period (1955-1970), one of Cambodia's most respected authorities on Islam came to live in Svay Kleang, Toun Ly Musa. He ran an Islamic school in the village known by his own name and it became the most prestigious institution in Cambodia for the study of Muslim teachings, attracting young Muslim scholars from all across Cambodia to the village of Svay Kleang.

It was Ta Borates, the close friend of the King, who commissioned the building of the seun in 1834 for use by the Cham community. According to local villagers, earlier residents of Svay Kleang would ascend to the top of the seun five times a day to announce the call to prayer. It was also used to observe the moon to determine the beginning and end of Ramadan, the holiest Muslim holiday.

After the Khmer Rouge took over control of the village and surrounding areas in 1970, the freedom of the Cham community to practice their religion came under systematic attack: praying was forbidden, they were forced to eat pork and women were forced to cut and uncover their hair. All are grave transgressions against the Cham Islamic religion. As a result of this brutal oppression, including the disappearance and killing of many local Muslim leaders, the Cham people rose up against the Khmer Rouge as early as 1975, one of the few open rebellions during the period of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979). The village of Svay Kleang was the site of one of the largest rebellions; however, the uprising failed and the retaliation by the Khmer Rouge was devastating. Upon the fall of the Khmer Rouge in January 1979, there were only about 100 Cham families (600 people) remaining in Svay Kleang, from about 2,000 Cham families (6,200 people) before the Khmer Rouge.

The significance of the seun's preservation is clearly appreciated by the local Cham community. Over 200 villagers from Svay Kleang have signed a petition requesting DC-Cam's assistance in preserving the seun. Thus, the support and active engagement of the local Cham community can be expected.

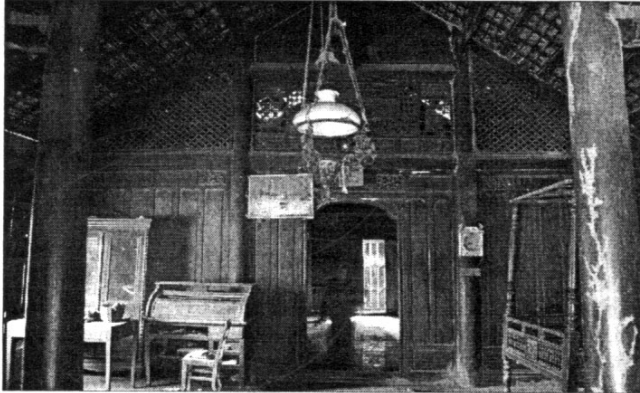




The seun was built over 150 years ago. After frequent use for over a century, it is now unusable and in danger of further deterioration, possibly irreversible. The foundation of the tower is unstable. It is located on a patch of grass that in the wet season turns to soft mud, allowing the tower to gradually shift its weight distribution. Now, the tower can be seen to be leaning slightly to one side. Additionally, the interior stairwell of the seun is broken down and unstable. Given that the seun's primary purpose is for villagers to ascend to the top to announce the call to prayer, the broken stairs render the seun unusable. Finally, the Mekong River flows less than 50 meters away. Each year, the waters further erode the riverbank, bringing the River that much closer to the seun.

If the seun continues its deterioration unchecked, it is possible that the structure will physically collapse. If that happens, the only Cham Muslim seun in all of Cambodia will be lost forever, and along with it, its status as a symbol of the Cham community's rich history and perseverance.





Courtesy of DC-Cam

A woman walks through a century-old house in Svay Kleang village, Kompong Cham province, which the owners plan to donate to the Documentation Center of Cambodia.

## *Historic, Century-Old Cham House Donated to DC-Cam*

BY ZSOMBOR PETER  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

After lying empty for at least three decades, a beautiful century-old wooden house in the Cham village of Svay Kleang, Kompong Cham province, may yet breathe with life again.

Mei Chi Go, whose family fled their home in 1970 to escape the violence of the Lon Nol regime, returned to Cambodia this week for the first time since their flight to give their ancestral house away. To donate it, to be precise.

With the family now established in Malaysia and no one to care for the antique house, Ms Chi Go met with the Documentation Center of Cambodia on Friday to ask the research organization to step in and preserve the aging structure for posterity.

As a centerpiece of the ethnic Cham village of Svay Kleang, DC-Cam Director Youk Chhang said, "the house really symbolizes that culture."

The house also holds a special place in the village itself. Besides the aesthetic beauty of the structure's intricately carved wooden

details, Mr Chhang said, Ms Chi Go's deceased father, Haji Osman, was a "local icon" and friend of retired King Norodom Sihanouk.

The house also sits just meters away from a stone tower—the only one of its kind in Cambodia—that the Cham built a hundred years ago to call villagers to prayer.

But it's more than age that's threatening the house.

The currents of the Mekong River flow only 50 meters away, said Mr Chhang, and every year erosion brings the banks closer to the aging home. The documentation center hasn't got the funds to save the house itself, but it hopes to attract donors who do.

Mr Chhang also hopes to put the house to work. By turning it into a museum, he said, it could attract tourists to the village and help residents earn some money off the traffic. But more than that, he hopes a museum in the village can help cement the Chams' place in Cambodian culture.

"They are part of us," Mr Chhang said of the Chams. "To preserve their culture, it helps to integrate them into society."