

NATIONAL

Airport Fees Must Be Uniform And Transparent, UN Body Says

BY BEN WOODS
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Aeronautical fees imposed at airports in countries which are members of the U.N.'s International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)—including Cambodia—must be uniformly and transparently applied to all airlines, a spokesperson for the ICAO said yesterday.

Last week, airline officials said that a \$1,000-per-landing royalty fee at Siem Reap International Airport—imposed by the country's aviation regulator, the State Secretariat for Civil Aviation (SSCA)—was driving up the cost of operating in Cambodia.

Anthony Philbin, communications chief of ICAO, said yesterday that all ICAO members have a "moral obligation" to adhere to the international body's principles, including "the four key charging principles of non-discrimination, cost-relatedness, transparency and consultation with users."

"ICAO's policies on charges...recommend that states permit the imposition of charges only for services and functions which are provided for, directly related to, or ultimately beneficial for, civil aviation,"

Mr. Philbin said.

Although declining to comment on Siem Reap airport's \$1,000-per-landing royalty charge, Mr. Philbin said that ICAO members must adhere to the articles of the Chicago Convention, also known as the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which is dedicated to regulating international air travel, and which Cambodia signed in 1956. The convention states that "uniform conditions apply for aircraft of all other contracting states...i.e. no differences in charges based on carrier nationality," Mr. Philbin said.

SSCA Deputy Cabinet Chief Loun Chheng, however, said he did not know about, or have responsibility for, the Siem Reap royalty charge.

"This is not under my control... We implement it from the order from the top," SSCA general director Keo Sivorn said.

Officials from Malaysia Airlines, Korea Air and SilkAir, confirmed last week that they pay the \$1,000 royalty fee on each of their planes that land at the airport. The royalty is in addition to the normal landing fees at the airport.

Documentary Reflects on Lives Changing Course in Cambodia

BY MICHELLE VACHON
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

The documentary film "A River Changes Course" brings home the fact that the prosperity so obvious in Phnom Penh has made little difference to the lives of the majority of Cambodians.

Directed and shot by Cambodian-American filmmaker Kalyanee Mam, the 83-minute production follows the lives of three families in the Cambodian countryside over a two year period: an ethnic minority family living deep in the forest of Ratanakkiri province, a Cham family of fishermen with a floating home on the Tonle Sap lake, and rice farmers in Svay Rieng province.

Following a cinema-verite style, the film shows its subjects facing such issues as deforestation, fish depletion and the toil of garment factory work.

To get her farming family out of debt, one daughter goes to work in Phnom Penh, where her universe becomes the factory and the narrow walkway along the garment workers' living quarters where they gather to eat and wash clothes.

A Cham teenage boy who, at the start of the film, had said how proud he was of completing grade

7 and being able to read and write while most in his village are illiterate, ends up in despair. With fish catches getting smaller, the teenager had to leave home and work as a laborer for a Chinese company on a cassava farm to help his family. "I don't even want to think about the future," he says.

Based in northern California, Ms. Mam said her goal was not to take a position on development in the country, but to show its repercussions on ordinary Cambodians, the majority of whom are still farmers and fishermen.

Ms. Mam—whose film credits have included a documentary on Iraqi refugee artists in the Middle East—is best known for being cinematographer for "Inside Job," a film on the financial crisis that won the 2011 Academy Award for best documentary in Hollywood. Born in Cambodia in 1977, Ms. Mam and her family left the Thai border refugee camps for the U.S. in the early 1980s. Her first visit to Cambodia was in 1998.

Produced by the Documentation Center of Cambodia with funding from USAID and the Swedish aid agency Sida, the film will be shown today at 2 p.m. at Chenla Theater in Khmer with English subtitles. Admission is free.

Wanted

We are currently recruiting qualified, experienced native speaking English Teachers for our growing Primary and Secondary programs.

Please contact:

Home of English International

#30, St. 282, SK. BKK I, P.P

Tel: 023 212 620 / 216 534

Government Donates Land for Genocide Museum

Minister of Education Im Sethy signed an agreement yesterday to transfer 4,785 square meters of state land in Phnom Penh's Chamkar Mon district over to the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) for the construction of a genocide museum and research institute. Mr. Sethy said that DC-Cam will hold the lease on the land, located next to Boeng Trabek High School, for 50 years and is eligible for unlimited 10-year extensions. "We need our people to learn about genocide and our history so that people can avoid committing the same errors of the past," Mr. Sethy said, explaining the importance of the proposed center. Funding for the project from USAID comes to about \$4 million, though Youk Chhang, DC-Cam's director, said that more funds may be needed. "We are working on improving the design and also to make sure it is iconically Cambodian but also modern," he said. Plans for Sleuk Rith Institute include a museum and a research center to house DC-Cam's more than 1 million Khmer Rouge documents. (*Dene-Hern Chen and Eang Mengleng*)

Floods Close Roads, Force Families From Their Homes

About 70 families living in Pursat province's Kandieng district have now been evacuated to higher ground after the Pursat River burst its banks on Monday night because of heavy rain from Tropical Depression Gaemi, officials said. "The floodwaters were continuing to spread in Sre Sdok and Kanhchor communes on Tuesday night," district governor Sok Limuot said, adding that the floodwaters reached 80 cm yesterday in parts of Kandieng. "It is lucky for us that this year is not that severe because the water is flowing quickly down into the Tonle Sap River." Provincial governor Khoy Sokha said that 28 trucks carrying about 150,000 sandbags were sent yesterday to Kandieng to stop water from continuing to spill over into homes and roads. Mr. Sokha added that about 400 police officers and soldiers with 87 rescue boats were being prepared to assist with future evacuations. On Monday, officials said the rising floodwaters could force about 13,000 families from their homes. In Ratanakkiri province, floodwaters had receded about 1 meter yesterday, opening some roads in Lumphat district. (*Aun Pheap*)