

**Documentation Center of Cambodia
Museum of Memory**

**Report on Follow-up Trips to Review the Exhibition on
“The Forced Transfer: the Second Evacuation of People
During the Khmer Rouge Regime”
at Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey,
Battambang and Svay Rieng Provincial Museums**

March 2015

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The exhibit reminded me of my beloved brothers and sisters. It helped me to find closure and demonstrates that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal is seeking justice for the Cambodian people.

Kop Sa, aged 65, from Trapaing Chhouk Village,
Boeng Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province,



The team discussed with a group of students of Kampong Chhoeu Teal high school and a group of local authorities— connecting young generation to elders who survived the Khmer Rouge regime, about Forced Transfer exhibition in Kampong Thom province.

The “Forced Transfer” exhibition has been installed in provincial museums through a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and DC-Cam’s Museum of Memory, an entity which will eventually become the permanent Sleuk Rith Institute. It is hoped that this exhibition will contribute toward the collective reparations requested by Civil Parties at the ECCC. The issue of forced transfer is a deeply troubling one for the victims of this traumatic event, which formed the basis of legal action in Case 002/01 with a primary focus on alleged crimes against humanity related to the forced movement of the population from Phnom Penh and later among different regions of the country.

Rationale for the follow-up trips

Following the opening ceremonies for the exhibitions on the “Forced Transfer” at eight provincial museums, DC-Cam’s Museum of Memory Project conducted follow-up interviews and focus group discussions with selected local students and community members in the five provinces of Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Svay Rieng in order to assess the effectiveness of the exhibition in preserving memories of the victims and educating the younger generations about the crimes committed during the Democratic Kampuchea regime. In March 2015, approximately 118 visitors (including Civil Parties, villagers, high school and university students and teachers, staff at provincial museums, government officials, monks, tour guides, foreign visitors, as well as former Khmer Rouge cadres) were interviewed regarding the “Forced Transfer” exhibition. However, only selected interviews reflect the reactions of people who have attended the exhibit. Generally, the team learns about visitors’ impressions of the exhibition through a questionnaire.

Forced Transfer Exhibition at the Provincial Museums

Since the opening ceremony of the Forced Transfer exhibition,¹ an increasing number of visitors from different institutions have come to visit the provincial museums. According to the report of the provincial museums (see table 1), between June 2014 and February 2015, thousands of visitors have visited the provincial museums, including the Forced Transfer exhibition. The highest number of visitors to the Forced Transfer exhibition was at Wat Thmey in Siem Reap, where it was installed in conjunction with a memorial stupa containing about 800 skulls from the Khmer Rouge period. The high number of visitors at Siem Reap results from the fact that the province is a popular destination for visitors from around the world and the memorial stupa has been included in the tour schedule for visitors.

There are two kinds of visitors to the provincial museums: national and international. National visitors include students and teachers from high schools and universities. For instance, Banteay Meanchey

¹ Opening ceremonies of the Forced Transfer exhibition were held at Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and Svay Rieng on 24 June, 27 June, 22 August, 5 December and 11 December 2014, respectively.

Province is represented by Siri Sorpoan High School, Samdach Ov High School, BBU, and UME, while Kampong Thom Province includes Hun Sen Balaing High School, RUFA (archaeology students), Kedomnel Khmer Foundation, University of Cambodia, Krong Angkor Institute and the Union of Youth Federation of Kampong Thom Province, CUS. The five provinces have hosted international visitors from Australia, Japan, China, Britain, America, Germany, France, Thailand, the Philippines, Mexico, New Zealand, and Korea.

Table 1: Number of visitors at the provincial museums

	Battambang		Banteay Meanchey		Kampong Thom		Siem Reap		Svay Rieng	
	Total	Foreigner	Total	Foreigner	Total	Foreigner	Total	Foreigner	Total	Foreigner
Jul-14	150	68	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Aug-14	55	7	221	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sep-14	67	4	64	7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct-14	27	3	10	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nov-14	73	8	73	1	23	3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dec-14	49	8	25	0	101	9	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan-15	101	13	54	0	250	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Feb-15	63	35	125	24	11	8	5061	4743	105	0
Total	585	146	572	35	385	20	5061	4743	105	0

The Forced Transfer Exhibition and Visitors

Visitors such as Civil Parties, ethnic Cham, villagers, students, teachers, and local tour guides were asked to provide their impressions of the content and design of the Forced Transfer exhibit, including their likes, dislikes and what they learned through viewing the exhibit. Visitors provided different answers based on their background. Most visitors to the exhibit were positive and appreciated having an exhibition about the Khmer Rouge in their province, since it may attract more tourism for their local economy.

Most of the visitors are interested in stories of individuals and ethnic minorities, while some prefer Khmer folktales or stories about family separations. Visitors have commented that the exhibit is efficiently designed and flows smoothly as people walk through and read the bilingual (English and Khmer) exhibits and supplementary documents.

Civil Parties from the ethnic Cham community are pleased that their stories have been included in the Forced Transfer exhibit. Kop Sa, aged 65, from Trapaing Chhouk Village, Boeng Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province, learned about the exhibit from his sister, Kop Ai Sah. Visiting the exhibit reminded him of his beloved brothers and sisters. He commented that the exhibit helped him to find closure and demonstrates that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal is seeking justice for the Cambodian

people. A commune chief from Balaing Commune in Kampong Thom Province said the exhibit is very useful for both students and villagers. For students, the evidence the exhibit provides of the genocidal regime can help the younger generation better understand its history. The exhibition may help villagers locate relatives who disappeared during the Khmer Rouge regime, since many family photos are displayed in the exhibition.

Most students perceive the exhibit as very useful in providing new knowledge about the Khmer Rouge, helping them understand more about current Cambodian society, acknowledging the hardship their parents and grandparents endured during the Khmer Rouge regime, and most importantly, providing historical facts which some of them do not learn at school. It was also reported that some of the students heard about the exhibit through their interest in two Khmer folktales—The Baby Chicken Star and The Crocodile Star. For instance, Chhun Monyrith, aged 14, a student in eighth grade at Samdech Orv High School, is very interested in the provincial museum. He stated that he learned about three different exhibits at the museum—pre-historical, historical and the Khmer Rouge. He added that he never learned about the Khmer Rouge at school and the exhibit about that regime will ensure that people better understand what occurred so that this history is not forgotten. The parts of the exhibit he liked the most were the photos and stories about family separation during the Khmer Rouge period. This information was new to him.

The exhibit provides resources for teachers to supplement their teaching of the history of the Khmer Rouge regime in the classroom. Just as local tour guides explain this history to visitors, the exhibit provides a framework for teachers to easily explain about the Khmer Rouge regime to their students.

A former Khmer Rouge cadre, Pech Buntheurn, also visited the exhibit. When asked about the reason for his visit, he said he felt the exhibit would help him recall the past and he also wanted to see the photos taken during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Local visitors have become aware of the exhibit from various sources, including television, radio, teachers, as well as from their neighbors and relatives. In order to advertise the exhibit more broadly within the provinces, in December 2014 the museum team of DC-Cam distributed official letters to the Department of Education requesting that staff at the provincial universities and high schools contact museum staff to arrange for student visits to the museums. Some universities and high schools did follow up to make arrangements for



A former Khmer Rouge cadre, Pech Buntheurn, was describing his life during the Khmer Rouge.

students to visit the exhibit at the provincial museum. However, some obstacles exist regarding visits to the exhibit.

Obstacles to visiting the exhibit

During the follow-up field trip, two major obstacles were identified for visitors to the exhibit. The first pertains to local visitors' knowledge about the museum, as perceived by the official staff of the museum. The second set of obstacles as seen from the visitor's perspective is the lack of advertisement, limited access to the provincial museums, lack of transportation (especially for those traveling long distances), limited time for the visit, lack of regular open hours and assumption that there is an entrance fee.

According to the Director of Provincial Museums, only about 8% of the local provincial population visited the museum, including the Forced Transfer exhibit. He suggested that it is difficult for most of them to understand the value of the Khmer arts in the museum. Some of them are not even aware that there is a provincial museum in their province. The school curriculum should include information about the provincial museum in order to educate and encourage students to visit the museum and study their culture.

From the perspective of local visitors, they may not visit the museum because they are unaware of the Forced Transfer exhibit or cannot afford to travel the long distance from their home to the museum. They suggested that the museum do more advertising and also provide transportation. Furthermore, some villagers said that they would not visit the museum because they were concerned that the museum might charge a fee to visit. They therefore requested that the museum display a sign notifying visitors that the museum may be visited free of charge.

To resolve the issue of advertisement, the DC-Cam team observed that some of the provincial museums have informed different departments, universities and high schools in the provinces about the resources available at the museum, including the new exhibition on Forced Transfer, and urged them to visit the museum. However, the response has been limited thus far.

Request from Provincial Museums and visitors

- Install an exhibition specific to each province; for example, in Siem Reap there are several mass graves such as the killing kiln and Phnom Trong Bat. Include more photos of Khmer Rouge leaders and enlarge them for effective display.
- Install a short video clip.
- Print brochures about the provincial museums to be widely distributed among the local population.

- Provide a training course about the Khmer Rouge exhibition for museum staff responsible for the exhibition and the guides.
- Arrange and provide transportation for students from some universities, for example CUS, to tour the museum.
- Install a small display panel extending a warm welcome to visitors and containing information about DC-Cam in case visitors have any inquiries.
- In the case of Siem Reap, design a comment box if the comment book cannot be left at the exhibition. This would allow visitors to write their comments and suggestions and place them in the box.
- Install a large sign stating “The Provincial Museum welcomes everyone to visit exhibitions on Khmer sculpture and the history of the Khmer Rouge regime free of charge.

Team:

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Reactions from provincial residents and staff at the provincial museums:

From the comment books

1- Jean James, New Zealand (6 October 2014): Well organized exhibition—easy to move around to each area and study clearly. Enough information for initial visit, with books available for background. I liked the stories included too. I would have liked the Khmer place names on the maps to be translated for me to identify places I am familiar with. Thank you.

2- Michael Sheppard, New Zealand (6 October 2014): A good exhibition. I liked the personal case studies and would like to see more. Perhaps more English translation on maps and map keys would be useful. A few chairs to sit on and contemplate the stories might be an idea. Helpful staff. Thank you.

3- The exhibition that describes witnesses’ stories during the Khmer Rouge regime is very good because it can help the young generation learn the facts about what happened under Democratic Kampuchea.

4- Banteay Meanchey: I am a student at Samdech Orv High School. I do not understand why the Khmer Rouge Tribunal is taking so much time to try the Khmer Rouge leaders?

5- Chhun Monyrith (7 March 2015): I am a student at Samdech Orv High School. I think this photo exhibition is very informative and helps Cambodian people to learn their history well.

6- Phou Sophoan (7 March 2015): (I am) an eighth grade student at Samdech Orv High School. This exhibition provides me with a better understanding about life during the Khmer Rouge.

7- As a monk, I would like to thank the organizer who installed this exhibition of national history and allowed me to express my opinion. For me, it would be great if the exhibition could be rotated many times because it is an exhibition that shows historical events. It is very useful for the young generation of Cambodians to understand our own dark-age history. Finally, I would like to congratulate the organizers of this exhibition. I wish you all best wishes, good health, and prosperity.

8- Dr. Margarita Reraza Savri, Mexico (26 June 2014): I congratulate the director and personnel of this museum for their efforts in keeping Cambodian culture alive. This exhibition, in particular “The Forced Transfer,” was outstanding! This has been a rewarding stop. We live in and appreciate Cambodian society. Thanks and keep going. P.S.: Please try to add more labels to your fantastic pieces.

9- Dr. Terry Rugekyt, USA-Mexico (26 June 2014): A priceless collection of irreplaceable treasures, lovingly cared for by their custodians. I hope that the [national] and state governments will find ways to protect and enhance this extraordinary museum.

10- Natalie Cooper, UK (28 June 2014): This is a great museum exhibition. It is important for people to know what happened and that these things continue to happen and affect people throughout the world.

11- Chhoeun Phan Thong (24 July 2014): It is very great that you professionals organized this exhibition in order to memorialize our Cambodian history. The Cambodian people endured great suffering and tremendous hardship during those dark years. It instructs the young generation not to emulate this regime as they prepare to lead this poor country. On behalf of the Cambodian people, through Case 002 I want to learn the reason behind the killing of their own people and I want to see this trial finish its proceedings very soon. Thank you.

12- Ian Hodgson, UK (2 August 2014): Thank you for organizing this exhibition. It is vital that the memory of what happened is not forgotten. To avoid human catastrophes like this, we have to learn lessons and the knowledge of what happened is crucial. Please keep up the good work.

Kampong Thom Province

1- Teur Matt, male, aged 70, lives in Tra Peang Chhuk Village, Boeng Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province. He learned that there was an exhibition at the provincial museum about the forced transfer during the Khmer Rouge regime through outreach efforts of the museum staff. However, he didn't have a chance to view the exhibition. He went to see an exhibition about the Khmer Rouge at Tuol Sleng Museum through Farina [So]. At that time, he and some other villagers volunteered to visit

Tuol Sleng because they were curious about the museum and former prison. Matt felt very angry after visiting Tuol Sleng, however he could do nothing about it. Later, Teur Matt also visited the provincial museum during the opening ceremony of the Forced Transfer exhibition, but he was not able to see the exhibit because there was not enough room to accommodate all of the people in attendance. Teur Matt suggested that the provincial museum should sponsor similar exhibitions in the future.

2- Samban Savin, female, aged 17, lives in Mreak Chas Village, Tuol Krael Commune, Prasat Sambo District, Kampong Thom Province. Savin is a student at Kampong Chhae Teal High School. She was aware of the exhibition at the provincial museum; however, she wasn't able to see it because the museum is far from her home village and she had no time to attend. She suggested that more exhibitions related to the Khmer Rouge regime should be held in the provincial museum. She recommended that the museum provide more information about their exhibits and also provide transportation. Savin believes that the provincial museum plays an important role in reviving interest in the country's cultural heritage after the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime because it provides knowledge of our heritage to the younger generations.

3- Kop Sa, male, aged 65, from Trapaing Chhouk Village, Boeng Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province. Sa learned about the exhibition from his sister, Kop Ai Sah, who is a Civil Party recognized by the ECCC. When she visited the exhibition, it helped her recall what happened to her siblings during the Khmer Rouge regime. Four of her siblings were executed and she still wonders why they were killed. She had a difficult time believing they were killed because they had joined in the liberation of the country.

The Forced Transfer exhibition really helped her to find closure. She felt that her experiences had been acknowledged in a caring way and that future generations would benefit from knowing that history. What made her most happy was that Cham stories were included in the exhibition, which eliminated discrimination [between Chams and the majority population]. She felt proud about that. She appreciated the photos of workers carrying earth during the Khmer Rouge regime, because she experienced that [hard labor] as well.

4- Srei Borut, female, aged 60, is the chief of the Heritage Office of Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts. Many visitors have come to view the exhibition about forced transfer during the Khmer Rouge regime, but she doesn't know the exact amount. The director of the Kampong Thom Provincial Museum Department has recorded that information. Borut confirmed that most of the visitors were students whose teachers brought them to see the exhibition. Some of the other visitors were government officials; however, she is not aware of any foreigners (*barang* meaning French, as she called them) having visited the exhibition. Visitors attended the inauguration of the exhibit at the provincial museum. Some visitors suggested that Khmer Rouge books should be available for sale. Borut

stressed that the exhibition on forced transfer during the Khmer Rouge regime will help all visitors learn more about this part of the country's history. Borut believes that the cultural treasures created by our ancestors are a heritage which we can share with people around the world.

5- Nao Neng, female, aged 18, lives in Bos Smouch Village, Sala Visai Commune, Prasat Balang District, Kampong Thom Province. Neng is a tenth-grade student at Kampong Chhae Teal High School. She heard about the exhibition in the provincial museum on provincial radio, however, she was not able to attend due to a shortage of time and lack of transportation. Neng wants to view the exhibition because she's interested in the ancient history of the area of Prasat Sambo Preikok. She feels that cultural treasures are priceless, so she will share information about the museum exhibit with all of her friends and family.

6- Choeung Lay Hang, female, aged 15, a tenth-grade student at Kampong Chhae Teal High School. Lay Hang was not aware that there is a museum in the province. She wasn't familiar with the exhibition about the forced transfer during the Khmer Rouge regime either. Having learned this information, Lay Hang is interested to visit the exhibit at the provincial museum.

Siem Reap Provinc

1- Yang Rachana, aged 15, ninth-grade student at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School in Mondul 3 Village, Slakram Commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province. Rachana knew about the



Visitors were reading stories of individuals in the forced transfer exhibition at Wat Thmey pagoda, Siem Reap province.

exhibition but did not take time to visit the museum. He rides his bike through this area every day and is busy with his school work. He only knew about the exhibition about Khmer Rouge history. He would be willing to join a group tour to the museum because he understands that the exhibition in the museum could help restore our cultural heritage. Rachana and his friends, Piseth, Nut,

and Prathana, take pride in the nation's cultural heritage and feel that it belongs to the people.

2- Ms. Ting Srey Oun, aged 16, ninth-grade student at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School in Mondul 3 Village, Sla Kram Commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province. Oun visited the exhibition when she had free time (Saturday or Sunday). Sometimes she visited along with a small group of students and neighbors. She knew about the exhibition because she passed through this area. Oun mentioned the exhibit to her friends and they all learned from the display of remains of the KR victims. Sometimes she visited with her teachers while listening to the chanting of the monks. Having visited the exhibit, she learned a lot about the brutality of the KR and how they executed people in mass killings. Srey Oun took a very strong interest in seeing many tourists come to visit the exhibit, which helps to provide income for the pagoda. The exhibit sends an important message to all people about “Khmer killing Khmer” and encourages the younger generation to work hard to guide our country in the right direction. Leaders need to be chosen carefully; history has shown that some leaders, i.e. the KR leaders, may kill their own population. Srey Oun’s most vivid memory of the exhibit was learning that some victims had to dig their own graves. The remains and clothing which are displayed in the memorial should be preserved so that people—Cambodians and foreigners alike—can view it as evidence of the killing of innocent people. Oun felt very angry at the way the KR killed intellectuals and other people. She suggested that more exhibitions should be set up and the space for them should be enlarged. The exhibition should be advertised more widely in order to attract more visitors. If people view the exhibition, they will learn about the history. Furthermore, Srey Oun suggested that the government should help the poor people, rather than oppressing them.

3- Ms. In Vin, aged 49, of Phlung Village, Leang Dai Commune, Angkor Thom District, Siem Reap Province, said she had no information about the exhibition in the provincial town. She never took an interest in stopping by the pagoda. She had no transportation and she had no money. She cared only about her agricultural fields and animals. She did not expect to visit the exhibit, however she would be willing to do so. She really wanted to visit places such as the KR exhibition and Maha Sangkran. As she had not seen the exhibit, she had no suggestions to make. She has heard positive comments about the displays of ancient artifacts from people who have visited the museum. Those ancient artifacts are part of the heritage of Cambodia and the younger generation should learn and understand the roots of their culture. Education is critical to increasing the understanding of students so that they can preserve their heritage.

4- Ms. Kan Chantrea, aged 17, of Phlung Village, Leang Dai Commune, Angkor Thom District, Siem Reap Province, said she was not aware of the exhibition at Kbal Khmoch Pagoda. She never saw any advertisement of the exhibit. After hearing about it, she said she would like to visit the exhibit and could travel there by motorbike. She wanted to learn how the population was forcibly transferred and to know details about the hardships which people endured. Chantrea said that the younger generation needs

to preserve the country's heritage in order to maintain the culture for future generations. She supports the idea of having a permanent exhibition in Siem Reap.

5- Ms. Nob Chhorlida, aged 18, a ninth-grader at Hun Sen Siem Reap High School, said she did not know about the exhibition because she never saw any advertisement about it. After learning about the exhibit, she said she would like to visit the exhibition because she wants to know whether the regime really occurred. Her grandparents told her that the [KR] regime was brutal, but she wants to see the exhibit on KR history and learn more about the regime. As a Cambodian, she feels she needs to learn about our history and the heritage on display at the museum can help to restore and preserve the culture. If people develop an appreciation for their own heritage, it helps to prevent them from adopting foreign culture.

6- Mr. Kim Lorn, aged 35, of Leang Dai Village, Leang Dai Commune, Angkor Thom District, Siem Reap Province, said he was unaware of the exhibition. No one informed him about it until today when he talked with the team [from DC-Cam]. After hearing about it, he said he would like to personally visit the exhibit. When he passed by the pagoda, he noticed that many buses filled with tourists were visiting the site. He said it was very rare for the people who lived in Siem Reap to visit there, or even to visit Angkor Wat. Future exhibits should inform people about the post-KR period. Preserving our cultural heritage through exhibits such as this is important for the younger generation and is beneficial for tourism and the population-at-large. The exhibition could accept donations to support orphanages or hospitals. Learning about [the KR regime] will prevent the past crimes from happening in the future. He feels that formal education is critical to developing an appreciation for the cultural heritage of the country. He suggested that the team increase public awareness through broadcasts on television and radio during prime time when it is possible to reach a wider audience.

7- Mr. In Bot, aged 28, chief of Phlong Village, Leang Dai Commune, Angkor Thom District, Siem Reap Province, said he was not aware of the exhibit in this province. However, his niece in Phnom Penh told him about the exhibit at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. After finding out about the exhibit in Siem Reap, he became interested in visiting the museum this weekend to personally view the exhibit and learn about the killings which were committed during the KR regime. He encouraged the team to advertise more widely to the public in



A boy, at Kampong Phlouk, Siem Reap province, was reading catalog of Forced Transfer aloud to his parents.

order to attract more young visitors, whose personal interest in the subject varies. He himself has a very strong interest in learning about KR history because his parents used to tell him that the KR regime murdered people who were [supposedly] sent away for reeducation.

8- Pi To, male, lives in Vihear Chin Village, Svay Angkum Commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province. Pi To was not aware that there is an exhibition related to the Khmer Rouge regime because he didn't see any advertising for it and also because he lives far from the center of Siem Reap. However, he decided to view the exhibit after he noticed other visitors attending the exhibition. This was the first time Pi To saw an exhibition related to the Khmer Rouge regime, and the tragic history made him feel very sad. He wanted to see this exhibition and feels that others should learn about this history as well because it will help them better understand the history of the Khmer Rouge regime. Finally, Pi To suggested that the exhibition should be advertised more widely and should include more photos of the former Khmer Rouge leaders. Pi To believes that if visitors learn about the national culture and heritage presented in the exhibit, it will definitely benefit the reconstruction of the country, which suffered a great deal under the Khmer Rouge regime.

9- Srei Lak, female, lives in Vihear Chin Village, Svay Angkum Commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province. She was not aware of the exhibition about the Khmer Rouge regime because of the lack of advertising. Srei Lak had no comments about the national culture and heritage in the museum.

10- Unknown foreigner, male, aged in his 60s, visited the exhibition about the Khmer Rouge and said that it was well-presented but felt there should be some books relating to the Khmer Rouge for sale at the exhibition. Finally, he suggested establishing a permanent museum for this kind of exhibition.

11- Makarett from Malaysia stated that she had no comments about the Khmer Rouge-related exhibition because she knew nothing about it; however, she did suggest upgrading the exhibition area to include more pictures and information.

Banteay Meanchey Province

1- Khuoy Socheat, aged 17, an eleventh-grader at O-Ambel High School in Rohal Village, Rohal Commune, Preah Net Preah District, Banteay Meanchey Province, said he was not aware of the Forced Transfer exhibit at the provincial museum. Having heard about it now, he would like to learn about what happened during the KR regime. Were there evacuations and executions? He felt that photographs would complement the text displays at the exhibit. He wonders what the best source is for learning about the history of the KR. He has never visited the provincial town, but wants to learn more about this subject since his school did not teach him about it at all. It would be beneficial for more students to visit the exhibit because everyone has a viewpoint to offer regarding the Khmer Rouge history. As for the ancient artifacts, they represent a part of the rebuilding of the culture of our country. More research should be

conducted on how to prevent the recurrence of a regime like the KR. Many students pay very little attention to history, so it is very important for teachers to explain the facts. Socheat emphasized that he would be very pleased to become a history teacher in order to increase people's understanding of the regime.

2- Sam Manit, aged 17, twelfth-grader at O Ambel High School in O-Ambel Village, O-Ambel Commune, Krong Seri Sophorn District, Banteay Meanchey Province, said she had not been informed about the exhibit. Now that she is aware of it, she plans to visit during her free time. As a student, she would like to learn and understand about the history [of the country] and this exhibit would be a good source of information. She feels the Forced Transfer exhibit can be very educational for students because most of them have only heard about that history from their parents. She also feels that it would be very beneficial



Three grade 8 students visited Banteay Meanchey provincial museum and forced transfer exhibition by themselves.

for the young generation to learn about the cultural heritage so that they become inspired to further explore their history. Her suggestion is that DC-Cam should advertise this exhibit more widely.

3- Ms. Liv Chanthan, aged 37, librarian of Enfants du Mekong since 2005, said she was not aware of the exhibit, but learned about it through the radio and from teachers who had visited. She was not able to visit the exhibit because she had no free time, but she plans to try to find time to visit and will also tell her students about the exhibit. Many of her students have transportation (a bicycle) to get there and it is good for them to learn about their history. Personally, she heard about this history through her parents and through a visit to Tuol Sleng Museum. Learning about our cultural heritage and history can provide us with concrete knowledge of how to develop the country in a prosperous way. It provides historical continuity from one generation to another. The younger generation needs a firm foundation in education and the arts, etc. in order to increase their understanding of the culture. DC-Cam should continue to do research and provide these cultural opportunities. It would be very beneficial for students and other youth to visit the exhibit.

4- Sa Mae, aged 80, of O-Ambel Village, O-Ambel Commune, Krong Serei Sophorn District, Banteay Meanchey Province, said she was not aware of the exhibit at the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Museum. She would like to visit the museum, but finds it difficult to travel. The content of this exhibit

reminded her of her evacuation, however she did not experience a scarcity of food at her location. She said that people receive very little information about events around this village, which faces a good deal of discrimination because the villagers are former refugees from Thailand. Politically, they are not considered to be supporters of the ruling party. She shared her knowledge of KR history with her children. She remembers being evacuated to Bavel District, Battambang Province, for three months. Later, she was deported to Daung Aranh in O-Chrov District, Banteay Meanchey Province. She feels the exhibit is very important for the younger generation to learn about the suffering people endured during the KR regime. She recalled how her children became very ill due to the frequent evacuations.

5- Tit Saroeun, male, aged 45, is the chief of the Heritage Office of Banteay Meanchey Provincial Museum of Culture and Fine Arts. An increasing number of visitors [both Khmer and foreign] are coming to see the exhibits at the provincial museum. Most local visitors are students [including Thai students] as well as general citizens, while the foreign visitors are primarily Laotian, Thai, French, Japanese, American and Vietnamese. Saroeun confirmed that local students have visited this exhibition through an invitation letter from the Ministry of Education; however, he is not aware of how international students or other people who visit by themselves have become aware of the exhibit at the museum. Saroeun suggested that there should be bookshelves for storing documents, books for children to read and chairs in front of the exhibition room for visitors. According to Saroeun, the exhibition about the Khmer Rouge helps attract more visitors to the museum and thus provides a learning experience for the public. Additionally, Saroeun stated that he loves the national culture and wants the young generation to learn and respect their rich native culture and to emulate foreign culture less.

6- Sangha Vithean, male, aged 16, Banteay Chhmar Village, Banteay Chhmar Commune, Thmor Puk District, Banteay Meanchey Province. Vithean is an eleventh-grade student at O Ambel High School. Vithean did not know about the Khmer Rouge exhibition in the provincial museum because he never saw a notice about it. However [after learning about it], he wanted to go and see it because he wants to learn about people's experiences during that regime in order to increase his knowledge of history.

7- Chhoeun Chhun Hakk, male, aged 16, lives in Ta Mang Village, Kork Lmeat Commune, Thmor Pouk District, Banteay Meanchey Province and is a student at O Ambel High School. He heard about the Khmer Rouge exhibition through television, but he wasn't interested in it and wasn't allowed to go outside the center where he was staying. Chhun Hakk suggested that there should be widespread advertising so that students from every high school would be informed that an exhibition about the Khmer Rouge was being presented [at the museum].

8- Mai Ban Sokpheap, alis Han, male, aged 58, a moto driver, lives in O Ambel Village, O Ambel Commune, Serey So Phoen District, Banteay Meanchey Province. Sokpheap was not aware that there is an exhibition about the Khmer Rouge because he's busy earning a living as a moto driver. He was

disappointed that he was not able to see this exhibit about events that he lived through. He feels the exhibition is beneficial for all young Cambodians so that they won't repeat this tragic era. Sokpheap suggested that the exhibit should be permanently installed across the country so that the young generation can learn about and remember this bitter experience forever.

9- Chey Sophy, male, aged 60, is a farmer living at Ou Ompel Village, Ou Ompel Commune, Serey Sophorn District, Banteay Meanchey Province. He never noticed that there was an exhibition about the Khmer Rouge regime in the provincial museum because he never paid any attention to those things. He is busy with his business, has no free time, and is old. After he learned of the Khmer Rouge exhibit at the provincial museum, he really wanted to see the exhibition in order to recall his experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime. He informed his neighbors [about the exhibition] because he feels that this exhibition will help the young generation learn about their history. He feels this exhibition could contribute to the healing of the survivors, who suffered greatly and do not want to see such a regime recur. Lastly, he stated that the exhibition about the cultural heritage is very important and that the young generation should protect that heritage.

10- Pann Tina, male, aged 25, lives at Chamkar Knhol Village, Ou Ompel Commune, Serey Sophorn District, Banteay Meanchey Province. He learned that there is a provincial museum near the Province Hall from his friends, but he has never been there. When he found out that there was an exhibit about the Khmer Rouge regime in the provincial museum, he really wanted to see the exhibition in order to learn about the history of the KR regime in Cambodia. Furthermore, he wanted to know about the suffering that people endured during that time. He feels the exhibit about the Khmer Rouge and the forced transfer during that regime provides important knowledge, especially for the young generation which never experienced the hardships during that period. He also felt that the exhibition of cultural objects is very important because it helps people to develop an appreciation for the art of Cambodia. We should persuade the young generation to learn about the culture, and he plans to encourage them to love and respect Cambodia's culture.

Battambang Province

1. Ms. Pech Saleut, aged 52, a farmer in O Dambang Village, O Dambang Commune, Sangke District, Battambang Province, said she heard about the exhibit through a radio broadcast, but was not able to visit the museum because she had no means to travel there. Asked if she wished to visit, she said she wanted to see it with her own eyes. She was not affected by any forced transfer during the entire KR period, as she was never evacuated from her village. Regarding cultural heritage, she commented that it's good for our society to have it displayed at a museum.

2. Loeun Sarat, aged 17, a twelfth-grader at Net Yang High School in O Dambang Village, O Dambang 2 Commune, Sangke District, Battambang Province, said she went to the museum but did not yet have a chance to visit the Forced Transfer exhibit. She could not comprehend the extreme hardship which people suffered during the KR period. After hearing about this exhibit, she said she would like to see it to learn about the past. She believes the cultural heritage at a museum can advance our society because it links the present with the past. The younger generation can learn through explanation and then continue to maintain their cultural heritage.



The team was interviewing young generation about the exhibition on the Forced Transfer in Banteay Meanchey province.

3. Pech Sophea, aged 20, a tenth-grader at Net Yang High School in Svay Chrum Village, Chrey Commune, Thmar Kol District, Battambang Province, said he was not aware of the exhibit. No one talked about it and he does not follow any news on television or radio. However, he would like to see the exhibit in order to learn about the atrocities of the KR regime. When he has some free time, he will go [to the museum] along with his friends. Regarding cultural heritage at the museum, he believes that it does not benefit our society because it creates a lot of dissension. Personally, he loves the cultural heritage, but there are some people who only appreciate foreign culture. He suggested that musical and performing arts should be used to promote our cultural heritage and increase the sense of belonging and appreciation for our culture.

4. Chet Chheang, aged 38, of Rorka Village, Rorka Commune, Sangke District, Battambang Province, said he was not aware of the Forced Transfer exhibit. He was only aware of the news about the trial at the KR Tribunal. He is interested to see the exhibit when he has free time because he was very young during the KR regime [and he would be able to learn more about those years]. Regarding cultural heritage, he believes that the KR was a bad model for government, but we can prevent such a regime from recurring as the neighboring countries have made very good progress. No one wants such a brutal regime. He believes that the young generation will develop a strong appreciation for their heritage and suggests that DC-Cam disseminate information about their exhibitions, which can provide a good incentive and inspiration for the youth of the country.

5. Mit Monineak, aged 14, tenth-grader at Preah Monivong High School, said she learned about the Forced Transfer exhibit from her teachers and visited the museum last week along with four of her friends. Her teachers told her about the importance of the exhibit and after having visited, she agreed that the exhibit could help other people learn more about the KR regime. Her parents had told her about the

forced evacuation. At the exhibit, she and her fellow students learned how the people suffered during the KR regime. She told her neighbors about the existence of the exhibit, however she does not know if they intend to visit. Regarding cultural heritage, she believes that it contributes to an understanding of our culture and a sense of nationalism among the population. She suggested that the history of the KR be widely researched and disseminated.



The team brought a set of forced transfer exhibition catalog to teacher By Peng who contributed an article to the exhibition, Battambang province.

6. So Phearith, aged 25, a monk at Piphithearam Pagoda in Veal Trea Village, O-Taky Commune, Thmar Kol District, Battambang Province, said he was not aware of the Forced Transfer exhibit because his pagoda lacks the coordination of information. He is very interested in seeing the exhibit about the forced evacuation during the KR period. However, he said that sometimes the evacuations could have been voluntary. He would like to inform his students (25 to 30 students in total) about the exhibit. He plans to travel to the museum tomorrow (9 March 2015) with five of his friends. He hopes to learn about daily life during the KR regime in order to draw a comparison between the past and the present. During the KR regime, people were forced to work day and night, which reaffirms the oral narrative which his parents shared with him. His physics teacher had told him about Trapeang Thmar Dam. He suggested that the exhibit should also focus on the dictatorship that caused the deaths of many people (through genocide, forced transfer, and subjugation—using power to control the population). Regarding cultural heritage, he feels that its impact varies from person to person. He fears that the youth pay little attention to news and other social issues. He hopes that the heritage will benefit our society through the transfer of information about the forced transfer from the youths to the next generation. In that way, society can experience a change for the better.

7. Sim Sastra, male, a grade-7-A student at So Heu High School, said he did not know that there was an exhibition about the Khmer Rouge in the provincial museum because he was never informed about it. He regretted not knowing about it; however, he wants to attend in order to learn how victims were killed. Sastra had no suggestions to contribute regarding the exhibition about the Khmer Rouge, but he felt that such an exhibition should be held more frequently.

8. So Nary, female, aged 45, lives in 2 Ta Kom Village, Tuol Ta Ek Commune, Battambang District, Battambang Province. Nary is a vendor near So Heu High School and has been unaware of the exhibition about the Khmer Rouge in the provincial museum because she is busy with her business and was never informed about it. However, she would like to visit the exhibition in order to recall the ordeal she has endured all these years. In addition, she suggested that this exhibition should be conducted more frequently so that future generations can learn from history in order to prevent such an atrocious regime from recurring.

9. Meng Huor, male, aged 14, lives in Valaka Village, O Mal Commune, Battambang District, Battambang Province. Huor is a student at So Heu High School and did not know about the Khmer Rouge exhibition due to a lack of information. He has never seen the exhibition, however he would like to visit in order to gain a full understanding of that era. He had no suggestions to offer about the exhibition.

10. Khun Hean, male, a monk, aged 67, lives at Rokar Reasmey Pagoda in Rokar Village, Rokar Commune, Sangkae District, Battambang Province. He noticed that the museum door was always closed, so he never went inside the museum. When he learned about the Khmer Rouge exhibition at the provincial museum, he wanted to visit because he felt the exhibition would be beneficial in teaching the young generation about the Khmer Rouge regime. He plans to disseminate information about the Khmer Rouge exhibit at the Battambang Provincial Museum to the other villagers.

11. Ho Sompich, male, 46 years old, is a library staff member at Battambang Provincial Museum. Since the opening day of the exhibit, there have been national (students) and international (French) visitors who have visited the exhibition through the broadcasting of UNESCO, but he does not know the exact number of visitors. Most of the visitors requested that more information and pictures be added to the exhibit and he also feels that would improve the exhibition. He believes that this exhibition helps to attract visitors to the museum and encourages the young generation to appreciate Cambodia's culture.

Svay Rieng Province

1. Prak Phalla is 55 years old and is the Deputy Chief of the Estate Office. Since the inauguration of the exhibition on Forced Transfer during the Khmer Rouge regime, there have been many visitors to the exhibit and official staff members are available for assistance. Usually visitors arrive at the exhibition in

the late afternoon. Most of them are students, staff members of certain organizations, government officials or members of the public who come to visit the nearby garden in front of the ministry. According to his estimation, approximately four to five people have visited the exhibition daily, all of whom are Khmer. The visitors who come specifically to see the exhibition know about it because they attended the inauguration day along with the village and commune chiefs, who passed on information about the exhibit to the other villagers. He said that the visitors do not have any suggestions or recommendations; they generally do not write anything in the visitor's book. They just ask the official staff about the items in the exhibition. Regarding future plans for the exhibition, the Department of Culture plans to construct cabinets for storing the display items. They also intend to disseminate more information to the public about the exhibit, so that a larger number of visitors can participate. However, lack of funding is a primary obstacle to implementing this plan. This exhibit has really helped the department to build a stronger relationship with the public. The exhibit was made possible through cooperation between the provincial museum and DC-Cam. Based on suggestions from the department, we should increase the number of the objects on display so that the younger generation can improve their knowledge about the Khmer Rouge regime.

2. Chhuon Chivaro, aged 14, is a student in grade 10-D at Svay Rieng High School. She lives in Roup Ko Village, Prey Chhlas Commune, Svay Rieng District, Svay Rieng Province. Her impression of the Khmer Rouge is that of a bloody regime, similar to hell. She bases her impression on what she has studied and on what she has been told by her elders. Initially she didn't completely believe the stories told to her by her elders, however now she truly believes them since she learned about the history of the regime and observed skulls displayed at a memorial site near Thlork High School. She was informed about the exhibition when her friends shared a post about it on the Internet (Facebook), but she wasn't able to visit the exhibition because she is busy with her schoolwork from Monday to Friday. If she can find free time to visit the exhibition, she will see it then. Even though she has not seen the exhibition, she imagines that it includes objects from the Khmer Rouge regime such as old pictures of people and Khmer Rouge cadres. She does not know about the background of the former Khmer Rouge cadres, but hopes that she will be able to learn more about them by visiting the exhibition. She plans to attend one day with her friends and then inform others about the existence of the exhibition. Little time is available for her to visit the exhibition because the working schedule of the ministry is the same as that of her school—Monday through Friday—so she is hoping that her school will arrange a visit. She also suggested that assistants from the ministerial staff should be available to help coordinate and explain the exhibit. She would also like to improve the dissemination of information among the people.

3. Chann Ka-Nha, female, 32, lives in Chung Preak Village, Svay Rieng Commune, Svay Rieng District, Svay Rieng Province. She is a probation staff member in the Women's Affairs Department. In

addition she prepares *bay sey* (ceremonial offerings) for wedding ceremonies and other events. She was not aware of the exhibition on Forced Transfer in the provincial museum, because she was busy with her job and unable to visit. However, she plans to go alone or with her mother and children, if she has some free time. She would like to visit the exhibition so that her children can learn about the living conditions of people during the Khmer Rouge regime. She herself was born after the Khmer Rouge regime, so she only heard about the regime from television and newspaper reports, which were inadequate. Even though she never personally witnessed the torture, she observed skulls in a stupa near her house during a ceremony for the Day of Anger one year. Pol Pot and Ta Mok are the only two Khmer Rouge leaders she knows about. She expects that the exhibit at the provincial museum would contain some evidence remaining from the Khmer Rouge regime, such as documents or photographs. If she has a chance to visit the exhibition, she will tell other people about it after her visit. She recommended that the exhibition display wooden or stone statues of Khmer Rouge cadres in order to remind people about their torture during the Khmer Rouge regime. Those statues could encourage children to visit the exhibition, she said. Viewing the statues would not be threatening to the children, but would serve as a reminder not to allow such an atrocious regime to recur. She believed that there was no problem if the children had no questions, but they would ask their parents when they returned home.

4. Moeun Chhea, male, 66, was born in Srah Vong Village, Svay Rieng Commune, Svay Rieng District, Svay Rieng Province. He retired many years ago. A few months ago, Chhea attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition inauguration (Forced Transfer) at the provincial museum of Svay Rieng. Since he is very busy and was already familiar (with the Khmer Rouge regime), he never revisited the exhibit. Although he didn't personally visit the exhibit often, he still believes it is very important for Cambodians to learn about the evidence [of the regime], especially for the young generation who did not experience [the Khmer Rouge]. This exhibition shows the tragic lives of people during the Khmer Rouge regime. The Khmer Rouge story was not fake or just for play, Chea said. He did not go inside the exhibition hall during the opening ceremony because there was limited space and it was very crowded, but he took home some documents for his children and grandchildren to read. If there are future ceremonies relating to the Khmer Rouge, he will join them. Chhea added that the Khmer Rouge was very cruel and did not even allow people to eat the leaves of trees. During the discussion with the youth about the Khmer Rouge, many of them asked Chhea, "Why didn't you fight back against the Khmer Rouge if they treated you so badly?" Chhea told them that [the country] was like a prison without walls because there was no place to which people, including him, could escape. He continued, "It is difficult to imagine because you never experienced that situation."

5. Mao Bunna, female, aged 46, Deputy Director of the Film Department, lives in Tach Village, Svay Toeu Commune, Svay Rieng District, Svay Rieng Province. She is responsible for prohibiting

illegal copies of CDs from being sold in the local market. Since the opening of the exhibition, few people have visited the provincial museum of Svay Rieng, because the exhibition was very small and was located inside the building, Bunna said. People have busy schedules, and therefore the exhibition [on Forced Transfer] and sculptures were not important to them. She noticed that most of the visitors were students, however their visits were on Saturday or Sunday when no staff were available to open the museum for them. Bunna added that many people are more interested in newer technologies such as mobile phones rather than cultural events. She said it was important to display the exhibition so that this history would not be forgotten. Among the photographs in the exhibition, she was most interested in those of the Khmer Rouge laborers. She recommended that an event be held twice per year to remind the younger generation about the history of this brutal regime.

6. Ouk Kim Ny, male, aged 56, Head of the Cultural Department and Fine Arts, lives in Me Pleung Village, Sangkat Svay Rieng, Svay Rieng Province. Kim Ny said that about 105 people, consisting mostly of villagers and groups of artists from the district and village, had visited the exhibit. He did not record the names of the visitors. He said he hoped to display more photos related to the Khmer Rouge, both during and after the regime, and to hang them in the room next door, expanding the exhibit space. This exhibition enabled his museum to add a new topic so that it could attract more visitors. He also feels it is very important for the younger generation to learn about the Khmer Rouge regime through the exhibition and associated documents. After the Khmer New Year, he plans to invite high school students as well as students from the University of Svay Rieng to visit the exhibition. He will set up the date and assign staff to accommodate them. He will also write a script advertising the exhibition to be broadcast on local radio so that people will know there is an exhibition on forced transfer in the Department of Culture in their town. If they are interested, they will then be able to visit the exhibition. He is requesting a bookshelf for storing the documents from DC-Cam and would also like to have one or two staff members trained by DC-Cam to lead visitors on tours. If the Center could provide funding for the assigned staff, it would be wonderful. In that way, when visiting students have any questions, they could ask the staff member directly.

7. Khun Dany, female, aged 16, eleventh-grade student at Svay Rieng High School, lives in Ta Ne Village, Svay Teou Commune, Svay Rieng District, Svay Rieng Province. Dany was aware of the exhibition in the provincial museum. She said she had willingly visited the exhibition along with her teacher and classmates because she was interested in learning about the Khmer Rouge regime. She was very satisfied with the exhibition which highlighted the many hardships [which people experienced] during the regime. It helped her to understand her parents' stories and she recommended the exhibit to her relatives. She wished the exhibition would have included more material. She feels that this exhibition educates everyone, especially the young generation, about the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime. She

added that the cultural artifacts which were on display in the museum could help the younger generation learn about Khmer Rouge history and culture. She said she and other members of her generation appreciate aspects of their culture, such as dancing and music. Dany said that in order to urge the younger generation to value their culture, it would help to do outreach through the media.

8. Su Vanvichea, male, aged 17, twelfth-grade student at Svay Rieng High School, lives in Kory Trabeak Village, Kory Trabeak Commune, Svay Rieng District, Svay Rieng Province. He and his friends joined the opening ceremony of the exhibition at the provincial museum. He willingly visited the exhibition, but still did not understand the information and the purpose of the display. He felt the exhibition provided evidence [of the Khmer Rouge regime] for the younger generation. He did not know whether or not it was important to Khmer society [as a whole].

9. Peou Chhantho, male, aged 34, is a teacher at Svay Rieng High School. He urged students in grade ten and eleven to visit the exhibition. Chhantho was unfamiliar with the museum because before this exhibition opened because the museum was usually closed. Even though the museum had been promoted on television, he still did not know about it. He wasn't able to see inside the exhibition hall during the opening ceremony of the exhibit because there were a lot of visitors. He suggested that more exhibitions on Khmer Rouge history be planned. This exhibit marked the first time that he came to view an exhibition at the museum. He feels that this exhibition of Khmer Rouge history is very useful in educating the students so that such a regime can be prevented from recurring.