

# THE SLEUK RITH INSTITUTE (SRI)

A Permanent Documentation Center of Cambodia

SCHOOL OF GENOCIDE, CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

## SPEAKER SERIES

### **“The Tragedy of Two Cold War Induced Massacres: Cambodia and Indonesia”**

Dr. Benny Widyono

**January 13, 2016, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

SRI/Building H, National Institute of Education

The Sleuk Rith Institute’s School of Genocide, Conflict and Human Rights Studies is pleased to announce the sixth event in its speaker series. **“The Tragedy of Two Cold War Induced Massacres: Cambodia and Indonesia”** will be presented by Dr. Benny Widyono, professor of Economics at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, Ct, USA. Students as well as the general public are welcome to attend this event.

During the cold war and hot war in Vietnam, both Indonesia and Cambodia became victims of the struggle for hegemony in Southeast Asia. Both leaders of Indonesia and Cambodia, Sukarno and Sihanouk, adhered to the principle of neutrality by balancing off a rightwing military against an increasingly militant communist party. Both were overthrown by a rightwing pro American general, Suharto in Indonesia and Lon Nol in Cambodia. This was followed in Indonesia by a massacre of 500,000 unarmed suspected communists. In Cambodia an enraged Sihanouk went to Beijing and called for a public uprising against Lon Nol. Consequently, the Khmer Rouge took over the country and massacred 1.7 million noncommunist civilians and Lon Nol soldiers. In Indonesia, because of the cold war, justice was denied the victims until today. In Cambodia, because of the cold war, justice was delayed until 2003 when the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia was established.

Dr. Benny Widyono is an Indonesian national and is currently professor of Economics at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, Ct, USA. During his lifelong United Nations career, he served in Thailand, Santiago, Chile and New York, USA. In Cambodia he served as the United Nations Transitional Administration in Cambodia (UNTAC)’s “governor” in Siem Reap 1992-93 and as The United Nations Secretary General’s Political Representative to the Royal Government in Cambodia 1992-92. He continues to visit Cambodia annually in his capacity of Board Member of two Cambodian NGOs, Peoples Improvement Organization (PIO) and the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) and as an adviser of Leopard Capital Fund. His book *“Dancing in Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer rouge and the United Nations”* was written when he was a visiting scholar at Cornell University. It has been translated into Khmer and Chinese.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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