

កម្មវិធីបង្រៀនប្រយោជន៍
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GENOCIDE EDUCATION IS GENOCIDE PREVENTION

**22nd Inauguration of
Genocide Education Memorial and History of Democratic
Kampuchea (1975-1979) Textbook Distribution**

At Banteay Chmar High School, Thma Puok District, Banteay Meanchey Province

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) in Collaboration with Ministry of
Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS)

02 - Oct – 2017

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Photo link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/27LLBY2qQwamcpv26>

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Documentation Center of Cambodia
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Introduction

On Monday 02 October 2017, Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) in collaboration with Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) support by United State Agency for International Development (USAID) Ziviler Friedendienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale



Zusammenarbeit (GiZ) conducted the Inauguration of Genocide Education Memorial and the Distribution of History of Democratic Kampuchea Textbooks at Banteay Chmar high school. This ceremony presided over by Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im, undersecretary of Ministry of Education Youth and Sport as guest of honor and other guest speakers (Mr. Klout Samay, Principle of Banteay Chmar high school, Mr. Chab Someng, Deputy Director of Department of Education in Banteay Meanchey Province, Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy, Team Leader of Genocide Education Project of Documentation Center of Cambodia). There were about 100 participants in concluded 20 villagers, 20 teachers and 60 students from Banteay Chmar high school. The agenda of the ceremony this morning: 1) The open speech of Mr. Klout Samay, Mr. Chab Sokmeng, and Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy. 2) Remark from Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im. 3) The distribution of the History of Democratic Kampuchea Textbook and opened curtain of Genocide memorial slogans (by H.E Ton Sa-Im).

The memorial is being constructed with the contribution of GIZ and zfd. To date, this is the 22nd Genocide Education Memorial and this school is the 22nd location to hold a memorial inauguration ceremony across Cambodia.

Activities and Remark of Honorable Guests

At 8 am, Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im has arrived Banteay Chmar high school and everyone welcomed her. The ceremony began after that. The Cambodia National Anthem was sung by all students. Mr. Klout Samay, Principle of Banteay Chmar high school gave his remark on background of school and students achievement,



following by Mr. Chab Sokmeng, Deputy Director of Banteay Meanchey Provincial Education office. He addressed education system and sport tournament in Banteay Meanchey Province.

Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy, Team Leader of Genocide Education of Documentation Center of Cambodia gave his remark on the important of Genocide Education Memorial and studying history of Democratic Kampuchea. He also addressed about the initiative of the memorial. These two slogans reminded us the



relationship between memorial and genocide prevention. He also stated these two slogans was written by victim of Khmer Rouge regime who lost family members during Khmer Rouge and the victim was H.E Ton Sa-Im herself. He addressed that this idea started from the contribution (fund) of friends who work together (DC-Cam) and studied together and placed the memorial in their former high school. He also talked about the agreement (MOU) between DC-Cam and MoEYS for placing the memorial in high schools in Cambodia. Before finished his speech, Mr. Rasy briefed about the five new projects that relate to the education of DK history: training on the teaching of DK history with university lecturers, local teachers (social subjects); classroom forum on the important of studying DK history with high school students; village history start at 2018; established KR history website; and established of genocide education Facebook page. He also hoped that teachers and students will use website and Facebook page that created by DC-Cam as additional learning sources as well as extra documents for teaching. Finally, Mr. Rasy thanked to all participants and honorable guests that participated in this event.

Finally, H.E Ton Sa-Im delivered her speech by greeted to participants (teachers, students, and villagers) and honorable guests especially to Mr. Rasy, Mr. Samay, and Mr. Someng. She also thanked to all sponsors and stakeholders that actively involved in education sector in Cambodia. She mentioned about her experiences during KR regime (3 years, 3 months, and 20 days) connected with the two slogans. These slogans were created and placed in school ground as a reminder for students and villagers about events that happened during KR regime, and why we must study KR history. She also explained about KR genocide and compared it with the presents. She also said “now we have peace and the development in our county is going forward”. She stated that learning KR history is learning about reconciliation. People in Cambodia have gone through many war

times, after Lon Nol regime was KR regime. People suffered, afraid, broken courage enough of the war that why we all have to learn about our past and prevented it to occur again in our county. She encouraged students to study hard since it is the important to develop themselves and prevent such atrocities



happen again in our country. Lastly, H.E thanked to participants and honorable guests that participated in this event.

After H.E finished her remarks, H.E started to distribute the History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) textbooks to each student and participant (teachers and villagers). All participants were happy to receive textbook. After that, H.E walked to the memorial location to unveil the memorial with guests of honor as well D-Cam's Team Leader, Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy.

The Memorial

The construction of genocide memorial was funded by USAID, zfd, and GIZ. It was a new model which designed by Mr. Boreyrak, a volunteer of genocide education team of DC-Cam. The slogans were engraved on steel plates which was two meter length. The memorial was placed in the middle of



school ground, near football field. Based on the observation, there are many students come to play football every evening so it is the opportunity for them to read the slogans. The memorial had back to back side. They were written in both English and Khmer. There was also Khmer Rouge history website (www.khmerrougehistory.org) which engraved with slogans as well. This website will become source for students to learn more about Khmer Rouge history. The two slogans are:

- 1. Taking about the experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime to promote reconciliation and to educate children about forgiveness and tolerance.*
- 2. Learning about the history of Democratic Kampuchea is to prevent genocide.*

After H.E unveiled the memorial with students and participants stand around memorial. H.E remarked to students not to pass the memorial without read them. Next, she called two students (male and female) to read the slogans on each side of memorial for everyone. Finally, H.E farewell everyone and travel back to Phnom Penh.

Conclusion

As a part of the Genocide Education Project, the commemoration is created for the purpose of promoting forgiveness, tolerance, education and reconciliation especially in this region which was one of the last strongholds of Khmer Rouge. The commemoration also helps to remind the teachers and students after their learning about the KR history in the classroom.

At the end of the program, DC-Cam staffs and teachers distributed of DC-Cam's publications, the KR history textbook, and basic study materials (notebook and pens) to mark conclusion.

The memorial is being constructed with financial support from DC-Cam and the contribution from Ziviler Friedendienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ).

Team: Pheng Pong-Rasy, Min Sanas, Phat Sela

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