

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

**Genocide Education in Cambodia**

The Teaching of "A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)"

## Inauguration of Genocide Education Memorial and Khmer Rouge Text Book Distribution Ceremony

**Malai High School, Banteay Meanchey Province**

**May 10, 2013**



The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, is pleased to announce the commemoration of a genocide education memorial in Malai High School, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. The commemoration is part of DC-Cam's multi-stage Genocide Education Project which aims to bridge the gap in teaching the history of the Cambodian genocide and community awareness on the Khmer Rouge (KR) atrocities between April 1975 and January 1979. The memorial features two statements that call attention to the horrors of the period and the importance of remembrance, education, and peace:

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

The statements are inscribed on marble or iron, and they are displayed in a prominent location for students, educators, and the community's attention. The purpose of the statements is not only to remind, but also to inspire. Genocide education is as much a project in remembering the past as it is a struggle to re-create a better future that is based on genocide prevention, national reconciliation, tolerance, and forgiveness.

Malai district stands out as a critical site for Cambodia's history and struggle with post-conflict justice, memory, and reconciliation. Malai was a KR stronghold for seventeen years (1979 to 1996), and together with Pailin, it became one of the KR movement's four headquarters throughout the 1980s and mid-1990s. Backed by four KR military divisions, Malai and Pailin headquarters were effectively under the control of Ieng Sary, former Democratic Kampuchea (DK) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. It was second to Anlong Veng stronghold under Ta Mok, former DK Secretary of the Southwest zone. In 1996, after tense negotiations with the Royal Government of Cambodia, Ieng Sary led all armed forces and civilians in Malai and Pailin in a mass defection. Since then, Malai has transformed itself from a battlefield to a farming district, where the population has been working to reconstruct their life and well-being after a long protracted war and uncertain life.

The commemoration of the genocide education memorial in Malai High School will be held on May 10, 2013, at 8:00 a.m. Her Excellency Chumteav Ton Sa Im, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; Mr. Chheuy Channa, Head of Banteay Meanchey Provincial Education Office will be the guests of honor for this ceremony.

The memorial is being constructed with financial support from DC-Cam and the contribution from teachers and students of Malai High School.

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