

កម្មវិធីបង្រៀនប្រយោជន៍  
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**GENOCIDE EDUCATION IS GENOCIDE PREVENTION**

## **24<sup>th</sup> Inauguration of Genocide Education Memorial and History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) Textbook Distribution**

At Kamrieng High School, Kamrieng District, Battambang Province

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

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Reported by Phat Sela



Photo link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/sd3o2KMjVFLzUDz99>

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## **Introduction**

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, DC-Cam in collaboration with MoEYS, supported by United State Agency for International Development (USAID), Ziviler Friedendienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ) conducted the Inauguration of Genocide Memorial at



Kamrieng High School, Kamrieng District, Battambang Province. The event was presided by Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im, Undersecretary of Ministry of Education Youth and Sport and other honorable guests (Mr. Korng Putheara, Principle of Kamrieng High School; Mrs. Meas Phearoun, Director of Provincial Education Office; Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy, Team Leader of Genocide Education Project of DC-Cam).

The objective of the Inauguration and memorial is to increase the awareness of both students and local residents of our darkest history, genocide prevention, reconciliation, forgiveness, and tolerance.

The agenda of the event: 1) The national anthem song by students and other participants; 2) Speech of Mr. Korng Putheara about school and students; 3) Education situation in province by Mrs. Meas Phearoun; 4) Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy present about the important of memorial and studying DK history; 5) Remarks for H.E. Ton Sa-Im; 6) DK textbook distribution and unveil the memorial.

This is a new model of Genocide Memorial in 2017. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> memorial that placed in high school across Cambodia. These two slogans that engraved on iron plates cost \$500 and another \$500 was cost of installation with different constructor in each location. The memorial was possible because of the contribution from Ziviler Friedendienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ).

## **Significance**

This memorial represented one of the essential aspects of Genocide Education Project of DC-Cam. By teaching students Khmer Rouge history, this project aim to create new generation of people who

understand forgiveness, tolerance, and reconciliation. Thus, history textbook being incorporated in education curriculum of grade 9 and 12 in history, geography, Khmer literature, and citizenship subjects. The main purpose of this project is national reconciliation and transitional justice.

The event started by addressing about school background and current situation by Mr. Kong Putheara, followed by Mrs, Meas Pearum addressed about education system in Battambang province.

Mr. Rasy addressed about the agreement between MoYES and DC-Cam that allowed placing Genocide Memorial in high school compound in Cambodia. He also mentioned the initiative of this memorial and slogans. He continued explain the important of these two slogans and studying Khmer Rouge history. He said this memorial and slogans will become a reminder for people and students about the darkest time in our country. Before finished his speech, Mr. Rasy addressed about current projects of Genocide Education of DC-Cam: DK history training with university lecturers and local teacher in social major; classroom forum with high school students; village history; KR website; and Genocide Education Facebook page. Finally, he thanked to all participants who spent their precious time to join this event.

H.E. Ton Sa-Im greeted to participants and other guests of honor. H.E also appreciated to DC-Cam who always support education in Cambodia as well as conducted the event in the region which was the one of the last stronghold of KR regime. H.E mentioned about the development of infrastructure which lead this event able to conduct here. 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 stated “we study to understand, to prevent genocide, to think critically”. She added that we learn KR history to reconciliation. UN and international community compensated to Cambodia through education and KR court (ECCC). Finally, H.E reminded participants that we can’t avoid history as well as forget it either.





## 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](http://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.*

The History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) textbooks were given to each student especially grade 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> students by H.E. Ton Sa-Im as well as with other guests of honor. Unveiled memorial began by H.E with students stand around the memorial. H.E called two students (male and female) to read each slogan for everyone.

## 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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