

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

Democratic Kampuchea Textbook Distribution: A Public Education Forum between Teachers, Students and Parents

Before the start of the new school term in September, the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) will host five small public education forums in the most remote areas of Cambodia to distribute A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) and encourage discussion about what role genocide education can play in the future of these communities.

Invited participants will include 200 teachers, students and parents. Some students will have background in DK history from their studies during the prior school year, while for others it will be entirely new. Teacher and parent participants will likewise have differing levels of knowledge about the subject matter, and will comprise many survivors, both victims and perpetrators. The discussion will be led by three local history teachers who have participated in teacher trainings on DK history, with the assistance of DC-Cam staff. The forums will provide these teachers the opportunity to practice the skills, knowledge, and methodology they obtained from the trainings and increase their overall teaching confidence. The forums will also engage community members who may not otherwise have had access to the textbook or know about DK history as a whole. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions that they might not wish to raise in a formal classroom setting, encouraging inter-generational dialogue and contributing to both local and national reconciliation.

To date, over 1,000 history teachers from all provinces have learned methodologies for teaching A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) from teacher-training programs conducted by DC-Cam in partnership with the Ministry of Education. All secondary school history teachers will have received this training by the end of 2011. The textbook was first published in 2007 and has been endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport as the core material for teaching Khmer Rouge history at the secondary-school level nationwide. To date, DC-Cam has published and distributed 300,000 Khmer-language copies and seeks to publish an additional 700,000 copies so that all 1,000,000 secondary students will have access to the text. In June 2009, DC-Cam in collaboration with the Ministry of Education began distributing the textbook to over 1,500 lower and upper secondary schools across Cambodia. Many distributions were large ceremonies presided over by representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Copies of the textbook have also been distributed to interested individuals, government institutions, non-government

organizations, foreign embassies in Phnom Penh and university libraries. With the number of copies available for distribution now limited until funding is received for a new printing, DC-Cam seeks to target communities where the material can have the most impact.

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Location (commune, district, province, date):

Pram Bei Mum Commune, Thpong District, Kampong Speu; Aug. 22-24, 2010
Chy Phoch Commune, Me-Sang District, Prey Veng; Aug. 28-30, 2010
Kampong Hav Commune, Kampong Leng District, Kampong Chhnang; Sept. 24-26, 2010
Kampeng Commune, Kirivong District, Takeo; Oct. 16-18, 2010
Pi Thnou Commune, Snuol District, Kratie; Nov. 20-22, 2010
Pralay Commune, Thma Baing District, Koh Kong; Jan. 8-11, 2011
O Sampor Commune, Malai District, Banteay Meanchey; Feb. 5-8, 2011
Sandan Commune, Sandan District, Kampong Thom; Feb. 19-21, 2011
Dambe Commune, Dambe District, Kampong Cham; Mar. 5-7, 2011
La-Ak Commune, Lumphat District, Ratanak Kiri; Mar. 19-22, 2011
Sre Sangkum Commune, Koh Nhek District, Mondul Kiri; Apr. 2-5, 2011
Thala Commune, Thala Barivatt District, Stung Treng; Apr. 23-26, 2011
Ka-Am Samnar Commune, Leuk Dek District, Kandal; May. 7-9, 2011
Sre Cheng Commune, Chum Kiri District, Kampot; May. 21-23, 2011
Pong Tik Commune, Dangkor District, Phnom Penh; Jun. 4-6, 2011
Chong Kal Commune, Chong Kal District, Otdar Meanchey; Jun. 18-21, 2011
Sala Krao Commune, Sala Krao District, Pailin; Jul. 9-12, 2011
Andaug Thma Commune, Prey Nup District, Sihanouk Ville; Jul. 23-26, 2011
O Krasar Commune, Damnak Chang-Ae District, Kep; Aug. 6-8, 2011
Rumlich Commune, Bakan District, Pursat; Aug. 20-22, 2011
Reaksmei Commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear; Sept. 24-27, 2011
O Da Commune, Kamrieng District; Battambang; Sept. 24-27, 2011
Sang Vaey Commune, Kralanh; Siem Reap; Oct. 8-11, 2011
Svay Chek Commune, Rumduol District, Svay Rieng; Oct. 22-24, 2011