

កម្មវិធីសិក្សាបង្ការកំហុសហិង្សា

GENOCIDE EDUCATION IS GENOCIDE PREVENTION

23rd Inauguration of Genocide Education Memorial and History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) Textbook Distribution

At Sampeou Loun High School, Sampeou Loun District, Battambang Province

09 Oct 2017

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

Reported by Phat Sela



Photo link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/XaBpyvDW4E2TaLa72>

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zfd Ziviler Friedensdienst
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Introduction

On 9 Oct 2017, DC-Cam in collaboration with MoEYS and supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ziviler Friedensdienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) conducted Inauguration of Genocide Memorial and



DK textbook distribution at Sampeou Loun high school, Sampeou Loun district, Battambang Province. This event was presided by Her Excellency Ton Sa-Im, Undersecretary of Ministry of Education Youth and Sport as honorable guest followed by Mr. Morm Sam, Deputy Director of Provincial Education Office; Mr. But Bunna, Principle of Sampoeu Loun high school; Mr. Pheng Pong-Rasy, Team Leader of Genocide Education Project of DC-Cam; and the other guests of honor.

This event participated by students, villagers, and teachers approximately 150 participants. The objective of this event is to increase awareness of students, teachers, and local residents about Khmer Rouge history in order to promote reconciliation, genocide prevention, forgiveness, tolerance, and remembrance.

The agenda of inauguration event: 1) Open speech of Deputy Director of Provincial Education Office on education situation in Province. 2) Remark of Team Leader of Genocide Education Project of DC-Cam on the importance of genocide memorial and studying KR history. 3) Remark of Her Excellency on this event and its importance. 4) The History of Democratic Kampuchea textbooks distribution and unveiled genocide memorial by H.E. Ton Sa-Im.



The construction of this memorial was funded by Ziviler Friedensdienst e.V. (zfd), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). To date, this is the 23rd genocide education memorial that placed in high school across Cambodia. This memorial is a new model which designed in 2017. 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 and Remarks of Honorable Guests

The event represented one of the important aspects of genocide education project of DC-Cam. By funded from respectable donor, DC-Cam was able to conduct this event and placed memorial in one of the last stronghold of KR. This is significant to people around this area since many people was KR cadres who original live or transfer in this region. It is match with DC-Cam's goal for reconciliation and forgiveness.



The important moment in during the event was the participated of Mr. Ngeav Bunyeang, Director of District Official who was former KR cadre. Mostly, he read DK textbook during event. After inauguration ended, he requested DC-Cam team for more DK textbooks to give them to his co-workers to read and to learn about their own history. According to Mr. Rasy, Mr. Ngeav Bunyeag's wife was KR cadre who severed as Director of Factory in Phnom Penh during KR regime.

During the speeches of guests of honor, Mr. Morm Sam, Deputy Director of Provincial Education Office address about the education background and present situation of Battambang province (included Sampoeu Loun).

Mr. Rasy addressed about the important of genocide memorial and studying DK history. During his speeches, he also mentioned about the collaboration of DC-Cam and MoEYS which started since 2010 after the MoU between the two institutions. He also addressed about the initiative of this memorial which started from group of friends who studied together in the same high school, worked together at DC-Cam, and contributed their resources to build this memorial in their school. He continued speak about the important of the memorial and studying DK history connected them with goal of reconciliation and forgiveness. 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. She felt very happy that able to present in this event. H.E also appreciated to DC-Cam who always support education in Cambodia as well as conducted the event in this region which was the one of the last stronghold of KR regime. H.E



expressed that it was her first time visited in Sampoeu Loun district. She addressed the improvement of education system, curriculum, and changing (difficulty) on national exam (grade 12), increase teacher salary as well as year for retirement. 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. 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.

The Memorial

This memorial is the one of the significant element in Genocide Education Project of DC-Cam. It was funded by GIZ and USAID. The inauguration of Genocide Memorial and Memorial itself was possible by the contribution these two institutions. The location that placed the memorial is near Thailand border



and also one of the former KR strongholds. The memorial placed in the middle of school ground, near basketball field. It is also place that students gathering and interact with one another. In addition, the memorial is a new model in 2017. The memorial has back to back style. The slogans were engraved on the steel plates which read:

- 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 9th and 12th 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. (zdf), and Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ).

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

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