



A Note of Cultural Diplomacy Forum 2023

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2023

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)/Queen Mother Library is proud and honored to announce the “Cultural Diplomacy Forum” for 2023.

The Cultural Diplomacy Forum for 2023 is a 2-day seminar bringing together experts in the fields of Cambodian and international diplomacy, leadership, culture, and history to support the professional development of a selected group of Cambodian youth who have been responsive to the call to public service for the Cambodian People. Seventy-five (75) Cambodian youth have been selected out of a total of 1,500 Cambodian youth who have been responsive to serve with DC-Cam’s youth volunteer program, ***CamboCorps***. Awardees were selected based on their meritorious volunteer service in CamboCorps and a demonstrated interest in future public service leadership in Cambodia and the world.

Documentation Center of Cambodia

DC-Cam was originally established by Yale University’s Cambodia Genocide Program in 1995, pursuant to the U.S. Cambodian Genocide Justice Act of 1994. Since 1997, the DC-Cam has operated as an independent civil society organization in Cambodia. The Center is the world’s largest archive of historical material on the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge regime, and it has supported the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) (a U.N.-Cambodian court) in the prosecution of those most responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed between 1975 and 1979. The Center is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that is acknowledged as a nonpartisan educational institute in Cambodia. DC-Cam's two main objectives – memory and justice – serve to build the foundation for the rule of law and Cambodia’s national reconciliation.

Queen Mother Library

In 2020, Ambassador Dr. Julio Jeldres, former Private Secretary and Official Biographer to his Late Majesty, the King Father Norodom Sihanouk, donated his entire collection of documents and books to DC-Cam's library. In recognition of this invaluable contribution and to honor the lifelong commitment of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk to Cambodia, DC-Cam, with her consent, named the library in her honor, the Queen Mother Library. The Queen Mother Library houses priceless historical documents, books and other materials and artifacts on the rich cultural heritage and history of Cambodia. When the Queen Mother Library was officially opened on September 21, 2020, it hosted nearly two dozen ambassadors and over a hundred staff of foreign embassies.

CamboCorps

Inspired by the vision, ideas, and impact of the United States' AmeriCorps,¹ DC-Cam created CamboCorps, which aspires to generate the same spirit of national service and volunteerism for the youth of Cambodia. Beginning with the establishment of the U.S. Peace Corps by President Kennedy on March 1, 1961 and the creation of U.S. AmeriCorps by President Clinton in 1993, CamboCorps represents the next evolution in the United States Government's long history of support to volunteer public service. In 2021, DC-Cam established CamboCorps to connect aspiring young Cambodians with survivors of the Khmer Rouge for purposes of learning from survivors, supporting them in access to health care and services, and building an intergenerational dialogue that contributes to the preservation of Cambodia's history.

Cultural Diplomacy Forum

Drawing upon the Queen Mother Library's priceless collection of artifacts spanning the late King Father Norodom Sihanouk's work in foreign affairs and driven by the mission of the Queen Mother Library to support education, scholarship and the promotion of the contemporary arts, DC-Cam and the Queen Mother Library hosted the Cultural Diplomacy Forum for 2023 to support the professional development of the next generation of Cambodian youth leaders dedicated to public service.

Even before the establishment of the Queen Mother Library in 2020, DC-Cam considered the value of connecting international and nationally recognized leaders in diplomacy and history to help mentor, inspire, and educate talented young Cambodian leaders of the future. With the enormous success of the CamboCorps program, DC-Cam believes there was no better time than

¹ U.S. AmeriCorps is a U.S. federal agency that supports national service and volunteerism in the United States. The agency, created by President Clinton in 1993, provides career pathways for Americans across the United States all while they serve their communities – addressing climate change, mentoring students, preserving native languages, supporting veterans as they transition from military to civilian life, and helping justice-involved adults re-enter society, to name a few examples.

now to bring together the work of DC-Cam, the Queen Mother Library and CamboCorps to inspire and educate the public service leaders of the future.

The focus of this forum was cultural diplomacy, which has been defined as “the exchange of ideas, information, art, language, and other aspects of culture among nations and peoples in order to foster mutual understanding.”² Sometimes framed as “soft power”, cultural diplomacy enhances international relations among nations and peoples. However, cultural diplomacy is more than an important dimension of a nation’s foreign affairs, it is an important dimension of individual leadership. The Cultural Diplomacy Forum of 2024 brought together key leaders, scholars, and experts in various fields that support insights and discussion on the question: What are the key attributes, competencies, and dimensions of diplomacy and leadership in the 21st century for Cambodia and the world?

The objectives of the forum were to:

- 1) provide theoretical knowledge and practical application of diplomacy,
- 2) foster debate on education, history, health, environment, and development, and
- 3) enhance leadership skills.

To achieve these objectives, DC-Cam hosted speakers from the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the U.S. Embassy (including the U.S. Ambassador), and experts and scholars from universities and academic institutions in the United States and abroad.

The forum centered on critical thinking, self-reflection, and multiple debate activities. At the completion of the forum, it was expected that participants will incorporate the knowledge, insights and guidance received into their current and future volunteer work and career paths.

² See Milton C. Cummings, *Cultural Diplomacy, and the United States Government: A Survey* (Washington, D.C.: Centre for Arts and Culture, 2003), p. 1; See also generally Simon Mark, *A Greater Role for Cultural Diplomacy* (Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’, 2009).

DAY 1: THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 16th, 2023

Morning Session:

07:30 – 08:30 AM,

The Meeting with the Director of Documentation of Cambodia,

Chhang Youk



Director and Deputy Director of DC-CAM, Chhang Youk, and So Farina, November 16th, 2023.

On the early morning of November 16, before visiting the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, CamboCorps volunteers assembled in a room, named after the former First Lady Jaqueline Kennedy as a memorial to her visit to Cambodia in 1967. CamboCorps volunteers met with the Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, Chhang Youk, who provided opening remarks. Around 65 people represented 1,500 CamboCorps volunteers for this forum. On this day, participants had the honor of also meeting with the U.S. ambassador.

Over the 50 years since the First Lady's visit, the relationship between the United States and Cambodia has changed many times, both because of dramatic changes in Cambodia's political and security environment but also because of the many different events and transformation in the region and world which included the Vietnam War, the Cambodian civil war and the the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979). After the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia was in ruins and isolated from much of the international community until the Cambodian general elections in 1993.

Today, DC-Cam is proud of the success of its launch of CamboCorps, and DC-Cam is grateful to the United States for not only its support but also the examples it sets in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, which provide DC-Cam with the blueprint for CamboCorps. In the spirit of collaboration, DC-Cam is eager to leverage the work, ideas, and examples set by the United States Government by connecting CamboCorps with U.S. dignitaries such as the U.S. Ambassador. DC-Cam is also open to exploring additional avenues for building relations between Cambodian youth, via CamboCorps, and the United States. For example, DC-Cam is exploring opportunities and ways to bring a small cohort of CamboCorps volunteer leaders to meet with Peace Corps volunteers in Cambodia, in addition to bringing volunteer leaders to the United States for a cultural diplomacy initiative that expands upon the Cultural Diplomacy Forum. CamboCorps volunteers in the United States could potentially meet with AmeriCorps staff and volunteers—both to exchange views on volunteering and public service and to learn from the organizational development, plans, and strategies that AmeriCorps have found successful in their work in building American communities.

09:30 – 10:30 AM, Visiting the U.S. Embassy

Meeting the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Partick W. Murphy



U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, Partick W. Murphy, Kerry Pelzman of USAID, and CamboCorps, November 16th, 2023.

After the conversation with the Director of DC-Cam, CamboCorps had the opportunity to visit and meet with the U.S. Ambassador Patrick Murphy who is the highest senior representative of the United States Government and the American people stationed in the Royal Government of Cambodia. Through this one-hour meeting, the U.S. ambassador provided advice and encouragement to CamboCorps volunteers. He spoke about the value of their contribution and their spirit toward volunteer work, which was so important to helping the survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime. The U.S. ambassador also discussed how public service and volunteer service can be career enhancing, opening opportunities for broader training and experience that not only contributes to personal and professional development but also the development of the Cambodia society. CamboCorps volunteers' work with survivors of the Khmer Rouge also contributes to preserving the memory of this horrific time period and ensuring that future generations do not forget the stories and history.

Upon arrival at the US Embassy, the security coordinator checked the names of all the volunteers and placed 10 volunteers in a row to prepare to enter the embassy. When the time came, the security coordinator summoned five volunteers at a time to be brought into the embassy, at which point the volunteers were able to hear about the work of Mr. Marady, the Public Affairs Officer in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Mr. Marady told the volunteers about the work of public affairs officers, which includes activities and functions related to the press and educational and cultural programs.

Meeting with H.E. Kerry Pelzman, USAID/Cambodia Misson Director

Afterwards, CamboCorps volunteers were given the opportunity to meet with H.E Kerry Pelzman, USAID/Cambodia Mission Director. She expressed her gratitude to the volunteers for their work, and she added a personal note on how much she appreciates speaking with volunteers particularly because she was once a volunteer. She described the work of USAID, which is focused on giving aid and assistance to developing and poor countries. She stated that USAID has offices in 60 countries around the world, and U.S. agencies, like USAID, receive their financial support from taxes that are paid by the American people. USAID in Cambodia has a total of 85 staff, most of them are Cambodians. USAID wants to help Cambodia open up and take up projects and activities that improve upon or engage the poor, women, children, environment, health, gender, women empowerment, democracy, good governance, accountability, corruption, and climate change and disease.

CamboCorps volunteers asked a few questions to Director Kerry. One question was: Why does the United States still support Cambodia knowing the country is corrupted? She answered that the main objective of U.S. aid is to help the Cambodian people, especially young people. She stated how the U.S. Government is aware of how aspects of Cambodian society is corrupted; however, to help its people, the U.S. Government is committed to providing aid that supports actions removed from corruption or supportive of anti-corrupt development. One volunteer made a recommendation that the the U.S. Embassy consider preparing a training program to support women in leadership for youth in provinces. He believed that youth from provinces are hardworking and qualified to receive the training. He stressed the how the unfair circumstances and gap between youth in Phnom Penh and youth from provinces because youth in Phnom Penh get extraordinary opportunities compared to youth in provinces. The youth stressed how youth in the provinces barely receive any opportunities at advancement, regardless of their competency or merit. Shortly after this exchange, the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. Patrick Murphy, entered the room, and all CamboCorps volunteers and DC-Cam staff rose from their chairs to greet him.

Meet with H.E. Patrick W. Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia

Ambassador Patrick W. Murphy began his speech by expressing his gratitude to meeting the CamboCorps volunteers and he said that CamboCorps has proven to be very successful—as demonstrated now by supporting the seventh cohort of volunteers. He expressed his gratitude in meeting with Mrs. Farina So, the Principal Deputy Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, and he addressed Mrs. Farina as a great example and model for female leaders.

Sitting in front of all the volunteers, he emphasized the importance of volunteer work. He looked warmly at all volunteers before saying that all volunteers are a good example. In the United States, volunteerism is the culture, so CamboCorps is a good example for Cambodia. He also praised the volunteers for doing everything they can do to keep history alive. He has seen many young people forget about their history. He stated if history is forgotten, history would

likely happen again. CamboCorps volunteers are connecting history to the present. He shared stories about his two-year experience as a PeaceCorps volunteer at a young age. He also stated it has been 35 years since he was a volunteer for AmeriCorps. He stated that the volunteers will look back on this experience as very important. It is not just about history, volunteerism contributes to other sectors such as public service, environment, youth empowerment, and others. Before ending his speech, he encouraged the volunteers: "Please tell your family that we are so proud of you."

Following the U.S. Ambassador's speech, DC-Cam selected three volunteers to give a presentation to Ambassador Murphy, sharing their experiences as a CamboCorps volunteer.

Ms. Sa Rorphikin from Pursat Province, Majoring in Electronics

Ms. Rorphikin discussed her experience as a volunteer. She stated that her volunteer work has helped her to become stronger as a person and build upon her personal and professional networks. CamboCorps provided her with knowledge and experiences that her school did not offer, especially with respect to her work with survivors. She described the shocking stories she heard from survivors, which related to the Khmer Rouge forced transfer of people and the terror and trauma inflicted upon the Muslim people and cultural sites. When the Khmer Rouge regime ended, they came back to their home only to find the area and even the forest empty of people. She sobbed before saying that her grandparents also died during the regime. She has interviewed more than 300 households during her volunteer work with CamboCorps, and she described how 20 out of 100 survivors have died of disease because they could not afford to see a doctor. She concluded her presentation by suggesting USAID continue to support young people through this volunteer work. She also expressed her wish that more young people can learn history through this volunteer work.

Mr. Chhum Ra from Tbong Khmun Province, Majoring in Literature

Mr. Ra described how his CamboCorps experience was remarkable because it built up his confidence in ways that he did not think were possible. During his volunteer work, he interviewed more than 300 survivors--most of whom were suffering critical health problems. He shared information about his family experience during the Khmer Rouge regime. His grandparents were Stieng indigenous. His grandfather died of starvation and his uncle was killed for no reason. During the Khmer Rouge regime, at least 20 people in his family village died per day due to starvation. Reflecting upon the present, he talked about how vulnerable elderly people are. A 60-year-old grandmother in his village was deceived by someone who came to sell her supplementary medicine, which ended up being fake medicine. The grandmother hid from her children about taking supplementary medicine until Mr. Ra found out that the seller is also related to the grandmother. He wanted to address how these kinds of medicine without a prescription from a doctor is dangerous, especially when the seller only wants to defraud elderly people who are uninformed and vulnerable. He appealed to USAID to continue to

support the DC-Cam to help Khmer Rouge survivors, given the clear need and the complete lack of resources in this area.

Ms. Sovann Chantrea from Battambang Province, Majoring in Accounting

Ms. Chantrea shared her volunteer experience in meeting survivors and sharing in their stories about the Khmer Rouge regime. She got the chance to be aware of and observe survivors' health conditions. During her mission to interview survivors, she was also bitten by a snake. The condition was bad, and she thought her leg may have to be amputated. She was extremely distraught by the circumstance that she could become disabled. Fortunately, DC-Cam was aware of the problem and took action to support and get her care immediately. She shared a survivor's story named Soun Douk. He was tortured in the prison and when he was released, the Khmer Rouge ordered him to collect all corpses' belongings from the grave. As a closing statement, Ms. Chantrea stated that she wished USAID would continue to support DC-Cam so that young people would continue to have an opportunity to participate in this very impactful volunteer work.

11:00-12:30 PM,

“A Traumatized Generation by Vietnam War and Genocide in Cambodia”

Article by Chhang Youk, Read by Sroeur Theara



Sroeur Theara (ComboCorps) read an article wrote by Chhang Youk, November 16th, 2023.

Sroeurn Theara, who is a CamboCorps volunteer, moderated a discussion about an article written by Chhang Youk. DC-Cam interprets the recent publication of the modernization strategy by the new leadership of the government of Cambodia, called, “The Pentagonal Strategy,” as a point of opportunity for expanding support to the survivors of this period of war and atrocities. DC-Cam finds this new strategy as particularly opportunistic as it focuses on the health conditions of Khmer Rouge survivors.

Sroeurn Theara also described how the article posited that the survivors of the Khmer Rouge period are Cambodia’s “Greatest Generation.” DC-Cam estimates there are approximately 5 million people from this period who are still alive; however, as most of this generation reaches the age of 70 in the next 5-10 years, it is anticipated that many will die, so there is no better time than now to engage, study, and learn from this population before it is too late. DC-Cam is proud of its new booklet of “Information on the Healthcare for Khmer Rouge Survivors,” which DC-Cam uses to complement its outreach to the survivor community.

Sroeurn Theara also stated how during the process of interviewing survivors, CamboCorps volunteers were able to listen and learn about the current situation of the survivors. The article illuminated how the Vietnam War made Cambodia a battleground in the cold war competition between superpowers. By 1979 only 5 million Cambodian people survived this period and the Khmer Rouge period, and it was this generation that built up the foundation of this country to where it is today. That is why we should ask the survivors about what happened in the past, their ideas about what made Cambodia into what it is today. This generation is the crucial generation that defines present-day Cambodia but it is the youth (the generation born after decades after the genocide) that are critical to Cambodia’s future. Bringing these two generations together today will ensure Cambodia’s future is not defined by its past. When we study this difficult history, it will make people more educated, stronger, and more conscientious about not repeating the lessons of the past.

DC-Cam has collected extensive research on the health conditions of Khmer Rouge survivors that can be used to inform broader public policy and assistance initiatives to improve the welfare of the citizens of Cambodia. DC-Cam’s study sheds light on some of the mental and physical health conditions and welfare challenges faced by the survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime. Research from other studies strongly indicates domestic violence, alcoholism and poor health habits all stem from past trauma, and in the case of Cambodia it is believed the trauma of living during the Khmer Rouge period has residual effects on not only survivors but across the generations. The direct effects of living through this history also carry second- and third-order effects on society, culture and institutions. DC-Cam is working closely with domestic and international institutions on these issues as well as executing its enduring programmatic activities in support of survivors.

CamboCorps is a critical part of this overall effort both because it is low cost and highly impactful, but it is also a bridging mechanism—connecting the youth with survivors. Survivors have expressed pride and enthusiasm for getting the opportunity to tell their story to youth and mentor them. Youth, in return, are amazed by the stories, and they learn history, first-hand from the people who experienced it. For the youth, this is a professional development activity, that allows them to practice leadership and team-building skills, in addition to learning about the country’s history. For the survivors, this is a healing process because many survivors have never even told their stories to their closest family members. Finally, the entire activity of partnering youth volunteers with survivors is done within the context of passing on public health information. Youth volunteers are given an orientation on public health information and they are provided materials that help them help survivors in practicing good health routines that reduce the risk of hospitalization, the need for medical care, and improve the quality of life.

Afternoon Session:

13:30 – 15:10 PM, The Lecture on Cultural Diplomacy

By Hul Thonnak, Senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia



Hul Thonnak during her presentation on Cultural Diplomacy, November 16th, 2023.

Mrs. Hul Thonnak is an expert on diplomacy from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. She described volunteerism as the foundation of her

successful career. Diplomacy is the skills that are used for relations between states through the representative of each state such as ambassador, diplomat, student, or citizen of one country. Culture is about the identity of one country such as language, religion, traditional clothes, food, art, music, buildings, history, and the way of life. Drawing from these core terms, CamboCorps defines cultural diplomacy as the practice of interaction through culture, connection, and trade between people.

According to her presentation, cultural diplomacy is about spreading and using one national identity as a tool for relations. The importance of cultural diplomacy is about the exchange of ideas between countries for the development of one country that could allow cooperation and collaboration between countries with peace and prosperity by understanding the culture of each other. For Cambodia the symbols of Angkor are important symbols of Cambodian identity, which are iconic and part of Cambodia's appeal for cultural tourism. She was encouraged by the CamboCorps program because it contributes to an appreciation for the Cambodian culture and it supports Khmer pride. Mrs. Hul Thonnak provided an outline of key aspects of cultural diplomacy as she defined it:

- Trust, credibility, respect, exchange,
- Understand and connection,
- Strengthen and work affair cooperation,
- Economic benefits, investment, growth, and tourism.

She underscored the fact that nothing can replace education. Education is the only way for peace and mutual understanding between people and people in our diverse community. She also highlighted the beautiful culture of Cambodia, which is represented it is art, temples, dance, music, paintings, languages, events, clothes, holidays, and religions. Our Khmer food is also our identity. Angkor Kitchen, the culinary diplomacy created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, also serves as our cultural diplomacy, for enhancing and promoting the identity of our nation and for boosting the cultural tourism that will benefit the citizens of Cambodia.

15:30 – 17:00 PM, The Lecture of Cultural Diplomacy

By John David Ciorciari, A professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan



John David Ciorciari and CamboCorps volunteers join together for a picture across the continents.

It was a rare opportunity for CamboCorps volunteers to be able to listen to a Fulbright scholar who has decades of professional and academic experience in diplomacy and international relations. We really appreciated his time and his insightful presentation by way of Zoom. It was one of the most important sessions, as his presentation attracted many questions from the audience. The questions ranged from questions about the current state of global affairs, especially involving the Middle East to questions about Cambodia in the Southeast Asian region.

- ***Cultural Diplomacy, one of many forms of diplomacy***

Dr. John D. Ciorciari explained the many different forms of diplomatic engagement such as private and public diplomatic engagement through bilateral diplomacy, regional diplomacy, and multilateral diplomacy. In describing private diplomatic engagement, Dr. Ciorciari discussed how private talks or negotiations between both sides of an issue can be just as important as the public diplomatic engagements one hears in the public media. Public diplomatic engagement has public engagement piece, where all sides use the information or image of engagement and negotiation to depict what they believe, their position, and their interest. Public diplomatic engagement is not only about convincing the other side to adopt one's views or position, it is also about convincing the public to be on one's side. There is also economic diplomacy, and Dr. Ciorciari gave the example of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China. The BRI is an example of a fund that supports economic diplomacy through huge infrastructure projects around the globe as well as in Cambodia. Dr. Ciorciari also mentioned cyber diplomacy as a mechanism to achieve one's goals.

- ***Definition and goals of Cultural Diplomacy***

Cultural diplomacy is a specific domain that involves a lot of different categories of influence and action. According to UNESCO, cultural diplomacy is about “the exchange of ideas, information, art, language and other aspects of culture among nations and peoples in order to foster mutual understanding.” The exchange of ideas can be broad for the people and the government. As John described, cultural diplomacy emphasizes the goal of common or mutual understanding through the agenda of an international organization such as the United Nations. Cultural relations refer to any cultural exchange and cooperation between nations. Cultural diplomacy is a subset of smaller activities led by the government to advance their interest through achieving mutual understanding. Cultural diplomacy also includes actions taken by non-governmental actors, such as civil society. Civil society can implement and be agents for cultural diplomacy between governments in the same way that diplomats communicate between governments.

Like all countries, cultural diplomacy can sometimes be the most effective way of boosting a country's soft power versus hard power (i.e., military diplomacy through the positioning or posturing of military force). Cultural Diplomacy could allow us to emulate our policies and institutions for cooperation on a wider range of issues. Cultural diplomacy is about building a leverage and agreement or acceptance of views and interests that are favorable to a country. Without cultural diplomacy and the history that we want the world to know through our flag, no one would believe us about what we had done in the past such as building Angkor Wat or going through the four decades of insurgency, instability and civil war.

As individuals, we should want others to understand us and treat us accordingly, though each of us has our own unique culture and story that we went through. In the inverse, we should be treating others with respect and dignity in return. For example, a Khmer Rouge survivor also thinks of others to treat him or her through empathy and sympathy. They are the toughest generation who are the ones who kept our cultural diplomacy alive through decades of genocide, instability, and war. We should not overlook the story of the Khmer Rouge survivors as part of cultural diplomacy. In fact, their stories have formed a prominent narrative about Cambodia and their stories will continue to inform Cambodia’s cultural diplomacy in the twenty-first century.

- ***How does Cultural Diplomacy generate influence?***

There are multiple ways to exercise diplomacy. Diplomacy can reflect the forcing or persuading of another state, entity, or representative to take a position contrary to their interests through hard or coercive power. Military force or the positioning or posturing of military forces, the use of military assistance, and the denial of another’s ability to position, posture, or use military or economic capabilities is illustrated in the current conflict in Ukraine. Another way to exercise diplomacy is by setting the agenda and establishing or working through a framework for international diplomacy. In this context, certain international institutions like the United

Nations operate as a forum for diplomacy. In addition, international law such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can serve as reference in exercising diplomacy. A third way of exercising diplomacy is by shaping positions through incentives like economic aid to particular matter or economic relationships that shape future economic collaboration that is supportive of diplomacy. For example, because of China's economic diplomacy most countries adopt China's view that Taiwan is a part of China, despite the controversy of this view.

Summits and the meeting between heads of states is also diplomacy. The chairmanship of ASEAN, the ASEAN summit, and ASEAN engagements help set and frame the agenda for diplomacy between countries in Southeast Asia. Cultural diplomacy is also displayed during summits through the display of cultural artifacts, i.e., the wearing of traditional clothes by all heads of states during a gala dinner.

Cultural diplomacy can also change the negative images of the past through re-establishing or cultivating positive images of people, culture, food, dance, music, art, etc. Cultural diplomacy is sometimes just rekindling or augmenting commonly shared values and identity that are automatically shared between peoples.

- ***Why does Cultural Diplomacy matter?***

Cultural diplomacy is about the soft power exercised or present in the international arena. Cultural diplomacy does not depend upon hard power; therefore, it is more cost-efficient and it does not require the risk of the loss of life or damage of property through conflict.

- ***What forms can Cultural Diplomacy take?***

Cultural Diplomacy can take different forms such as pop culture diffusion, educational exchange, sporting events, and artistic programs.

- ***Diffusion – the “Cool Japan” Campaign***

For Japan, one form of cultural diplomacy has been exercised through pop culture trends such as cosplay, anime, manga, and other entertainment forms that the Japanese government invested in. This form of cultural diplomacy generates billions of dollars per year to support the Japanese economy. Even though Japan went from a country that Southeast Asia countries resented as an aggressor in the past, today Japan is more likable and it reflects a colorful island culture that is depicted through the contemporary culture of its younger generation. Cultural diplomacy indeed can change an entire generation's perspective toward a country and Japan is one example that was described by Dr. Ciorciari.

- ***Exchange – Chinese overseas scholarships***

Educational exchange also served as a form of cultural diplomacy between countries. Chinese overseas scholarships for Southeast Asian countries is considered activities of cultural

diplomacy through the influence of Chinese culture as part of the education for young audiences that will favor and depict the positive image of China in the region. For example, the increasing number of people in the region speaking in Chinese.

- ***Events – South Korea’s Winter Olympics***

South Korea’s Winter Olympics, held in PyeongChang in 2018 is another example of cultural diplomacy. The Olympics was a powerful cultural diplomacy event in that it was watched by people all around the world. For South Korea, it was time for displaying the development and advancement of her national culture, the beauty of the past and present Korean culture, the mixed of Joseon period and contemporary culture that we can find on social media like K-pop and K-drama.

- ***Programs – Cambodia’s Royal Ballet***

Cambodia’s Royal Ballet performs in front of foreign senior government officials, and this performance potentially makes foreigners want to know more about Cambodian history and culture. With the richness and beauty of our Khmer culture, there is many opportunities for cultural diplomacy; however, it requires tremendous work to keep culture alive. It requires the participation and contribution of nation’s the citizens, and in Cambodia’s case it was essential that the survivors of the Khmer Rouge kept our Royal Ballet alive through memory. The survivors of the Khmer Rouge, in this way, ensured the survival of the cultural diplomacy we see in Cambodia today.

- ***What makes Cultural Diplomacy effective?***

Cultural diplomacy is effective in setting a positive image through inducing attraction and emulation as well as generating economic growth, and development through employment and tourism. Cultural diplomacy is also effective in building understanding, reconciliation, peace and even justice. For example, the Preah Vihear Temple case in the international court can be said to be a form of cultural diplomacy through international legal forums. Media can promote the positive image of the country through culture.

- ***What traits and skills do practitioners need?***

To be a skillful practitioner of cultural diplomacy, one must have knowledge and pride in one’s own culture as well as an eagerness and ability to connect with diverse people.. Diversity requires an acceptance and an appreciation of difference. The ability to understand the different forms of communication especially for the diplomat is important because the diplomat must be an effective communicator. This Cultural Diplomacy Forum is about improving the skills as mentioned above for CamboCorps volunteers, who can exercise these skills in their career paths of the future.

- ***In Case of Situation in Gaza***

Dr. Ciorciari indicated that diplomacy is the main component driving the realization of a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and diplomacy is being exercised through multiple ways such as pressure on the parties and the search for solidarity on the part of the international community, which includes the Southeast Asian community. For Palestine and Israel, both sides depict each other on social media by trying to convince people around the globe of the justification and legitimacy of their actions. However, there is also the private diplomatic engagement that is working on a ceasefire while one side wants peace, and the other side wants war. Diplomacy can take many forms including mobilizing the people to condemn the aggression and violence like what is happening in Gaza and Ukraine. For cultural diplomacy, we are also seeing the increasing number of activities to show the positive image of Islam or Palestinian community, though bias, prejudice, and misinformation remains, the same time of promoting the understanding through the cultural diplomacy between the people and the people to stop the violence.

- **Question Session**



A CamboCorps asked a question to John after his presentation.

Continuing from the topic on Gaza, we saw the curiosity of the CamboCorps volunteers who wanted to ask questions related to U.S. diplomacy. A CamboCorp volunteer asked a question about the reasons behind the bombardment in Cambodia during the 1970s and the involvement of the U.S. in most of the conflicts around the globe.

In response, Dr. Ciorciari stated that about 70 years ago, the United States Avoided involvement in foreign affairs, but all of this changed with the national security consequences of World War II and the bombing of the U.S. forces at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which brought the United States into direct conflict with the Axis Powers. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy, the United States declared war on Japan and the United States entered World War II. The catastrophe of World War II provided the basis for the United States to adopt a more pro-active, non-neutral foreign policy in the world, The Cold War and spread of communism by the Soviet Union further ensured this United States' foreign policy in the world, at least until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. From this foreign policy perspective of the world, every conflict could have an impact on U.S. national security directly or indirectly, so the U.S. inevitably found itself in a position of maintaining world peace and stability, along with promoting the values of freedom and democracy.

As a nation of immigrants, a land of cultural diversity, and an American ideology founded upon civic engagement and democratic ideas, Americans think that their identity and ideology could benefit the people around the globe through the sharing of democratic values, the rule of law, and promoting human rights. They also attempt to channel these views and policies through international organizations and forums, such as the United Nations. The idea is the world can become better through these values, the establishment of peace and security, and the promotion of human rights, the rule of law, and economic development. In fact, not all countries and people around the globe appreciated this view, but Americans think it is the right thing to do, not for territorial expansion or resources. When a conflict arises, by virtue of the superior U.S. military power, the world will look at the United States and its actions rather than directly asking questions about the direct parties involved.

Dr. Ciorciari stated he believed that diplomacy has a lot to do with influencing one another at all levels. Some issues require the building of understanding between governments, but most issues require the building of understanding between people irrespective government positions. Diplomacy requires constructive thinking as a negotiator and mediator. Through his experience of international relations, the sense of trust that is built up during work in enduring or people-centered activities such as an exchange program or an event, can one day make the difference in overcoming misunderstandings or differences when sitting at the table in a very important matter. Seemingly small engagements can establish important points for friendliness and agreement that decides the critical decision. In terms of cultural diplomacy, investing in education is the best way for the future.

One CamboCorps volunteer asked the question on what if a U.S. citizen is accused of being a criminal and uses the U.S. Embassy as a shelter, how will the U.S. Embassy respond? He explained that the property of the U.S. Embassy is considered the territory of the United States. When an individual is accused of a crime in Cambodia, he or she is subject to the law of Cambodia. The diplomat and military officer, however, are subject to U.S. jurisdiction. In

special cases in Okinawa, when a military officer is not on duty, he or she is subject to the law of the local jurisdiction. For Cambodia and the United States, there is no such agreement. If the Cambodian government asks for handover of any persons, the United States can say that is not valid and not comply and return to the diplomacy process between both countries. So, diplomacy seems to be one of the most useful approaches in resolving disputes between countries. Dr. Ciorciari's discussion on this point provoked considerable interest by the volunteers. However, there was not enough time to entertain more questions and discussion, so volunteers were encouraged to engage DC-Cam for references for further reading.

Another CamboCorps volunteer asked about why the United States is the main exporter of weaponry and armaments around the world. In response, Dr. Ciorciari said that it varies from case to case. For Ukraine, the situation demands that the United States supports the sovereignty of the Ukrainian people to be able to defend themselves from the invasion by the Russian Federation. In the case of Israel, the United States' support is tied to its alliance with Israel and U.S. commitments to defend Israel from terrorism, which was reflected in the attack by Hamas. During the Arab Israeli War in 1967, Egypt was under the influence of the Soviet Union. The alliance with Israel was to deal with the influence of the Soviet Union in the region in the past and remain the most important strategic ally in the region. Another basis for the relationship can be tied to the domestic politics in the United States. There is a very large group of people in the United States, who support Israel and this has an impact on the United States' relationship with Israel.

The presentation by Dr. John D. Ciorciari came with a thought that whether the U.S. has been doing or involving into a conflict, we are seeing both positive and negative views toward the actions taken by the U.S. government. But what if there was no involvement of the United States in the Second World War in Europe, Asia, and other continents. What if the United States did not win the Second World War.

There can be barriers to diplomacy like language, access to information, access to the freedom of speech and education, and above all, culture. It is difficult for anyone to be knowledgeable, educated and empowered enough, and free of biases, to see the whole picture of circumstances. CamboCorps volunteer program is not a panacea for these circumstances, but it gives people an opportunity to look beyond their immediate upbringing, social network, community, education, and world view to see not only other peoples' perspectives but also how to be open-minded to different views.

We thought that diplomacy is supposed to be the job of a diplomat alone, but it is not supposed to be that way. As a democratic state, we are the diplomats, we are the ones who choose our government to represent our interests as a citizen of a country. By the end of this session, Dr. Ciorciari wanted the audience to know that the future of Cambodia's cultural diplomacy could depend upon them one day.

DAY 2: FRIDAY – NOVEMBER 17th, 2023

Morning Session:

8:00-10:30 AM, Presentations of CamboCorps Volunteers

The entire Friday morning session of the Cultural Diplomacy Forum was dedicated to hearing presentations from CamboCorps volunteers. The volunteers presented their own ideas and knowledge related to the current social issues. The first group of volunteers provided a presentation about the environmental issues along the Mekong River in case of the Ramsar, the associated river system, floodplain, and Islets in Stung Treng province of Cambodia. These matters were related to a DC-Cam project in O'Svay community. The second group of volunteers discussed the key processes and mechanisms for resolving conflict in Cambodia in the past, and the last group of volunteers were a group of medical students. They presented their work toward raising awareness about the mental conditions and trauma of our society, with a focus on the survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime.

Environmental issues of RamSar Site in Mekong River

By Khun Khim, Luch Lekh, Yon Chamroeun, Sreng Lida, and Thy Kimhong



A group of CamboCorps volunteers explained the situation of Ramsar, November 17th, 2023.

The first group of volunteers explained the current situation in the Ramsar site or wetlands area in Stung Treng and Kratie provinces. Even though the presentation was brief, the presentation covered a lot of detail and provided significant ideas for further research such as how the number of hydrogen dams in China and Laos may play a factor for Cambodia. The understanding of the convention and agreement related to these issues also needs to be detailed, however this presentation did not go beyond basic information related to the Ramsar site, including the experience of the local community who are facing the danger of losing their dependence on the Mekong River. Given the limited time of the presentation and complexity of the issue, volunteers were eager to learn more about this topic particularly because this topic was alarming and concerning for the livelihood of millions of people along the Mekong River. CamboCorps volunteers explained about the consequences of the dam construction that changed the waterflow of the Mekong River, the huge concrete barrier for fish to migrate into the Ramsar wetlands during spawning season, and the chemical explosion as well as plastic pollution that endangers the underwater species along the Mekong River. These issues were raised again and again by locals who lived in O'Svay community along the border with Laos. CamboCorps volunteers suggested replacing the hydroelectricity that is generated from the hydrogen dams with green solar energy.

The End of Civil War in Cambodia

By Sim Kimang, Heng Lida, Saut Arifin, Chab Sopenh, and Chhom Reatrey



Reatrey presented during the Cultural Diplomacy Forum, November 17th, 2023.

The second cohort of CamboCorps volunteers presented on the Cambodian conflict that stretched across the second half of the twentieth century. A significant question that came up

during the presentation of volunteers was whether we should have solved the Cambodian conflict by ourselves (i.e., between Khmer), or was it best that it was solved primarily by the intervention of others. If we look back through the history of Cambodia since the Post-Angkorian period of Cambodia until the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991, our nation was torn apart by internal conflict, competition for power, the external conflict during the Cold War and the intervention of neighboring countries and the international community. During this tumultuous period, Cambodian politics could have been described as mostly a zero-sum game, where the question of trust remained a driving issue for unresolved conflict, which ultimately required the intervention of the international community. The CamboCorps volunteer presentation discussed only the perspective of the win-win policy, and how it appears to have been the primary narrative for this history of Cambodia. The presenters believed this history needs to be clarified for the public's understanding.

After the second group presentation, DC-Cam staff showed a video show about his Majesty, Norodom Sihanouk. The film was a DC-Cam documentary dedicated to his 100th Anniversary (1922-2022).. The video described the life and journey of his majesty, and it showed details about his entire lifetime and the larger story of Cambodia. For the twenty-first century, Cambodia continues to work toward reconciliation and healing from the Khmer Rouge period.

Understanding and Prevention of Mental Illness

By Chao Nora, Kim Chansodalin, Chantha Selaroth, Kim Soksothy, and Mann Sokhim



The presentation of a group of medical students who volunteered with DC-Cam on mental awareness.

The awareness and information related to mental health in Cambodia is inadequate as mentioned by CamboCorps volunteers. Through their volunteer work with the DC-Cam, the group of medical students presented data for further research and understanding of the current mental health of the Khmer Rouge survivors. This work helped inform and was based on the booklet of **“Information on the Healthcare for Khmer Rouge Survivors”** published by DC-Cam.

Their presentation provided limited details about the prevention and treatment of mental health conditions for the average patient. According to the data that they collected during their volunteer work, most of the Khmer Rouge survivors experienced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to biological factors, psychological factors, and social factors. Although it remains a topic for further research, it is believed that the four decades of instability and civil war that raged across Cambodia has created a generation of survivors with significant PTSD.

In October, around 110 survivors in Kamchay Mear district, Prey Veng were surveyed. One of them and his family were sexually harassed by the Khmer Rouge. He experienced PTSD from this circumstance and he continues to be affected by these events until the present day. Due to a lack of awareness of mental health in the community, inevitably he experienced discrimination, bias, and inequality. Most of the survivors who have PTSD claim conditions such as insomnia or sleep disorder, chronic diseases, digestive diseases, and alcohol use disorder. Some survivors received the wrong medical diagnosis and consequently they were prescribed inappropriate or unhelpful medicines. These issues can be traced to a standard of care that is unprofessional and misperceiving—assuming physical and mental illness to be disassociated conditions. Both public and private health services require more resourcing and attention, particularly in the area of human resources, medical training, and patient care.

For physical health, Khmer Rouge survivors experienced malnutrition, injuries, excessive work, and disability that led to impairment or the limitation in one’s daily activity. These conditions are exacerbated by poor public health knowledge. In some cases survivors health is about preventative care conductionproper exercise, following a proper diet, and getting the right medicine for issues like arthritis. As they faced challenges, discrimination, and the aspect of being overlooked by society, we hope that the new Pentagon Strategy will bring new weight to the idea that no one shall be left behind by the new government.

On the same matter, the Director of DC-Cam expressed that: “I think we as Cambodians are resilient and strong. Yes, some of us who are the most affected went through some very tough healing processes, but we bounced back. Cambodia as a country economically is one of the fastest growing countries when compared to other third world/developing countries in the last two or three decades. We have to remember that our whole country has almost demolished over four decades ago. Now 5 million people are aging with all kinds of illnesses. We worked too hard, and we walked too far in life. It will take at least one or two generations for us to be

fully healed.” Indeed, it is time for no one shall leave behind including the 5 million of the Khmer Rouge survivors who were the foundation of Cambodia for the 21st century.

The treatment and prevention of mental illness by social factors require the understanding, respect, and improvement of the social environment with no discrimination, reduce the inequality gap, sustainable development, and the practice of cultural diplomacy. Medication, psychotherapy, exercise regularly, yoga, meditation, connection, reading, changing of lifestyle, and practice of mindfulness and acceptance with embrace of positivity in life are among the most recommended for treatment of PTSD. Psychedelic also should be considered as an alternative for the treatment due to its effectiveness.

10:30-12:30 AM,

Movie Session:

“Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten: Cambodia’s Lost Rock and Roll”

By John Pirozzi, Chhang Youk.

Dedication

Don't Think I've Forgotten is dedicated to the resiliency of the Cambodian people.

Cast and Credit

Director | Cinematographer: John Pirozzi

Producers: John Pirozzi, Andrew Pope

Executive Producers: Youk Chhang, Brad Bessire, Jonathan Del Gatto

Editors: Daniel Littlewood, Greg Wright, Matt Prinzing

Associate Producer / Lead Researcher: LinDa Saphan

Composer: Scot Stafford

A Production By: Harmony | Primitive Nerd | Pearl City

Additional Production Services Provided by: The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)



Singer:
Ros Serey Sothea

For more information, please contact the DC-Cam Film Team:

Min Sanas: 010 848 444

Sopheak Pheana: 092 234 707

Teav Sarakmonin: 012 661 133



DTIF www.dtifcambodia.com
MEMORY & JUSTICE www.dccam.org | www.cambodiasri.org



“Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten: Cambodia’s Lost Rock and Roll” poster.

After the presentation by CamboCorps, we had a movie session titled “**Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten: Cambodia’s Lost Rock and Roll,**” a film by John Pirozzi. According to the Director of DC-Cam, Chhang Youk, it took a decade to produce this documentary movie until it was released on October 11th, 2014. Around 200 of the Khmer Rouge Survivors were interviewed in Cambodia, France, and the United States, most of them were artists and musicians in the past,

some were relatives. The King Father of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk also contributed by giving his own documents and records for the movie, unfortunately the monarch's death in 2012. Some information and copyrights were purchased. It required patience, determination, and love for researching in various places including ABC News, United States Senate Library, and the White House Library. This documentary movie tells us the fate of the musicians and artists in that era, from colorful life to the darkness of life that depicted through painting by Nhek Dim, a painter who used art to brighten up his life during the wartime.

After the independence of Cambodia in 1953, under the leadership of King Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia experienced a fast-growing economy, prosperity, and stability as a democratic state for the first decade of her independence. Phnom Penh was once the cultural hub, the pearl of Southeast Asia. As an aesthete, with the family background as music and art lover, he became the Father of Art. The work of whole nations with the same passion as the King, the music culture of Cambodia in 20th century was iconic and forever remembered in 21st century. Whenever you listen to a song from that period, the melody and lyrics make us feel like we were once live in that period, as if the singer is still alive, it is mellifluous.

The music of that era has many genres, the Western genre, Afro-Cuban genre, and South America genre. It showed that Cambodia has the same taste and capability as a thriving economy country according to a Khmer Rouge Survivor in the movie. In 1970, after the coup by General Lon Nol, the new influence of the American genre arrived as well as the presence of the U.S. soldiers in Indochina, the Vietnam War. In 1975, everything of Cambodia's rock and roll were destroyed and prohibited by the Khmer Rouge Regime, the artist and musician were killed, only a few stayed alive to tell the story. For the famous singers at that time like Sinn Sisamouth and Ros Sereysothea, only their golden voice remained.

David Chandler, a historian described that sometimes, we are never born in that period, we do not really know exactly the feeling of what happened, through this movie, they are the great generation of that period. Khmer Rouge Survivors live through many different eras, they experience many forms of Cultural Diplomacy, they are the foundation of Cambodia since the end of the Khmer Rouge Regime. "As we move forward, we shouldn't forget the past," a quote from Khmer Rouge Survivors and a musician from the past. Artists and musicians are influenced in one society, due to their influence, they were killed by the Khmer Rouge. Let us remember their legacy and masterpieces through this movie.

After watching the movie, we received feedback from CamboCorps. One said it was the greatest artistic era that we must preserve. Another CamboCorps said that it was a way of life, the rapid change of cultural diplomacy through propaganda in the past led to consequences of the emotional pain, the misunderstanding and bitter end in Cambodia, the nationalism (utopia) that killed the 2 million of people.

Cultural Diplomacy is the soft power of Cambodia while we are the richness culture in the region. If we use it wisely, it will benefit the whole country, though this movie is also a form of cultural diplomacy. Finally, we should remember that “this movie is a memorial of the resilience of the people of Cambodia.”

Afternoon Session

13:30-14:30 PM, The Visiting of Queen Mother Library



Sa Rophikin and her certification of appreciation at Queen Mother Library, November 17th, 2023.

A brief visit to the Queen Mother Library, DC-Cam distributed the certificate of appreciation to the contribution of the CamboCorps. Sa Rophikin who volunteered under the project: documentation center of Cambodia’s Advancing the Rights and Improving the Health Conditions of the Khmer Rouge Survivors, smiled with her certification of appreciation at Queen Mother Library during her brief tour with other CamboCorps. This is one of remarkable moments for her and her family, community, and society. We really appreciated the hard work and determination by CamboCorps who answered the call and wholeheartedly supported the Khmer Rouge Survivors across Cambodia. CamboCorps are enhancing their leadership skills

through their actions and volunteerism under this project, they are the future of leadership in Cambodia.

15:00-17:00 PM, The Entertainment Session

By: Pich Chakriya



Pich Chakriya and CamboCorps volunteers, November 17th, 2023.

The events also create a relaxing atmosphere through the song that shows the truth and history of Cambodia sung by Chakriya, “Oh Phnom Penh” song, her beautiful voice could indeed tell the listener about the reality and the story at that time. The song described the abandonment of Phnom Penh City which once was the Pearl of Southeast Asia during the Khmer Rouge Regime and the expression for the people who survived and returned to Phnom Penh in 1979. Together, we are supporting the musicians and their talents, one form of cultural diplomacy through this event. By listening to Chakriya, the listener will know about their own traditional song, the style, the genre, and the lyrics from the past especially the masterpieces from the famous singer and the victim of the Khmer Rouge Regime. Most of the songs were the works of the 1960s-1980s. For almost 60 years, this kind of song has still been popular and use during cultural diplomacy events, weddings, and many more events in Cambodia as for relaxing and celebrating. The style of music and dancing also identifies Cambodia’s way of life and unique since the most of Cambodia can dance and sing, the land of artistic. The songs from that era, it is called the cultural signature of Cambodia.

Some Views of the CamboCorps Volunteers on the Cultural Diplomacy Forum

Than Raksmeay, a Cambodian Corps volunteer from Kampong Chhnang province appreciated for the invitation of in the Cultural Diplomacy forum. She said that this forum was crucial for the understanding the important role of diplomacy by using culture as a tool for exchanging ideas, enhancing close collaboration, and solving the conflict between states. Regarding Dr. Ciorciari's presentation, she supported his idea about investing in the culture and exchange programs ideas. Regarding Israeli and Palestinian relations, she suggested compromise between both sides and using cultural diplomacy to avoid further violence. Regarding the movie session and the article mentioned above, she described these as a show of resilience and of the challenges of the Khmer Rouge survivors who went through this period.

Heng Lida, a volunteer from Takeo province, said she was delighted for attending this forum, and she believes she significantly increased her understanding of diplomacy and contemporary events such as those occurring the Middle East. For the article above, it showed the reality of Khmer Rouge survivors and their role in building the country. Lastly, she liked the movie which displayed the rich of style in the past of our culture.

Liv Somaly stated she was raised with an intimate understanding of mental illness that comes from PTSD as her family were Khmer Rouge survivors. She stated that though she experienced mental illness with her own family members she could not understand before her volunteer work with DC-Cam.

Taing Vykoun from Takeo province said it was emotional pain for him to watch the movie because it showed the reality of the past, which could genocide. He appreciated this great documentary movie by DC-Cam.

Chao Naro, who lives in Phnom Penh, said that cultural diplomacy is significant for the solutions it provides and the options it offers in terms of building the potential for peace and development in society. On the article, he believed that the nationalism and breach of trust were the cause that led to civil war. We as the younger generation should pay tribute to the resilience and heroism of Khmer Rouge survivors. Through the movie that showed the scars of the past until the present, he felt sad for the loss of our musicians.

Then Malin as a Cambodian Corps volunteer from Prey Veng province, it was privileged for her to participated in this cultural diplomacy forum by the understanding about diplomacy between states, the important of volunteerism in social cause like fighting against corruption, discrimination, domestic violence, and promoting community development under the program of USAID. She hopes that this generation will remember the past. As for the movie, it is the transition from the excitement to sadness of Cambodian people, even longhair was banned and killed by the Khmer Rouge that she pitied about. For her, music is the sweetness of life.

Conclusion

If we take a moment to find the meaning behind the Cultural Diplomacy Forum, it is just a two-day forum providing the understanding of Cultural Diplomacy and the awareness of current situations related to the Khmer Rouge survivors. However, in a different view, it will become the history of the participants and reflecting of the past through the four decades of conflicts, the important role of cultural diplomacy during that time until the present.

Every one of us is a diplomat, even the way we communicate and the way we smile also reflect our identity and we became one of the friendliest countries in the region through our smile. Cultural Diplomacy is unconsciously surrounding us all the time. We are adapting into another culture without notice as a part of globalization and modernization, the influence of foreign culture. The danger of losing one national identity is concerning for the future of Cambodia. Even though we went through four decades of war, it is still our history that we should not forget, but these decades were remarkable stories of our own culture. Cultural Diplomacy is connecting the past to the present and preserving the future. The connection of the young generation to the greatest generation of Cambodia, between the Cambodian youth and the Khmer Rouge Survivors, is also a part of cultural diplomacy that we wanted CamboCorps to notice during this forum. Cultural Diplomacy is about the ongoing process, like the existence of Angkor Wat and we are rich for it.

For the young generation, DC-Cam believes that the study tour and forum for CamboCorps are the greatest assistance toward the improvement leadership of our young students. DC-Cam will avail to support the young CamboCorps.

Without the contribution of 5 million of Khmer Rouge survivors, we cannot preserve much of our own culture during the genocide and the wartime period. Each story of the survivors is a part of reality, a part of culture and a part of national identity. Their own memory not just the past, but also the truth and the reference for shaping the future of this nation.

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