

## **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:**

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Me-Sang, Me-sang District, Prey Veng

Kampong Leng, Kampong Leng District, Kampong Chhnang

Kampeng Commune, Kirivong District, Takeo

Kratie, Kratie District, Kratie

Koh Kong province

Banteay Meanchey province

Kampong Thom province

Kampong Cham province

Ratanakiri province

Mondul kiri province

Stung Treng province

Kandal province

Kampot province

Phnom Penh

Otdar Meanchey province

Pailin province

Sihanouk Ville province

Kep province

Pursat province

Preah Vihear province

Battambang province

Siem Reap province

Svay Rieng province