



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Phnom Penh

Press Release

Germany supports Genocide Education Project

On December 5, 2008 the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Cambodia, Frank M. Mann and the Director of the *Documentation Center of Cambodia*, Youk Chhang signed an agreement over 300.000 USD in support of Phase Two of DC-Cam's Genocide Education Project.

The grant is intended to finance printing of 175.000 Khmer and 50.000 English copies of the history textbook

“A history of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979) by Khamboly Dy”

for free distribution to Cambodian High school students in grades 9-12.

Background:

From September 2004 - March 2007 DC-Cam implemented a Genocide Education Project in order to improve teaching of Cambodian high school students about the genocide that occurred in their country between 1975 and 1979. DC-Cam responds to the need for formal education that would help young Cambodians understand the factors that led to the rise of Democratic Kampuchea, its workings, and its fall.

The Center set out to encourage and work with the Cambodian Ministry of Education to write a history of „Democratic Kampuchea“ and introduce genocide education into a classroom setting. The result of this project was the April 2007 publication of *A History of Democratic Kampuchea*, the first such text written by a Cambodian, Khamboly Dy. The Ministry of Education has agreed to include Khmer Rouge history in the 2009 curriculum.

The publication of the textbook has led to a sharp increase in interest in learning about this period of Cambodian history.. Students, teachers, ordinary citizens, and government officials alike agree that education on the history of the Khmer Rouge is crucial if Cambodia is to address its past and step forward to begin addressing the questions of reconciliation, justice and democracy.

For more information call:

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