



Photo Exhibition “Journey Through the Night” and Intergenerational Conference on “Remembering for the Future”

Pannasastra University of Cambodia, South Campus

27th November 2009, Srey Dim Conference Hall

The year 2009 marks the 30th anniversary year of the fall of the Khmer Rouge. On 7th January 1979 Vietnamese troops, together with Khmer Rouge defectors toppled the Pol Pot Regime that had murdered estimated 1.7 millions Cambodians. The Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has prepared a photo exhibition on the Khmer Rouge Regime with the title ‘Journey through the Night’. This photo exhibition raised awareness of the Cambodian ordeal among Germans when it was first shown in 2005. Now it will be shown in Cambodia in order to contribute to the reconciliation process by attracting and involving the people of Cambodia - especially the youth.

Until today the trauma of the Khmer Rouge Regime is not forgotten. The reconciliation process in Cambodia is still in its initial stage. The year 2009 is also the 18th anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords, which ended a traumatic civil war that had hunted the country already since 1970 when a military coup ousted former Prime Minister and King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk from power and led Cambodia into the destruction of the Vietnam War. Today these memories of the past are a heavy burden for the younger and previous generation. The younger generation has to build the future of their country on the heritage of these experiences, the previous generation has to handle their past and make the younger understand what had happened. In this process of reconciliation which involves the mutual acknowledgement of the truth of past events and the will to change past destructive into constructive relations, Cambodians already made considerable progress. Today the cycle of violence in Cambodia is broken. The former civil war parties live in peace. The Khmer Rouge Trial has started. Different stakeholders of the civil society and government are working on a mutual acknowledgment of the truth of the past and are taking efforts for a sustainable reconciliation.

Given this background, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in cooperation with Pannasastra University of Cambodia/Peace and Conflict Studies Institute, the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) and Youth for Peace (YfP) organizes a conference on reconciliation. National and international experts and practitioners of reconciliation as well as witnesses are invited to share their knowledge and experiences on reconciliation with a broad audience. Special focus is given to the intergenerational perspective. The conference simultaneously inaugurates the photo exhibition ‘Journey Through the Night’, which will be shown for the first time in Cambodia to a broad public.

Conference Program

07.45 – 08.10	Registration
08.10 – 08.30	<i>Participants can walk around to see the exhibition. Youth for Peace members stand by at the photo banners</i>
08.30 – 09.00	Welcome Remarks: Dr. Sin Meng Srun , Vice-President of the Pannasastra University of Cambodia Dr. Stefanie Elies , Director, Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Dr. Trond Gilberg , Dean of the Faculty of International Relations and Social Science/Peace and Conflict Studies Institute, Pannasastra University of Cambodia Mr. Chheang Vannarith , Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace Mr. Long Khet , Youth For Peace
09.00 – 09.40	Keynote Speech I: Reconciliation and Peace - (focus on Germany) Dr. Meik Woyke , Director, Archive for Social History, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
09.40 – 10.20	Keynote Speech II: Reconciliation and Peace - (focus on Cambodia) Mr. Soth Plai Ngarm , Alliance for Conflict Transformation, Cambodia
10.20 – 10.45	Intergenerational Talk on Reconciliation in Cambodia Mr. Van Nath , Survivor of the Khmer Rouge Regime Mr. Arn Chorn Pond , Served as Child-Soldier for the Khmer Rouge Two Students from Pannasastra University
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.15	Reconciliation Work in Cambodia from Different Perspectives <i>Youth: Mr. Long Khet, Director, NGO Youth for Peace</i> <i>Media: N.N.</i> <i>Education: Prof. Manara, Instructor on Khmer History at Pannasastra University of Cambodia (not confirmed)</i> <i>Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Mr. Reach Sambath, Public Information, ECCC</i>
12:15 – 12.30	Inauguration of the Photo Exhibition
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch Venue: Pannasastra University, South Campus (Lunch Packages will be provided)
14.00 – 15.00	World Café Round 1: “What is your personal experience with reconciliation?” Round 2: “What are good examples of reconciliation work?” Round 3: “How can I contribute to the reconciliation process in Cambodia?”
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 16.30	Presentations of World Café Results
16.30 – 16.45	Closing remarks
<i>Afterwards</i>	<i>Participants can walk around to see the exhibition Youth for Peace members stand by at the photo banners</i>