



**EUROPEAN UNION-CAMBODIA
CIVIL SOCIETY SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

PHNOM PENH, 31 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2010

VENUE “RAFFLES HOTEL”

On 31 August – 1 September 2010, the European Union in cooperation with the government of Cambodia organised a civil society seminar on human rights, with a special focus on the role of civil society and human rights defenders. The aim of the seminar was to contribute to the EU-Cambodia human rights dialogue through open discussions, which will help to enrich the official dialogue. The civil society seminar provided an opportunity for discussion between European, international and Cambodian civil society representatives, academics and government officials on human rights topics and on how to enhance the application of human rights. In particular, the seminar intended to enhance the official human rights dialogue by opening up to the European and Cambodian NGO communities and create a space for discussion; encourage members of civil society and academics to feed the agenda of the official dialogue with their views; develop links between Cambodian and European academics and civil society representatives specialising in international human rights.

AGENDA

31 AUGUST 2010 – DAY 1

08.00 - 08.30	Registration of participants
08.30 - 10.00	PLENARY SESSION: THE OPENING
08.30 – 08.45	Welcoming speech by Mr Rafael Dochao Moreno , Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Cambodia
08.45 – 09.00	Welcoming speech by a representative of the Royal Government of Cambodia
09.00 – 09.15	Welcoming speech by Mr. Hang Chhaya , Chairman of Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) on behalf of Cambodian civil society
09.15 – 09.30	Welcoming speech by the representative of the Presidency of the EU, Mr Dominique Mas , Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Ambassade de France au Cambodge
09.30 – 10.00	Coffee break

10.00 - 12.00

SESSION 1: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN CAMBODIA – EXCHANGE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES

Working Groups 1, 2 & 3:

Discussion in the three working groups will include:

- *Practical consideration on how human rights defenders and Cambodian authorities (village chiefs, commune and sangkats councillors, district and provincial councils and administrations) can cooperate in order to facilitate their human rights efforts; and on how to protect human rights defenders to improve their rights and capacity (legally and in practice) to play their role*
- *A discussion of the role of government officials at different levels and their specific achievements to date in the cooperation with civil society in the field of human rights*
- *A discussion of the most effective means by which civil society may contribute to the debate around the development and implementation of government policy to protect human rights*
- *Practical consideration of how representatives of civil society will build upon current human rights discussions in order to feed prioritised recommendations into the political dialogue in Cambodia*

Working Group 1 (Urban)

- 10.00 – 10.30 Introductory panel:
Panellist 1: National Assembly (tbc)
Panellist 2: Mr Thun Saray, President, Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)
Panellist 3: Trade Union representative
- 10.30 – 12.00 Discussion moderated by Norma Johnston, Good Cause Communications Ltd

Working Group 2 (Rural)

- 10.00 – 10.30 Introductory panel :
Panellist 1: Mr Bouth Chik, Member, Legislation Council, Ministry of Interior
Panellist 2: Mr Yeng Virak, Executive Director, Community Legal Education Centre
Panellist 3: Human Rights Defender (TBC)
- 10.30 – 12.00 Discussion moderated by Nov Mean Samnang, Ang Khmer Group

Working Group 3 (Gender)

- 10.00 – 10.30 Introductory panel:
Panellist 1: H.E. Hou Maline, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs
Panellist 2: Ms Seng Theary, human rights activist
Panellist 3: Ms Sopheap Ros, Executive Director, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD/C)
- 10.30 – 12.00 Discussion moderated by Mr Seth Van Doorn, Attaché Political and Commercial Affairs, EU Delegation

12.00 - 13.30

LUNCH

13.30 – 15.00

SESSION 1 CONTINUES IN GROUPS

Working Group discussions continue

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

- 15.30 – 17.00** **PLENARY SESSION**
 Presentation of the main outcomes of each Working Group, followed by a discussion
- 18.00 - 21.30** **DINNER** Restaurant *Titanic*, hosted by the European Union

1 SEPTEMBER 2010 – DAY 2

08.00 – 12.00 **SESSION 2: COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND CAMBODIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

08.00 – 08.30 **PLENARY SESSION**

08.00– 08.30 Presentation of the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the EU Human Rights Defenders guidelines by Mr Vincent Forest, Head of EU office, Frontline

Working Groups 1, 2 & 3:

Discussion in the three working groups will include:

- *Examination of how international standards (for the protection of human rights defenders and their domestic application) and good human rights practices are being applied in Cambodia, highlighting achievements and challenges to date*
- *Concrete opportunities for Cambodian and European NGO communities to contribute to the official human rights dialogue as well as to jointly apply for funding and the regulatory and legal framework for the protection of human rights defenders in Cambodia*
- *Update from the July 2010 EU-NGO Forum in Brussels with specific reference to concrete support available to Cambodian NGOs*
- *Assessment of the current development cooperation and financial instruments made available by EU Member States and the European Commission to Cambodia and those likely to be required in the longer term*

Working Group 1 (Urban)

- 08.30 – 08.50 Introductory panel:
 Panellist1: Mr Sok Sam Oeun, Executive Director, Cambodian Defenders Project
 Panellist 2: Ms Namuezi Fedi, Technical Advisor on Access to Justice, Avocats sans frontières
- 08.50 – 10.15 Discussion moderated by Norma Johnston, Good Cause Communications Ltd
- 10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break

Working Group 2 (Rural)

- 08.30 – 08.50 Introductory panel:
 Panellist 1: Ms Sao Sotheary, Project Manager, Bridges across Borders Cambodia (BABC)

- Panellist 2: Mr Jens Tinga, Chargé de mission, Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme (FIDH)
- 08.50 – 10.15 Discussion moderated by Nov Mean Samnang, Ang Khmer Group
- 10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break

Working Group 3 (Gender)

- 08.30 – 08.50 Introductory panel:
Panellist 1: Mr Ou Virak, President, Cambodian Centre for Human Rights (CCHR)
Panellist 2: Mr Patrick Burgess, Asia Director, International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
- 08.50 – 10.15 Discussion moderated by Mr Seth Van Doorn, Attaché Political and Commercial Affairs, EU Delegation
- 10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 – 12.00

PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the main outcomes of the working groups, followed by a discussion

12.00 - 13.30

LUNCH

13.30 – 17.00

EU CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

- 13.30 – 14.30 Explanation of the purpose of the recommendations in the view of the upcoming Human Rights Dialogue with Cambodia by Ms. Danielle Dal-Molin, Policy Desk for Cambodia, Unit South-East Asia, European Commission and Dr Gosia Gorska, Policy Desk Officer, Unit Human Rights, European Commission
- 14.30 – 15.30 Discussion moderated by Mr Rafael Dochao Moreno, Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Cambodia
- 15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45 – 16.30 Formulation and adoption of recommendations
- 16.30 – 17.00 Wrap up, closing remarks

Coordinators of the event:

Mr Florent RESCHE-RIGON, EU Delegation in Cambodia

Ms Maria FARIELLO, EU Delegation in Cambodia

Dr Gosia GORSKA, External Action Service of the European Union