

## USAID-Sponsored Drama Series Debuts on Cambodian TV

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

August 08, 2008



*Tep Rindaro, one of the country's best-known actors, and young female actress Keo Sereyroth star in Scales of Justice, a USAID-sponsored TV drama series.*

The first episode of *Scales of Justice*, a USAID-sponsored television drama about Cambodia's legal system, debuted on TVK and TV3 on August 9-10. The eight-part series – which stars Tep Rindaro, one of the country's best-known actors – is designed to educate viewers about the court system in an entertaining, engaging way.

The fictional show demonstrates how Cambodians can use the courts to resolve problems they encounter in daily life, including property disputes and domestic violence. By depicting how an ideal legal system would operate without problems like graft and

corruption, *Scales of Justice* aims to create demand for such a system among the Cambodian public.

The first two episodes follow a property dispute between a family and its neighbors in a rural village. The family buys a plot of land that blocks a road used by the villagers to access water and to transport goods to the local market. In a plot line typical of the show, the neighbors file a complaint in the provincial court, and the main characters – a commune police chief (Tep Rindaro) and a young female lawyer (Keo Sereyroth) – help them to resolve it.

Episodes three and four follow a divorce case; five and six a rape case; and seven and eight an assault case. At the conclusion of every episode, viewers can answer a question about a legal issue covered in the show for the chance to win prizes.

*Scales of Justice* was funded by USAID and took six months to develop and film. An expert panel of lawyers and judges advised the producers to ensure the accuracy of the courtroom scenes. The show was implemented by the East West Management Institute and was produced by the Women's Media Center of Cambodia. USAID has provided \$1.2 million in Cambodia this year to strengthen legal education, the court system and the rule of law.