

Final Court Information Boards Installed

Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia
July 24, 2008



Korm Chhean, President of Svay Rieng Courthouse, unveiled the final set of information boards.

The provincial court in Svay Rieng Province installed a set of public information boards in late July, becoming the last of Cambodia's 21 provincial courts to unveil them. The information boards, which prominently display court rules and procedures, are part of a USAID-funded effort to make the legal system more accessible and transparent to the Cambodian public.

Korm Chhean, president of the Svay Rieng Provincial Court, said the boards would help curtail corruption and inform people of their legal rights. "The boards will also make the court more efficient, because court officials won't lose time explaining the rules every time someone appears in court," he said.

Som Samang, a 21-year-old farmer from Thakop village in Svay Rieng, said the information boards would make her more likely to use the legal system to resolve disputes. "These boards are especially useful in explaining court fees and compensation procedures, which were difficult to understand before," she said.

The information boards are part of USAID's \$2 million effort this year to strengthen Cambodia's legal system by training judges and lawyers and by providing the public with greater access to information about the courts. In 2006, USAID signed a memorandum of understanding with the Royal Government of Cambodia to cooperate on strengthening the country's legal system. The East West Management Institute implemented the information boards.