
USAID LATEST HEADLINES

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the USAID-funded Renovated Auditorium at the Royal University of Law and Economics

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
September 25, 2007



Erin Soto, USAID Mission Director cutting ribbon with H.E. Im Sethy, Secretary of State of Ministry of Education and H.E. Yuok Ngoy, Rector of RULE at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony RULE Moot Courtroom.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE) for the renovated auditorium on September 25 at 4pm. Renovations of the building were funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Participating in the ceremony will be Ms. Erin Soto, USAID Mission Director, His Excellency Yuok Ngoy, Rector of RULE, and Secretary of State for the Ministry of Education, His Excellency Im Sethy.

Renovations of the auditorium were completed during the recent summer break and preserve a landmark, Khmer-style building on the RULE campus. The building now houses a modern auditorium that includes the first moot courtroom in Cambodia. This courtroom was utilized in the very successful first Cambodian mock trial competition, funded by USAID, held in June.

The mock courtroom provides a modern facility for interactive legal education, and a proper forum for teaching trial advocacy to RULE law students and others in the legal community. It also provides innovative classroom space for law clinic practical instruction, which is another component of USAID's work in legal education.

USAID provided \$90,000 for the renovation of the RULE building and auditorium. The renovations included the installation of a new roof, floors, doors, ceilings, drainage system and handicap access ramps inside and outside the building. The electrical system was rewired and new lights, fans and audio sound system, including mixing components, microphones, projector, and motorized screen were provided. An entirely new mock courtroom stage including judge's bench, lawyer's tables, chairs and other furniture was also donated by USAID.

Since 2005, USAID has provided approximately \$4.8 million to support the "Program on Rights and Justice," which works to improve the quality, effectiveness and transparency of the Cambodian judicial system. USAID partners in this effort are East West Management Institute and the American Bar Association.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at the Royal University of Law and Economic.