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## **U.S. Establishes \$2 million Endowment for the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)**



Mark Storella, U.S. Charge d'Affaires a.i., and Youk Chhang, Director DC-Cam, during signing ceremony of the DC-Cam Endowment at U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh. (Photo courtesy of Suzana Sorinchan)

On August 30, 2005 Youk Chhang, Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), signed an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) establishing a permanent Endowment. The Endowment is a \$2 million gift from the American people to allow DC-Cam to maintain their efforts to promote the awareness and accountability for crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge era.

Mark Storella, U.S. Charge d'Affaires a.i., stated during the ceremony that “the Endowment provides further evidence of the U.S. government’s longstanding commitment to DC-Cam.” Under the Endowment agreement DC-Cam will receive annual earnings from the \$2 million principal invested, which can then be used to support DC-Cam’s core and specified program costs. Thus, providing DC-Cam a predictable annual income that they can use to mobilize additional resources from other donors and benefactors.

As a witness to the signing ceremony Jonathan Addleton, USAID Mission Director, stated that “of all the civil society organizations supported by USAID, DC-Cam is one that we envision will remain serving forthcoming generations twenty, fifty or one-hundred years into the future. We sincerely hope that this Endowment will help DC-Cam obtain their vision of a permanent center.” Youk Chhang stated: “DC-Cam, just like national road number 4, has been serving many hundreds of thousands of people since it was first established and built. DC-Cam is a place where genocide survivors and their children’s children can re-connect with the past and move on with their lives into a better future.”

DC-Cam is an independent research institute that has its origins in the Cambodian Genocide Program that was created at Yale University in 1995 with a grant from the U.S. Department of State. DC-Cam aims to serve as a permanent resource to provide the public with a better understanding of the Khmer Rouge regime, and to Cambodians or others who may wish to pursue legal redress for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity which may have been perpetrated under the Democratic Kampuchea from 1975-79. DC-Cam catalogues public documents; interviews former Khmer Rouge functionaries; maps mass graves; produces the magazine Searching for the Truth; maintains a library, audio-visual studios, printing house and exhibition hall; manages a training institute; and provides psycho-social assistance to those victims who suffered torture under the Khmer Rouge regime through the Victims of Torture Project.

For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy at 023 216 436.

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