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## USAID HIGHLIGHTS

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### Mock Trial Competition

Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
May 29, 2009



*The team from Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia won the Mock Trial Competition sponsored by USAID.*

Teams from seven Cambodian law schools competed for the honor of national champion at the Third Annual Cambodian Mock Trial Competition on May 27-29. The team from Paññāsāstra University won the event, which was sponsored by USAID.

During the competition, student teams played the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a civil case involving a fictitious dispute between a buyer and

seller of land in Siem Reap.

In preparation for the competition, student teams participated in a two-day interactive training workshop during which they learned basic examination and case-analysis skills.

The final trial was held in the model courtroom at the Royal University of Law Economics, which USAID renovated in 2007. The final trial was presided over by a panel of three judges: Reed Aeschliman of USAID, James Turpin of the UN, and Tan Senarong, a judge at the Kandal Court.

The Mock Trial Competition is part of the USAID-funded Program on Rights and Justice, which is implemented by the East West Management Institute and the American Bar Association. The program has introduced a number of exciting initiatives in legal education, such as the Client Counseling Competition, legal clinics, legal ethics and alternative dispute resolution.