Press Release

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For Immediate Release

NEW LAND CONCESSION MAPS SHOW DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN CAMBODIA

The Cambodian Centre for Human Rights (CCHR) released its new land concession mapping database today called Tracking Development available at [http://www.sithi.org/index.php?url=landissue/mapping_dev.php](http://www.sithi.org/index.php?url=landissue/mapping_dev.php). The new tools allow the user to view available natural resources with overlapping land uses. The images are compelling and an effective visual tool that explain development trends in Cambodia in a new light. The intent of these new maps is to raise awareness about how land uses impacts upon the livelihoods of the rural poor in Cambodia and is a complement to CCHR’s current site where they monitor human rights abuses, which predominantly relate to land issues.

A total of 120 economic land concessions, 23 special economic zones, 63 hydropower projects and 88 mineral concessions and 16 offshore-onshore blocks have been granted to private companies totaling over 3,600,000 ha of land. To date there has been no regular or consolidated official update on the current status or number of concessions being granted by the Government for all types of concessions and development projects.

A collaborative effort by various organizations to monitor and update this information has been undertaken over the last year and the result: details of all concessions being granted by the government, listed by companies or reported in the press, are now in one place and displayed visually. These concession types include not just land allocations for plantation development but for Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Mining operations for minerals, oil and gas and hydropower projects.

Many of these concessions are not yet active, but the maps show the extent to which the government has been granting land, forest and other natural resources that people depend on for their livelihoods to companies for industrial development. “The maps available this week are first drafts. More concessions ‘on the ground’ are not publicly available yet, so this is just a starting point. We plan to update the maps as more information comes to light.”
“The maps can’t capture all the land issues facing Cambodia today. There are scores of land problems like land alienation, though covering large areas, are not possible to map. The new maps are only conservative estimates of the problem of land and forest conflict in Cambodia.” Mr Ou Virak, President of CCHR said.

Eventually the maps will be available in an interactive format which can be manipulated by the user to gain the latest and up to date information on the status of all land concessions in Cambodia. The maps will be disseminated in rural areas in an accessible format to help inform communities about upcoming development initiatives in their areas.

For more information, please contact:

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1 Data collected or these maps are from varying sources, it was difficult to verify in some cases which were the most current concessions, thus the figures quoted here are estimates.
3 According to the latest JICA Master Plan Study of 2007 and the MRC 1995.
4 This figure by far is not representative of the actual number of mining licenses for exploration, exploitation and concessions. Exact figures and facts are difficult to obtain due to lack of transparency in government sources and conflicting company data.
5 According to the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority: [http://www.cnpcambodia.com/](http://www.cnpcambodia.com/), but also including the latest TOTAL agreement.
6 This figure reflects approximations only of land area allocated for, mineral, ELC, SEZ concessions and 12 proposed hydropower flooded areas.