



**មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា**  
**Cambodian Center for Human Rights**

**CCHR MEDIA COMMENT – Phnom Penh, 6 January 2013**

**CCHR highlights concerns with working conditions of Cambodian garment workers**

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) remains concerned with the working conditions in Cambodian garment factories, which are clearly not yet safe and healthy for workers, and which are in breach of workers’ basic labor rights. CCHR’s concerns have been fanned by recent figures issued for the number of garment workers fainting in 2012 as reported by *The Cambodia Daily* on 3 January 2013 (‘Garment Worker Faintings Decreased in 2012’).

The Ministry of Labor’s Inspection and Legal Affairs Department has stated that 1,686 garment workers from 24 factories fainted in 2012, in contrast to the 1,973 reported fainting incidents across only 12 factories in 2011. However, this statistic is contradicted by that offered by the Free Trade Union, which claims that 2,107 garment workers from 29 factories fainted in 2012. Nevertheless, even if the Ministry’s figures are taken as accurate, while the actual number of fainting incidents has decreased, the number of affected factories has increased, indicating that the problem has actually become more widespread. In any event, the number is still too high, and it should be the target of factories, brands, consumers, unions and government to recognize the problem and take steps to ensure that such incidents are drastically reduced in 2013. CCHR seeks to focus attention on nutrition and food safety and ventilation systems in the workplace, as well as the need to cease compulsory overtime work, as factors that need to be examined with a view to protecting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favorable working conditions.

**In response, CCHR Business and Human Rights Project Coordinator, Leang Sok, comments:**

*“The responsibility of businesses to provide favorable working conditions is paramount. Increased national and international attention on the Cambodian garment industry means that this problem must be tackled urgently. International brands buying from Cambodian factories should be aware of this issue and put pressure on their manufacturers to improve working conditions. Such action will benefit their reputation among consumers while helping Cambodia develop in the right direction.”*

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**Notes to Editor:**

CCHR, founded in November 2002, is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights – primarily civil and political rights – throughout Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for freedom of expression.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal [www.sithi.org](http://www.sithi.org) is the 2011 winner of the Information Society Innovation Fund Award in the category of Rights and Freedoms.