

# Dialogue on the 'way forward' for rights in Cambodia



The Cambodia Institute of Democracy hosted a panel dialogue on human rights in Cambodia yesterday in Phnom Penh. CID

The Cambodia Institute of Democracy (CID) hosted a panel dialogue on human rights in Cambodia under the theme, “Human Rights in Cambodia: Challenges and the Way Forward”.

Yesterday, the institute invited all the key stakeholders together to discuss and raise awareness about the Human Rights situations in Cambodia in Phnom Penh.

During the CID dialogue, Sreng Chenda, a member of Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC) , said that conditions for Human Rights in Cambodia are favourable and the country is a party to the United Nations International Human Rights Treaty.

Chenda said that human rights principles consist of two main components – Independence and interdependence.

“Human rights can only be upheld and promoted if we depend on each other,” said Chenda.

“Human rights can be protected and promoted only under peaceful roots, and to maintain long term peace, we need to promote human rights”, he added.

Chenda urged for joint efforts from all stakeholders to improve Cambodia’s human rights situation.

“Spreading awareness about human rights is a fresh start,” he said.

“Citizens must understand not just their rights, constitutions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but also their obligations in the practice of human rights,” Chenda added.

Chak Sopheap, Executive Director of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), also addressed the human rights space in Cambodia.

She is calling for collective cooperation and is urging everyone to improve the situation of human rights in Cambodia.

Em Sovannara, an independent analyst and professor of political science and international relations, said: “The implemented laws are very good, but the actual practice is not always in accord with the law.”

He added that improvements to human rights protection in Cambodia can be achieved through support from the international community and through the Paris Peace Agreements to help promote greater respect for human and political rights.