



**CCHR’s Annual Report for 2013**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”)</b>
<b>Project Goal</b>	CCHR’s vision is of a non-violent Cambodia in which people can enjoy the fundamental human rights to which they are entitled, are treated equally, are empowered to participate in democracy, and all can share in the benefits of Cambodia’s ongoing economic development.
<b>Duration</b>	From January- December 2013

During this reporting period from January-December 2013, Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) has worked progressively toward its plan as the following:

**I. Progress**

From 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013 (the “Reporting Period”), CCHR issued 73 publication including Press Releases/Media Comments/Open Letters, Human Rights Defenders and/or Freedom of Expression Alerts, Briefing Notes, Research Reports, Factsheets, Legal Analysis, handbooks, outcome reports/policy briefs and submission. These documents covered a wide variety of human rights issues, varying from land rights, business and human rights, women’s political representative, political/electoral/governance reform, freedom of expression, sexual orientation and gender identity, judicial reform, human rights defenders, minority rights, and more. In addition, CCHR conducted 78 radio talk shows related to various topic including land rights and human rights defenders etc., organized one roundtable discussion and one workshop on freedom of expression and one policy platform on land rights, and held 14 trainings on topics ranging from information technology, to social media, to fair trial rights, to security measures for human rights defenders.

Of particular note, in November 2013, CCHR ran a [campaign](#) in the lead-up to the International Day to End Impunity on 23 November. As part of the campaign, CCHR highlighted cases of impunity in Cambodian, including those where human rights defenders, activists and journalists who have been harassed or killed: union leader Chea Vichea, environmental activist Chut Wutty and journalist Hang Serei Oudom.

**II. What went well and what didn’t**

In late August 2013, CCHR released its [Pre-Trial and Trial Procedures: A Handbook for Criminal Procedures in Cambodian Courts](#), under its Trial Monitoring Project, in order to assist defendants and their families, defense lawyers and civil society gain a better understanding of Cambodian criminal procedures through the production of an easy-to-access guide. The Handbook was well received by the public and by the government, with many people requesting hard copies of the Handbook,

including representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, and the Bar Association. This accompanied several other successful publications under the Trial Monitoring Project, including Briefing Notes on [the Use of Pre-Trial Detention in Cambodian Courts](#) (July 2013) and on the [Severance of Proceedings in Case 002 at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia](#) (October 2013), which were widely covered in both local and international media. For example, CCHR Trial Monitoring Project Coordinator was interviewed via Skype by the [Wall Street Journal](#) discussing the closing statements at the ECCC, and the Briefing Note was quoted in a news article by Voice of America.

Under the umbrella of the Sithi Project, which hosts CCHR's award-winning Cambodian Human Rights Web Portal at [www.sithi.org](http://www.sithi.org), CCHR received funding to set up the "Sithi Hub." The Sithi Hub is a physical space in Phnom Penh, providing the resources and tools for young activists and innovators – such as bloggers, Information Technology ("IT") specialists and web developers – and human rights workers alike to capitalize on the internet and on Information and Communication Technologies ("ICT") and to develop and/or adapt new technologies for the defense of human rights and freedom of expression in particular. The Sithi Hub is used both as a working space for members and as a training space, in order to strengthen members' capacity to use new and innovative tools and methods for human rights change.

### **III. Lessons learned**

The ongoing political deadlock which has emerged from the National Assembly elections of July 2013 has had important implications for CCHR's work. As the government is currently controlled by only one party – with the opposition continuing to boycott the National Assembly at the time of writing – there have been limited opportunities over the second half of 2013 for CCHR to advocate for human rights change as it traditionally does. Simultaneously, the political deadlock has resulted in a need for CCHR to respond to situations that the organization typically does not focus on – such as political, governance, and electoral reform. As such, the biggest "lesson learned" from the past few months has been that CCHR must maintain sufficient internal capacity to be flexible to developments in Cambodia and, while maintaining specific thematic projects, have the resources (particularly in terms of staff) to respond to such developments without sacrificing the ongoing work on those specific projects.

### **IV. Gender and the Rights Based Approach**

CCHR strives to achieve gender equality throughout all of its programs and projects. Through its ongoing Project to Promote Women in Politics, CCHR focuses particularly on advocating for an increase in women's political representation at both the national and local levels, while continuing to respond to issues related to women's rights in a broader sense on a regular basis. Of note, in early December 2013, CCHR issued a [supplement](#) to its March 2013 report, "Politics in the Kingdom: Increasing Female Representation," highlighting the results of the July 2013 National Assembly Elections and the implications for the level of women's political representation

As a human rights organization, CCHR undertakes a "rights-based" and principled approach to all of its work. A key example of this is CCHR's stance on the anti-Vietnamese sentiments expressed by the political opposition in Cambodia. While CCHR has received extensive and sometimes violent backlash over this (see CCHR [Press Release](#) and OMCT [Urgent Appeal](#)), CCHR continues to strongly believe that, as a human rights organization, the organization must maintain a strict, rights-based and non-political approach to all of its work.

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