Introduction
This edition of the Sithi Project newsletter highlights new and noteworthy activities undertaken over the past several months: regular trainings for human rights enthusiasts within CCHR’s new technology-focused “Sithi Hub,” a map of garment factories operating throughout Cambodia, and the new Rainbow Khmer Portal – CCHR’s one-stop shop for information related to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) Cambodians.

Trainings at the Sithi Hub
With a focus on applying Information Communication Technologies (“ICT”) to human rights, the Sithi Hub – an output of the Sithi Project – has been established by CCHR as a place where people can undertake individual projects merging ICT and human rights research and advocacy, receive support from CCHR on these projects, and learn new skills through trainings and workshops provided by CCHR staff and external experts.

Since the establishment of the Sithi Hub, a number of informal discussions and skills trainings have been held, stressing the role of ICT in promoting human rights. Topics of discussion have included the role of social media platforms – such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – in shaping the political landscape; blogging for social good, including technical training in how to use WordPress; and Google Applications.

The current events at the Sithi Hub includes a training on developing applications for Android smart phone, which will take place over the course of a three-month period. Contact us at info@sithi.org for more information about the training and other upcoming trainings and on how to become a member of the Sithi Hub.

Garment Factories in Cambodia
According to Better Factories Cambodia – a project of the International Labour Organization – the garment industry makes up approximately 80% of total export revenues in Cambodia and employs more than 400,000 workers, the majority of which are women. Although there have been significant improvements over the past few decades, there remains serious problems with regards to labor rights, working conditions and wages.

Garment Factories and Supply Chains

On 30 June 2013 CCHR released a map of garment factories operating in Cambodia and their supply chains (the “Garment Factory Map”). The Garment Factory Map provides detailed profiles for each factory, including the factory’s location, the
nationality of the owner, the types of products manufactured, the number of employees and, where available, the specific brands supplied. The information is gathered from official records of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (“GMAC”) and from news media and relevant publications in Khmer or English.

There are at least 559 garment factories – which produce garments for local and international markets – currently registered and operating in Cambodia, the majority of which are located in and around the capital, Phnom Penh. At least 95 of these factories produce and supply garments to major international brands such as Adidas, Calvin Klein, Clarks, H&M, Levi’s, Macy’s, Nike, Old Navy, Puma, Reebok, The Gap, Wal-Mart, and others.

With an increasing number of protests over working conditions in garment factories and several recent accidents in factories, which have resulted in several deaths and injuries, there is a need for greater transparency regarding the ownership and the supply chains of Cambodia’s garment factories. While more work needs to be done to highlight the specific factories where human rights abuses are most prevalent, this map aims to provide shareholders, consumers and all other interested parties with the basic information about these factories and their suppliers and to increase public awareness of where and in what conditions their clothes are made, with a long-term goal to reduce human rights violations associated with Cambodia’s garment sector.

**One-Stop Shop on LGBT Rights in Cambodia**

CCHR’s Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Project works with and on behalf of the LGBT community in Cambodia through supporting and empowering grassroots networks and advocating for policy change. While homosexuality is not illegal in Cambodia and LGBT Cambodians are theoretically subject to the same protections as other Cambodian citizens, there is no legislation or policy specifically to protect LGBT Cambodians. As a result, discrimination in the workplace and other sectors, harassment by the authorities and exclusion from the family and community are all common experiences of LGBT people in Cambodia. And despite CCHR’s efforts to highlight the gaps in legislation and programming, there has been little effort to date on the part of the government to address these issues.

On 9 August 2013, CCHR launched the Rainbow Khmer Portal to provide LGBT Cambodians, civil society and individuals interested in LGBT rights with up-to-date resources related to the rights of LGBT people, including national and international laws, news articles, reports by national and international NGOs, videos, photo galleries of related events, a glossary of LGBT terms and a directory of LGBT activists across the country.

CCHR hopes that the portal will provide a useful tool in combating discrimination and in pushing for the positive promotion of LGBT rights. CCHR encourages all interested parties to contribute to the portal by providing news articles, reports and other relevant materials for publication to info@cchrcambodia.org.

**About the Sithi Project**

Sithi means “Rights” in Khmer. The Sithi Project aims at increasing awareness and understanding of human rights – especially civil and political rights – and their status in Cambodia.

**CONTACT**

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