

Dr. Handa
Compensation and Memorial Fund
For the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide

Project Compilation

Contents

Acknowledgment

Part I Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of The Khmer Rouge Genocide

- 1. Goals and Objectives**
- 2. Activities**
- 3. Interview Questionnaire**
- 4. Selection Criteria**
- 5. Documentation**
- 6. Ceremony**

Part II Future Directions

Part III Victims' Responses

Part IV News Clippings

- i. Koh Santepheap Daily (October 2006)**
- ii. Pracheaprei Magazine (April 2006)**
- iii. Koh Santepheap Newspaper (May 2006)**
- iv. Meantuphoum Newspaper (August 2005)**
- v. Samleng Chunpika News (August 2005)**
- vi. Cambodia Today (August 2005)**

Part V Recipients' Names

Part VI Photographs

Acknowledgments

The University of Cambodia owes a debt of gratitude to **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister**, The Kingdom of Cambodia, for his remarkable support in the establishment of the *Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide*.

Many thanks also go to...

H.E. Mr. Say Chhum, *MPs, Kompong Speu Constituency*

H.E. Mr. Sok An and **Lok Chumteav**, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers*

H.E. Mr. Hor Nam Hong and **Lok Chumteav**, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

H.E. Mr. Un Noeng and **Lok Chumteav**, *MPs, Kompong Constituency*

.....for their high presidencies during the aid distribution ceremonies in the provinces of *Kompong Speu, Kandal, Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom* and *Takeo*.

Our utmost thanks go to **Dr. Haruhisa Handa**, *Chairman, World Mate Organization; Chancellor, The University of Cambodia*, for his blessed financial and spiritual support in establishing this important fund.

And special thanks to the UC staff, faculty, and personnel who have successfully supported the achievements of this prominent project. We are most grateful to them.

Dr. Handa

Compensation and Memorial Fund

For the Victims of the Khmer Rouge genocide

I. Goals and Objectives

The University of Cambodia established the *Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide* project in August 2005.

The Fund was established to honor the nearly two million Cambodians who died during the Khmer Rouge Genocide (1975-1979). It also aims to support those who survived the torturous Khmer Rouge Regime.

The Fund's objectives and budget were announced in August 2005. **Dr. Haruhisa Handa**, a highly active philanthropist and Chairman of World Mate Organization in Japan, made graciously benevolent contributions to the Fund.

The Fund was set up by the Board of Trustees of The University of Cambodia in mid-2005 with the intention to make a positive contribution to Cambodian society by providing a token of compensation for those who died as well as for those who survived the Khmer Rouge. In essence, the Fund is a symbolic gesture to psychologically and spiritually support the Cambodian people, particularly those who survived the Khmer Rouge atrocity.

Alongside the convening of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, the establishment of this Fund can also support the process of national reconciliation and national healing in Cambodia, so as to ensure peace, non-violence and non-retribution. While the tribunal will attempt to bring justice to the Cambodian people, the Fund aims to console the victimized families, particularly those who lost the heads of their households and who have been facing psychological, physical, and economic difficulties caused by the Khmer Rouge. In this regard, it is important for society as a whole to recognize the enormous challenges and psychological trauma confronting the families who have been victimized by the Khmer Rouge.

While there are other programs and other sources, this Fund supports the compensation program and remembrance activities. The Funds intends to make a \$100 contribution per family for up to 10,000 victims' families. The Board of the World Mate Organization pledged \$1,000,000 in the hope that other sources regionally and internationally might support and enhance this Fund.

The Fund is being managed by an Executive Committee set up by The University of Cambodia, which established the necessary criteria to determine fairly and objectively those families that deserve the most.

2. Activities

The activities of this project are mainly focused at the grass-roots level, i.e. the provinces where the victims of the Khmer Rouge live, such as *Kompong Speu, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Takeo*, and other provinces.

In order to properly implement this project, an Executive Committee led by Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of The University of Cambodia, was established. Committee members include (1) Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Chairman; (2) H.E. Neang Phath, Secretary of State, Ministry of National Defense, Member; (3) H.E. Samraing Kamsan, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Member; (4) Mr. Phuorng Sith, Vigilant NGO, Member; and (5) Ms. Hout Rattanak, Executive Director, NGOs Forum, Member. The roles of the Executive Committee are to identify and manage all tasks and resolve every issue related to this project. These include the distribution of the application forms, deciding criteria for applicants and the evaluation of the outcomes.

Subsequently, a research group was created. This research group comprises 12 people and was divided into four small teams of three. Before undertaking research, these group members were trained in research methodology, rules of procedure and selection criteria, professional codes of conduct, interviewing methods and questionnaire construction.

With direct instructions and the advice of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the research teams established their plans and schedules and are eager to get to the provinces to accomplish the goals determined by the UC Executive Committee.

The First Phase of distributing the *Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide* project (2006 – 2007) focused on the following provinces: *Kompong Speu, Kandal, Kompong Chham, Kompong Thom, and Takeo*.

3. Interview Questionnaires

There were many questions to be raised for interviewing the victims of the Khmer Rouge, but among them the five below were predominant:

- 1- What danger did you encounter during the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime?
- 2- Do you have any intention of seeking revenge, or do you harbor hatred and intolerance for former Khmer Rouge members?
- 3- How should we end this bitter history of the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime?
- 4- If the Dr. Handa Fund and The University of Cambodia planned to offer you a grant, what would you do with that money?

- 5- What do you think about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal that is being organized by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations?

These five questions have been asked in interviews with the victims of the Khmer Rouge in every province.

4. Selection Criteria

The victims who are to be interviewed should conform to the following criteria:

- 1- They must be widows who were seriously affected during the Khmer Rouge genocide regime;
- 2- They must be widows, whose husbands and many children were mercilessly killed by the Khmer Rouge; and
- 3- They must be elderly widows, who are very poor and are now living without shelter and support.

5. Documentation

Once the interviews are finished, the research groups have to collect all of the documents pertaining to the interviews and the list of interviewee names as well as the outcome of the interviews. This information is to be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and final discussion.

Based on this data, the Executive Committee will screen and select the most adversely affected victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide who appropriately match the criteria determined by the Executive Committee.

Next, the names of the selected people are incorporated into an official list signed by the Chairman of the Executive Committee. Prior to distributing the donations, the list is sent to the district, communes and villages where the interviews were conducted to inform them about the results of the interviews.

Official ceremonies to distribute the *Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of Khmer Rouge Genocide* donations are publicly organized under the high presidency of the Leaders of the State in each province where the victims live. During the ceremonies, the sponsor or his representatives and delegation, and President of UC are also present. The process of distributing aid for the victims of Khmer Rouge Regime is jointly organized by The University of Cambodia and the local authorities. These official ceremonies are very important occasions for people to meet, to know, and to talk directly with the donors. These ceremonies also publicize the real objectives of the donation as

well as provide the opportunity for recipients to thank the donors. The ceremonies also inform the people about the current issues pertaining to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal and reveal all sufferings that occurred during the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime. Memorial speeches are not defined as hatred and vengeance against the Khmer Rouge to generate national dislocation or division but to extract experiences so that this wicked regime cannot be returned to power in Cambodia once again. The critical goals of the ceremonies are to maintain peace prosperity and sustainable development in Cambodia.

6. Ceremony

Since 2005, The University of Cambodia has managed and conducted ceremonies to distribute \$100 tokens to the Khmer Rouge victims.

First Ceremony

The first ceremony was organized on April 24, 2006, for 203 families living in Soportep Commune, Chhbar Mon District, Kompong Speu province. The ceremony was presided by H.E. Mr. Say Chhum, *MP of Kampong Speu Constituency*, in the presence of Dr. Haruhisa Handa, *Chairman, World Mate Organization*, and his donor delegation. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, *Secretay of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation* and *UC President* was also present at the ceremony. This ceremony was jointly organized by The University of Cambodia and the Kompong Speu local authority.

Second Ceremony

On October 26, 2006, the Pedagogic School in Kandal Province provided the venue for the second ceremony. During the second ceremony, aid was distributed to families of 1,000 Khmer Rouge victims residing in three principal districts including Saang, Koh Thom, and Kandal Stoeng. This official ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Sok An, *DPM, Minister in charge of Council of Ministers* and Lok Chumteav, *Higher Representative of Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister, Royal Government of Cambodia*. A multitude of people attended the distribution event, including MPs, Senators, members of the government, and national and international guests. Dr. Haruhisa Handa, *Chairman of World Mate*, and his delegation as well as Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, *UC President*, and other friends of UC attended. In close cooperation with the local authority of Kandal Province, The University of Cambodia successfully conducted the second distribution ceremony of the Dr. Handa Fund.

Third Ceremony

The third Dr. Handa Fund distribution ceremony was conducted at *Batheay District, Kompong Chham Province*, on January 30, 2007. This official ceremony was conducted at the Pagoda of Trapaing Tea in Mesrei Village, Mepring Commune. Another 1,000 Khmer Rouge victims' families benefited from the ceremony. H.E. Mr. Hor Nam Hong, *Deputy Prime Minister, The Royal Government of Cambodia; Minister of the Ministry of*

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, presided over the ceremony. Dr. Haruhisa Handa, *Chairman of World Mate Organization* and Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, *UC President*, warmly welcomed all guests to the remarkable ceremony. Close cooperation with the local authorities made the ceremony a success.

The Fourth Ceremony

On March 6, 2007, the fourth ceremony was conducted at *Sandan and Prasath Sambeau Districts* in *Kompong Thom Province*. The fourth ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Un Noeng, *Member of Parliament*, and responsible for *Kompong Thom Constituency* and *Lok Chumteav*. With the presence of Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, *UC President*, and *Lok Chumteav*, the *Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund* was successfully conducted in the spirit of benevolent and humanitarian aid. The official ceremony distributed aid to 500 victimized families. The *University of Cambodia* research team cooperated closely with the local authorities to accomplish aid distribution in both districts.

The Fifth Ceremony

The fifth ceremony was conducted on December 21, 2007, in *Kirivong District* in *Takeo Province*. There were 1,000 recipients of the *Dr. Handa Fund*. This official ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Sok An, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers*. Also present at this ceremony was Mr. Handa, brother of Dr. Haruhisa Handa, and Ms. Midori Miyazaki, *Representative of World Mate Organization*, and two delegate photographers. H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, *Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; President of the University of Cambodia*, also attended. The ceremony was jointly organized by *The University of Cambodia* and the *Kirivong District Local Authority*. The ceremony was solemnly conducted in the spirit of responsibility and amity.

As of February 2009, 3,703 victimized families have received aid.

Part II

Future Directions

The World Mate Organization has made provisions for 10,000 Khmer Rouge victims' families. This leaves 6,297 families who remain eligible for the Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund donations as of February 2009.

2008 Activities

The continued distribution of the Dr. Handa Fund should be divided into 6 ceremonies for the year 2008 and 2009. In 2008, the distribution should be made three times in the places indicated below:

The first ceremony aims to distribute aid to 1,000 victimized families in *Thmar Kol District* in *Battambang Province*. This ceremony will be presided over by H.E. Mr. Sar Kheng, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior* and Lok Chumteav in March 2008.

The second ceremony intends to distribute aid in *Batheay District* in *Kompong Cham Province* for 1,000 victimized families. The ceremony will be under the high presidency of H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong, *Deputy Prime Minister, The Royal Government of Cambodia; Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation* in April 2008.

The third aid distribution will be another 1,000 victimized families in *Chbar Mon District* in *Kompong Speu Province*. This official ceremony will be presided over by H.E. Mr. Say Chhum, *MP for Kompong Speu Constituency*, in May 2008.

2009 Activities

In 2009, three aid distribution ceremonies are planned. The first ceremony intends to take place in Prey Veng Province, for 1,000 families, under the presidency of H.E. Mr. Chea Sim, *President of Senate*, in February 2009; the second ceremony is planned for Siem Reap Province in April 2009, presided over by H.E. Mr. Tea Banh, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense*; and the third ceremony is to be conducted in June 2009 in *Kampot Province*, under the high offices of the Prime Minister.

Part III

Victims' Responses

Among the 4,500 victimized families interviewed, 3,703 victims officially received Dr. Handa's \$100 donation. It is worth noting that during the interviews there were many interview questions asked by our research groups. However, there were only five principal questions. These five major questions have been already mentioned in the previous section.

The first question asked, "What dangers did the victims encounter during the Khmer Rouge genocidal?"

Almost 100 percent of the victims responded thus...

- The mobilization of the people from the cities to live in the rural areas, to separate them from their families, to force them to overwork without thinking about young children or elderly;
- Inadequate food, resulting in malnutrition and illness;
- Murder of entire family groups.

The second question asked, "Does the respondent have any intention of seeking revenge, or does she harbor hatred and intolerance for former Khmer Rouge members?"

Nearly 80 percent of respondents said that they had no intention of seeking vengeance nor harbors hatred for the Khmer Rouge Regime. However, victims asked the Royal Government of Cambodia to bring the Khmer Rouge leaders to court to prevent a recurrence of horrors. Moreover, all of the victims strongly supported the win-win policy led by Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, and asked to resume implementation of the noble causes of peace, prosperity, and happiness of the Cambodian people. In addition, 20 percent of those respondents who answered that they did not want to take vengeance or feel hatred, added that they can never forget the Khmer Rouge.

The third question asked, "What should Cambodia do to end this bitter history of the Khmer Rouge genocide regime?"

All the interviews revealed that the victims did not know how to end it, but recommended not to make war again for they have suffered too much in the last three decades because of the genocide and the long civil war that followed. They also asked the Royal Government of Cambodia to quickly work on alleviating poverty.

The fourth question asked, “If the Dr. Handa Fund and The University of Cambodia offered the respondent the grant, what would she do with that money?”

Everyone responded that they would thank the donor very much for their benevolence and pray for their longevity and unforgettable merits. Part of this money would be used to pay for a traditional feast to dedicate to the spirits of their late husbands, children, and relatives who were killed by the Khmer Rouge; and the rest of it will be used to alleviate poverty in their families. A majority of them asked to meet with the donor to thank him personally. Every victim pledged to spend this money in accordance with the donor’s aspirations.

The last question which asked, “What does the respondent think about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal organized by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations?”

Some people responded that they did not know that there is such a tribunal. However, 95 percent of the victims answered that the Khmer Rouge leaders should be brought to the court for their crimes against humanity. A few others said nothing about this issue.

The followings are responses to questions regarding difficulties and sufferings during the Khmer Rouge Genocide. 100 percent of the people surveyed characterized the Khmer Rouge Regime as a very wicked, wild and inhuman regime. Grandmother Kin Nom, 58, living at *Rougeang Phkar village, Soportep Commune, Chhbar Mon District, Kompong Speu Province*, told our research team that the genocide was very cruel. After her husband had been killed, her three other children were separated to live and work at youth camps. The Khmer Rouge soldiers forced her to climb palm trees to get palm juice to make sugar. She had never climbed a palm tree in her life. Afraid of being assassinated, she forced herself to learn how to climb palm trees.

Traditionally, Cambodian women do not climb palm trees. Women habitually stayed home to cook sugar palm juice in order to evaporate the water and obtain concentrated sugar. However, the men were taken to the field or work sites where the majority of them were killed by being overworked or died of starvation.

Grandmother San Soth, 68, living at *Anlong Prakhlass Village, Soportep Commune, Chbar Mon district, Kompong Speu Province*, also told our interview team that at *Pursat Province*, where she was exiled to, the Khmer Rouge forced women to climb palm trees too, whenever men were away to work. Some women could, but others could not climb palm trees. Those who could not were forced to work in the field until they starved to death.

Not only that, each morning, the elderly who could not do hard labor were assigned to join the group of old men and women to pick up human excrement to make fertilizer. Grandmother Soeur Yim, 65, living at *Prek-Ho village, Takhmao, Kandal Province*, remembered that during the Khmer Rouge, the elderly from every region who had been forced to move from the city to live in the countryside were punished by such means.

Even though elderly adults were strongly nauseated, they forced themselves to pick up excrements from the latrines to make fertilizer.

Grandmothers Veng Phan, 62, Chuon Soeung, 69, and Duk Sok, 65, who were all evacuated to live at the district of *Maung, Pursat Province* during the Khmer Rouge Genocide, told our research team that nothing compared to the suffering and starvation experienced during the Khmer Rouge era. It was an extra starvation. There was nothing in this world worse than hunger. They saw with their own eyes, human beings eating human flesh. When there was nothing to eat the people in Maung ate the corpses. How nauseating it was!

Grandmother Chea Chhom, 65, living at the *New Village, Takhao, Kandal*, said that in *Maung District, Pursat Province*, she had seen a father eating his child's dead body. At the time when his child died of starvation, he didn't allow anyone to know. He kept the corpse secretly in his cottage to make food. When people knew about the fact, they reported to the Angkar (Khmer Rouge local authority), then the man was taken away and killed.

Another cruel act was that the Khmer Rouge gave poison pills to the ill, promising a cure. Those fake pills swiftly killed the patients. The widow Mei Chamroeun, 57, living at *Prey Samrong, Takhao, Kandal Province*, who was exiled to *Pursat Province*, said that her two children suffered swelling because of a lack of sodium. One morning, a female traditional physician of the village appeared with a handful of traditional rabbit dung pills to cure her children's illness. She gave them to her children to be swallowed so that they could be quickly relieved and could go to the children's work site. The female physician of the village said that these pills had been very efficient, but at the beginning, it would cause an abnormal state, for they made patients convulse.

After having swallowed the pills, their bodies began to twist immediately like a flurry. The children loudly cried out for help. However, the female physician of the village had disappeared. The children's mother ran to find a physician to help her children, but she could not find anyone. Returning with despair, she found her children had already died with blood coming out from their mouths and ears. The grandmother said it was a cruel inhuman crime. Her village neighbors also reiterated that the method of killing by giving poison pills to patients had existed everywhere during the Khmer Rouge Genocide. They heard the Khmer Rouge cadres say that the New People (those who came from the cities) were useless and should be disposed of without delay.

Another serious punishment conducted by the Khmer Rouge was overworking people and providing them with inadequate nutrition. This punishment occurred in every work site. Grandmother Chea Siek, 61, living at *Phum Thnot Chuor, Sreung, Prasath Sambeau, Kompong Thom Province*, said that her daughter and two grandchildren died from starvation. The young girls were forced to live in the youth camp called *Prey Kanleng*. In the camp, they were forced into slave labor with nothing to eat.

Speaking with tears, she said that in 1976, she was secretly informed by a neighbor that her daughter and two grandchildren were assigned to guard the yam field called Opork. This field was situated between the rain forest and the red land that bordered *Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom Provinces*. After a few weeks, they were drawn back to camp. Because the rain forest was infested with malaria-carrying mosquitoes, all the children fell ill with malaria. They became thinner and thinner, weaker and weaker. The Khmer Rouge abandoned them at an ill-equipped local hospital where they died a few days later. Remembering this sad history, she raised her scarf to wipe her tears.

Being imprisoned in a Khmer Rouge prison was also very miserable. At that time, the Khmer Rouge prison was called Department of Security or the Center of Transformation, where many people were imprisoned and killed without trial. Grandmother Chea Siek's husband, Kang Nem, had been a former teacher during the Lon Nol Republican Regime (1970-1975). He was captured by the Khmer Rouge, imprisoned at the Department of Security and was tortured and mercilessly killed.

Our researchers and interviewers were told about this story. When they were evacuated to live at *Sandan District, Kompong Province*, their biographies were hidden, no people knew about their historical backgrounds. There was, however, one occasion when they were working at the work site, her husband was captured by a group of the black-clothed Khmer Rouge soldiers who accused him of being a former Lon Nol soldier. Since then, her husband's fortune was obscure. Suddenly and unexpectedly, she was told by a neighbor at midnight that her husband had survived. He was imprisoned at the Center of Transformation at Prey Kanleng with hundreds other of new people suspected of having Lon Nol connections. "May God have pity on him! My son, a cook at the center, told me that your husband was seriously punished with starvation and was asked questions everyday to force him to confess that he had been a Lon Nol former soldier. If he confessed, he would be immediately liberated. I did not know whether your husband had been defeated by the Khmer Rouge propaganda or he was too exhausted to live on. When he confessed that he had been working as Lon Nol soldier, he was swiftly taken away and immediately killed. He died with despair, with physical and mental hurt," informed her neighbor.

The Khmer Rouge were ugly people without religion. Religious monks were disrobed. Monasteries and temples were demolish and the stones taken to build roads. Public schools and pagoda buildings were converted into cooperative kitchens.

Grandmother Om Sei, 74, living in *Thmar Keo Village, Batheay, Kompong Cham Province*, was chased out to *Sandan District, Kompong Thom*. She was asked how many of her family died. She answered two. The first was her 10-year-old son. He died of shock. The Khmer Rouge had ordered him to destroy the guardian spirits' shelter at Prasath Sambeau Monastery. Following the instructions given by the chief of the village's children's group and fearing the Khmer Rouge soldiers' retribution, my son and a group of his companions pulled the spirit shelter down and destroyed it. After that, my son became seriously sick and grew thinner and thinner. He regretted destroying the guardian spirit shelter, and he had nothing to eat and no medicine to get rid of his

sickness. He was then taken to the poorest hospital of the commune and died pitifully in that unhygienic place.

Drying her tears with her arm, she added that the second death was her husband. Her husband had been an old master of the monastery in *Sandan Commune, Sandan District, Kompong Province*. He believed in doing good, not doing bad things, and avoided killing anything. After her son's death, her husband fell chronically ill from despair. Angkar, the local authority of Khmer Rouge, appointed him to go to cut wild bamboo in the deep forest even though he was seriously sick. She lost her husband then. At last, she was personally informed that her husband had been killed by the Khmer Rouge because of his close ties to religion. "To that point, I had been only living with monks in pagodas, but the Khmer Rouge did not conform to religion. Religious people were considered social parasites, on the same level as those who were addicted to opium. These stories account the sufferings and unjust separation of my family during the Khmer Rouge era," she said.

Apart from these tragic stories, another hurtful issue that caused suffering was the sexual violation of women. This inhuman act could not be recorded, for after being violated, the women were killed. The Khmer Rouge had neither virtue nor humanity. Beautiful women were generally accused of being the wives of Lon Nol soldiers. They were brought by ox carts with their whole families to be slaughtered like animals. "I had pity on those women," she said, "I guarded the oxen next to those killing places and I heard their cries for help and their pleas to not be killed." Grandmother Sim Son, 62, living at Cheung Prey, Batheay, Kompong Cham, told our research team all her stories from during the Khmer Rouge era. "Not only that, any beautiful wife of a soldier was violated and then killed," the old women reiterated with pain in her voice.

In January 1979, while part of the country liberated and some was still in enemy zones, the situation was dangerous. The Khmer Rouge continued to move the people to the forest and consistently chased them to the northern borders of the country. "At that time, the Khmer Rouge was enraged by their failure to kill every person they encountered. Our families ran separately with no food and no water and no belongings," said Grandmother Pan Chhim, 70, dwelling at *Toek Andaung Village, Taing Khmer Rougeasao, Prasat Sambeau, Kompong Thom*, responding to our interview questions. "I saw with my own eyes, the human bodies everywhere in the forest. How pitiful it was! Some had died; others survived and then died one after another due to the Khmer Rouge bullets. As for the lucky people, they escaped and ran back to their native villages and survived until now. I had three children, but they all died. My husband was blind, but the Khmer Rouge assigned him to guard the rice field and chase away sparrows. Can you imagine how difficult it was for a blind man to do such work?" the old women strongly complained about the Khmer Rouge.

Another elderly woman named Ouk Sorn, living at *Ponley village, Kompeng, Kirivong, Takeo Province*, added that the most serious suffering for her family was malnutrition that caused her body to swell. The illness was unbearable. She informed us that her husband was killed in Takeo just after Phnom Penh had been defeated because his young

brother had worked as pilot with the Lon Nol Republic regime. After her husband had been killed, she and her five young children, and the New People (city dwellers), who had been evacuated from Phnom Penh, moved again to Pursat Province.

They were taken to live in the countryside in very hot fields without shelter, water, trees, and in miserable conditions. With little rice distributed, people grew hungry and desperate. Hunger drove people to eat anything, like worms, roaches, mice, grasshoppers, and leaves off the trees. "I only then realized that there was no disease in this world bigger than hunger," the old woman said. "I ate everything around me, even tree bark, old palm leaves from the cottage walls, the little house lizards, ants, and even white termites. Because of lack of sodium, all my children and I were malnourished and our bodies swelled." She told us very sadly about this kind of disease. This disease was very dangerous. The whole body, including our limbs, was swollen. It began to swell greater and greater until they could neither see nor recognize their limbs. Two of her children died of malnutrition and diarrhea. Three others were separated to go to work at the youth camp and they disappeared. People told her that they had been killed when Vietnamese troops entered Cambodia. At present, she lives by herself with the monks at the pagoda.

In short, among almost 5,000 people who had been interviewed, the nearly 4,000 of them who received the donations were all seriously victimized by the Khmer Rouge. The atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979 were wicked, inhuman and unforgettable. These inhumane killings and evil acts against humanity toward innocent people should not be forgotten. Nearly 30 years have passed and the victims cannot forget the Khmer Rouge Genocide. The trials of the Khmer Rouge's top leaders will be able to ease the people's painful feelings of vengeance and hatred. It would, therefore help bring about peace, harmony and prosperity to the country and the Cambodian people as a whole.

In conclusion, 100 percent of those being interviewed clearly remember the tragedies that were brought about in the Killing Fields and they strongly supported the win-win policy implemented by the Royal Government of Cambodia to reconcile the past. A number of people recommended the government continue to carry out this important policy for maintaining peace, stability and development in Cambodia.

All the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime expressed their deep thanks to the Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for granting generous financial support and they wanted to meet the donors personally to express their deepest gratitude.

At the same time, the victims prayed for peace, stability and freedom from the threat of inhumane acts.

As for vengeance, or hatred against the Khmer Rouge, they said they had none, but they will never forget this genocidal regime. The people fully supported the following Buddhist teaching, "Hatred never ceases by hatred, by love they cease."

Part IV

NEWS CLIPPINGS

Samleng Chunpika News

First Year, No. 01, published on August 3, 2005

Dr. Handa's project supports the victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide.

After Paris Peace Agreement on 23 October 2001, Cambodia faced many problems that needed to be resolved. Indeed, the main challenging issue was the poverty left by the Khmer Rouge regime.

Recently, Dr. Handa has conducted a press conference at the University of Cambodia, on the 1st of August 2005, to launch **Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide**. This Fund, as publicly announced by Dr. Haruhisa Handa, offers donations to pay homage to the nearly 2 million Cambodian people who were killed by the Khmer Rouge during 1975 to 1979.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa is a very distinguished philanthropist from Japan. He is the Chairman of World Mate Organization based in Tokyo, Japan. With his strong benevolence towards Cambodian people in mind, Dr. Handa has appealed to the national and international community to help establish and amplify this prominent project. Since, the amount of fund is not fixed, the project could be widely expanded to more three years time.

It is worthy mentioning that this press conference to the launching of "Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide" was conducted by the University of Cambodia. It is highly presided over by Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman of World Mate, and Chancellor of the University of Cambodia.

PRACHEAPREI MAZAGINE

The Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide receive \$100 US Dollars; those who didn't receive were unhappy...

This is the first time that relatives of the deceased victims of the Khmer Rouge received donations from the Dr. Handa Japanese Fund after having pledged for many months. There were 200 victims' families, including the poor and elderly, received aids from Dr. Handa Compensation Fund.

On the 24th of April 2006, on the grounds of Amporvanda Monastery called Prey Svay Pagoda, located in the commune of Sopotep, Chbar Mon District, Kompong Speu Province, Khmer Rouge Genocide victimized families happily showed up to receive aid. Previously, no one received \$100 US dollars donation, they received only rice, sarongs, scarves and clothes. Conversely, there were also unhappy people around the pagoda. They were unhappy because they did not receive any aid, even though they had relatives victimized by the Khmer Rouge too. A woman, 50 years old or so, deeply drunk, came to the venue and said that she also had her husband and kinsmen killed by the Khmer Rouge, but why she did not receive any donation? In her drunken state, she was embarrassed to enter the premise.

During the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Say Chhum, MPs of Kompong Speu Constituency, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, President of the University of Cambodia, along with Dr. Haruhisa Handa, head of Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide, appeared on the tribune.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of the University of Cambodia, said that he wished to apologize to all of the people who did not have received this fund. He really did not know any Cambodian people who had not suffered from the Khmer Rouge. However the first distribution of aid was organized only for widows who were the poorest of the poor families and whose kinsmen as well as children had been assassinated by the Khmer Rouge.

This was the first time that Dr. Handa Fund distributed aid to the victim families of the Khmer Rouge Genocide. Those who received the donation came from 19 villages among the three communes of Chbar Mon District, Kompong Speu Province. Two hundred victimized families had been selected among three hundred and fifty poorest families. As stipulated in the agreement, each family received a total of \$100 US dollars in aid, \$90 US dollars was in cash and the other was 50 kgs or \$10 worth of rice.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman of the World Mate Organization, Chairman of the International Foundation for Arts and Culture in Tokyo, Japan, and Chancellor of the University of Cambodia, said during the ceremony he had been deeply touched and attached to the Cambodian people, who had been seriously victimized by wars, separation

and sufferings. The donation that he gave to them can be partly spent to organize religious ceremony to contribute to their deceased husbands and children who died during the Khmer Rouge so their spirits can rest in peace in the spiritual world; and the rest can be spent for alleviating poverty within their families. This fund was aimed at distributing aid to 10,000 victims' families of the Khmer Rouge Genocide throughout the country. The Fund targeted those who were widows, whose husbands were killed, and poorest of the poor.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa, a Japanese philanthropist, has already been given a "Cambodian Citizenship." His blessed work has also included supported to free medical treatment to Cambodian patients at the Preah Sihanouk Hospital of Hope. As a new Cambodia citizen, Dr. Haruhisa Handa pledged that he would try his best to distribute his personal fund to help Cambodian people who have difficulties in their lives. The amount of this fund totaled \$1,300,000 US dollars.

During the ceremony a representative of the victims, Mr. Suon Him, strongly rejoiced with Dr. Haruhisa Handa's donations. Mr. Him recalled the punishment and suffering he had witness and undergone, towards his family as well as other Cambodian families throughout the country, during the Khmer Rouge genocide. An old aunt named In Mao, living in Varsar Village, Varsar Commune, Samrong Tong District, described the suffering she had undergone. These sufferings couldn't be forgettable. No words could be compared with those sufferings. Her husband was killed simply because they accused him of being traitor of the nation; and her other four children were also put on trial to be definitely killed, but fortunately, two of them survived. For nearly 30 years, she has been struggling to feed her surviving children. The \$100 dollars was not much for the rich, but for a poor widow like her it was worth everything. She thought that with that sum of money she could offer religious ceremony to memorize her deceased husband and children's spirits.

Outside of the premises, there were crowds of unhappy peoples. They said they were also poor and victimized and asked why they were not given any aid. They realized, undoubtedly, that every Cambodian people's families had all been strongly affected by the Khmer Rouge Genocide.

Consequently, the 200 families qualified to receive Dr. Haruhisa Handa's generous donation. Dr. Handa distribution ceremonies were launched along with the Khmer Rouge Tribunal to put on trial surviving Khmer Rouge leaders in Cambodia.

So far, there is no exact number of the people who had been killed by the Khmer Rouge Regime. During 1979-80, there was information estimating that there had been more than three million Cambodian people killed during Khmer Rouge Genocide; but afterwards, there was information speculated that there were around two million people who had died, and finally, there was only more than one million....

KOH SANTEPHEAP DAILY

Year 39, No. 5872, published on Friday October 27, 2006

Seriously Victimized People by Khmer Rouge Genocide Receives Aid

Phnom Penh- One thousand families coming from four districts of Kandal Province, who were seriously victimized by the Khmer Rouge Genocide (1975-1979), received aid on the 26th of October, 2006, at the Hun Sen Regional Center for Pedagogy. This auspicious ceremony was highly presided over by H.E. Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers. This was the first time that a large amount of aid distributions was conducted to victims of the so-called Khmer Rouge Democratic Kampuchea.

Among the 1,000 families, there were 15 families who were symbolically given aid by H.E. Mr. Sok An. Each of them received 50 kg of rice and 355,000 riels in cash. The 985 other families received cash amount of 410,000 riels.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of the University of Cambodia, mentioned that this ceremony was supported by Dr. Handa Fund and carried out by the University of Cambodia. Dr. Handa Fund was a non-profit organization supported by Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman of World Mate Organization in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Handa is a renowned Japanese philanthropist who has contributed a lot of his wealth and his organization assets to help develop Cambodia. For instance, Dr. Handa has helped construct Preah Sihanouk Hospital, the Center of Hope, the Orphan Center, and a dozen other schools throughout the country.

The Dr. Handa Fund was initially established to compensate and memorialize the victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide from 1975 to 1979. People who had the right to receive these aids must conform to these following criteria:

- 1) Widows who were seriously suffered by the Khmer Rouge Regime from 1975 to 1979;
- 2) Widows whose husband and their children had been killed by the Khmer Rouge Regime;
- 3) Widows who have been victimized by the Khmer Rouge Regime and who are now poorest of the poorer.

Based on these principles Dr. Kao said, “Group of researchers and the committee to select people of the University of Cambodia ventured out to four district of Kandal Province to conduct research and select qualified people. The teams work closely and collaboratively with local authorities to screen and interview 1,200 families. Among these numbers, only 1,000 families were selected to be recipients.”

In 2006, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Sok An stated that Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of KHMER ROUGE Genocide distributed aid to 200 families in Kompong Speu Province. Most of them were widows and elderly whose families were killed by the Khmer Rouge Regime. Dr. Haruhisa Handa has planned to distribute aid to the poorest people of Cambodia.

CAMBODIA TODAY

Year II, No. 179, published on Monday August 2, 2005

UC Established Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of Khmer Rouge Genocide.

This is an initiative of the University of Cambodia (UC) and Dr. Haruhisa Handa, a prominent Japanese philanthropist to jointly establish a fund called "*Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide,*" for the amount of \$1,300,000 (One Million and thirty hundred US Dollars). The establishment of this fund is aimed at memorializing and compensating the victims of the Khmer Rouge (1975-1979). The launch of this project has just conducted by the University of Cambodia during the press conference on the 1st of August 2005.

In an interview with journalists at the conclusion of the press conference, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said that this was the first step of distributing aid. Only women head of the household, who seriously suffered from the Khmer Rouge Regime, were to be given aid. Dr. Kao clarified that the aid distribution would get started in September 2005. All of the application forms would be prepared and distributed by the University of Cambodia. During this initial step 10,000 victimized families would be receiving aid.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of the University of Cambodia, reiterated that Dr. Handa Fund would warmly welcome other financial sources to would like to support the fund. What is most important is the intention to help share hard burden in poverty alleviation caused by the Khmer Rouge to the Cambodian people.

In the interview, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn revealed that during the Khmer Rouge Genocide he had been living in zone no.3 and one of his brothers was killed by the Khmer Rouge.

At the press conference, Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman of World Mate Organization said he was very happy to appear at the University of Cambodia to declare his strong support, especially his financial contribution for the establishment of Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide, created by the Board of Trustees of the University of Cambodia.

"I would like to express my deep thanks to the University, especially the UC Board of Trustees for naming this fund after me and I feel highly honored," said Dr. Haruhisa Handa. He also reiterated that he had always considered the need to offer a contribution to the millions of Cambodians who were killed during the Khmer Rouge Genocide. And along with this, the ceremony was conducted to commemorate other Cambodian people who had survived the cruelty of an atrocious regime.

In addition, Dr. Haurhisa Handa also confirmed that the fund will warmly welcome all of other financial sources who would like to support this project. As planned, 10,000 victimized families would receive a \$100 US dollars contribution to pay homage to their decease love ones.

MEATUPHOUM NEWSPAPER

Year...No. 148, published every Monday – Friday August 8-12, 2005

The Cambodian Victimized People of the Khmer Rouge Regime will receive \$100 US dollars from Dr. Handa Fund

The Cambodian people who were suffered during the Khmer Rouge Regime from 1975 to 1979 will receive some compensation from “Dr. Handa Fund” within the near future.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of the University of Cambodia, said that the Dr. Handa Fund had been established to commemorate and compensate the Khmer Rouge victims. This project was initiated by the University of Cambodia and supported by Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman of World Mate Organization, and Chancellor of the University of Cambodia. This fund will distribute aid to the victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide for the purpose of commemorating those who had tragically passed away and strongly affected by the Khmer Rouge Regime.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President, University of Cambodia, confirmed that for the first project, the budget amount is one million and three hundred thousands US dollars. Of which, one million US dollars was donated by the World Mate Organization, and three hundred thousands was donated by Dr. Haruhisa Handa. This fund would be timely distributed to the victims of the Khmer Rouge.

Following the assessment, Dr. Kao resumed that each victimized family could receive \$100 US dollars to commemorate their decease love ones. So far, one could not confirm how many families would be able to receive the aid, but for the first phase, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said that the distribution would be done in October 2005 for impoverished wi’ows' families.

The prominent supporter of this project was Dr. Haruhisa Handa who said during the conference that the compensation budget was a small amount of money that could not adequately reimburse for the destruction and the suffering of the Cambodian people. Especially, the Khmer Rouge victimized families, but it was a small amount of money to console them or to spiritually heal the victims. The Fund’s Chairmans appeal to other humanitarian organization to join in supporting this prominent project.

It worth mentioning that recently the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations have agreed to establish the Khmer Rouge Tribunal to put on trail surviving Khmer Rouge leaders. However, they didn’t confirm when this tribunal will take place. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, finally, reaffirmed that apart from helping to console people, this project would help to alleviate their poverty.

KOH SANTEPHEAP NEWSPAPER

Year.....No. 5720, published on Monday May 1, 2006

Government Leaders welcome Food Aids and Law Aids

Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman, International Foundation for Arts and Culture in Tokyo, Japan, has recently reported to Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen regarding his activity in Kompong Speu Province with the presence of H.E. Mr. Say Chhum to distribute aid to 203 poor families victimized by the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime during the period during 1975-1979. In May 2006, he planned to distribute additional aid to 1,000 families who had been seriously victimized by the Khmer Rouge Regime, and the distribution would be done continuously to reach 10,000 victimized families across Cambodia.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa made this report to Samdech Prime Minister in the afternoon of April 26, 2006 at his residence. Pertaining to the distribution of aid to the Khmer Rouge victims, Dr. Handa invited Samdech Prime Minister to preside over a ceremony which will be held in October 2006 if Samdech had time.

The Chairman of the International Foundation For Arts and Culture in Tokyo, Japan, has also informed Samdech Prime Minister that, up till now, he has a budget around \$1,300,000 US dollars to donate to the Cambodian people, specifically, to those widows who were the victims of the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime. Dr. Handa thanked Samdech Prime Minister for having spent his valuable time to join the Asia Economic Forum which had been held in Siem Reap. During AEF, Samdech Prime Minister was the highest personality to preside over the forum. In front of an audience of more than four hundred distinguished personalities, Dr. Handa asked Samdech Hun Sen to be the prominent leader, the President of the Asia Economic Forum. Dr. Handa add that he had the idea to expand the Asia Economic Forum to be more influential to other countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

Moreover, Dr. Haruhisa Handa has warmly expressed his deep thanks to Samdech Prime Minister for giving him an honorary Cambodian citizenship. He kindly told Samdech that Samdech was like his foster father in Cambodia. He also asked the permission from Samdech Prime Minister to establish a curriculum called “Hun Sen University” at the University of Cambodia. This new curriculum will extract various strategies and tactics of Samdech to insert into UC academic curriculum in providing knowledge to all government officials and civil servants to better understand those strategies and tactics of Samdech.

Responding to the proposal, Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his deep thanks to Dr. Handa for his kind attention and his generosity in helping the victimized Cambodian victimized people. Samdech Prime Minister said that for he and his wife has a similar project to help the people. Lok Chumteav herself has happily led project donation of food and materials to poor people. Also Obaseka mother in-law provided shelter to poor people. The activities that could be often seen through TV are: (1) Project for Miserable People and Hope; (2) Miserable People and Struggle; (3) It is called 9

minutes of Real Life. These projects reflect the activities of Samdech and also his own families in assisting poor people. These projects not only target the poor people from the Khmer Rouge Regime, but all Cambodian poor as a whole. For instance, the poor people who are infected by HIV/AIDS or elderly without shelters.

Pertaining to the invitation of Samdech Prime Minister to preside over the distribution of aid to poor people in October, Samdech said that he would join if the time were acceptable. On the other hand, Samdech also suggested that it would be good if the project invited the leaders, who had defeated the Khmer Rouge Regime, to distribute aid to the victims.

Intertwined with the invitation of Samdech Prime Minister to be Chairman of the Asia Economic Forum, Samdech recommended Dr. Haruhisa Handa to resume thinking a little bit on how to expand the AEF. Samdech Prime Minister reiterated that to play the role of President might be acceptable, but how to expand the existing AEF does not compete with other forums must be considered.

Samdech Prime Minister also suggested connecting with other previous leaders, those who were recognized as good leaders, even if they are retired, so as to enable them to engage together with current leaders to make this Forum a success.

Along the lines with asking the Prime Minister's name to be used as a part of the knowledge training for government officials and civil servants, Samdech said that time was not favorable yet. It is worth taking theories such as "Win-Win Policy" and other program of the political reforms, such as triangular or rectangular strategies as well as other priorities to be included within the academic programs and advance higher education curriculum. Samdech stated that it's not time to use his name because the time was not favorable. It is better to make a trial of taking his strategies to be taught in the academic programs.