

KOH SANTEPHEAP DAILY

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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.