

**Seattle University School of Law  
Cambodia Legal Internship  
Intern Report – Summer, 2008**

**From: Christopher Dearing, DC-Cam Summer Legal Associate**  
**To: Junsen A. Ohno, International Programs Administrator**  
**Re: Report for Summer 2008 Internship with Documentation Center – Cambodia**  
**Date: 12 August 2008**

Dates of Internship:  
Start Date: 23 May 2008  
End Date: 11 Aug 2008

Supervisor: Anne Heindel, DC-Cam Legal Team Leader  
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**Description of Internship Work Assignment:**

**Legal research and writing:** During my internship, I was tasked with completing legal memoranda explaining the jurisprudence on how the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) should have handled the Nuon Chea Defence motion to Disqualify Judge Ney Thol. The Decision on the Defence Motion was rendered in February 2008 but the analysis offered by the Pre-Trial Chamber, as well as the overall ruling was in controversy. After about the third week of my drafting of this memoranda, the Defence for Ieng Sary issued an Appeal regarding the Office of Co-Investigating Judges' (OCIJ) Denial of their Original Request for Information regarding Mr. Boyle a "judicial officer" in the OCIJ. The Ieng Sary Defence Request for Information stemmed from allegations of bias on the part of Mr. Boyle based on his public commentary on issues related to the Ieng Sary case. Mrs. Heindel requested that I adjust focus to address this specific motion. The memo addressing the Mr. Boyle motion has been submitted to the ECCC. An article addressing my research on international jurisprudence on judicial independence and impartiality is currently being revised and prepared for submission for publication in the DC-Cam The Truth publication.

**Genocide Education Project:** DC-Cam has been tasked to lead the way in reorganizing and serving as a model for Cambodia's national education system. Its primary task is to create a grade 9-12 curriculum that will teach students about the Khmer Rouge 1975-1979 historical period. Youk Chang, Director of DC-Cam asked for any contributions on this project, particularly from experienced educators. I submitted three workbook/handbooks addressing this task. They have been reviewed by Youk Chang and the DC-Cam Education Committee as well as Dy Khamboly, author of what is to be the official textbook of the curriculum on the Khmer Rouge period. They have asked me to continue to develop these workbooks and are interested in possibly incorporating them.

### **Description of Non-DC-Cam Work:**

**Humanitarian work:** While in Cambodia, I met with a Ms. Jessica West, a pre-school teacher in Issaquah, WA. We worked together to distribute 70 donated children's kits delivered to Cambodia for orphans and homeless children. In addition, we distributed additional humanitarian materials in Laos. For several days, we also volunteered as English teachers to the Lighthouse Orphanage in Phnom Penh. Our experiences are shown on Jessica West's blogspot shown below.

### **Important To Do Check-List and FYI for Future DC-Cam Interns:**

Late Winter period: Receive notice of DC-Cam internship; application process and interview

1. Upon acceptance of DC-Cam internship, the intern should begin researching flights to Phnom Penh. Recommended websites: [www.airlineconsolidator.com](http://www.airlineconsolidator.com). Generally, expect the cheapest flights to range in cost from \$1,200-1,500.
2. Contact the DC-Cam Legal Team Supervisor in order to coordinate your preferred work schedule for the summer. The work schedule is generally very flexible as long as it is 9 weeks in duration.
3. Plan to work at least 9 weeks in Phnom Penh. You will be able to travel on most weekends. Also, May 23-25 weekend is a 3-day weekend; July 4<sup>th</sup> is a 3day weekend. There are also at least 1-2 other 3 day weekends at DC-Cam in which you will be able to travel.
4. After you have planned out your arrival and departure dates, purchase your tickets as soon as possible because prices rise quickly. It is best to purchase the tickets at least 6-8 weeks prior to departure.
5. Focus on your spring classes; do not worry too much about preparation for the trip as far as reading or research.
6. Buy travel medical insurance.
7. Make an appointment with Junsen Ohno, International Programs Administrator to obtain the required paperwork. Some of this paperwork requires signatures from a doctor or nurse from the Seattle Health Center.
8. Make an appointment as soon as possible with the Seattle Health Center. They offer a free checkup which is required for all Seattle University Study Abroad programs and internships. They will notify you of required immunizations. Generally, budget at least \$100 for immunizations. No immunizations are required to enter Cambodia as of this report but highly recommended immunizations are the following: Hepatitis A, B, C; Typhoid; Tetanus. You will also need Malaria medication. Ask for Doxycycline as it is usually the cheapest: \$20 for 3 months. Although if you get sick easily, then you can take more expensive medications as well. Generally Doxycycline can make people sick if they take it on an empty stomach.

9. Ask the Seattle University Health Center nurse to prescribe Cipro. At least 2 or 3 cycles (20-30 pills). Cipro is very helpful in overcoming stomach issues in Cambodia which you will inevitably experience.
10. Also purchase Immodium, Pepto, and any other medicine you think you need. Pharmacies are plentiful and cheap in Phnom Penh so you can resupply there but it is nice to have it immediately available even in your travel to Cambodia.
11. Visa information: As of this report, Cambodian visas can be obtained upon arrival in Phnom Penh airport. Purchase the \$25 business visa. If you buy the \$20 tourism visa on arrival then you must leave the country and return in order to extend. Every 30 days, visas must be renewed but DC-Cam pays for these renewals and expedites their processing. Prior to departing for Phnom Penh, have at least 4 passport photos. You will need one for your visa.
12. As the time gets close to your departure, read as much as you can about the Khmer Rouge historical period and international jurisprudence. Don't worry if you have not taken any international law courses. These are helpful but not required to complete your work at DC-Cam. In particular, be sure to visit the following website in your research and orientation: [www.dccam.org](http://www.dccam.org); <http://www.cambodiatribunal.org/>; <http://www.eccc.gov.kh/english/default.aspx>
13. At least 2-3 weeks prior to departure, contact Junsen Ohno and Dean Bird to finalize last minute paperwork for your internship and disbursement of the internship funds. Because finals period can be hectic it is good to make these appointments well in advance to avoid last-minute rushing.
14. At least a few days before departing, look up hotels to stay in Phnom Penh. Expect to stay in a hotel at least for a few days in Phnom Penh until you can secure a 3 month apartment through one of the real estate agencies. I liked the Golden Gate Hotel because of its close location to DC-Cam (5 minute walk) and its nice location in a restaurant area. You can email the hotel to secure a reservation.
15. Make sure to bring your laptop to Cambodia. You will need it for doing research.
16. General work attire at DC-Cam for men: Collared, button-down dress shirts, pants. Sandals are okay. Women: Generally any attire that is professional but comfortable for a hot, humid country. Sandals okay.

#### ARRIVAL in PHNOM PENH

17. Upon arrival in Phnom Penh, you will have to pay for a taxi. If you proceed to your right, after leaving customs, you will run into car taxis. These cost \$9. If you do not have tons of luggage, you can proceed instead to your left upon exiting customs and ask for a Tuk Tuk. These are open air taxis which are nice, convenient and cheaper. Airport to hotel in a Tuk Tuk is \$7.
18. Finding DC-Cam. Tell your moto driver, tuk tuk driver or if you are walking, head to Independence monument on Sihanouk Blvd. DC Cam is located almost across from the Independence grassy square area.
19. Work Schedule at DC-Cam: 7:30am -Start work; 12:00-1:30 – Lunch; 5:00pm End work. Monday – Friday.
20. Internet is very spotty in the capitol. Best times for internet are late at night early in the morning (before 7:30am).

21. Phone service: Try to download Skype on your laptop before leaving the U.S. Skype is an internet phone service which is very convenient. It costs 2cents a minute to call the US. Skype to skype calls are free.
22. Mail: Do not expect to receive mail while in Cambodia. It is expensive for a person to send to you and it is expensive for you to send mail. I received mail and it took almost 2 months for a small package. If you questions on receiving mail I can give you more information.
23. Finding an apartment: DC-Cam staff will help you with this but generally one can use the real estate agents. There is a good one on the same street as Golden Gate Hotel called Royal Real Estate Agency. Expect to pay \$150 (shared apt) to \$350+ for a 3month lease.
24. Transportation in the city: You may use motos (costing 50cents/2,000riels per short ride) or Tuk Tuks (generally double this rate). Or you may rent a moto. A good moto rental place is Lucky Moto located on Monivong at intersection with 184<sup>th</sup> street. Moto rentals require that you hand over your passport to the moto rental person. It is okay. All moto rentals require this to prevent people from fleeing the country after an accident should it occur. If you move around a lot, moto rental is cheapest costing about \$4 a day for daily rentals or \$45-50 per month for monthly rentals. It is recommended to also have a helmet. Accidents prevail in the city.
25. Health Insurance. Before leaving the US. Purchase travel insurance. Seattle University requires it and it is very important if per chance something happens. Health care in Cambodia is horrific so if a serious issue develops, you will probably have to leave the country costing a great deal.

Any other questions, feel free to contact me through Mrs. Junsen Ohno, International Programs Administrator or Ron Slye, Professor.

Christopher Dearing  
Seattle University 2008 DC-Cam Summer Legal Associate

**Re: Blogs**

Jessica West Blog:  
<http://cambodia-lighthouseorphanage.blogspot.com/2008/08/english-class.html>

Christopher Dearing Blog:  
<http://www.khmertribunal.blogspot.com/>