

OEC NEWSLETTER

Historically Cambodia evolves through the collapse of Khmer Empire with abandon of Angkor (802 – 1432); later the complete loss of Cochin China (Kambujakrom); then entering in French protectorate, followed by nationalist movements mixed with foreign ideological infiltration terminated awhile by full independence and peace resulted from royal crusade (1945 – 1953) and ended the Fran-co-Indochinese war by Geneva (1954); the communist revolutionary Khmer implementing strategy of going from country side to capital supported by foreign communist force (starting from 1925, but active from 1966) causing successive change of political regimes from royalist to republican (1970), raging a real war of land and air attacks whereby a great number of dead, injured and disabled people; the victory of Khmer communist Pol Pot (1975) leading to great purge, class dislocation, spies elimination and destruction of all cultural, economical, and social morale by evacuation of people from their house and village, driving monks out of their monasteries and monkhood, using children and young boys/girls as efficacious and faithful executors to accomplish proletariat dictatorship abolishing monarchy for a new society without influence of the past, a real genocide; the say liberation by Vietnamese force for installing an allied government (1979) created resistance force with internal war of all forms causing dead, injured, orphans and widowers again, from that came Paris Peace agreement (23 Oct 1991) implemented by the United Nations Transitional Authorities in Cambodia (UNTAC) solving armed conflict by democratic way and creation of new government from the universal election (23-28 May 1993). Khmer Rouge resumed fighting, boycotted the election of 1993 sponsored by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and, in the following year, rejected its results until their complete surrendering to the government in December 1998.

We noted that Cambodian people lived a long period under ideological, subversive and threatening strategies encouraging passivity, total silence and faithful execution without analytical reasoning. Therefore from 1993 to present time 2010, a space of 17 years seems to be not enough for making positive change.

- Article 3 of Chapter 3 of the Paris Peace Agreement stating that, 1-All person in Cambodia shall enjoy the rights and freedom embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant International Instruments (Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Discriminations in Education; Convention on the rights of persons with Disabilities; Convention for the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.....), and practically followed by massive governmental and humanitarian aids;
- Article 31 of Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, amended in 1999 stating that the Kingdom of Cambodia shall recognize and respect human rights as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the covenants and conventions related to human rights, women's and children's rights.

Every Khmer citizen shall be equal before the law, enjoying the same rights, freedom and fulfilling the same obligations regardless of race, color, sex, language, religious belief, political tendency, birth origin, social status, wealth or other status...

- The Rectangular Strategies of the Royal Government, Rectangle 4: Capacity Building and Human Resource Development, including: (1) enhanced quality of education; (2) improvement of health services; (3) fostering gender equity, and (4) implementation of population policy, having at the rectangular core "Good Governance";...

In spite of the above agreement and law ratified and committed by the Royal Government, Cambodia still facing criticism from outside about human rights violation and education not in quality standard. .

In fact the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) sets out a list of over two dozen specific human rights that countries should respect and protect. These specific rights can be divided into six or more

families: (1) -Security rights that protect people against crimes such as murder, massacre, torture, and rape; (2)-Due process rights that protect against abuses of the legal system such as imprisonment without trial, secret trial, and excessive punishment; (3)-Liberty rights that protect freedoms in areas such as belief, expression, assembly, and movement; (4)-Political rights that protect the liberty to participate in politics through actions such as communicating, assembling, protesting, voting, and serving in public office; (5)-Equality rights that guarantee equal citizenship, equality before the law, and nondiscrimination; and (6)-Social or welfare rights that require provision of education to all children and protection against severe poverty and starvation.

Education is criticized of having school director politically appointed in a hierarchical and politicized system. Teachers work only half-time and make about \$25 per month. They all must have other jobs in order to survive. In consequence they have not available time for preparing their good lesson plan and correcting children's home work. There is significant over crowding in the schools and there are not enough schools to accommodate all of the children. There are not enough teachers assigned to go working in remote areas. This results in thousands of children not being able to go to school. In every school there is a double shift and, in some schools, triple shifts, in order to meet the need.

Recognizing these difficulties, respecting the vision of OEC stated in the Child's Rights Policy that *Cambodian children everywhere, the poor, the vulnerable, the handicapped and the orphans enjoy basic rights with full equality of opportunity and outcome; Cambodian children in disadvantaged conditions receive economical, social and cultural empowerment for self confidence and future free choice of employment; Cambodian children of any condition in everywhere live together in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity for the well-being of all, and with observance of our Code of Ethical Principles and Conduct*, OEC solemnly declares remaining faithful to our mission that is to *build and raise capabilities, and good living condition of disabled children, handicapped people caused by mines, young people and children in areas facing difficulties in Cambodia by means of primary health care, rehabilitation of working possibilities, reproductive health, education and life skills, through strengthening existing communal structure, and supporting logical initiatives of local people for cooperation.*

To this end, OEC frankly and closely cooperates and collaborates with other international and national agencies based on common objectives, information sharing, networking formation and reduction of duplicating activities. Additionally OEC works in partnership with national, provincial and local authorities and communities to realize:

- Goals and Objectives 3.3.3.2 of the Cambodia Education for All, 2003-2015,
- Educational Duties in Chapter VII of the Educational Law adopted by the National Assembly on 19 October 2007,
- Education in Chapter 6 of the Law on the Protection and the promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on July 2009,
- National Plan of Actions for Persons with disabilities, including Landmine/ERW Survivors, 2008-2011.

Reconsidering the past lesson learnt from the strategy using ignorant children and young people to be incorporated in revolutionary Khmer communist force, OEC feels obligated to expand activities to promote access to quality of education first in the five provinces bordering Thailand with integration of child's rights of Human Rights to develop basic rights and equality of opportunity with facilities for economic development to improve standard of living adequate for their health and well-being that can liberate children from agricultural forced labor to attend class regularly. In parallel OEC expects to continue empowering largely children and people with disabilities and victims of landmine in the same areas, hoping to join country sides with towns, eliminating all forms of discrimination for national harmony, peace and better life. Birth spacing and gender equality for safe sex will be treated as prevention against HIV/AIDS and promotion of behavior change, including prevention against drug.

Please assist us with realizing the Rights to Development.