



**Cover:** Koh Ker temple lies approximately one hundred and twenty kilometers northeast of Siem Reap. It is reached by road and footpath, and it is surrounded by rivers that flow from nearby mountains. The area is associated with the reign of Jayavarman IV (928–941 A.D.), who left the Angkor capital in 921 A.D. to install his seat of power in Chok Gargyar, now known as Koh Ker. Upon his death, his son's successor Rajendravarmar II reinstalled the capital at Angkor, leaving Koh Ker abandoned at the end of the nineteenth century. (From Koh Ker temple to Anlong Veng is 186 Kilometers. Photo by Ouch Makara)

**Above:** Angkor Wat in Cambodia is the largest religious monument in the world. It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century in Yasodhrapura, the capital of the Khmer Empire. (From Angkor Wat to Anlong Veng is 129 Kilometers. Photo by Meng Kimlong)

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The Sleuk Rith Institute embraces Cambodia's cultural heritage,  
both modern and ancient, as a source of healing and reconciliation.

**ANLONG VENG PEACE CENTER**

"Peace means a good night's sleep and when you wake up there is no fear..."

—Youk Chhang



With generous support from The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, and in collaboration with the Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Tourism, the Anlong Veng Peace Center is pleased to announce the establishment of its **ANLONG VENG PEACE TOUR**. The Peace Center is an initiative of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam).

The Anlong Veng Peace Tour program is a community reconciliation initiative aimed at bridging the divide between former Khmer Rouge cadre (KR) in their last stronghold (Anlong Veng) and Cambodia's younger generation. The intent of the program is to provide an educational platform for the study (and mitigation) of human conflict as well as to encourage greater civic engagement.

Using DC-Cam's previous work in genocide education as a model, the project will bring students on a four-day visit to the last KR stronghold of Anlong Veng for the purpose of participating in daily educational activities that require critical thinking, reflection, and debate, and that offer opportunities to interact with, converse with, and ask questions of former KR cadre and victims residing in the area.

The program not only offers critical insights into Cambodia's violent history, but it also aims to convey a basic understanding of different theories of conflict resolution and transformation. The tour will meet its objectives through interactive discussions, guided tours of local historical sites, and a curriculum that uses individual stories to convey historical and moral lessons. The tour is designed to be rehabilitative to victims and former KR cadres in that it provides both groups an opportunity to reflect on, and impart their understanding of, their experiences during the Democratic Kampuchea period and the civil war years (1979-1998) that followed.

The tour is based on a curriculum that is thought-provoking and deeply personal. Through face-to-face discussions with victims and former KR cadres, the program will challenge participants to contemplate the diversity of human experience (both instances of humanity and inhumanity) during times of conflict and social upheaval. The stories will validate the significance of the actions of individual human beings and help foster the most basic components of conflict transformation and civic skills. Concepts such as the ability to reflect, think objectively, and empathize with others are cornerstones to any peaceful, democratic society. The project will focus on historical empathy as its core objective, and the students who attend the program will be responsible for serving as representatives in their local schools, sharing their learning and insights.

The Anlong Veng Peace Tour program represents the start of the Peace Center's work towards its mutually reinforcing objectives of promoting Peace, Education, and Social Enterprise. Through these core objectives, the Center aims to become a leading institution for the development of sustainable approaches to achieving reconciliation and peace in Cambodia, the region, and beyond.



Im Chaem, left, sits beside Youk Chhang, director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, at Preah Vihear Temple on top of the Dangrek Mountain along the Cambodian-Thai border. Im Chaem was a former chief of a district where many lives were lost to execution, starvation, and exhaustion during the regime of the Khmer Rouge (1975-1979). She has been charged by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (The Khmer Rouge Tribunal) with responsibility for these crimes. On 1 March 2011, Im Chaem visited the millennium-years-old Preah Vihear Temple for the first time in her life. Since the recent dispute with Thailand over the land adjacent to the temple broke out, Im Chaem and people in her village constantly supply both moral and material support to troops at the frontline. She and people in her village, which is located about 90 kilometer from the temple seriously damaged by the recent fighting, have been united and strong in supporting the fight against what they see as invasion by Thailand. Like Im Chaem, some troops stationed at the conflicted area were former Khmer Rouge fighters and some were even sent from her area to reinforce the battle. They appeared to be committed and determined to fight to protect what they believe to be the sovereignty of Cambodia. Dr John D. Ciorciari, who is teaching international law and politics at the University of Michigan and a senior legal advisor for the Documentation Center of Cambodia and who also joined the visit to the temple, said that, in reconciliation terms, the Thai government has in a sense been doing a favor for the government of Cambodia. According to him, reconciliation to the level never achieved before has arguably been brought about by the recent conflict with Thailand over the land surrounding the Preah Vihear Temple. "The identity of the Khmer Rouge has changed. They seem to have dropped the 'Rouge' and now see themselves simply as Khmers, proudly fighting and protecting Cambodia from foreign invasion. The Cambodian government is happy with former Khmer Rouge soldiers protecting the disputed area and the temple and many people are happy having the long-time fighters protecting the temple."

Caption and photo by Chy Terith

**Above:** On November 11, 2013, the International Court of Justice handed down an interpretation of its 1962 judgment on the dispute between Thailand and Cambodia concerning the ancient temple of Preah Vihear and its environs (JDC). Preah Vihear Temple is an ancient Hindu temple built during the period of the Khmer Empire, that is situated atop a 525-metre (1,722 ft) cliff in the Dângrêk Mountains, in the Preah Vihear province, Cambodia. (From Preah Vihear Temple to Anglong Veng is 78 Kilometers. Photo by Ouch Makara)