

# **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.