

# មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯកសារកម្ពុជា

The First Conference  
**THE FUTURE OF CAMBODIA WITHOUT GENOCIDE:**  
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE THROUGH EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE

**Welcoming Remarks**

by

Youk Chhang

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- **Samdech Moha Bovor Thipadei Hun Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- His Excellency and Her Excellency members of the Senate, the National Assembly and Government Officials,
- Her Excellency Mrs. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide,
- Her Excellency Dr. Beth Van Schaack, the United States Ambassador-at-large for Global Criminal Justice,
- His Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Oum, Pou Ming, the Survivors of Khmer Rouge Genocide and beloved youths!

Welcome to “The Future of Cambodia Without Genocide” Conference. I want to express my deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Samdech Mohabovor Thipdei Hun Manet, Samdech Akeakmohasenapadey Techo Hun Sen, and the entire Royal Government of Cambodia including military and police. We are also grateful to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has provided steadfast support to DC-Cam. This conference would not have been possible without all of this support.

I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to General Mao Sophan, Deputy Commander in-chief of the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, for allowing us to use this most prestigious Yutti Techo Hall. Your assistance and accommodations have made this conference all the better. Cambodia’s ability to realize a future without genocide depends upon its courage to face its history and translate lessons learned into meaningful strategies for the future. This conference is an important step forward in this long journey.

The conference organizers aim to establish a transnational community of experts in human rights and genocide prevention in post-conflict societies who can share innovative ideas and best practices, working together to build an enduring peace in Cambodia and beyond. This will be the first in a series of conferences that will lay the foundations for that network. Again, I want to thank the Royal Government of Cambodia, USAID, and all of you for taking time to participate in this important event. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you and sharing your valuable insights and thoughts.



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'...a society cannot know itself if it does not have an accurate memory of its own history.'

— SINCE 1995 —