



EUROPEAN UNION

សហភាពអឺរ៉ុប

EU-Assistance on curbing Small Arms and light weapons in Cambodia

ជំនួយលើការឧបស្ករកំណត់អាវុធគុណត្ថម្ភ និង សព្វាវុធគុណត្ថម្ភស្រាលនៅកម្ពុជា

EU-ASAC

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EU ASAC Press Release
on a Flames of Peace Weapons Destruction ceremony in Kratie,
9 March 2006

“EU ASAC to assist in destruction of over 3,000 weapons in Kratie...”

Phnom Penh: 6 March 2006

EU ASAC, the programme of the European Union to assist Cambodia in small arms management, is pleased to announce that the 46th Flame of Peace ceremony in Cambodia, at which over 3,000 surplus military weapons will be destroyed, is to be held in Kratie, at 8 a.m. on Thursday morning, 9 March. H.E. Lt. General Chay Saing Yun, Secretary of State in the Ministry of National Defence will preside at the ceremony.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has regularly been destroying surplus weapons that have either been confiscated as illegal weapons from the civilian population or declared surplus weapons by the Ministry of National Defence. After the destruction in Kratie the total number of weapons destroyed in Cambodia since May 1999 will be almost 185,000. EU ASAC will have given financial and technical assistance for the destruction of over 130,000 of these weapons.

One of EU ASAC’s major activities is to assist the Ministry of National Defence implement a Weapons Registration and Safe Storage project for all small arms and light weapons (SALW) under their control. Between 2001 and 2005 all SALW in the six military regions of the Army as well as the weapons of the Royal Gendarmerie were registered in a centralised computer database and securely stored. Similar projects are being implemented in 2006 with the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

Mr. David de Beer, the EU ASAC Project Manager, commented that the province of Kratie had a special place in the history of EU ASAC as one of its first large weapons collection projects took place in the Snuol district in 2001/2 when over 3,000 weapons were collected from the local population helping to make the area safe and accessible. Following the destruction of 5,100 weapons in Kratie in July 2001, this would be the second major Flame of Peace ceremony in the province.

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For further information on the work of EU ASAC please consult its website:
http://www.eu-asac.org or contact David de Beer, Project Manager, at +855 (23) 214 805

NOTE FOR VISITORS TO THE CEREMONY:

The Ceremony will begin at 8 a.m. on the grounds of the Kratie Airport on the road from Kratie to Snuol.

Office: Golden Gate Hotel: Room: 001-006, #9 Road 278, Sangkat B.K.K.1, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh
Tel/Fax: +855 (23) 214 805, Mobile phone Project Manager: +855 12 921 425,
E-mail: eu.smallarms@online.com.kh Website: www.eu-asac.org

សណ្ឋាគារហ្គេតមែន: បន្ទប់លេខ: ០០១-០០៦, ផ្ទះលេខ.៩, ផ្លូវលេខ.២៧៨, សង្កាត់បឹងកេងកង១, ខណ្ឌចំការមន, ភ្នំពេញ

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