



EUROPEAN UNION

សហភាពអឺរ៉ុប

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

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EU-ASAC

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EU ASAC Press Release

Prime Minister to preside at Flame of Peace Weapons Destruction ceremony in Kandal Province, 20 June 2006

“In its Final Flame of Peace Ceremony EU ASAC will help to destroy over 5,000 weapons in Kandal Province...”

Phnom Penh: 19 June 2006:

EU ASAC, the programme of the European Union to assist Cambodia in small arms management, is pleased to announce that the 50th Flame of Peace ceremony in Cambodia, at which over 5,000 surplus military weapons will be destroyed, is to be held in Takmao, Kandal province, at 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning, 20 June 2006. H.E. the Prime Minister, Hun Sen, will preside at the ceremony.

EU ASAC has been operating in Cambodia since April 2000 and this ceremony will mark the end of the co-operation between the National Commission for the Reform and Management of Weapons and Explosives in Cambodia and EU ASAC, as the EU ASAC programme will close on 30 June 2006. “All the goals set by the Councils of Ministers of the European Union when the project began in 2000 have now been reached,” explained Mr. David de Beer, the EU ASAC Project Manager, who further praised the Royal Cambodian Government for its co-operation throughout the years in making the project a success.

In 2000 the widespread possession of small arms among the civilian population and the lack of control of state-owned weapons posed a threat to the stability and development of the country, but now a new Arms Law is in force and all small arms of the Ministry of National Defence have been registered and securely stored. Weapons collection among the civilian population has ensured a significant reduction in crimes involving illegal weapons left over from the war. All this means that small arms are now no longer a threat to the stability and development of the country.

Mr. de Beer praised the Royal Government of Cambodia for regularly 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 Kandal the total number of weapons destroyed in Cambodia since May 1999 will be over 198,000. EU ASAC will have given financial and technical assistance for the destruction of over 142,000 of these weapons.

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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 or +855 12 921 425