



EUROPEAN UNION

សហភាពអឺរ៉ុប

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

ជំនួយលើការឧបស្ពាន់អាវុធគុនតូច និង សព្វាវុធគុនស្រាលនៅកម្ពុជា

EU-ASAC

អាសាក់

EU ASAC Press Release on Weapons Destruction in Kampong Chhnang, 31 August 2005

“EU ASAC to assist in destruction of 4,000 weapons in Kampong Chhnang province...”

Phnom Penh: 26 August 2005

EU ASAC, the programme of the European Union to assist Cambodia in small arms management, is pleased to announce that the 41st Flame of Peace ceremony in Cambodia, at which at least 4,000 surplus military weapons will be destroyed, is to be held in Kampong Chhnang, on **Wednesday morning, 31 August 2005**. H.E. General Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Minister 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 Kampong Chhnang the total number of weapons destroyed in Cambodia since May 1999 will be over 167,500. EU ASAC will have given financial and technical assistance for the destruction of over 118,000 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. Since 2001 all SALW in five military regions have been registered in a centralised computer database and securely stored. Similar projects are being implemented in 2005 in the last remaining region, Special Military Region (Phnom Penh), and in all provinces with the Royal Gendarmerie. After each of these projects thousands of weapons are allocated for destruction as surplus weapons.

Mr. David de Beer, the EU ASAC Project Manager, underlined the importance of the Kampong Chhnang destruction ceremony. “The weapons which have been left over from a Registration and Safe Storage project are not safely stored and can sometimes easily be stolen or find their way into the hands of criminals or be sold illegally overseas. The Cambodian Government must be praised for its decision to destroy all weapons which are not needed by the army after EU ASAC helps to securely store the weapons it does need.”

The exhibition “To be Deter-mined” presently on display at the Wat Phnom Exhibition Centre in Phnom Penh illustrates EU ASAC’s weapons collection and destruction work. Other themes covered by the exhibition are art and furniture made from destroyed weapons by Peace Art Cambodia as well as the activities of the Cambodian National Volleyball League – Disabled (CNVLD) whose sportsmen are largely landmine victims.

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

(ends) (414 words)

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

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

ទូរស័ព្ទ, ទូរសារ: (០២៣) ២១៤ ៨០៥ . ទូរស័ព្ទ: ទូរស័ព្ទវៃ: (០១២) ៩២១ ៤២៥ អ៊ីមែល eu.smallarms@online.com.kh