



សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា
Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

December 13, 2019 until December 31, 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report owes much to the strong courage, determination, and inspiration of the founders, board members, executive team, members, and partners who have supported CamboJA to overcome many challenges since our inception. Thanks in particular to all the 15 founders for their dedication and sacrifice that gave birth to CamboJA at a dark moment in Cambodia's journalism history to restore hope for independent media in the country.



IFJ Associate Member

Joined January 11, 2021

REPRESENTING MORE THAN
100 JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA
WORKERS IN CAMBODIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

6	Letter from the Board Director
7	Letter from the Executive Director
8	Vision & Mission
9	Core Values
10	Our Story
16	The Founding Members
21	The Governing Board of Directors
22	The Executive Team
24	Summary of CamboJA Achievements
25	Achievements of CamboJA News
26	CamboJA News Website Performance
28	CamboJA News Social Media
30	Achievements of Research & Advocacy Program
34	List of Key Advocacy Actions (Dec 2019-Dec 2020)
36	Achievements of Capacity Development Program
42	CamboJA on Facebook
43	Organization and Finances
46	CamboJA in the News
54	Challenges and Way Forward
56	Lessons Learned

Together for Free Press

LETTER FROM THE BOARD DIRECTOR

Dear friends and members of CamboJA:

It has been more than a year since we established the Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association (CamboJA), a time that has passed quickly, yet press freedom in Cambodia has not improved.

CamboJA founders spent personal time on weekends in 2019 to establish this press association. Our common goal was to establish an independent, non-partisan institution with a mission to strengthen the journalism profession, the freedom of the press, the independence of the media, and the power of the press, and to protect journalists.

Over the past year, CamboJA has been active in speaking on behalf of journalists who have been intimidated, arrested, and imprisoned for doing their work.

Throughout the year, CamboJA has also expanded. We launched the Khmer and English news website CamboJA. As our membership has grown to 110 members across the country, we have also conducted extensive journalism training.

CamboJA members come from various media outlets in the country, regardless of their political affiliation. Journalists deserve to have an organization like CamboJA that can help them when they have problem, including by providing moral support and legal protection.



PRAK CHAN THUL

Chairman of the Board of Directors

We all know that this work is huge, we face problems both internally and externally, but we are working to solve them gradually. All jobs have their problems, but we will not give up and we, as the board, will continue to work with the executive team led by Mr. Nop Vy to improve the conditions for staff and to address issues that are in the interests of journalists in general. We are new but have achieved a lot as you will see in this report.

I would like to thank Mr. Nop Vy for leading CamboJA to this point. I would also like to thank the founders and members of the board of directors for their contributions. They are Ms. Kann Vicheika, Mr. Sun Soken, Ms. Chan Muihong, Mr. Sun Narin, Mr Nop Vy, Ms. Cheng Mengchou, Mr. Min Pov, Mr. Pring Samrang, Mr. Chhorn Chansy, Mr. Khy Sovuthy, Mr. Dit Sokthy, Mr. May Titthara, Ms. Yon Sineat, and Ms. Kong Meta.

I would like to further thank our public and foreign donors for their support of CamboJA.

Thank you!

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my honor to welcome you to CamboJA's first annual report. With this message, I would like to invite you to read our incredible results after a year of running our small startup.

Built on a strong will, passion, and the commitment of founding members, the association was officially launched on December 13, 2019. We rented a small room at a co-working space just a few hours after our launching ceremony. Two of the founding members sat there to operate CamboJA without adequate funding—one as the Executive Director (Mr. May Titthara); the other as a senior reporter (Mr. Khy Sovuthy) writing news articles and publishing them on cambojanews.com. All of the founding members spent many weekends and holidays to attend meetings to form structure of CamboJA and introduce CamboJA to various stakeholders. We even donated our own financial resources to build our dream establishment—holding hands to walk through many challenges together. Those obstacles included but were not limited to exploring funders, developing proposals, developing strategy and structure, etc. I have personally learnt a lot since embarking on this risky journey.

After being elected by the board of directors to be the executive director in early 2020, I was fortunate to be able to join on this wonderful journey and to today present to you our incredible achievements. CamboJA recently moved to a new office space for a second time because of the growth in staff—from two in December 2019 to thirteen by the end of 2020 (46% are women; and 50% of the management committee are women). We have mobilized support from more than 100 journalists and media workers in the country (over 20% are female). We are partnering with



NOP VY

Executive Director

various local and international organizations to provide needed support to our members and standing as “the last bastion of an independent media in the country,” as said our friends at Reporters Without Border (RSF).

Although we did not win the RSF's 2020 Press Freedom Awards, the nomination from Reporters Without Border already sends us a powerful message that CamboJA is vital to the country's democracy and our sacrifice is valued.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of CamboJA's founding members, the governing board of directors, which is led by Mr. Prak Chan Thul, who have donated their valuable time and resources to build and lead CamboJA. I am particularly grateful for the board of directors who have been working passionately and tirelessly to support the executive committee to drive the institution toward good governance despite facing many impediments in the process. My heartfelt thanks also go to CamboJA's members, donors, partners and other supporters who have always kept us motivated, provided constructive feedback, and expressed solidarity with CamboJA to build a good future of free press and restore access to information to the citizens.

Best regards,

VISION

CamboJA envisions Cambodian journalists as being professional and able to exercise their duty to report freely, safely, securely, and without censorship or pressure from any party or because of their living conditions or their family and social status. Their professional work should build trust among people through their articles, which should promote the public interest and push for social justice, finding solutions and provoking responses from responsible stakeholders to the concerns raised by people. Professional journalists should benefit from their careers, earning appreciation and building their reputations. We believe that professional journalists are a national resource who can contribute to major achievements and compile documents that will be used as a historical record in the future.

MISSION

Promote access to information and press freedom, strengthen the professionalism of journalists and support their livelihoods.

CORE VALUE

Professionalism

This is one of CamboJA's primary tenets. Our work is based on professionalism, journalistic skills, and a code of ethics. We work without fear or favor.

Integrity

We stand for integrity. Integrity, transparency, credibility, fairness, and reporting the truth are our foundations.

Freedom

We stand for the fundamental freedom of expression, particularly press freedom. We support all journalists to exercise their freedoms that are guaranteed by national and international laws. CamboJA does not support any action that leads to the narrowing of press freedom.

Responsibility

CamboJA is responsible for all of its actions under Cambodian laws, particularly in relation to its publications, content and activities.

Gender Equity

CamboJA promotes women's participation in journalism. CamboJA is open to the active participation of women journalists at all levels.

OUR STORY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

CamboJA received a license from the Ministry of Information.

DECEMBER 13, 2019

CamboJA was officially launched.

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

CamboJA was nominated for RSF's 2020 Press Freedom Awards in the Independence category.

DECEMBER 8, 2020

CamboJA got registered at the Ministry of Interior.



CamboJA is the only independent network of professional journalists in Cambodia. It was officially launched on December 13, 2019, with financial support from the Embassy of Sweden in Cambodia, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center).

In October 2018, a year after the crackdown on independent media, unemployed professional journalists who formerly worked for The Cambodia Daily and RFA, along with some freelance journalists, met with representatives from UNESCO and OHCHR to discuss ways to restore press freedom and access to information for the Cambodian people. A month later, around 20 journalists met to reach an agreement to establish an independent journalists network.

CamboJA was initiated by more than 20 professional journalists from different media outlets during a meeting on February 16, 2019 following the government's severe crackdown on critics and independent media. Eventually, 15 of them agreed to form the governing body of CamboJA and became board members, aiming to establish a sustainable independent body that could carry out the mission to promote access to information and press freedom, strengthen the professionalism of journalists, and support their livelihoods. We work to serve all journalists, media workers and citizen journalists working in Cambodia regardless of their membership status at CamboJA, level of professionalism, place of work, or political tendency. CamboJA received a license from the Ministry of Information on September 9, 2019 and registered at the Ministry of Interior on December 8, 2020 with the legal name "Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association" (CamboJA).



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ

ក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ
លេខ: ៤៧១២ ប្រ.ក



ប្រកាស
ស្តីពី
ការចុះឈ្មោះក្រុមសមាគម

ឧបនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ

- បានឃើញរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញ នៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រឹត្យលេខ នស/រកត/០៩១៨/៩២៥ ចុះថ្ងៃទី០៦ ខែកញ្ញា ឆ្នាំ២០១៨ ស្តីពីការតែងតាំងនិងដំឡើងរាជរដ្ឋាភិបាលនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានទ្រង់យល់ព្រះរាជក្រឹត្យលេខ នស/រកត/០៣២០/៤២១ ចុះថ្ងៃទី៣០ ខែមីនា ឆ្នាំ២០២០ ស្តីពីការតែងតាំងនិងតែងតាំងសមាសភាពរាជរដ្ឋាភិបាល នៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០៦១៨/០១២ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២៨ ខែមិថុនា ឆ្នាំ២០១៨ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីការរៀបចំនិងការប្រព្រឹត្តទៅ នៃគណៈរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០៧១៨/០១០ ចុះថ្ងៃទី១២ ខែសីហា ឆ្នាំ២០១៨ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីសមាគម និងអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០៨៩៨/០០៧ ចុះថ្ងៃទី០១ ខែកញ្ញា ឆ្នាំ១៩៩៨ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីរបបសារពើពន្ធនៃសមាគម
- បានឃើញព្រះរាជក្រមលេខ នស/រកម/០១៩៦/០០៧ ចុះថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ១៩៩៦ ដែលប្រកាសឱ្យប្រើច្បាប់ស្តីពីការបង្កើតក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ
- បានឃើញអនុក្រឹត្យលេខ១០៥ អនក្រ.បក ចុះថ្ងៃទី១៩ ខែសីហា ឆ្នាំ២០១៥ ស្តីពីការរៀបចំនិងការប្រព្រឹត្តទៅ នៃក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ
- យោងតាមស្នើសុំចុះឈ្មោះចុះថ្ងៃទី០១ ខែតុលា ឆ្នាំ២០២០ របស់សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធក្រសួងសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា

សម្រេច

ប្រការ ១.-
ត្រូវបានចុះឈ្មោះ សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធក្រសួងសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា សរសេរជាអក្សរកាត់ (ខេមបូឌា - CamboJA) ក្នុងបញ្ជីសមាគមនៅក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ ដែលមានអាសយដ្ឋាន នៃទីស្នាក់ការកណ្តាលតាំងនៅបន្ទប់លេខ១០០២ និង១០០៣ ជាន់ទី១០ ខែអគារលេខ២៦-២៨ (ភ្នំពេញខ្សែក) ស្ថិតនៅផ្លូវលេខ៣៨៨ ភូមិ៦ សង្កាត់ទួលស្វាយព្រៃទី១ ខណ្ឌបឹងកេងកង រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ។

ប្រការ ២.-
សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធក្រសួងសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា ត្រូវធ្វើសកម្មភាពស្របតាមច្បាប់ស្តីពីសមាគម និងអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាលច្បាប់ស្តីពីរបបសារពើពន្ធ លិខិតបទដ្ឋានគតិយុត្តនានាជាធរមាន និងលក្ខន្តិកៈរបស់សមាគមដែលបានកម្ពស់ទុកនៅក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ។

ប្រការ ៣.-
បទប្បញ្ញត្តិទាំងឡាយណាដែលផ្ទុយនឹងប្រកាសនេះ ត្រូវទុកជាមិនគិត។

ប្រការ ៤.-
អគ្គលេខាធិការ នៃអគ្គលេខាធិការដ្ឋាន អគ្គនាយក នៃអគ្គនាយកដ្ឋានរដ្ឋបាល អគ្គនាយក នៃអគ្គនាយកដ្ឋាននគរបាលជាតិ អគ្គនាយកដ្ឋានពាក់ព័ន្ធនានា នៃក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ ក្រុមប្រឹក្សា អភិបាល នៃគណៈអភិបាលរាជធានី និងសាមីសមាគមត្រូវអនុវត្តប្រកាសនេះចាប់ពីថ្ងៃចុះហត្ថលេខានេះតទៅ។

ថ្ងៃ ភ្នំពេញ ថ្ងៃទី ០១ ខែ តុលា ឆ្នាំ ២០២០
រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី
ក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ



កិច្ចពន្យល់:
- ទីស្នាក់ការកណ្តាលរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី
- ក្រសួងសេដ្ឋកិច្ច និងហិរញ្ញវត្ថុ
- ក្រសួងការបរទេស និងសហប្រតិបត្តិការអន្តរជាតិ
- ក្រសួងព័ត៌មាន
- ក្រសួងយុត្តិធម៌
- ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាសេដ្ឋកិច្ចកម្ពុជា
- ធនាគារជាតិ នៃកម្ពុជា
- រដ្ឋបាលរាជធានី
- ដូចជាការ ៨ (ដើម្បីអនុវត្ត)
- រាជកិច្ច
- ឯកសារ - កាលប្បវត្តិ

¹ CamboJA's License from the Interior Ministry

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

Royal Government of Cambodia
Ministry of Interior
No. 4710 PR.K

Prakas (Ministerial Proclamation)
On
The Registration in the List of Associations

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior

- Having seen the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Having seen Royal Decree No. NS/RKT/0918/925, dated September 6, 2018, regarding the Appointment of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Having seen Royal Decree No. NS/RKT/0320/421, dated on March 30, 2020, regarding the Appointment, the Revision of the Compositions of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Having seen Royal Code No. NS/RKM/0618/012, dated June 28, 2018, promulgating the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Council of Ministers
- Having seen Royal Code No. NS/RKM/0815/010, dated August 12, 2015, promulgating the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Having seen Royal Code No. NS/RKM/0895/07, dated on September 1, 1995, promulgating the Law on Press
- Having seen Royal Code No. NS/RKM/0196/08, dated on January 24, 1996, promulgating the Law on the Establishment of Ministry of Interior
- Having seen Sub-Decree No. 109 ANKr. BK, dated on August 19, 2015, regarding the Organization and Functioning of the Ministry of Interior
- Referring to Application for Registration, dated on October 1, 2020 of Cambodian Journalists Alliance

Hereby Decided

Article 1:

The Cambodian Journalists Alliance with shortcut as "CamboJA" is hereby registered in the List of Associations at the Ministry of Interior, with its head office's address: Room#1002 and #1003, 10th Floor, Phnom Penh Villa Apartment, Building: 26-28, St. 388, Village 6, Sangkat Tuol Svay Prey I, Khan Boeung Keng Kang, Phnom Penh.

Article 2:

² Translated Version of CamboJA's License

The Cambodian Journalists Alliance shall operate its activities in accordance with the applicable Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, Law on Press, legal instruments and Statute filed at the Ministry of Interior.

Article 3:

Any regulations contradictory to this Prakas shall be abrogated.

Article 4:

The Secretary General of General Secretariat, Director General of General Department of Administration, Commissioner General of General Commissariat of National Police, all general departments concerned of the Ministry of Interior, Councilors and Governor of Governing Board of Phnom Penh and the registered association shall duly implement this Prakas from the date of signature.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

For Minister

Secretary of State

(Signature and stamp)

Bun Honn

Recipients:

- Office of the Council of Ministers
- Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Information
- Ministry of Justice
- Council for the Development of Cambodia
- National Bank of Cambodia
(For information)
- As stipulated in article 4 (For implementation)
- Royal gazette
- File-Archive

By late 2020, the governing board of directors consisted of seven members working for various independent news outlets (including some freelance journalists). With increased support from various partners, more professionals have joined our team, starting from two in January to 12 by December 2020.

On November 16, 2020, CamboJA was nominated for RSF's 2020 Press Freedom Awards in the Independence category, and it was admitted as a member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in early 2021.

To contribute to the promotion of press freedom, access to information, and professionalism, CamboJA runs three core programs in three interlinked areas including news reporting in both English and Khmer, capacity development, and research & advocacy in line with our strategic plan 2020-2023.

About CamboJA News

With an aim to improve the lack of comprehensive and accurate news, CamboJA News mobilizes independent journalists to produce more credible in-depth and investigative news stories and publish them on our own digital outlets, including website and social media pages, with a strong focus on underreported issues including human rights and development. In the face of media restriction, the program also contributes to expanding journalistic opportunities by providing Cambodian journalists with story grants that enable them to report stories free from self-censorship and institutional pressures. CamboJA also provides employment opportunities at our newsroom so that journalists can continue to practice this profession on a full-time basis without being subject to political influence.

About Capacity Development Program

The program aims to run at least 5 trainings per year to provide members and non-member (citizen) journalists with the opportunities to improve their understanding, knowledge, and skills needed in reporting important stories in the context of the rapidly changing media landscape as a result of the growing influence of platform media (especially Facebook and YouTube) and government repression. Some of the activities under this program are being supported by the German Embassy, Transparency International Cambodia, EWMI, UNESCO-IPDC, USAID and the U.S. State Department's DRL grant through DanChurchAid (DCA).

About Research & Advocacy Program

This program contributes to the promotion of press freedom, freedom of expression, and the protection of journalists. To enable Cambodian journalists to exercise their duty freely and safely without censorship or pressure from any party, the program provides referral legal support to journalists who face legal harassment due to their journalistic work. It also studies and monitors the situation of media freedom in Cambodia by conducting research, investigating, and advocating for press freedom. Currently, some of the activities of the program are co-funded by the German Embassy and the DRL grant from the U.S. State Department through coordination of DCA.

THE FOUNDING MEMBERS



Nop Vy was CamboJA's Board Director while he was serving as a media director of the Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM)—the birthplace of CamboJA. Since 2001, he has worked as a social worker, reporter, news editor, and editor-in-chief. He holds bachelor's degree in law and master's degree in private law from the Royal University of Law and Economy in Phnom Penh and an associate degree in journalism from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. He was voted to be the Executive Director of CamboJA in 2020.



Kann Vicheika is a freelance journalist covering stories related to politics, human rights, social justice, and social issues. She is currently a trainer for the Newsroom Cambodia project of the Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM) and a trainer for the Media and Information Literacy project of DW Akademie. Vicheika is also a core member of Politikoffee, a group of young, enthusiastic, and social media-savvy Cambodians who love political, social, and economics discussion and debate. She graduated from the Royal University of Law and Economics in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in law.



Prak Chan Thul started his career as a journalist at Leisure Cambodia in 2002, right after graduating with a bachelor's in English. After about a year, he won a scholarship to study at the Independent Journalism Foundation (IJF) in Phnom Penh and was later hired as a stringer for the Spanish news wire EFE before moving on to work for the Chinese news agency Xinhua. After a short stint at Xinhua, in 2004 the Siem Reap native joined The Cambodia Daily as a journalist covering courts and general news and later worked as an assignment editor, before leaving for Reuters in 2010.



Chhorn Chansy is currently serving as editor-in-chief for CamboJA News. He started his career in journalism in 2007 at The Cambodia Daily, where he moved up the ranks from environmental reporter, to assignment editor, to news editor until the newspaper was forced to shut down in 2017. He then worked as freelance journalist and assistant to researchers before working at the Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM) as a consultant responsible for coordinating freelance journalists, providing mentorship to interns, and managing the VOD English website. He was also a trainer for the Newsroom Cambodia project at CCIM, which provides practical journalism training to young reporters until he was voted by CamboJA's board of directors to be editor-in-chief of CamboJA News.



Cheng Mengchou was a freelance journalist and full-time journalism lecturer at the Department of Media and Communication at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, where she did her bachelor's in media management, before serving at CamboJA as a communications and resource mobilization coordinator. Previously, she was a news reporter, newscaster, and election coverage coordinator for Radio Free Asia (RFA Khmer service) before its Phnom Penh bureau was forced to shut down in 2017. She was also coordinating RFA Khmer's coverage during the 2018 general elections while undertaking a master's degree in global citizenship, identities, and human rights, from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom through the Chevening Scholarship Programme.



Pring Samrang has been a professional photojournalist for many years. He worked for Cambodge Soir Newspaper from 2005 until 2008, for The Cambodia Daily from 2008 to 2011 and for Reuters from 2011 until 2020. He has also provided photojournalism training to many young Cambodians.



Sun Sokhen is currently the editor-in-chief for the Voice of Democracy (VOD) at the Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM). Serving in journalism since 2013, Sokhen began as an intern reporter, freelance reporter, and fixer, before becoming an editor for VOD in 2018. In 2020, he was promoted to editor-in-chief. He majored in teaching English as a foreign language and obtained a bachelor's degree in education from Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh in 2015. He has participated in many journalism trainings and workshops both locally and internationally.



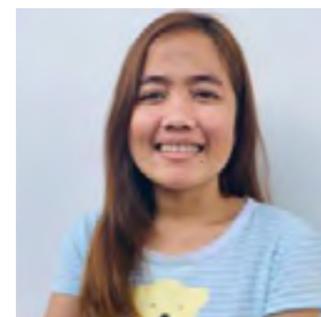
Yon Sineat worked with labor rights NGOs from 2009 to 2014 before becoming a freelance translator and fixer. In June 2017, Sineat joined The Phnom Penh Post where she mainly covered labor issues, human trafficking and slavery, and women's rights. Sineat quit The Phnom Penh Post after the newspaper was taken over by a PR company in May 2018 and returned to freelancing. Her reporting has appeared in a range of publications including ucanews.com, LiCASnew.com, South China Morning Post, Al Jazeera, VOA, DW, cambojanews.com, New Naratif, and VOD.



Sun Narin is a reporter with Voice of America (VOA), where his investigative stories cover politics, elections, social issues, land disputes, the garment sector, enterprise, and the environment. His reporting has also appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Financial Times, ABC Australia and Al Jazeera. He has been working in the journalism field for almost a decade after graduating with a bachelor's in media management from the Department of Media and Communications, and a bachelor's in English Literature from the Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh, in 2011.



May Titthara served as the Executive Director of CamboJA from its inception in September 2019 through mid-2020 before working as a media specialist for Internews. He has 20 years of experience in journalism. He worked as executive editor of the Khmer Times and was a reporter and national news editor for The Phnom Penh Post for nine years, where he won several international media awards for his investigative reporting on illegal logging carried out by powerful Cambodians. He is currently also serving as a part-time journalism lecturer at a private university.



Kong Meta is working as a freelance journalist, researcher, and fixer. She is also pursuing a master's degree in communication and development studies at Ohio University in America through the Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA). After graduating from the Royal University of Phnom Penh in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in media management, she engaged in communication work by producing social media content for state radio under the Cambodian Communication Assistance project funded by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation International Development (ABC ID). She joined The Phnom Penh Post as a reporter in 2016 and resigned from her position in February 2019 after the newspaper was taken over by a PR company.



Min Pov is an editor with Voice of Democracy (VOD) of the Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM), covering politics, governance, environment, and human rights. He is responsible for the Breaking News section, assigning reporters on daily coverage, editing news and handling national and international news for the VOD website (www.vodhotnews.com). Min Pov received a three-month training in radio journalism by CCIM in 2009 before becoming a radio reporter for VOD. He obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from Khemarak University (Cambodia) in 2016.



Dit Sokthy is currently an editor for the Voice of Democracy (VOD) under its parent non-profit organization Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM). He has been in the journalism field since 2007, developing from a news translator, to novice reporter, sub-editor, and then editor. He graduated with a degree in history from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Having spent more than a decade in the journalism field, he has participated in regional and global trainings and workshops, especially a wide range of orientations in investigative journalism.



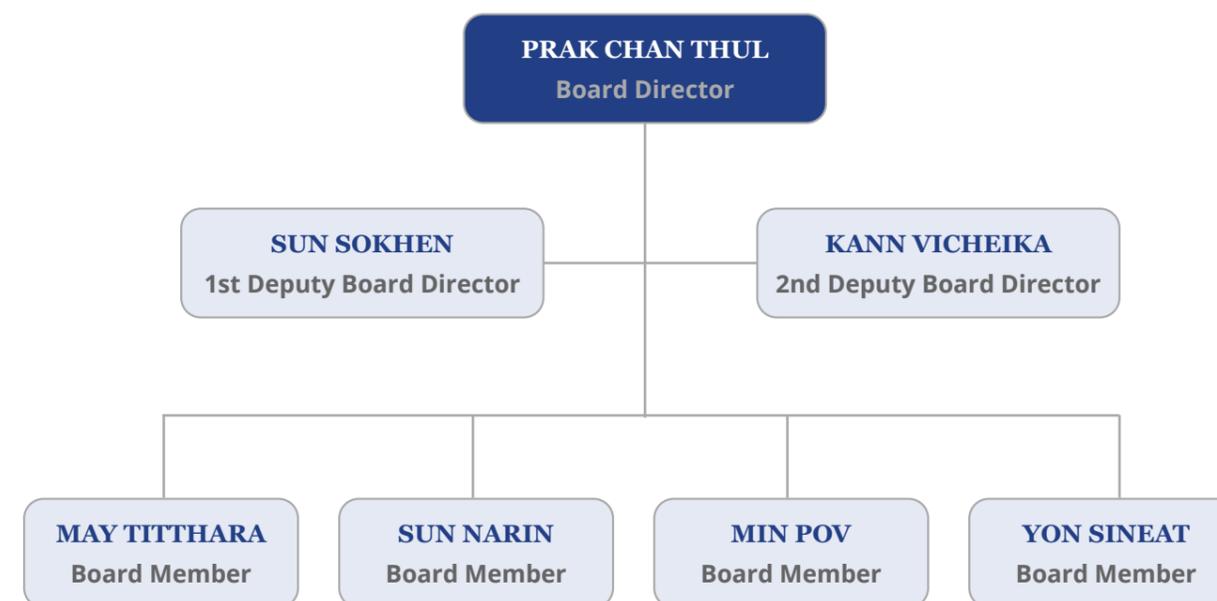
Chan Muyhong is a freelance communication consultant, reporter, and fixer. She holds a bachelor's degree in media management from the Department of Media and Communication (DMC) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (2013) and an master's degree in culture, media and society awarded by Lancaster University (2016). In brief, she has worked as business reporter for The Phnom Penh Post newspaper (2013-2015), a Young Research Fellow at Future Forum (2017), a correspondent for Japanese news agency NNA under Kyodo news (2017), a project manager for Khmer Rouge Storytelling mobile app Mapping Memories Cambodia (MMC), and a part-time lecturer in Entrepreneurial Journalism at the DMC (2018).



Khy Sovuthy is a senior reporter at CamboJA News. Vuthy reported for The Cambodia Daily for almost a decade before it was shut down in 2017. He later worked for the Khmer Times before joining CamboJA in 2019. Vuthy completed various journalism trainings in Cambodia and abroad, including Investigative Reporting by Internews in Cambodia in 2008, Engaging Media for Social Accountability in 2009, and Leadership and Management Skill in Thailand and Singapore in 2014 and 2015 respectively. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in English literature from Norton University in 2014.

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(As of the end of 2020)



* Kann Vicheika submitted her resignation on March 1, 2021 due to personal reasons. Her resignation goes into effect on April 1, 2021.
 * Yon Sineat submitted her resignation on Nov 22, 2020 due to personal reasons. Her resignation was in effect a month later, according to the Bylaws of CamboJA.



THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Management Committee

NOP VY

(Executive Director)

CHHORN CHANSY

(Editor-in-Chief)

CHENG MENGCHOU

(Communications & Resource Mobilization Coordinator)

SRUN RATHA

(Finance & Admin Manager)

CamboJA News

CHHORN CHANSY

(Editor-in-chief)

KHY SOVUTHY

(Senior Reporter)

KHUON NARIM

(Senior Reporter)

SORN SARATH

(Senior Reporter)

Capacity Development Program

LY YOU Y

(Capacity Development Manager)

PHUON KONGKEA

(Capacity Development Officer)

Research and Advocacy Program

HIM KHORTIETH

(Research & Advocacy Manager)

TEUNG SEILA

(Research & Advocacy Assistant)

Communications

CHENG MENGCHOU

(Communications & Resource Mobilization Coordinator)

CHAN PHEARUN

(IT Coordinator/Webmaster)

Finance and Administration

SRUN RATHA

(Finance & Admin Manager)

TUM SOKRAKSA

(Accountant)

SUMMARY OF CAMBOJA ACHIEVEMENTS

(December 13, 2019 until December 31, 2020)

The major CamboJA achievements during the past year include:

- **Mobilized** support from 100 Cambodian journalists, media workers, and citizen journalists to become CamboJA members; more than 23% are women
- Increased **fundraising** efforts for our office operation and staff recruitment. Moved from sharing a working space to an independent office and from employing only one senior reporter to hiring 12 staff members
- Strengthened **legal status** of the association by registering with the Ministry of Interior and having our license renewed with the Ministry of Information
- Expanded **partnership** and **engagement** with stakeholders including media, local, regional and international organizations, as well as the government
- Created digital platforms for **information sharing** and **communicating** with the public and beneficiaries (through social media platforms and websites: www.camboja.net and www.cambojanews.com and khmer.cambojanews.com)
- Developed policy framework and organizational structure for **internal management** and **leadership**
- Increased **advocacy actions** on key issues affecting the rights and safety of journalism, press freedom, access to information, and freedom of expression
- Promoted **accountable** and **quality journalism** by delivering **capacity development** opportunities to member and non-member journalists, and producing useful resources in Khmer language for local journalists
- **Restored opportunities** for journalists to deliver **accurate** and **objective information** to the public
- Promoted access to **legal support** and **mental health** counselling service
- Promoted **safety** for journalists during the COVID-19 pandemic

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAMBOJA NEWS

Thanks to the strong commitment of our founding members who have many years of experience in journalism, some critical initial steps have been taken to ensure self-regulation for CamboJA News. One of the key milestones achieved in July 2020 was the establishment of the code of ethics and editorial policy in Khmer language, which aims to set a clear professional and ethical standard for CamboJA News to operate based on the guiding principle of public interest.

Starting with just one full-time senior reporter after the official launch of CamboJA News on December 13, 2019, the newsroom recruited two more senior reporters in 2020 to work on a full-time basis and consistently offered reporting opportunities to 11 freelance reporters, four of whom are women, as well as to photo and video journalists, many of whom had lost their jobs following the 2017 independent media crackdown. Five other journalists have also signed contracts with CamboJA to provide translation services. Though still tiny, the newsroom has a big courageous heart. Guided by the principle of public interest, every journalist at CamboJA pays great attention to the big and sensitive issues in Cambodia such as human rights, labor conditions, migration, and politics, which are usually underreported—or ignored entirely—by government-friendly media. In total, more than 200 English language news pieces were published by the end of 2020.



On September 9, 2020, which marked the first anniversary of CamboJA since it was legally recognized by the Ministry of Information, the Khmer webpage of CamboJA News was officially launched through funding support from the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center) and donations from some of the founding members, the board of directors, staffs and CamboJA members. By December 2020, about 70 articles were translated into Khmer and distributed to our audience through Facebook as well as the website.

CAMBOJA NEWS WEBSITE PERFORMANCE



CAMBOJA NEWS SOCIAL MEDIA



ACHIEVEMENTS OF RESEARCH & ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Through a one-year grant from the German Embassy in Cambodia, starting from May 2020, and a two-year DRL Grant through DCA on Fundamental Freedoms under the US Department of State, starting from October 2020, CamboJA has been monitoring the country's journalism situation and recording various types of harassments including legal threats, detention, imprisonment, and violence. The findings are documented in an annual report entitled "Cambodian Journalism Situation 2020," which was released to the public in the first quarter of 2021.

Since May 2020, the Research & Advocacy team has also monitored court proceedings of some cases that concern the media including those against former Radio Free Asia journalists Uon Chhin and Yeang Sothearin, former Cambodia Daily reporters Aun Pheap and Zsombor Peter, Sok Oudom, and Ros Sokhet. The team also advocates for justice.

In other cases, the team has taken immediate action by drawing public attention to all journalist-related problems through press releases, (joint) statements, and advocacy videos. The advocacy team has also been playing a crucial role to coordinate the provision of legal and mental health support for both member- and non-member journalists at risk. By the end of 2020, CamboJA has established partnerships with various institutions such as the Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), and a law firm to provide legal support to journalists especially CamboJA's members. We actively collaborate with all partners who aspire to offer support and protection to the media.



In 2020, family members of two detained journalists, Ros Sokhet and Sok Oudom, sought legal assistance from CamboJA. Through CamboJA's coordination, the two journalists received the requested support from CamboJA's partners.

Through funding support from Solidarity Center, CamboJA conducted two studies in 2020: "Media Coverage of Cambodian Labor Issues: A Study of 11 Media Outlets" and "The Impacts of COVID-19 on Cambodian Journalists." Both were published in December 2020. The post of "Media Coverage of Cambodian Labor Issues" has reached 1,185 Facebook users, while the post of "The Impacts of COVID-19 on Cambodian Journalists" has reached 580 people as of April 2021. The reports were also disseminated to 91 member and non-member journalists of CamboJA through our mailing list.

Highlights of Events CamboJA Has Organized and Participated in to Raise Awareness of Media-related Issues and Advocate for Rights and Freedoms

By the end of 2020, CamboJA participated in at least 10 national and regional events, advocating and raising awareness of media freedom-related issues

April 28, 2020 (Virtual Panel Discussion)

CamboJA organized and participated in a virtual panel discussion on “Challenges in Reporting on the COVID-19 Pandemic”

<https://www.facebook.com/100130748124891/videos/2672969603029114>

May 3, 2020 (World Press Freedom Day)

CamboJA organized and participated in a virtual dialogue on independent media, press freedom, and access to information in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.facebook.com/100130748124891/videos/560275064869615>

June 13, 2020 (Open Cybertalk)

CamboJA co-organized Open Cybertalk, raising public awareness of disinformation, access to information, and citizen journalism

<https://www.facebook.com/events/698074267621744>

September 9, 2020 (The First Anniversary of CamboJA)

CamboJA’s board of directors, management committee, staff, and members took the opportunity of CamboJA’s first anniversary celebration to provide updates to partners and donors about CamboJA’s progress and challenges and to mobilize further support.

September 28, 2020 (Press Conference on Access to Information)

To mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information, CamboJA, the Advocacy and Policy Institute (API), the Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM), and Transparency International Cambodia (TI Cambodia) jointly organized a press conference called “We Need to Know” on September 28, 2020, at Sunway Hotel.

<https://cambojanews.com/ngos-call-for-changes-to-draft-law-on-access-to-information/>

September 28, 2020 (International Day for Universal Access to Information)

CamboJA joined UNESCO’s event to commemorate the International Day for Universal Access to Information

October 24-31, 2020 (The Ninth Annual Global Celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy)

CamboJA joint the ninth annual global celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) with UNESCO, which took place from October 24-31, 2020, under the theme “Resisting Disinfodemic: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone.” To celebrate Global MIL week, UNESCO Phnom Penh Office designed 10 posters in Khmer language for the

10-day social media campaign. CamboJA joined the campaign by publishing the 10 posters on the same date with UNESCO.

November 2, 2020 (The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists)

to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, CamboJA joined 56 other NGOs calling on the government to set free the arbitrarily detained journalists, drop the apparently politically motivated charges against journalists, and restore media freedom.

<https://www.facebook.com/CambodianJournalistsAlliance/posts/219547482849883>

November 26, 2020 (The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women)

CamboJA joined UNESCO to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25, 2020 and launch the preliminary findings of UNESCO’s global survey on online violence against women journalists, to which more than 1200 journalists from across the world responded. The initial finding shows that 73% of women journalists say they have experienced online violence in the course of their work, including threats of physical and sexual violence, along with digital security attacks.

<https://www.facebook.com/CambodianJournalistsAlliance/posts/229899205148044>

December 9, 2020 (The Launch of Annual Corruption Index 2020)

CamboJA’s Executive Director was one of the panelists at the launch event of the Annual Corruption Index 2020 organized by Transparency International Cambodia (TI Cambodia), discussing the role of media in fighting corruption.

LIST OF KEY ADVOCACY ACTIONS

(Dec 2019-Dec 2020)

No.	Types of Actions	Subject	Date	Involved Institutions	Link
1	Statement	CamboJA Concerned Over Conviction of Radio Station Owner Sok Oudom	22-Dec-2020	CamboJA	https://bit.ly/3gr18vo
2	Video	Where is justice for journalists? (To commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists)	2-Nov-2020	CamboJA	https://bit.ly/3edTfqt
3	Joint Statement	Media groups call on authorities to step up fights against impunity for crimes against journalists (To commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists)	2-Nov-2020	CamboJA, CCIM, OPCC, IFJ	https://bit.ly/3x9ZLqQ
4	Statement	CamboJA appeals to stakeholders to engage in improving the participation of women in journalism	26-Oct-2020	CamboJA	https://bit.ly/3tyBXef
5	Statement	Journalists continue to be persecuted while on duty	23-Oct-2020	CamboJA, CCIM	https://bit.ly/3alMYyC
6	Statement	CamboJA Concerned by Conviction of Sovann Rithy for COVID-19 Related Reporting	5-Oct-2020	CamboJA	https://bit.ly/3svYvuS
7	Statement	CamboJA appeals to stakeholders to engage in improving the participation of women in journalism	26-Oct-2020	CamboJA, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Women Affairs	https://bit.ly/3goDz6j
8	Statement	CamboJA Deeply Concerned About Violence Against Journalists	30-Sep-2020	CamboJA	https://bit.ly/3n2gxnh
9	Joint Press Conference & Statement	Access to Information Draft Law	28-Sep-2020	CamboJA, TIC, API, CCIM	https://bit.ly/3gmDaBF
10	Statement	The continuation of court proceedings against journalists remains an obstacle to freedom of expression and press freedom in Cambodia	15-Jul-2020	CamboJA	https://bit.ly/2P4zg56
11	Virtual Event	Open Cyber Talk	13-Jun-2020	10 local organizations	https://bit.ly/3tydTIq
12	Joint Statement	Release imprisoned journalists and end media crackdown	18-May-2020	131 Civil Societies	https://bit.ly/2QxcfrP
13	Virtual Event	Commemoration of World Press Freedom Day	3-May-2020	CamboJA, Ministry of Information, Women's Media Center	https://bit.ly/3goPb9A
14	Virtual Event	Panel Discussion on Challenges in Reporting on the COVID-19 Pandemic	28-Apr-2020	CamboJA, CCIM, Ministry of Health, WHO, UNESCO, CDC US	https://bit.ly/3glOmya
15	Online Campaign	Accurate and Safe Reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic	Apr-2020	CamboJA, CCIM, WMC, UNESCO	https://bit.ly/3ghMJSi
16	Joint Statement	CamboJA and the OPCC call for release of Sovann Rithy	11-Apr-2020	CamboJA, OPCC	https://bit.ly/2QB33mr
17	Joint Statement	Civil society organizations call on Cambodian court to drop all charges against journalists	22-Dec-2019	CamboJA, CCHR, CCIM	https://bit.ly/3eutZwv

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Training on Labor Rights Reporting

Labor relations is a major issue in Cambodia where more than 800,000 people are employed as garment workers. To contribute to the improvement of access to information on this important sector, Camboja conducted a two-day training on labor rights issues to improve journalists' understanding of the labor law and the National Security Fund (NSF), and to promote best practices in labor reporting. The training was held on January 24 – 25, 2020 at Sunway hotel in Phnom Penh for 22 journalists (40% were women). It was supported by the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center). According training survey results, approximately 70% of the trainees have reported increased understanding of labor rights-related issues.



With funding support from the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center), Camboja produced 150 safety kits with face masks and alcohols. More than 80% of the safety kits were disseminated to Camboja members, staff, founders, and board members.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Camboja, through financial support from the UNESCO office in Phnom Penh, produced guidelines for journalists to report safely and accurately during the pandemic. Based on the reporting guidelines, a series of posters were circulated on social media to raise awareness of ethical and safety aspects of pandemic reporting.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Camboja, through financial support from the UNESCO office in Phnom Penh, produced guidelines for journalists to report safely and accurately during the pandemic. Based on the reporting guidelines, a series of posters were circulated on social media to raise awareness of ethical and safety aspects of pandemic reporting.

Science Talks

To promote science-based reporting in Cambodia, four science talks were organized in collaboration with Canal France International (CFI) and Open Development Cambodia (ODC) between June and December 2020 in Phnom Penh. These touched upon various scientific topics such as the state of COVID-19 research in Cambodia, the COVID-19 vaccine, drought in the Mekong basin, waste management, and soil quality. The goal was to give journalists access to recent and reliable data about specific issues related to sustainable development and the environment in Cambodia and in the region.



SCIENCE TALK #1

Date: June 4, 2020

Topic: "The state of COVID-19 research in Cambodia"

Experts: Dr. Duong Veasna & Dr. Horm Srey Viseth, Virologists at Pasteur Institute



SCIENCE TALK #2

Date: July 23, 2020

Topic: "Drought in the Mekong Basin"

Expert: Mr. Ix Hour, Drought Expert at Mekong River Commission



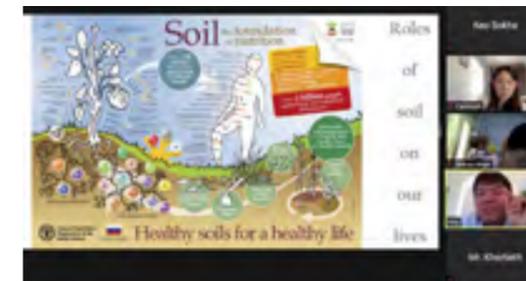
SCIENCE TALK #3

Date: November 27, 2020

Topic: "Waste Management in Cambodia"

Experts:

- Mr. Andrew Durke, Chief Operating Officer of OBOR Capital and member of the board of directors of Global Action for Environment Awareness Plc (GAEA PLC)
- Ms. Ran Saruom, Business Service Manager, GAEA PLC Co., Ltd.



SCIENCE TALK #4

Date: December 16, 2020

Topic: "Soil Quality in Cambodia"

Expert: Mr. Leng Vira, Technical and Scientific Coordinator, Conservation Agriculture Service Center, Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management, General Department of Agriculture



FOLLOW UP ON SCIENCE TALKS #1

Date: December 18, 2020

Topic: “What we should know about the COVID-19 Vaccine”

Experts:

- Dr. Socorro Escalante, Technical Officer and Medicines Policy Advisor, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
- Dr. Lauren Baril, Director, Institute of Pasteur du Cambodge

Training on Safety Protection for Journalists

About 20 journalists from various media outlets in Phnom Penh and several provinces participated in a three-day training on safety protection on September 28-30, 2020, which was funded by the German Embassy to Cambodia. Experienced journalists, human rights expert from OHCHR, media development expert from UNESCO, and digital security experts were invited to share their knowledge with participants to increase awareness and understanding of risk assessment and protection measures that are crucially important to journalistic work.



Developing Universal Health Coverage Reporting Guideline

In partnership with KHANA to promote universal health coverage (UHC), CamboJA has produced a guiding tool for promoting and engaging journalists in advocacy efforts on UHC at the country level. The Universal Health Coverage Guide was developed through consultation with journalists from various media outlets and health experts from different organizations such as KHANA and the Health Action Coordination Committee (HACC). Around 17 journalists from a variety of news media attended the half-day consultative workshop on July 14, 2020 in Phnom Penh to provide their input.

After the UHC Guide was finalized and approved by KHANA and donors, CamboJA translated it into Khmer and launched it on October 14, 2020. In addition, CamboJA and KHANA also organized a competition for journalists reporting on health-related topics. Two UHC champions were selected.



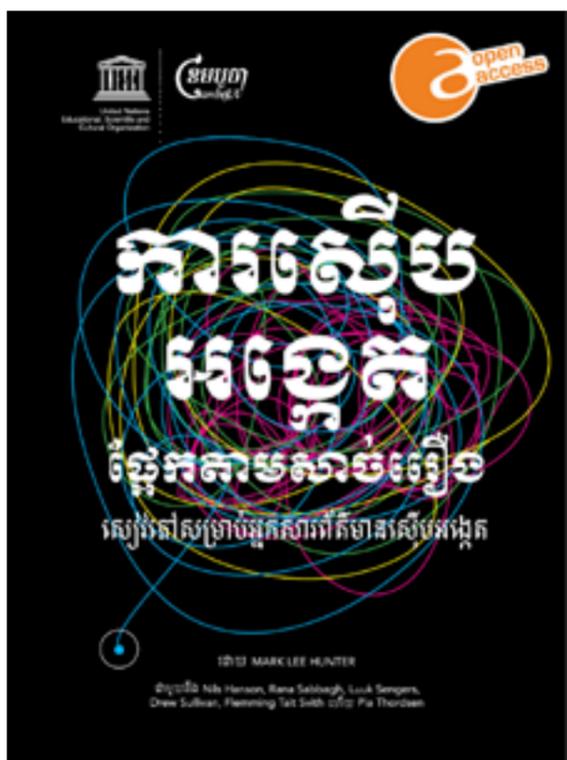
Training on Social Accountability Reporting



As a subgrant recipient from Transparency International Cambodia (TI Cambodia), CamboJA successfully conducted a training on “News Reporting on Social Accountability and Gender Responsive Public Service Delivery” on October 23 – 24, 2020 and launched a competition on social accountability reporting on November 10, 2020.

Through a public announcement of the training opportunity, 19 young professional journalists, freelance journalists, and trainees were recruited to attend the two-day training. Unfortunately, the new wave of COVID-19 in the country has caused some delay to the award ceremony. The event was set to be held in December 2020, and later extended to February 2021, when it had to be delayed again. A journalism skills trainer and external experts on Good Governance and Social Accountability were involved throughout the implementation of the project.

Translating UNESCO Handbook “Story-based Inquiry” into Khmer



A significant lack of capacity has been identified among Cambodian journalists in conducting investigative reporting on issues such as poor governance, corruption, land and natural resource management, deforestation, education, and health. Through the grant from UNESCO IPDC, CamboJA has translated and published UNESCO’s handbook “Story-based inquiry: a manual for investigative journalists” into Khmer, serving as a key resource for strengthening capacity of journalists on producing quality and critical news. The key content of the handbook has been used to develop lesson plans for a five-day training on investigative journalism which was conducted in early 2021. The Khmer version of the handbook is planned to be launched along with the trainees’ investigative report.

CamboJA’s First Dialogue on “Women and Journalism”

With funding support from the US Embassy, CamboJA organized its first high-level dialogue on women in journalism on October 3, 2020.

Prior to the event, a brief assessment was conducted online to explore the experiences of female journalists especially in relation to sexual harassment. The result of this survey provided a preliminary insight for the organizers to understand the main concern of women journalists.

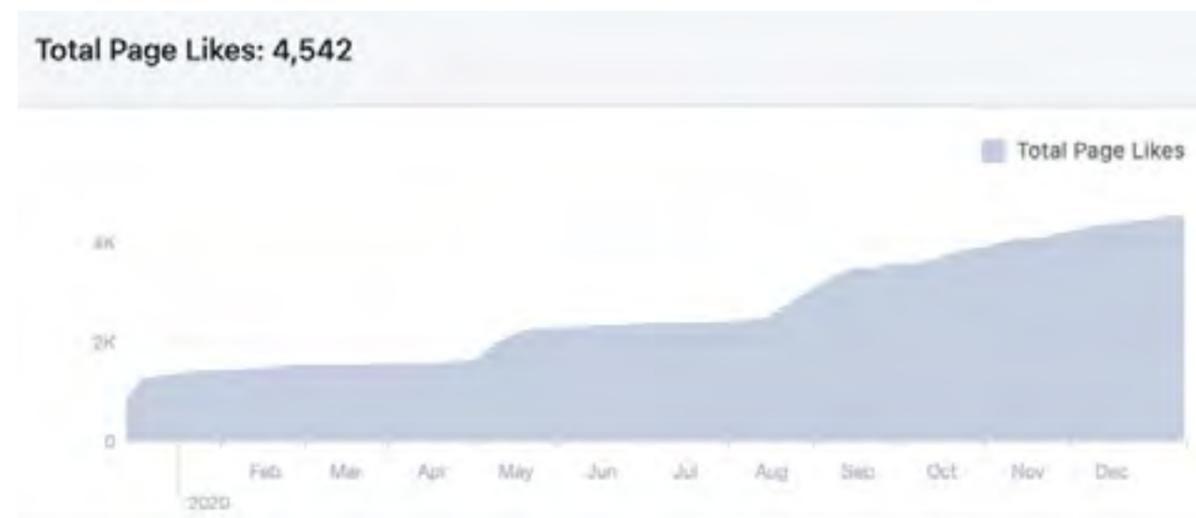


The event was designed as two separate workshops within one day: a consultative workshop and an open dialogue.

The morning session of the event was only open to female journalists, who were invited, while the afternoon workshop was open to the public and featured a panel discussion with panelists from various institutions such as Her Excellency Chea Sundaneth, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Information, His Excellency The Chhunhak, Director General of Gender Equality and Economics Development Department at the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA), Mr. Sek Sophorn, Attorney at Law at R&L Law office, Khan Leakhena, female reporter at Voice of Democracy (VOD) under the Cambodia Center for Independent Media (CCIM).

In total, 50 professionals including female journalists and media professionals working in print, broadcast, and online news media, along with various stakeholders participated to discuss the main challenges facing female journalists while working in the field, including issues of sexual harassment in all forms (verbal, physical and online).

CAMBOJA FACEBOOK



ORGANIZATION AND FINANCES

Since its establishment and formal launch on December 13, 2019, CamboJA has focused on its organizational development which includes strengthening its governing structure, developing policy and internal procedures, human resource development, strengthening partnerships and resource mobilization.

As a result, CamboJA has developed and has been applying staff policy, financial management procedures, and legal support guidelines. CamboJA has developed its bylaws and submitted them to the Ministry of Interior in late 2020. CamboJA was registered as an association on December 8, 2020.

CamboJA’s board meets regularly once per month to drive strategic direction of the association during the initial phase of building structure, policy, and applying for a license from the Ministry of Interior to operate as an association. According to the Bylaws, CamboJA’s governing board holds at least four regular meeting per year.

Annual Reflection Meeting

CamboJA organized its first annual reflection meeting November 20 – 24, 2020 in Kampot province. Ten CamboJA’s staff members, one CamboJA member, and six CamboJA board members and founders participated in the meeting (seven of whom were women).

Through the meeting, participants had the chance to strengthen solidarity and reflect on the key progress, achievements, challenges, and lesson learned as well as identify key strategic ways forwards for the institution to grow and prepare for foreseeable challenges in accordance with CamboJA’s vision and mission. As a key result from the meeting, a 2021 global work plan and a budget plan were developed and submitted to the governing board for approval.



Monitoring & Evaluation

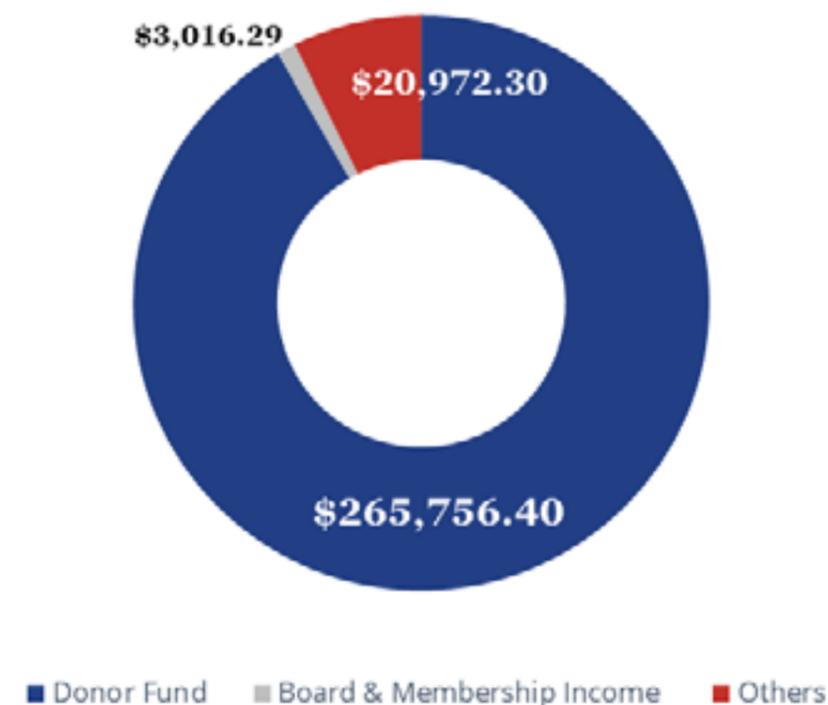
As 2020 came to an end, CamboJA ramped up its efforts to develop a Monitoring & Evaluation framework to track and measure its achievements, and progress of all projects and the whole organization. An M&E consultant was commissioned to develop a global M&E plan as well as an M&E framework for each project. The first orientation on the framework and data collection tool was provided to CamboJA staff on December 16, 2020.

Finance

Since the official launch on December 13, 2019, CamboJA has survived through generous support from founding members, membership fees, and project grants from multiple donors and partners. During the 2020 financial year, we mobilized just over USD 280,000 most of which was project-based funding. This support during the initial phase of CamboJA work has been invaluable in creating the foundations for organizational stability and development in the absence of core funding. We are very thankful to all of the following partners and donors for their contribution.

1. UNESCO
2. The American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center)
3. The German Embassy to Cambodia
4. Canal France International (CFI)
5. The French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
6. USAID
7. The US Embassy to Cambodia
8. The US Department of State's DRL Grant on Fundamental Freedoms
9. DanChurchAid (DCA)
10. East West Management Institute (EWMI)
11. Transparency International Cambodia (TIC)
12. KHANA

CamboJA's Annual Income (as of Dec 2020)



CamboJA continues to look to diversify its source of funding. A sustainability plan will be developed in 2021 with strategic support from DanChurchAid to set the direction for CamboJA's resource mobilization efforts.

CAMBOJA IN THE NEWS

No.	Headline	Institution	Date of Publication	Language	Link
1	សម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន ខេមបូឌា ថាការដាក់ទោសម្ចាស់ស្ថានីយវិទ្យុស្ទឹងសែនរំលោភរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញ	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	23-Dec-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3weJSiy
2	ខេមបូឌា បង្ហាញក្តីបារម្ភក្រោយតុលាការកំពុងឆ្លងផ្តន្ទាទោសចាងហ្វាន់ស្ថានីយវិទ្យុមួយ	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	23-Dec-2020		https://bit.ly/3m8OYYP
3	Journalist sentenced to 20 months in jail	Khmertimes	23-Dec-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3fAlxgd
4	Cambodia sentences journalist Sok Oudom to 20 months in prison	Committee to protect journaists (CPJ)	22-Dec-2020	English	https://bit.ly/31zmhuH
5	Provincial journalist convicted for reporting military-linked land dispute	CamboJA News	22-Dec-2020	English	https://bit.ly/39tnacC
6	Journalist alleges threats from Kratie Military Police official over illegal logging story	CamboJA News	12-Dec-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3m6sCao
7	ការកំណត់ និង សិទ្ធិទទួលបានព័ត៌មានដែលមានគុណភាព	Women's Radio	09-Dec-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3ekWpsD
8	សម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជាអំពាវនាវឲ្យរដ្ឋាភិបាលចាត់ចែងវ៉ាក់សាំងកូវីដ១៩ដល់អ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន ក្នុងអាទិភាពដំបូង	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	9-Dec-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3cF93Tq
9	លោកណុប រិះ ទោះជាមិនទទួលបានព័ត៌មានពីអង្គការអ្នករាយការណ៍គ្មានព្រំដែន តែខេមបូឌានឹងខិតខំបន្ថែមនៅឆ្នាំក្រោយ	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	9-Dec-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rERdUQ
10	Case against Cambodia Daily reporters withdrawn but press freedom attacks persist	CamboJA News	27-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/39vByRj
11	តុលាការខេត្តរតនគិរីទម្លាក់ចោលការចោទប្រកាន់លើអតីតអ្នកកាសែត The Cambodia Daily	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	25-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3cBusNm
12	លោក ហ៊ុន សែន ដាក់គោលដៅប្តឹងអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានដែលស្រងើសម្តីលោកបាត់ខ្លឹមសារ	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	25-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/31CPJ2W
13	តុលាការទម្លាក់បទចោទប្រឆាំងនឹងអតីតអ្នកកាសែត ខេមបូឌា ដេលី ពីរនាក់	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	24-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3sRgSeN
14	Amid COVID Censorship, News Websites Find Ways to Stay Online	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	23-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/2PKiKHk
15	Does CamboJA offer a glimmer of hope for press freedom in Cambodia?	Southeast Asia Globe (GLOBE_)	23-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3slz61Y
16	Camboja ជាប់ឈ្មោះនៅក្នុងបញ្ជី អ្នកដែលគេយកទៅពិនិត្យ ដើម្បីផ្តល់រង្វាន់សេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មាន	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	18-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rBCJFh
17	សាលាដំបូងខេត្តកំពង់ឆ្នាំង លើកពេលប្រកាសសាលក្រម ម្ចាស់ស្ថានីយវិទ្យុ និងគេហទំព័រកាសែត រិទ្ធិសែន	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	18-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/39vrWqh
18	ពន្លឺនៃការចាប់ខ្លួនអតីតអ្នកយកព័ត៌មានអាស៊ីសេរីទាំងពីររូប	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	14-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3m8ZAqO
19	Another journalist convicted for incitement, sentenced to 18 months	CamboJA News	11-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3ubexvm
20	Cambodia Must End Legal Attacks on Media, Rights Groups Say	Voice of America	9-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/31xB1uf
21	User Lab explores youth media engagement in Cambodia	DW Akademie	6-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3m4Hc2k
22	Kampong Chhnang Journalist Denies Inciting Villagers Against Military	CamboJA News	4-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3cFKINE
23	Ministry plans meeting with media	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	3-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3sEq2v1
24	“International Day to End impunity for Crime against Journalist”	CCHR Podcasts	3-Nov-2020	khmer	https://bit.ly/3sRhdhz
25	Cambodia’s Government Should Stop Silencing Journalists, Media Outlets	Human Right Watch	2-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/39tnLuS

No.	Headline	Institution	Date of Publication	Language	Link
26	NGOs: Stop oppressing journalists and limiting free speech	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	2-Nov-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3dIIS3I
27	អង្គការស្តីពីសិទ្ធិសារព័ត៌មាន និងស្ថាប័នសារព័ត៌មាន ស្នើឱ្យផ្តល់យុត្តិធម៌ និងឱ្យដោះលែងអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	2-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/39rU79d
28	ក្រុមសិទ្ធិមនុស្ស ស្នើរដ្ឋាភិបាលកម្ពុជាឱ្យទម្លាក់ចោលបទឧក្រិដ្ឋប្រឆាំងអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	2-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3m7DYLq
29	សមត្ថកិច្ចកំពុងស្រាវជ្រាវរកជនបង្កហិង្សាលើអ្នកកាសែត ខណៈសម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា បង្ហាញក្តីព្រួយបារម្ភ	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	2-Nov-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3dIIS3I
30	អ្នកសារព័ត៌មានមានតួនាទីសំខាន់ក្នុងការរាយការណ៍ពីភាពអសកម្មក្នុងសង្គម	Newsroom Cambodia	27-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rD52U1
31	'Cheat Khmer' publisher pleads guilty to incitement but denies wider conspiracy	CamboJA News	27-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3fu9G4n
32	អង្គការឃ្លាំមើលអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានអំពាវនាវឱ្យបញ្ឈប់ការធ្វើទុក្ខបុកម្នេញលើអ្នកកាសែតនៅកម្ពុជា	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	26-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3wcivFM
33	Civil Society Calls for End to Intimidation of Journalists in Cambodia	ThmeyThmey	26-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3ubeYpu
34	CamboJA និង CCIM ៖ អ្នកសារព័ត៌មាននៅតែរងការគំរាមកំហែង និងរារាំងពេលចុះយកព័ត៌មាន	Radio Veritas Asia Khmer	23-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rDDduE
35	CamboJA អំពាវនាវឱ្យតុលាការទម្លាក់ចោលបទចោទលើអតីតអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន២រូប	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	21-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/31C2uL6
36	សិទ្ធិសេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មានតាមប្រព័ន្ធអ៊ីនធឺណិតនាពេលបច្ចុប្បន្ន	Cambodian Center for Human Rights	16-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/39rARZC
37	សង្គមស៊ីវិលជំរុញឱ្យផ្សាយព័ត៌មានសុខភាពទូលំទូលាយ ដើម្បីពលរដ្ឋប្រុងប្រយ័ត្ន	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	16-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/31CcrX
38	Call for better health education	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	14-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3cBVPXG
39	Cambodia: Government promises to increase protection of female journalists	International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)	12-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3rBb3QZ
40	Cambodia's Sentencing of Journalist Over COVID-19 Comment a Threat to Freedoms, Media Groups Say	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	9-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3dqA1h1
41	IFJ urges Cambodia to investigate murder of journalist	International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)	6-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3edhl4E
42	Support for female journalists sought	Khmertimes	5-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3sCLXlu
43	Journalist handed 18-month sentence for incitement	CamboJA News	5-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3uUocXw
44	CamboJA រិះគន់ការកាត់ទោសអ្នកកាសែតតាមច្បាប់ព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ និងស្នើឱ្យដោះលែងអ្នកកាសែតផ្សេងទៀត ដែលជាប់ឃុំ	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	5-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/2PHQLbs
45	New law urged to protect Cambodian female journalists	Union of Catholic Asian News	5-Oct-2020	English	https://bit.ly/2RNRTLF
46	ខេមបូឌា ក្តៅកាយទោសការវាយប្រហារទៅលើអ្នកកាសែត	News Room Cambodia	1-Oct-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3txDIs4
47	Journalists attacked after reporting forestry crime	CamboJA News	30-Sep-2020	English	https://bit.ly/32rVyAH
48	រយៈពេលបីខែចុងក្រោយនេះ យ៉ាងតិចអ្នកកាសែត១៥នាក់ ទទួលរងអំពើហិង្សា	Koh Santapheap	30-Sep-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3welCvQ
49	អង្គការព័ត៌មានព្រួយបារម្ភពីសុវត្ថិភាពអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន ក្រោយមានករណីស្លាប់ និងអំពើហិង្សាប្រឆាំងអ្នកកាសែត	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	30-Sep-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3xarK9O
50	អ្នកកាសែតរងរបួស២នាក់ ដាក់ពាក្យបណ្តឹងប៉ុនប៉ងវាយសម្លាប់ ក្រោយរាយការណ៍បទល្មើសព្រៃឈើ	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	30-Sep-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3twf6A1

No.	Headline	Institution	Date of Publication	Language	Link
51	អ្នកសារព័ត៌មានបួននាក់រងការវាយប្រហារក្រោយការណែនាំពីការដឹកជញ្ជូនឈើនៅតូងឃ្មុំ	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	30-Sep-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3sxYYfM
52	អ្នកសារព័ត៌មានត្រូវបានគ្រប់គ្រងដោយលំហូរការងារទទួលបានព័ត៌មានអំពីស្ថានភាពរាលដាលជំងឺកូវីដ១៩	Newsroom Cambodia	29-Sep-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/32G0uCP
53	សង្គមស៊ីវិលស្នើឱ្យរដ្ឋាភិបាលពន្លឿនការអនុម័តច្បាប់ស្តីពីសិទ្ធិទទួលបានព័ត៌មានត្រឹមត្រូវនេះ	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	23-Sep-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rBIS88
54	Joint project promotes women's participation in decision making	Khmertimes	13-Aug-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3gmKcGh
55	ពិធីចុះកិច្ចព្រមព្រៀងផ្តល់ជំនួយហិរញ្ញវត្ថុដល់ស្ថាប័នដៃគូចំនួន៩នៅកម្ពុជា ក្រោមជំនួយ EU/SIDA	ThmeyThmey	12-Aug-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3tzvu2x
56	51 people warned or arrested over fake news this year	Khmertimes	6-Aug-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3nbRleh
57	រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងព័ត៌មានថា មន្ត្រីត្រូវតែធ្វើការជាមួយប្រព័ន្ធផ្សព្វផ្សាយ	Khmertimes	6-Aug-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3anTttQ
58	Risk of Disease, Food Shortages, Fish Extinctions as Mekong Faces Severe Drought: Researcher	News Room Cambodia	28-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/2RHE8OI
59	New UNESCO handbook to help journalists fight disinformation is now available in Khmer language	UNESCO	24-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3gozj6P
60	Cambodia's Top Court Rejects Appeals by Ex-RFA Reporters, Labor Activist in Blow to Press Freedom	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	15-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3gjtQOR
61	តុលាការកំពូលសម្រេចប្រោសចោលបណ្តឹងជំទាស់របស់អតីតបុគ្គលិកវិទ្យុអាស៊ីសេរី	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	15-Jul-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3dupUJ3
62	Supreme Court sends Rath Rott Mony's case for retrial	CamboJA News	15-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3twIW7p
63	Supreme Court Upholds Retrial Verdict for Journalists	ThmeyThmey	15-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/2QDPjqM
64	អង្គការការពារអ្នកកាសែតទទួលបានទម្ងន់ចោលបទចោទប្រឆាំងអតីតអ្នកកាសែតអាស៊ីសេរី និងអ្នកបកប្រែសារព័ត៌មានរុស្ស៊ី RT	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	15-Jul-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3xiuemS
65	យុត្តិធម៌សម្រាប់អ្នកកាសែតលោកយឹម សំបូរ និងកូនប្រុស ១២ឆ្នាំ ក្រោយឃាតកម្ម	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	12-Jul-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3sxT5iX
66	New media network emerged amid the worst of media freedom in Cambodia	Fojo Media Institution	10-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3mZYQVi
67	Supreme Court hears cases of jailed RT fixer, former RFA journalists	CamboJA News	2-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3elge38
68	Cambodia's Use of Incitement Law Chills Press Freedom	Voice of America	2-Jul-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3su5HaQ
69	Cambodian newspaper publisher arrested over Facebook posts	International Press Institute	30-Jun-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3aozRWK
70	សមត្ថកិច្ចបញ្ជូនចាងហ្វាន់កាសែតជាតិខ្មែរទៅតុលាការ	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	27-Jun-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/39vCFRo
71	Newspaper publisher arrested over Facebook posts	CamboJA News	27-Jun-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3dAjsvL
72	អ្នកយកព័ត៌មានសុំពន្យារពេលចូលប្រឹក្សាតុលាការ ខណៈមានដឹកឱ្យបំភ្លឺការណាញ់ញ៉ង់	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	15-Jun-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/2O7MnSs
73	កម្ពុជាអនុញ្ញាតឱ្យវិទ្យុក្នុងស្រុកផ្សាយបន្តកម្មវិធីព័ត៌មានរបស់ VOA ឡើងវិញ	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	16-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rDBTYI
74	ទិវាសេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មានពិភពលោក៖ «កម្ពុជាត្រូវការអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន ដែលអាចរាយការណ៍ដោយសេរី»	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	3-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rB5qIP
75	លោក ណុប រី៖ ឆ្នាំ២០២០ សេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជារីកចំរើនតិចតួច បើធៀបនឹងឆ្នាំមុន។	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	3-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3rBlenG
76	សេរីភាពសេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មាននៅកម្ពុជា ស្ថិតក្នុងស្ថានភាពបែបណា?	VAYO	3-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3swORb9

No.	Headline	Institution	Date of Publication	Language	Link
77	PM: Media enjoys uncensored publication	Phnom Penh Post (PPP)	3-May-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3v1fiax
78	ខេមបូឌា និង OPCC ថា សេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជាបន្តរឹតត្បិតក្រោមឥទ្ធិពលអ្នកមានអំណាច	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	3-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3v3zad8
79	Cambodia: Journalists often risk their own safety just to do their jobs	International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)	2-May-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3ee1z9B
80	កម្មវិធីទូរទស្សន៍អាស៊ីសេរី សម្រាប់យប់ថ្ងៃសុក្រ ទី០១ ខែឧសភា ឆ្នាំ ២០២០	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	1-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/32tww4c
81	ក្រុមហ៊ុំមើលសេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មានបង្ហាញថា សេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មាននៅកម្ពុជាកាន់តែអាក្រក់ឡើង	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	1-May-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3x9XEDq
82	Jailed journalists at risk of 'death sentence' amid Covid-19	CamboJA News	29-Apr-2020	English	https://bit.ly/32vbTVg
83	លោក ណុប រិះ ការអប់រំនៅតែជាជម្រើសល្អដើម្បីរុញអ្នកកាសែតខ្លះឱ្យដើរលើផ្លូវវិជ្ជាជីវៈនិងក្រុមសីលធម៌	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	27-Apr-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3sDQK6Z
84	អ្នកសារព័ត៌មានបញ្ចេញទស្សនៈផ្សេងៗគ្នាក្នុងទិវាសេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មាន	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	25-Apr-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3sxukDe
85	អង្គការអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានគ្មានព្រំដែនចាត់ថ្នាក់សេរីភាពសារព័ត៌មាននៅកម្ពុជាបន្តធ្លាក់ចុះ	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	22-Apr-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3mYfEfx
86	សម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជាទាមទារឱ្យដោះលែងលោក សុវណ្ណ រិទ្ធី	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	12-Apr-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3x8yRj9
87	លោក ណុប រិះ បិទការធ្វើដំណើរពីខេត្តមួយទៅខេត្តមួយ គឺអាចប៉ះពាល់ចំពោះការចុះយកព័ត៌មានរបស់អ្នកកាសែត	Radio France Internationale (RFI)	11-Apr-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3fvIDWq
88	សម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានជាតិ និងអន្តរជាតិ ស្នើរដ្ឋាភិបាលឱ្យដោះលែងលោក សុវណ្ណ រិទ្ធី	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	11-Apr-2020	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3v3CgxO
89	Journalist arrested for repeating Hun Sen's advice to motorbike taxi drivers	CamboJA News	8-Apr-2020	English	https://bit.ly/3tjPtLS
90	RFA journalists maintain innocence as they appeal reinvestigation	CamboJA News	24-Dec-2019	English	https://bit.ly/3anzxYk
91	New network of journalists vows to promote press freedom and independent media in Cambodia	Global Voices	18-Dec-2019	English	https://bit.ly/3anbc50
92	សម្ភាសស្ថាបនិកសម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន ខេមបូឌា Camboja	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	13-Dec-2019	Khmer	https://bit.ly/32s07uX
93	សម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជាថ្មីមួយ ឈ្មោះ ខេមបូឌា (Camboja) ត្រូវបានសម្ពោធបើកជាផ្លូវការ	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	12-Dec-2019	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3swW0bE
94	Cambodia: Two reporters arrested covering return of opposition leader	International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)	15-Nov-2019	English	https://bit.ly/2QEmieQ
95	Poipet Military Police Detain VOD Journalists for Three Hours	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	11-Nov-2019	English	https://bit.ly/3n0B8It
96	Two reporters detained over coverage of Rainsy's planned return	Khmertimes	10-Nov-2019	English	https://bit.ly/3tzyc0j
97	ក្រុមអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជាអំពាវនាវទៅរដ្ឋាភិបាលឱ្យធានាសេរីភាពសម្រាប់អ្នកសារព័ត៌មាន	Voice of Democracy (VOD)	10-Nov-2019	Khmer	https://bit.ly/3dtjABE
98	Journalists Form A New Press Association, Plan to Protect At Risk Reporters	Voice of America (VOA Khmer)	23-Oct-2019	English	https://bit.ly/3aj2EMn
99	ក្រសួងព័ត៌មាន អនុញ្ញាតឱ្យក្រុមអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានឯករាជ្យបង្កើតសម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា	Radio Free Asia (RFA)	22-Oct-2019	Khmer	https://bit.ly/2P0OPKX
100	Court date for RFA journalists' verdict announced	CamboJA News	9-Aug-2019	English	https://bit.ly/2QCQQ0m

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

The governing board is formed by working journalists who have a strong commitment to counter media rights violations and promote professionalism. However, due to limited experience and knowledge in organizational development, financial management procedures, project management, etc, more capacity development opportunities are needed to fill this gap. With support from DanChurchAid, some opportunities have been created to strengthen governance and management capacity, but the trainings have been delayed due to the worsening situation of COVID-19 in the country.

Inadequate financial and human resources are also key challenges for CamboJA's operation. Since the association was established, CamboJA's founding members have spent a lot of time and personal budget to keep the network moving. After its official registration at the Ministry of Information and the launch event in December 2019, CamboJA had only one donor to support the salary of one senior journalist. We did not have adequate funding to cover operational costs including the office rental fee, or the salaries of the executive director and project coordinator. In early 2020, founding member and executive director of CamboJA, May Titthara, stepped down to find other source of income to sustain his family's livelihood. However, he remains on the board of CamboJA to date. Nop Vy, who was the founding member and the board director at the time, was elected to be the new executive director. At the same time, the first deputy board director, Yon Sineat, was appointed to be the acting board director until a new board director, Prak Chan Thul, was elected to be the chairman. It was a critical time for the survival of the newly formed association. Thanks to the founding members' strong spirit of solidarity and willingness to make personal sacrifices, the team worked on a voluntary basis and ramped up their efforts to mobilize resources for CamboJA. Around six months later, a few donors offered their support to CamboJA and formed a partnership to implement short-term projects. Subsequently, through generous support from DanChurchAid, CamboJA was connected with other funding sources and was offered not only funding but also technical support in terms of policy development and governance strengthening advice. Even though the number of staff members gradually increased in 2020, the budget for personnel cost remains insufficient. Due to limited resources, though the organization is committed to safety and security protection for staff members, its ability to implement those protections is also restricted.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a lot of negative impact on CamboJA's planned activities. The physical event for World Press Freedom Day in 2020 was transformed to a virtual event with limited numbers of participants and limited interactions given the nature of the online event. CamboJA also suspended some of the training courses. Some of the training courses were not able to be held in a virtual format as they required face-to-face engagement and practice. The outbreak also caused some disruptions to CamboJA news production, since infection risks were always a major concern for field reporters who need to travel to gather information—especially from the provinces.

The social and political atmosphere challenging for journalists including CamboJA's staff, especially when government officials express negative reactions to some statements issued by CamboJA or to joint statements issued with other partners. The continued harassment against journalists is still a great concern for CamboJA's reporters and freelance journalists who cover sensitive issues.

CamboJA's operations were also affected by **unclear guidelines and regulations** from the government, especially in terms of the registration process. In 2019, CamboJA was advised to register only with the Ministry of Information which offered only a one-year licence and required organizations to apply for renewal every year. A year later, the Ministry of Information required CamboJA to register itself with the Ministry of Interior to be in line with the controversial NGO Law. Through this process, CamboJA encountered a lot of challenges while trying to register at both ministries. Since its legal status was often questioned by some donors, the delay in getting a license from the government also significantly restricted its progress. It also caused a delay to the registration process with the General Department of Taxation.

Coordinating with freelance journalists is also a challenge. To ensure that news reporting opportunities are fairly delivered to freelance journalists, CamboJA News editor-in-chief who is the only full-time editor in house, continues to spend a lot of time coordinating with freelancers and provide them with needed editorial support. CamboJA's current financial state has yet to permit the recruitment of more human resource such as full-time editors, photojournalists, and video journalists to fulfil the newsroom's growing demand. Such constraints have affected the speed of publication in both Khmer and English language in comparison to other digital news outlets.

CamboJA has documented harassment cases against journalists and published the findings in its first annual report entitled "Cambodian Journalism Situation 2020" released in the first quarter of 2021. Since some cases are hidden and unreported by media, the Research & Advocacy team had to spend a lot of time digging out those cases and conducting investigation when needed. The documentation process was also limited by **the lack of cooperation and information sharing** between local authorities and judicial actors. Mostly, the team had to rely on its media network circle to uncover media-related cases across the country in the context of risks and limited resources.

LESSONS LEARNED

The most vital role of a journalists/media association is to mobilize support and draw people's attention to important issues that are vital to democracy. During its launch ceremony on December 13, 2019, CamboJA brought together more than 200 key development partners, including representatives from foreign embassies, high-ranking government officials, NGOs, INGOs, and journalists. Networking time allowed everyone to interact with one another and exchange perspectives about the existence of CamboJA. The birth of CamboJA attracted a lot of media coverage locally and internationally which creates a powerful basis for the subsequent growth of CamboJA. Through this experience, CamboJA believes important things cannot emerge without strong networking and stakeholder engagement.

CamboJA has far-reaching impact, having spoken out locally and globally on behalf of its member journalists by raising concerns related to press freedom, freedom of the internet, journalists' rights, safety and security issues, and access to information. As listed in this report, at least 100 advocacy actions have been taken and echoed by our partners. CamboJA's work has been regularly covered and cited by media. This underscores CamboJA's great understanding of the role of media in making positive change in society. In spite of its scarce financial and human resources, the CamboJA team has always tried all possible avenues to maximize the impact of its work through media engagement.

Safety and security risk assessment shall be highly considered at all stages of our work especially when dealing with investigative processes or sensitive issues. For example, following the experience in investigating the case of detained journalist and radio station owner Sok Oudom, CamboJA learned that risk assessments must be conducted prior to undertaking investigations even in low-profile cases and mitigation measures should be in place before sending any staff to the field.

To ensure **safety and security of participants during trainings or meetings**, CamboJA has been vigilant in selecting venues even if the place is widely trusted. We have received feedback from trainers and partner organizations on security and consider this as our top priority. We took this advice earnestly and thus decided to choose Diakonia Ecumenical Center Phnom Penh, which previously hosted trainings for several civil society organizations that work on promoting human rights and freedom of expression. However, following a new pandemic-related rule, the venue coordinator requested a picture of the participants on each day of the training, citing a requirement from authorities as part of COVID-19 protection measures.

We have also learned that there is a very limited number of local journalists who can deliver advanced-level reporting training. Finding senior journalists who are specialized in reporting serious topics such as human trafficking, labor rights, land rights, and investigative journalism and who can be trainers has been a challenging task. Either their schedules are fully packed with full-time jobs or they have not had much experience in hosting trainings. Therefore, it is important to produce more human resources with expertise in these important subjects.



សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធអ្នកសារព័ត៌មានកម្ពុជា
Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association

Together for Free Press

Contact us

 +(855) 23 88 23 11

 communications@camboja.net

 #19, St. 388, Sangkat Tuol Svay Prey I,
Khan Boeng Keng Kang, Phnom Penh.

