

**MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
AND
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES TO JUSTICE**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
AND
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES TO JUSTICE

On 5 April 2012, The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice met to discuss the situation of legal aid in Cambodia. Building on the success and strength of cooperation, The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice will continue to increase and improve access to justice in Cambodia.

The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice are committed to working together and seeking funding to support the development and implementation of a nation-wide Legal Aid Program In Cambodia.

International Bridges to Justice commends the Ministry of Justice for its commitment, dedication and time to improving human rights, strengthening the rule of law and encouraging early access to a lawyer in Cambodia.

Recognizing the Ministry of Justice's commitment to the promotion of the rule of law and the protection of human rights, as evidenced by the advancement of the criminal justice system and the implementation of the Cambodian Penal Code and Cambodian Criminal Procedure Code.

Recognizing the Ministry of Justice's commitment to citizen education of law and human rights, as evidenced by the willingness to endorse and promote education of the law so that all citizens understand their legal rights.


Reaffirming International Bridges to Justice's commitment to providing comprehensive criminal legal aid to all Cambodian citizens.

Reaffirming the mission statement of International Bridges to Justice to significantly support and enhance all citizen's right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial.

Reaffirming the mission statement of International Bridges to Justice to significantly support and enhance the protection of citizen rights and to improve transparency of existing criminal laws at the local and national level that are consistent with the UN Declaration and Instruments of Human Rights.

Acknowledging that these ideals and values are consistent with the overall mission of both The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice.

Acknowledging the enormity of the task entailed to expand criminal legal aid to be available to all Cambodian poor people.

Recognizing that the Ministry of Justice is one of the primary Agencies through which the Cambodian Legal Aid Program can be realized. 

Recognizing that International Bridges to Justice is committed to supporting the Ministry of Justice to implement and achieve the goals of the Cambodian Legal Aid Program by providing legal and administrative support, training and materials.


The Ministry of Justice welcomes and supports International Bridges to Justice to improve human rights, strengthen the rule of law and provide early access to a lawyer through the Cambodian Legal Aid Program.

The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice commit to providing comprehensive and sustainable criminal legal aid services for all Cambodian poor people. To this end the Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice commit to the following:

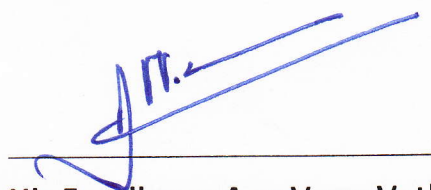
1. Expand criminal legal aid services to every court in every province in Cambodia;
2. Improve the skills of all criminal legal aid lawyers by providing comprehensive legal training;
3. Increase awareness through public education of legal rights of all Cambodians so as to entrench understanding and protection of legal rights;
4. Improve transparency and enhance the capacity and skills of all justice stakeholders to enhance the interpretation and implementation of the law by providing open forums to discuss and train all justice stakeholders; and
5. Develop commentary and justice stakeholder working groups to discuss existing laws to ensure consistency in the application of the law by all justice stakeholders and law enforcement officers throughout Cambodia.

The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice wish to strengthen and promote their cooperation for the benefit of all Cambodia's citizens. In this purpose, a joint mechanism of cooperation and management of funding shall be determined in an action plan by both parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding reflects the vision, common goals and commitment of The Ministry of Justice and International Bridges to Justice to improve human rights, strengthen the rule of law and provide early access to a lawyer throughout Cambodia.

This commitment is done with cooperation and is hereby celebrated and acknowledged. 

Signatures:



His Excellency Ang Vong Vathana

Minister

The Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Cambodia



Ms Karen Tse

Chief Executive Officer

International Bridges to Justice