



European Union

Delegation of the European Commission to the Kingdom of Cambodia

News release

Phnom Penh, 26 July 2004

For Immediate Release

New European Union €500,000 programme to fund human rights actions in Cambodia

The European Commission Delegation to Cambodia announced today the first ever Call for Proposals targeted for human rights-related actions by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and higher education institutions in Cambodia. Priority areas for funding are: human rights education and training; improved access to the legal system; as well as conflict prevention and resolution. Selected projects will receive individual grants of between €10,000 and €100,000.

Eligible organisations and institutions are invited to submit proposals to a newly created Cambodia component of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Established by the EU in 1994, EIDHR seeks to promote human rights, democracy and conflict prevention in third countries by providing financial support for activities supporting these goals. Some €500,000 (equivalent to US\$600,000) is available for initiatives in Cambodia through the open Call for Proposals.

Winston McColgan, Chargé d'Affaires of the Delegation of the European Commission to Cambodia said, "Human Rights and democracy form the cornerstone of the European Union are fundamental to all activities supported by the European Commission in Cambodia. We value the expertise many Cambodian NGOs and institutions possess, as well as the role they play in the field of human rights and democracy. The introduction of this programme will deepen support for local civil society initiatives and back their contribution to democracy."

Applicants under the new programme must be non-profit-making and either an NGO or higher education institution. They must have their headquarters in the Kingdom of Cambodia, or be a local independent division of an NGO with its headquarters in the European Union. The deadline to receive the applications is 27 September 2004 at 4:00 P.M. (Phnom Penh local Time).

Since the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in October 1991, the amount of aid granted to Cambodia by the European Commission – the executive arm of the EU – has been in excess of €300 million. Total EU grant assistance provided to Cambodia by the Commission and the EU Member States amounts to over €100 million a year.

Detailed information on this call for proposals is contained in the Guidelines for Applicants, which are published on the website of the European Commission Delegation in Phnom Penh: <http://www.delkhm.cec.eu.int/>. The full Guidelines for Applicants are also available for consultation at the Delegation of the European Commission, No 1, Street 21, Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Fax: (855-23) 216 997.

Any questions regarding this call for proposals, clearly indicating the publication reference number and the title of the programme (EIDHR Micro-projects Programme, Ref: EuropeAid/120227/L/G) should be sent by e-mail to: delegation-cambodia@cec.eu.int. The Delegation of the European Commission to the Kingdom of Cambodia will organise a briefing about the above-mentioned programme on 5 August 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the NGO Forum on Cambodia, 9-11 Street 476, Toul Tompong, Phnom Penh.

For more information on EU-Cambodia relations see the website of the Delegation of the European Commission at www.delkhm.cec.eu.int

Or contact Fabio Artuso Tel (855) 23 216 996 or e-mail: fabio.artuso@cec.eu.int

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