



United Nations Development Programme

Communications Office

PRESS RELEASE

Media and Accountability Training Held in Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh, May 16, 2007: Sixteen leading journalists from Cambodia, China, Laos, and Vietnam are undergoing an intensive two-day training on “media and accountability” with specific emphasis on investigative journalism.

The training for journalists is part of a series of three such workshops financed by PricewaterhouseCoopers and Siam Cement through the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok.

The training will provide journalists hands-on skills training combined with substantive information and knowledge sessions on Asia’s key governance challenges, with a particular emphasis on anti-corruption.

The aim of this training is to help build a group of journalists – in Cambodia and across the region – who are better informed and committed to reporting on and analyzing these issues.

The reporters will receive training in ethics and standards, and the essentials of balanced reporting. They will also get an overview of governance and corruption challenges in Asia from UNDP advisors, representatives from the private sector and activists from non-governmental organizations.

“Tackling corruption is essential to promoting development and stimulating further economic growth with equity. Media plays a critical role in responsively reporting on the issue,” said Douglas Gardner, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, at the opening of the training.

“The training highlights the UN’s commitment to help the Cambodian government achieve its rectangular strategy which puts governance at the core of its plan,” he added.

UNDP Cambodia has also supported Cambodian government officials to attend earlier trainings in the means of combating corruption. Ongoing policy advice and capacity building aims at equipping civil society and public institutions with the knowledge and skills required to report on the proper use of public resources. Policy and technical advice to support a draft law and an implementation strategy to fight corruption have also been provided.

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