



Public Lecture
“Cambodian Constitutional Constraints: Myths and Truths”

Date: 28 July 2017, 8:30 – 11:30am

Venue: CICP Conference Room

By a Distinguished Speaker



Dr. Virak Prum

Synopsis

The word “constitution” refers to a document designed to protect citizen’s rights and freedoms against potential arbitrary actions by power holders. “Constitution” also arranges different branches of power. The first modern Cambodian Constitution was handed down in 1947.

The present Constitution, enacted in 1993, is a symbol of a supreme law. However, the realities of Cambodian politics since then have tested the audacity of this supreme document. In this regards, the distinguished speaker will entertain 5 major questions that could challenge any established wisdom:

- Is it true that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land?
- Is it true that in a democracy power actually emanates from the people?
- Is it true that parliamentary immunity protects members of parliament?
- Is it true that freedoms enumerated in the Constitution may not be infringed upon by laws?

And, finally,

- Is it true that some provisions in the Constitution cannot be amended?

About the distinguished Speaker

Dr. Virak is a well-known figure in the legal community and brings with him more than 10 years of international academic and work experiences in the fields of law and international development. Beside various academic positions, he has advised foreign governments, local and international organizations. He has published articles and book reviews in various peer-reviewed journals on decentralization, public administration, international law and IR, and climate change. Frequently writing opinion pieces for national newspapers, he also acts as a legal expert at numerous conferences and workshops. He received his law degree in 2000, a Masters of Law in 2003 from Nagoya University (Japan) and a PhD in international development in 2006 also from Nagoya University. He also holds a graduate certificate in human resource management from Canada. Dr Virak speaks English, French and Khmer professionally and can carry on conversation in Japanese.