



DEMOCRACY DIALOGUE SERIES

on

THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION FOR LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Speakers

- 1) Chanroeun Pa, President of CID
- 2) Ro Vannak, Program Manager of TIC

Date: 16 June 2023

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Questions for Discussion

- 1) What does free and fair election mean?
- 2) What are the criteria for a free and fair election?
- 3) Why election is crucial for democracy and political stability in Cambodia?
- 4) What are the roles of youth to promote a free and fair election in Cambodia?

Summary

30 youths engaged in a thorough discussion defining the concept of free and fair elections, exploring the essential elements that contribute to the integrity of electoral processes. The dialogue deliberately highlighted the specific criteria that define a free and fair election, addressing issues such as transparency, inclusivity, equal access to information, and the absence of coercion or manipulation. The discussion also emphasized the crucial role of elections for democracy and political stability in Cambodia in which elections are cornerstone of liberal democracy and political stability in Cambodia. The discussion focused on how free and fair elections contribute to representation, accountability, and legitimacy within the democratic framework. There was a highlight on the pivotal roles of the youth in advocating for and promoting free and fair elections in Cambodia. Emphasized the importance of youth engagement in electoral processes, including voter education, advocacy for electoral reforms, and active participation in democratic practices.

The participants also collaboratively discussed strategies and recommendations for ensuring free and fair elections in Cambodia, encompassing electoral reforms, civic education initiatives, and the empowerment of civil society to monitor and safeguard the electoral process. They recognized the importance of building public awareness and encouraging civic participation in elections. Explored ways to empower citizens, especially the youth, to actively engage in the democratic process, from voter registration to election monitoring.

The participants expressed a shared commitment to upholding democratic values, recognizing that free and fair elections are fundamental to preserving the democratic principles enshrined in Cambodia's governance. They concluded the dialogue with a call to action, encouraging participants to leverage their collective insights to contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen the electoral system in Cambodia. Emphasized the need for sustained collaboration among various stakeholders to safeguard the democratic process.

The dialogue successfully illuminated the importance of elections in the context of liberal democracy, providing a platform for thoughtful discussions on criteria, significance, and strategies for fostering free and fair elections in Cambodia.