



DEMOCRACY DIALOGUE SERIES

on

THE PATHS TO POWER IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

Speakers

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

Date: 5 August 2023

Time: 9:00-10:30 a.m

Questions for Dialogue

- 1) What is the power?
- 2) What are the sources of power?
- 3) What is the purpose of power?
- 4) How to get legitimate power?
- 5) Why the separation of power is crucial in a democratic society?

Summary

The dialogue on the paths to power in a democratic society like Cambodia was engaging and thought-provoking. It began by defining power, identifying the sources of power, and learning how to get legitimate power. The discussion also explored the responsibilities and limitations of those in power, as well as the importance of maintaining a balance of power in a democratic society.

Participants in the dialogue expressed their concern about the potential abuse of power and the need for accountability mechanisms to prevent corruption. They emphasized the significance of transparent governance and the role of civil society in holding those in power accountable. Additionally, the conversation highlighted the importance of empowering marginalized groups and ensuring equal access to power, as a diverse representation is crucial for a thriving democracy. Overall, the dialogue shed light on the complexities and challenges of power dynamics in Cambodia, sparking a collective determination to strengthen democratic institutions and promote a fair and just society for all citizens.

Participants in the dialogue also stressed the need for comprehensive anti-corruption legislation and the enforcement of existing laws. They underscored the importance of establishing an independent judiciary system to ensure fair and unbiased handling of corruption cases. Furthermore, the discussion emphasised the need for regular audits

and financial transparency in both the public and private sectors to promote a culture of accountability and discourage corrupt practices. The participants agreed that a multi-faceted approach, involving both governmental and non-governmental actors, is essential in the fight against corruption in Cambodia.

Finally, the discussion highlighted the importance of separation of power in a democratic society like Cambodia, as it prevents any one branch of government from becoming too powerful and helps to safeguard against corruption. This includes ensuring that the executive, legislative, and judicial branches operate independently of one another and are not subject to outside pressures. By upholding the principle of separation of power, Cambodia can create a strong foundation for a transparent and accountable government, ultimately reducing corruption and promoting a fair and just society for its citizens. The speakers emphasised that to maintain a healthy democracy, it is crucial to have a system in place that prevents the concentration of power in any one individual or institution. They emphasised the need for checks and balances, where different branches of government have distinct powers and can keep each other in check. By ensuring that power is distributed, and no single entity becomes too dominant, a democratic society like Cambodia can thrive and protect the rights and interests of its citizens.