

-Humanitarian Law RULES!

Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law
Newsletter

Unsafe Food and Food Safety prevention in Cambodia

Food poison is a common problem that noted that food poisoning could cause stomachache, diarrhea and vomiting, and in some cases it may lead to death. The food products that are unclean, bacteria, viruses, and parasites or toxic chemicals cause to food-borne illnesses or long-term illnesses such as cancer.

In 2010, Cambodia was identified as one of 29 food insecure countries in the world, unsafe food is one of the most important issues that Cambodia must pay attention to.¹ There are many cases of food poisoning spread this year. In May 2018, 58 children and 22 women in Kratie Province were effected by food poisoning, which was caused by snacks, bread with butter, sausage and aggs.² Recently, there was a case in Tboung Khmum Province, nearly 40 students were in the hospital after breakfast in the school canteen and they experienced headaches, vomiting and fatigue.³

In order to respond to unsafe food, it requires to strong support and participation of all relevant stakeholders. Government ministries are involved in managing food safety and food quality, including the Ministry of Health has responsibility for all public health matters, preventing the distribution of safety food products and integrity of foods for sale in country by Ministry of Commerce.⁴ The Ministry of Education Youth and Sport will include food safety into the school curriculum as part of health education and also provide training for food safety for teachers, students and parents.⁵ In addition, WHO Cambodia provides support to the health ministry and other ministries

¹ Mengchou Cheng, Spengler Mirian, "How (un) healthy and (un) Safety is food in Cambodia?," Konrad-Adenauer- Stiftung & Politikoffee, 2016.

² Ven, Rathavong, "Food Poisoning in Kratie," Khmer Times, May 26, 2018, <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/493804/food-poisoning-in-kratie/>

³ Sen, David, "Vendor questioned over food poisoning case," Khmer Times, Nov 20, 2018, <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/552507/vendor-questioned-over-food-poisoning-case/>

⁴ FAO, WHO, "FAO/ WHO Regional Conference on Food Safety for Asia and the Pacific: Cambodia Country Report on Food Safety," Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization, 2004.

⁵ Voun, Dara, "Food Safety set to be in Curriculum," The Phnom Penh Post, Dec 25, 2018, <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/food-safety-set-be-curriculum>

LIBRARY HOURS

December 2018

Mon to Fri: 8. 30am – 5.30pm

RESEARCH AT THE LIBRARY

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and also work closely with other development partner to ensure food safety.