

The first step taken was an inventory of relevant ngos. The conclusions of that inventory were that: there should be better coordination among ngos on culture of peace activities; ngos are doing excellent work, but they still do not adequately cover all of the country; ngos do not sufficiently influence the country's decision-makers (most training is of lower level officials, leaving out judges, MPs and senior officials).

From these conclusions a collection of projects are emerging to enhance the culture of peace:

- first, a conference in March of international and Cambodian participants to launch the culture of peace and design a program and priorities for it;
- second, to help the ngos do what they do better, a leadership program to facilitate networking among them and help create a stronger sense of responsibility for larger issues (and not just the goals of the particular ngo/faction). This could also extend to include other Cambodians working in government and elsewhere who have received training in or exposure to the practices in other countries. UNESCO is considering keeping these people in touch with each other and developments/examples elsewhere through a variety of means, including UNESCO's international press clippings service, e-mail etc.;
- third, a targeted conflict resolution training program to create a network of conflict resolution experts across the country, including monks (especially important given their local impact), who could address issues such as domestic violence. This program could also include those not now involved in conflict resolution training such as judges, MPs, academics and businesspeople. UNESCO is seeking 60 trainers (including two UNV) to train 18,000 people at the local level .

UNESCO has begun to chair a working group on the culture of peace which brings together ngos, including CCCR, and other UN agencies.

UNDP, in the context of its CAREERE and Governance, Democracy and Human Rights projects, has a reconciliation project underway in the northwest of Cambodia, which it began in 1997. The object is to assist villagers in areas recently freed from the Khmer Rouge to integrate back into the mainstream of Cambodia. UNCHR and local ngos actually conduct the human rights training and education programs for local populations and ex-Khmer Rouge. UNDP believes that when fighting in the northwest resumed in July between Ranariddh/Khmer Rouge and RCAF forces, "nothing happened" in these villages because of this program.

In collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP has begun a project to work with Cambodian ngos, Buddhist organizations and district and provincial authorities in prioritizing activities to be initiated in connection with the establishment of a culture of peace.

### **c) Canadian Role**