

Building capacity for peace and prosperity in Cambodia

What is our social capital?

Social capital

Membership in formal organizations

Social networks – sustainable social ties

Institutional trust – performance/social

Civic culture – political culture for democracy

Civil society – societal debate and dialogue

Political tradition/ Economic context/ Culture

Social capital in post-conflict Cambodia

Accountability and Public voice

“Democratic participation in Cambodia thus remains an elite, urban affair, and there tends to be little popular awareness of politics as a multiparty sphere of debate.”

(Freedom House)

Social capital in post-conflict Cambodia

Accountability and Public voice

“Citizens are not compelled by the state to belong to associations, but with the exception of armed groups, which are banned, the state seldom inhibits membership in associations.”

(Freedom House)

Social capital in post-conflict Cambodia

Rule of Law

“The justice system remains one of the weakest elements of the Cambodian state”
(Freedom House)

Social capital in post-conflict Cambodia

Anticorruption and Transparency

“Corruption is a way of life in business and for state agents, notably the judiciary, customs and business licensing officials, the police, and the tax authority”
(Freedom House)

Social capital in post-conflict Cambodia

Anticorruption and Transparency

“Although gradually improving, public access to government information and public participation in government decision-making processes are poor, and citizens lack effective means to express their preferences to policy makers”
(Freedom House)

Social capital in post-conflict Cambodia

Anticorruption and Transparency

“Although instrumental in creating an electoral democracy, political institutions, and a civil society, the superficiality of many aspects of the Cambodia political process demonstrate the profound limitations of ‘donor democracy’.”

Issues

Are these Western concepts valid for Cambodia?

Can we “bring” democracy or should we “learn” democracy? How can we do that?

Issues

Can we regard the Khmer Rouge trial as proof of the growing strength of Cambodian ‘social capital’?

Can we regard the ban on text messaging during the local elections in April 2007 as proof of the lack of strength of Cambodian ‘social capital’?

Issues

How can Cambodian social capital develop when 60% of the national budget comes from aid?

What is the effect of China giving Cambodia \$600m in aid and loans?