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Mock Trial Competition

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
May 29, 2009



The team from Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia won the Mock Trial Competition sponsored by USAID.

Teams from seven Cambodian law schools competed for the honor of national champion at the Third Annual Cambodian Mock Trial Competition on May 27-29. The team from Paññāsāstra University won the event, which was sponsored by USAID.

During the competition, student teams played the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a civil case involving a fictitious dispute between a buyer and

seller of land in Siem Reap.

In preparation for the competition, student teams participated in a two-day interactive training workshop during which they learned basic examination and case-analysis skills.

The final trial was held in the model courtroom at the Royal University of Law Economics, which USAID renovated in 2007. The final trial was presided over by a panel of three judges: Reed Aeschliman of USAID, James Turpin of the UN, and Tan Senarong, a judge at the Kandal Court.

The Mock Trial Competition is part of the USAID-funded Program on Rights and Justice, which is implemented by the East West Management Institute and the American Bar Association. The program has introduced a number of exciting initiatives in legal education, such as the Client Counseling Competition, legal clinics, legal ethics and alternative dispute resolution.