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**Cambodian Center for Human Rights**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Phnom Penh, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**For immediate release**

**Human Rights for Everyone:  
 Celebrating Cambodia’s LGBT Community on International Day Against  
 Homophobia and Transphobia**

The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (“IDAHO”) is celebrated every year on 17<sup>th</sup> May. It is coordinated by the Paris-based IDAHO Committee founded and presided over by the French academic and gay rights activist Louis-Georges Tin. 17<sup>th</sup> May was chosen as the day for the event because it marks the date in 1992 that homosexuality was removed from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization. IDAHO is celebrated in more than 50 countries around the world. Cambodia’s Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) community and its supporters will come together to celebrate IDAHO as part of Cambodian Pride Week 2010.

LGBT Cambodians suffer from discrimination and abuse; including violence, workplace discrimination, and social and familial exclusion. LGBT people have always been part of Cambodian society - they are not a new phenomenon; they have remained hidden because of society’s lack of acceptance of them.

Women’s Network for Unity (“WNU”), Rainbow Community Kampuchea (“RoCK”) and the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) together celebrate IDAHO and Cambodia’s LGBT community. We call for an improvement in the situation of human rights for LGBT people in Cambodia. LGBT people must be allowed to freely express their sexual identity - having the right to express who they are, to live as who they are and to love who they want. Human Rights are for everyone.

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