

PANNASASTRA UNIVERSITY CLARIFICATION STATEMENT

Pannasastra University of Cambodia wishes to clarify any misunderstandings and to dispel any rumors or inaccurate information related to the TEDx Phnom Penh event held on Saturday 9 June 2012, at Srey Dim Conference Hall at the PUC South Campus. The circulated information stated that ***“Government authority threatens Director of Pannasastra University to cancel certain TEDx presentation in Phnom Penh.”***

We wish to specifically address the issue of the cancellation of one of the performances scheduled for the event.

As part of the preparations for the TEDx event, the TEDx management team worked closely with Professor Raymond Leos, Dean of the PUC Faculty of Communications and Media Arts. During the week leading up to the event, members of the TEDx team requested Dean Leos to view in Conference Hall the final dress rehearsals for the speakers and performers. This was done on Friday, 8 June, the day before the event.

Several days before, Dean Leos was personally informed by the TEDx team, that one of the performances, “the grand finale,” contained some “possibly sensitive material” and that it was most important that he be present to observe this performance’s final rehearsal and give his decision on whether the content was appropriate for our university venue.

Dean Leos viewed the “grand finale” rehearsal performance in our Conference Hall, and in the presence of TEDx staff. He allowed the rehearsal performance to continue in its entirety, without any interruption and comments.

After the rehearsal performance was completed, Dean Leos, along with several members of the TEDx team, two representatives from one of the TEDx business sponsors and a representative from the performers met privately in an adjoining classroom to discuss this matter.

At this private meeting, Dean Leos made the decision to cancel the “grand finale” performance based on what he, as a university administrator and Dean, felt was in the best interest of our university and its students. He also felt that the “grand finale” was not appropriate for presentation at our university. Dean Leos also based his decision on the University’s Code of Conduct, which states:

“All political rallies and manifestations of any kind are prohibited on the University premises. Only these meetings authorized, in advance by the General Administration’s Office will be allowed.”

It should be noted that Dean Leos was the only senior administrator present on campus during these rehearsal performances on Friday evening, 8 June, the day before the event.

We can categorically state that no one --- no one at the university and no one in any government authority --- ordered Dean Leos to do anything and/or threatened the director of the university. This decision was solely Dean Leos' decision, and he takes full responsibility for it. His decision was solely based on university policy and regulations.

Further we must note that the TEDx event program, which was released to us a few days in advance did not include a description of the performance and speakers' names — it only stated "Ensemble: Grand Finale." On the other hand, TEDx has provided in the program full description, names and photos of other speakers and performers.

Thank you,

Phnom Penh, 10 June 2012
The Administration