The S’aoch: an ethnic minority in Kampot Province

Talk

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with contribution from

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Not far from the crossroads of Kampot and Kampong Som, a tiny ethnic minority, still lives in the village of Samrong Leu. The term “S’aoch” is used by the outsiders, researchers included, to designate them. They accept reluctantly this naming, “an itchy skin disease” in Khmer, and prefer designating themselves as “cu’ung” or as “Khmer deum” (Khmer of the origin).

The aim of our presentation consists in describing in the most accurate way the prehistory, the past and the current situation this quickly vanishing minority.

We intend to contribute to a better knowledge of this minority through quoting and analyzing several testimonies selected in various periods such as Zhou Daguan’s descriptions of the Chong (13th century) or Adhémar Leclère (19th century).

Through this presentation, we will attempt to analyze in a deeper way the processes and the reasons that lead to the disappearance of an ethnic minority.