

# Cambodian landmine beauty pageant cancelled

## 柬埔寨地雷小姐選美比賽喊卡

A beauty pageant in which landmine victims were to compete to win a **prosthetic** limb has been cancelled after the Cambodian government said it was in bad taste, organizers said.

In the "Miss Landmine Cambodia" contest, competitors from around the country were due to appear in a photo exhibition opening in Phnom Penh, followed by an Internet voting campaign to select the best candidate.

"I'm not looking forward to breaking the news to the 20 candidates involved, as I know they will be very disappointed in the lack of support from Cambodian authorities," Norwegian pageant director Morten Traavik told AFP.

The exhibition **went down like a lead balloon** with Cambodia's Ministry of Social Affairs, which demanded the cancellation of the contest to protect "the honor and **dignity** of people with disabilities".

However the contest, intended to raise awareness about landmines and **empower** the disabled, will continue with Internet voting at [miss-landmine.org](http://miss-landmine.org), Traavik said.

"The event as planned is cancelled...But the project moves squarely to Web site voting," he said.

"I think it is regrettable that we were not able to show this project freely in Cambodia," he added.

The first "Miss Landmine" contest was held in Angola last year, drawing protests from rights activists who viewed it as exploitative and racist.

Cambodia remains one of the world's most heavily mined countries, along with Afghanistan and Angola.

Hundreds of people are killed or maimed every year by the millions of landmines and other unexploded ordnance still littering the countryside after decades of conflict. (AFP)



In these photos taken on March 7, 2009, candidates in the Miss Landmine beauty pageant, So Yeu, above, and Sut Ai and Mom Sam Un, top, pause to be photographed in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

PHOTOS: AP  
這兩張攝於三月七日的照片中，地雷小姐選美比賽的候選佳麗索好（上圖）、薩愛及蒙珊昂（最上圖）在柬埔寨暹粒接受拍攝。  
照片：美聯社

地雷小姐選美比賽主辦單位表示，這場由地雷受害者參與角逐、冠軍獎品是免費義肢的比賽，因柬埔寨政府認為會帶給社會大眾不良觀感而宣布取消。

在這場名為「柬埔寨地雷小姐」的比賽中，來自全國各地的佳麗的倩影將在金邊的一場攝影展開幕式中亮相，接著由網友上網票選出他們心目中最美麗的佳麗。

來自挪威的選美負責人摩頓·特拉維克對法新社表示：「我不打算把這個消息告訴入圍的二十位佳麗，我知道少了柬埔寨官方的支持，她們會感到非常失望。」

柬埔寨社會事務部完全不認同這項活動，並要求主辦單位取消比賽，以捍衛「傷殘人士的名譽及尊嚴」。

特拉維克說，這場比賽的原意是要喚醒大眾對地雷的重視，並讓傷殘人士更有自信，比賽將繼續在網路上進行票選（網址：[miss-landmine.org](http://miss-landmine.org)）。

他說：「原本預計舉行的選美活動取消了...但我們將直接進行網路票選。」

他還說：「無法在柬埔寨自由地進行這項計畫，我覺得非常惋惜。」

第一屆「地雷小姐」比賽去年在安哥拉舉行，當時也受到人權團體的抗議，他們認為該比賽剝削人權又有種族歧視。

柬埔寨仍是全世界佈雷最多的國家之一，另外還有阿富汗和安哥拉。

柬埔寨的內戰已結束數十年，但鄉間仍遍佈上百萬顆地雷和其他未爆彈，每年都有數以百計的民衆因此喪生或傷殘。  
(法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **prosthetic** /prə'sθetɪk/ adj.  
義肢的 (yí zhī de5)  
例：After the accident, Harold was fitted with a prosthetic leg to restore his mobility.  
(那場意外之後，哈洛德裝了一隻義肢來重建行動能力。)

2. **dignity** /'dɪɡnəti/ n.  
尊嚴 (zūn1 yán2)  
例：Despite the challenges he faced in old age, Trent always maintained his dignity.  
(儘管晚年時面臨諸多挑戰，特倫特總是有辦法維持自己的尊嚴。)

3. **empower** /ɪm'paʊə/ v.  
授權 (shòu4 quán2)；使能夠 (shǐ3 neng2 gòu4)  
例：The amendment to the marriage law is intended to empower foreign spouses.  
(這項結婚法修正案是為了賦予外籍配偶權力。)

### IDIOM POINT 重要片語

**go down like a lead balloon** /led/ balloon  
完全不被認可

If something goes down like a lead balloon, it is received very badly. In the article, the beauty pageant proposal was badly received by government officials.

Examples: "Harvey's proposal to run for school governor went down like a lead balloon with parents."

若說某事「go down like a lead balloon」，就表示這件事情完全不被認可。文章中提到，政府官員完全不認同這場選美比賽的提案。

例如：「哈維計畫參選學校董事的提議徹底遭到家長們的否決」。