



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTES NEW FUNDING FOR EXTRAORDINARY
CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA**

On 18 June the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Bob Carr, announced Australia would contribute AUD3.25 million (USD3.07 million) to the international side of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) for 2013.

Australia is a long-standing supporter of the ECCC and its second largest international donor. "This new contribution brings Australia's support for the ECCC to AUD23 million (USD20.41 million) and will help ensure its continued operation," Senator Carr said.

"The ECCC hearings play a vital role in delivering justice for the Cambodian people, who endured unspeakable suffering at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

"In Phnom Penh last year I welcomed the closure of the ECCC case against Comrade Duch, the former head of the notorious Tuol Sleng prison from which 15,000 people were sent to the killing fields.

"The ECCC is now hearing the case against the surviving senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime. Defendants before the Courts have been charged with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"I look forward to the ECCC continuing its efforts to hold Khmer Rouge leaders to account for the atrocities committed in their names.

"Australia will also encourage Cambodia to lobby current and potential donors to ensure the ECCC is fully supported through its remaining court proceedings.

"We look to the Royal Government of Cambodia to ensure that its share of the ECCC budget is fully funded and salaries paid for all national staff, consistent with Article 15 of its agreement with the United Nations."

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