



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia helps bring former Khmer Rouge leaders to justice

Australia will contribute an additional \$5 million Australian dollars to assist the continuing operation of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). This new funding was announced on 21 October by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Stephen Smith, and will support the United Nations' contribution to the work of the ECCC over the next two years.

This latest contribution reflects Australia's ongoing support for the efforts of Cambodia and the United Nations to bring former senior Khmer Rouge leaders to justice. Australia has been a long-term supporter of the ECCC, and has previously provided over \$4 million Australian dollars towards its operation. This includes a recent contribution of \$500,000 Australian dollars, which was announced in April 2008.

The ECCC provides a historic opportunity to achieve justice for the victims of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, and to hold accountable those most responsible for the crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge period. Australia welcomes the recent progress made by the tribunal, and encourages the ECCC to maintain this momentum.

Australia urges Cambodia and the international community to intensify their cooperative efforts to ensure that the trials are completed in a timely manner and according to the international acceptable standards of justice, fairness and due legal process.

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