



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA PLEDGES ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO ECCC

As a longstanding supporter of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), Australia is pleased to announce additional funding of AUD 2 million to the ECCC.

The Australian Government believes that the ECCC has made significant progress in bringing to justice former Khmer Rouge leaders responsible for mass atrocities and achieving some measure of justice for their victims. Over 31,000 Cambodians attended the public Trial Chamber hearings in Case 001, which ended in the conviction of Kaing Guek Eav (known as Duch). The Supreme Court appeal in Case 001 has been heard and a decision is pending. In June 2011 the Trial Chamber will begin hearing Case 002 against the four most senior surviving members of the Khmer Rouge.

The ECCC will continue to play an important role in promoting respect for the rule of law in Cambodia by exposing Cambodian judges, lawyers and administrators to international legal standards and providing them with experience, skills and knowledge.

The Australia Government believes that it is important that Cambodia and the international community support the ECCC to continue its important work with complete judicial independence, free from outside influence.

Australia welcomes the role of the ECCC in contributing to national reconciliation through its outreach programs in all corners of Cambodia and by bringing Cambodians to witness the trials. The ECCC has exposed a new generation of younger Cambodians, often for the first time, to public discussion of this dark period of history. The Australian Government recognises the outstanding contribution of the late Reach Sambath, former Chief of the Public Affairs Section, to this effort.

The contribution of AUD 2 million is in addition to the AUD 400,000 Australia provided in April 2011 to support the work of the Court and brings our total financial support to the ECCC to AUD 16.7 million.

Media Enquiries: Benjamin Nichols, Third Secretary

Australian Embassy Phnom Penh

Tel: 023 213 470

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