



11 August, 2009

Workshop Plans Victim Outreach

Phnom Penh, Friday 7 August, 2009.

“I am delighted that our new outreach team has been working so enthusiastically over the past month under the leadership of Mr Neou Kassie and in conjunction with the NGOs who have been active in this field,” said ECCC Victims Unit Head, Dr Helen Jarvis, at the opening of an Outreach Harmonisation Workshop in Phnom Penh, Friday 7 August.

Over 70 participants comprising Victims Unit (VU) staff, representatives of more than 20 NGOs, lawyers and researchers, took part in the workshop which was jointly sponsored by the VU and the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC).

Mr Neou Kassie, VU Outreach Coordinator, introduced six new VU staff and presented an ambitious outreach strategy focusing on facilitating victim participation at the court, holding regional forums for civil parties and establishing provincial networks as well as information dissemination through the media. These outreach plans are therefore based on the need to ensure these people are kept up to date about the work of the ECCC. Dr Jarvis reported that “up to the end of July we have received a total of 4072 Victims Information Forms, of which 2136 are Complaints and 1876 are Civil Party Applications.”

Mr Reach Sambath from the ECCC Public Affairs Section led a lively question and answer session on the work of his unit. Each NGO gave a short summary of their outreach plans and Ms Mychelle Balthazard, a PhD candidate from Tulane University presented data on outreach related to the ECCC.

During the afternoon session, small groups made plans for the following activities:

- Organising four regional forums for those who have applied to become civil parties for case 002 or submitted complaints, before the end of 2009;



- Cooperation between VU and NGOs to contact applicants who have submitted incomplete victim information forms;
- Ensuring the best possible legal representation for civil parties in case 002; and
- Establishing regional information sharing networks to keep civil parties and other victims informed about the progress of the ECCC trials.

In his closing remarks, Mr Sok Sam Oeun, Chairman of CHRAC and Executive Director of the Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP) -stressed that victim participation is crucial for the success for the ECCC.

The workshop was made possible through the generous financial support for the VU by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), plus funding and material support from CHRAC and the ECCC.

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