



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens

**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ**

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

Royaume du Cambodge
Nation Religion Roi

**Opening Speech
11th ECCC Plenary Session, 16 October 2014
Judge Chang-ho CHUNG, Vice-President of the Plenary**

Mr. President, distinguished members of the Plenary, ladies and gentlemen,

I would first like to join the President in appreciating the Plenary members for participating in this Plenary session of the ECCC, and in welcoming the newly appointed Reserve International Judge of the Trial Chamber, Judge Martin KAROPKIN and Reserve International Co-Investigating Judge, Judge Olivier BEAUVALLET. It is unfortunate that Judge Silvia CARTWRIGHT has resigned and returned to New Zealand. Many judges and legal officers participated in her farewell event, wished her pleasant life and work in New Zealand, and praised her great effort and sacrifice dedicated for the court.

Ladies and Gentlemen, since its establishment, the ECCC, as a mixed court, has proved that it can handle international crimes in accordance with international standards of due process and rule of law. Through the participation of the Cambodian Judiciary in the ECCC proceeding, the ECCC has enhanced the sense of involvement of the Cambodian people in the court cases. And by collecting and exchanging information on capacity-needs, the ECCC has strengthened the national justice system and its capacity. In this regard, the ECCC has provided the most valuable example of implementation of the Principle of Complementarity of the ICC.

Furthermore, the ECCC is the first international court to allow victims to participate as full parties in the proceedings, and has demonstrated that victims' participation could be balanced with the rights of other parties. And the ECCC's unique position to clarify the state of International Humanitarian Law prior to 1975-1979 has resulted in certain landmark decisions demonstrating the development of the International Humanitarian Law by bridging the 50 years gap between the Post-World War Courts and the UN-backed international tribunals. These achievements of the ECCC are more valuable because they have been achieved while overcoming the inherent limits arising from its mixed character such as lack of adequate funding and complex structure.

As the only international tribunal established in Asia, the ECCC has shown vast potential for the development in the areas of the rule of law and human rights throughout Asia. The legacy of the ECCC may enable the integrated and well-balanced development of the rule of law and human rights in this region. And the legacy of the ECCC could be continuously and systematically disseminated throughout Asia by establishing the Asian Court of Human Rights. Given the immense population of Asia, the fast economic growth of Asian states, and great enthusiasm of Asian people, it is now the right time to open up discussions for the establishment of the Asian Court of Human Rights, and the experience and jurisprudence of the ECCC would be very much useful for this purpose.

The ECCC is now facing challenges to provide an efficient and productive manner by which it could complete its mission taking full advantage of its resources. And through the 11th Plenary Session, we will go

over the main agenda proposed with a view to make the ECCC procedure more meaningful and expeditious by allowing selection and concentration process. I hope that the 11th Plenary Session will have a constructive and fruitful discussion in this regard.

Thank you very much.

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