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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

**REMARKS AT THE VIEWING OF THE NEW INFORMATION CENTRE IN
THE CENTRE OF PHNOM PENH FOR THE
EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY SEAN VISOTH
Director of the Office of Administration**

21 April 2008

Your Excellency Mr Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, Friends and Partners from a number of local and international NGOs.

I welcome you all and am pleased to say a few words to mark to this morning's "soft opening" or viewing of the ECCC Information Centre in the city centre of Phnom Penh.

On my own behalf and also for my counterpart Michelle Lee we would like to say that we hope this Information Centre will facilitate your access to the court, by providing a place in town to meet and seek advice and information. The Victims Unit and Public Affairs Section will be the main users of the Information Centre, but it will also serve as a city focus for other sections and offices of the ECCC, including the Witness and Expert Support Unit.

This represents a new phase in making the ECCC more accessible to the public, with particular attention to the needs of victims. We have for several months been looking for the right place, and we have visited a number of possibilities before finally settling on this location in an easy-to-find part of town.

We are proud of the fact that our court is leading the way internationally and breaking new ground in affording victims full rights of participation throughout all processes of the trials. Victims need to have full information so that they can make an informed decision as to what role they wish to play: as complainant, as Civil Parties or just as keen observer. Our newly established Victims Unit is dedicated to giving this information and to facilitating whatever form of participation they select.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the donors and partners who are working with the ECCC in outreach throughout the country, and support for victims and witnesses. We are all aware that the needs are great and we will do our best to discharge our historic obligations.

Thank you for your attention