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Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Chambres Extraordinaires au sein des Tribunaux Cambodgiens

Inter-Office Memorandum

To : All Staff

From : H.E. Sean Visoth
Director of Administration



Date: 27 December 2007

International New Year Message

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) is the best and long-awaited chance to provide justice for the Cambodians who were victims of atrocities committed during the Democratic Kampuchea during the period of 17 April 1975 - 6 January 1979.

We have made impressive progress -- in a short time achieving more than any other international or hybrid court, while operating on a far lower budget. I wish to take the opportunity of the International New Year to thank the staff of the ECCC for your hard work and dedication.

The ECCC also intends to serve as model court for the system of international justice and reform of the Cambodian legal and judicial system, and so we must always be mindful of every aspect of our performance. For the past year the ECCC has suffered from continuing circulation of unspecific allegations of extortion of salary kickbacks and hiring of unqualified staff. These allegations have been extremely damaging to the public perception of the ECCC and its staff, and have served to undermine the real achievements made.

As Director of Administration I take the opportunity to reaffirm to you all, as I stated firmly early this year, that no kind of corruption or extortion is allowed at the ECCC, and I will take strong action if any such practices come to my attention. In addition, I remind you that the Office of Administration has asked each employee to sign a Code of Conduct pledging not to undertake such practices. We have also established a Complaints Reception Committee, and installed six complaint boxes throughout the building. I would encourage anyone who wishes to lodge complaints on any issue to do so without fear of reprisal.

In conclusion, I wish to invite you all to enter the new year with commitment to help and join me to build the ECCC as an institution worthy of the serious and responsible task placed upon us.