

**REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR STAFF OF
THE OFFICE OF THE CO-PROSECUTORS AND THE OFFICE OF THE CO-
INVESTIGATING JUDGES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS
OF CAMBODIA**

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

23 October 2006

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

On this auspicious day in the history of Cambodia, I am pleased to welcome you all to this training workshop for both national and international staff of the Office of the Co-Prosecutors and the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges.

I am pleased to say a few words to mark the opening of this training program today as you begin a week-long program to enhance your understanding of the Cambodian and international legal systems, procedures and challenges, devised to assist in preparing you all for your work over the coming years in the ECCC.

Nowhere is mutual understanding more critical than in the context of a hybrid tribunal such as ours, where national and international staff are working side by side on a daily basis dealing with matters that are not only complex but are also of great significance to the nation and also to the international community. Every step we can take to facilitate a closer working relationship and mutual understanding will be a step in the right direction.

On my own behalf and also for my counterpart Michelle Lee we would like to express our deep thanks to the Open Society Judicial Initiative (OSJI) and its Cambodian Justice Initiative for funding this program and for helping to identify international resource persons, as well as to the Embassy of Germany and to Lufthansa Airlines for their support for the preparation and organisation of the workshop in the form of our facilitator.

May I also thank all the eminent resource persons who have come across the seas to spend this week with us in Cambodia – some of whom we already know, but some of whom are new friends. I hope that the experience is enriching for you by giving you the opportunity to learn about the particular characteristics of the newest in the family of hybrid tribunals. We hope there will be the chance to you to have a tour of the premises and to meet some of the staff of the ECCC.

Thanks also to all the staff of General Services and Information Technology and Communications for working over the past days to set up this training room, which is bring used for the first time today.

And, finally, I would like to wish all the best to the participants in this program from the Office of the Co-Prosecutors and the Co-Investigating Judges, and to the observers from the Court Management Section. This is an exciting and unusual opportunity for you to get a deeper understanding of the issues you will be grappling with, and also a broader view of the entire context in which you are working. We are confident that you will all move forward strengthened by the knowledge you develop during this week.
