

Welcome Speech

by the Director of the Legal Documentation Centre relating to the
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Inauguration Ceremony on 27th June, 2017

- Venerable Monks,
- His Excellency Bin Chhin, Standing Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister in charge of the Office of Council of Ministers
- His Excellency Hidehisa HORINOUCI, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia
- Ministers,
- Excellencies, Friends of the ECCC
- Members of the diplomatic corps
- Excellencies, distinguished national and international guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the staff of the Legal Documentation Centre relating to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (LDC), I would like to express my best regards and warmest welcome to Your Excellency Bin Chhin, Standing Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister in charge of the Office of Council of Ministers and Chair of the Task Force for the Functioning of the Khmer Rouge tribunal and to Your Excellency Hidehisa HORINOUCI, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia who have taken precious time to preside over this inauguration ceremony of the Legal Documentation Centre relating to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

Chairman,

Distinguished national and international guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen!

Before proceeding to the inauguration ceremony of this centre, may I please present a brief report on the of the LDC, which was established by Sub-Decree No. 159 AN KR. BK, dated November 16, 2015 on the Preparation and Establishment of the Legal Documentation Centre relating to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (LDC) under the Council of Ministers. The building construction and the equipment and electronic systems in each room of the building Centre, were supported by the Japanese Government in two separate packages.

- **First Project: Building construction and Equipment:** Under the aid of the Japanese Government in 2012 the first project financed the construction of the LDC. This building was provided to two separate owners, the east wing to the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the west wing to the Legal Documentation Centre relating to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, which has 4 floors with a total of 26 rooms and provision of basic furniture and office equipment.
- **Second Project:** to install additional electronic infrastructure especially for archival storage, such as air-conditioners, document storage shelves, security doors, security cameras, fire suppression system in the archive room, sheet metal fire doors and closing off the windows, emergency alarm system, booth for interpreters with 3 languages, microphones, recorders, desk top and tablet, printers, UPS, PABX System, Server, UPS, ATS generator...etc.

Chairman,

Distinguished national and international guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen!

The LDC is only just beginning its work, but has benefitted greatly from the guidance from the Office of the Council of Ministers and close cooperation with the ECCC in which we have received formal training and technical skills with a great result.

The LDC currently has 13 staff, including 7 women, of whom 6 are government officials and 6 are contract staff and 1 adviser.

Training at the ECCC:

- In 2016, 6 staff of the LDC were trained for a period of 7 months, from February until the end of August, with a focus on 3 skills:
 1. Information Technology;
 2. Archive;
 3. Library.
- In 2017, in order to strengthen staff capacity, 4 LDC staff were trained in Photoshop, programming and public affairs.

Civil Parties: Keeping the Legacy of the ECCC for Truth, Justice and Memory.

We have established a Civil Party Room, and we welcome them to come any time to meet their lawyers and relatives and friends, and in which to consult relevant documents, videos and films, including records of their testimony in court and other material that they wish to share. Civil parties are encouraged to deposit further private materials in the permanent, secure storage space offered by the LDC.

We are displaying their names and photographs at the LDC, commencing with those recognised in Case 001.

Finally, we wish to honour and pay respects to all those who lost their lives and who suffered during the Khmer Rouge regime by naming our auditorium the “White Lotus Hall of Remembrance”.

Depository and Research:

The LDC currently has many type of documents:

- Public documents of Case 001. This case involved the trial of defendant Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, the former Chairman of the Khmer Rouge S-21 Security Centre in Phnom Penh. There are soft and hard copies of some 7026 files amounting to 70,725 pages in 3 languages -- Khmer, English and French.
- The soft copies of Case 001 are made available to the public for searching through desk top and tablet computers in the eLibrary of the LDC through a system called the Virtual Tribunal (VT). VT is the only such system in Cambodia and is one of the most advanced technology used in the world. VT will be presented to all national and international guests later on this morning.
- Besides using the VT, users may search for any public document of case 001 and other books, magazines and documents in the library.
- The hard copies of case 001 are not provided to the public because all archive documents must be deposited in a room which meets international standards, of airconditioner in 24 hours, 18 degrees of temperature, no sunlight, fire-fighting equipment, safety door and cameraetc.
- All these documents were received from the Record and Archive Unit, the Victim Support Section, the Public Affairs Section and the Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyers of the ECCC, the National Archives of Cambodia, the Handa Centre and private donors.

Chairman,

Distinguished national and international guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the staff of the LDC, all we have followed all the recommendations and policies of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and under the direct guidance from His Excellency Bin Chhin, Standing Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister in Charge of Office of Council of Ministers, in order to increase our capacity and efficiency in fulfilling the roles and responsibilities defined in Sub-Decree No. 159 AN KR. BK dated, 16 November 2015.

I would like to convey to Your Excellency Bin Chhin, Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister in charge of the Office of Council of Ministers and Your Excellency Hidehisa HORINOUCI, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia some suggestions such as:

- The roles and responsibilities of the LDC would greatly benefit from more officers to be appointed so as to become a centre upholding international standards;
- Continue to help encourage and facilitate further the smooth and efficient work of the LDC both at national and international level;
- Direct communication between the LDC and a number of relevant national and international institutions, especially with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and for the transport of documents in safety, would be greatly facilitated by the provision of a vehicle.
- Partner organizations are urged to provide books or other relevant documents, videos, posters etc that have been published in relationship to the work of the ECCC. We can offer safe storage space and can make them available for public consultation and display.

Today we stand ready to receive and provide services to researchers, as well as Civil Parties and to continue to collaborate with the ECCC, as well as with organizations and relevant partners in our role to keep the legacy of the ECCC for future generations so they may study and understand the efforts that have been made to seek justice for the people and the victims during 1975 and 1979.

Therefore, Excellency Bin Chhin, Standing Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister in charge of Office of Council of Ministers, we look forward to your continuing support and wish you and your family to be bestowed with all the four blessings of Buddha.

Ambassador of Japan, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen, national and international guests in this Ceremony, I wish you health and success in all your endeavours.

Thank you