



PRESS RELEASE

26 June 2007

Project Board Meeting Held

The first meeting of the Project Board for "Special Support of the Cambodian Side of the Budget for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia" (ECCC) was held at the ECCC premises on Friday, 22 June 2007. The project is implemented by the ECCC and contributes to the Cambodian side of the ECCC budget.

The funds administered by UNDP under this project consist of multi-donor contributions of US\$5.3 million from a UN Trust Fund that is transferred by UNDESA, and €1million (US\$1.3 million) from the European Commission. The Project Board has the responsibility to provide overall oversight, review progress on the implementation of activities, and propose necessary recommendations to adjust project activities as required.

The Project Board is composed of the ECCC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the European Commission, with the Director of the Office of Administration, representing the ECCC, as the chair. The Board was created within the framework of a technical assistance project between the Royal Government of Cambodia, UNDP and the United Nations, signed on 14 June 2006.

At Friday morning's meeting the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2007 was approved, following a review of progress made since the commencement of the project. In addition, the Project Board considered recommendations made by UNDP's Office of Audit and Performance Review in its final audit report, issued in June 2007, following two visits in February and March 2007, on the strengthening of the capacity of the institution to ensure the quality and integrity of human resource practices.

The Cambodian side of the ECCC has accepted all of those recommendations addressed to its side, and has already commenced implementation. Full discussion was held on follow-up actions to be taken in the coming months.

Background

Under the terms of Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia, the mandate of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) is to bring to trial senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those most responsible for the crimes and serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and international conventions recognized by Cambodia, that were committed during the period from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979. The ECCC is a hybrid court composed of national and international judicial officers and applies national and international law.