

**Remarks by Deputy Director of ECCC/Coordinator UNAKRT Ms. Michelle Lee
On the Occasion of the Signing Ceremony of the ECCC Supplementary Agreements**

*Tuesday 14 March 2006
ECCC, Cambodia*

Your Excellency Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Royal Government Task Force for Khmer Rouge Trials;

Honourable Guests from the Diplomatic Community;

Representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations;

Members of the Press;

Friends of the ECCC;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today represents a landmark event in the short history of the ECCC. In a moment we will witness the signing of the final part of the agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations; setting the stage for our work in the months and years to come.

Today also marks another landmark event. Until only a few days ago, the seats in this venue were still covered in plastic, there was no electricity and only an empty stage to see. You are the very first official audience to sit in the gallery of this court.

Soon this building will be transformed. Judges will hear cases on this very stage; behind you translators will be working in Khmer, English and French; a media centre will record and broadcast the proceedings of the court to the world; And from the chairs in which you are now seated- the people of Cambodia will finally witness the judicial process for which they have long waited.

Today's event is the result of the support, hard work and dedication of many people. In particular, I would like to recognize H.E. Sean Visoth and his entire team for their professionalism during this difficult phase. It is never easy starting up a new office, but we have been fortunate in having assembled an excellent team, and I am confident that we will continue to enjoy a productive working relationship.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you. The strong participation of the international community, NGOs and the press in

today's event is a visible example of the importance you have placed on the success of our work.

The coming months will be challenging for all of us here at the ECCC. We have made progress, but there is still much work left to be done.

I know that with all of your support behind us, the ECCC has the potential to be a model of international cooperation to achieve justice.