

3 November 2006

ECCC Rules Committee Releases Draft Internal Rules

On 3 November 2006, the Rules Committee will release its draft Internal Rules for comment.

The purpose of the Internal Rules is to consolidate applicable Cambodian procedure for proceedings before the ECCC and to adopt additional rules where the existing procedure does not deal with a particular matter, or if there is uncertainty regarding its interpretation or application or if there is a question regarding its consistency with international standards.

The Rules Committee was established during the Judicial Strategic Planning and Development Workshop held in early July. It is composed of three national judges and two international judges, namely You Bunleng, Mong Monichariya, Prak Kim San, Agnieszka Klonowiecka-Milart and Marcel Lemonde, and is supported by a Secretariat in the Office of Administration and by expert Dr Gregory Stanton. Since July the members of the committee have been meeting regularly, in person and via email.

The text of the draft Internal Rules was made available on 23 October to the members of the Plenary of Judges, as well as to the Co-Prosecutors, the Principal Defender and the Office of Administration. It is today (3 November 2006) being made available in the three official languages of the ECCC (Khmer, English and French) for comment from the general public. A number of international and national NGOs and legal experts have expressed a keen interest in these Internal Rules, and the draft is being circulated to them as well as being posted on the internet (see below).

We welcome constructive comments and suggestions on the draft rules for a period of two weeks, after which we will compile the comments and forward them to the Plenary of Judges to be held in Phnom Penh from 20 to 25 November 2006. The Plenary of Judges will discuss the draft and comments together with the Co-Prosecutors, the Principal Defender and the Office of the Administration with a view to approving the Internal Rules to be applied before the ECCC.

For the full text of the draft Internal Rules in Khmer, English and French please see the following web sites:

www.eccc.gov.kh

www.unakart-online.org/04_documents.htm

www.cambodia.gov.kh/krt/

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