



Extraordinary Chambers
in the Courts of Cambodia

THE COURT REPORT 2025





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SUMMARY

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) marked their third year of residual functions with significant progress in document reclassification, strengthened archival reach, and meaningful outreach activities.

After nearly two decades of judicial proceedings, and to the great benefit of historians, researchers, and future generations, 2025 saw the declassification of key documents in Cases 003 and 004, which shed new light on underlying judicial reasoning. The Supreme Court Chamber also ordered the reclassification of more than 24,000 documents from Case 003 and over 14,000 documents from Case 004/02, offering the public richer insights into one of Cambodia's most complex judicial processes.

The visibility of the ECCC Archive grew further as it became the first public archive in Cambodia to achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification – an international benchmark affirming the ECCC's commitment to professional excellence. The launch of a mobile-friendly version of the informational section of the ECCC's legacy website marked a further contribution towards broader public access to information on the Khmer Rouge trials.

National and regional partnerships continued to develop. Notably, the ECCC provided operational support to the National Archives of Cambodia, including assistance with preserving at-risk documents,

reinforcing the ECCC's reputation as a model archival institution in Southeast Asia.

The year marked the beginning of the ECCC Learning Series, a comprehensive suite of academic materials transforming the Court's contributions to transitional justice into an interdisciplinary educational resource for Cambodian undergraduates for years to come. The ECCC also hosted an array of legal advocacy competitions, including the world's first Khmer-language moot, reflecting its ongoing commitment to education and public engagement.

The ECCC's physical premises were further developed with the opening of a new reception area and consultation rooms, augmenting the public service offering for its diverse stakeholders. This was complemented by the opening of Sala Yuttikar, a permanent exhibition exploring the ECCC's judicial and outreach work and designed to remain long after its mandate ends – now extended for two additional years until 2027 following joint UN-RGC deliberations on the ECCC's long-term legacy.

Overall, 2025 reinforced the ECCC's function as a stronghold of historical memory and a catalyst for public engagement. These continued advancements ensure that the lessons of the Khmer Rouge trials remain accessible to all.





RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS OVERVIEW

THE ECCC COMMENCED ITS RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS ON 1 JANUARY 2023. THE ADDENDUM TO THE UN-RCC AGREEMENT SET AN INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FOR THE ECCC'S RESIDUAL PHASE. IN 2025, THIS WAS EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS, FROM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2027.

This extension comes alongside the Royal Government's plans to establish a permanent Legacy Institution to house the ECCC's records and serve as a national centre for research and education following the end of the ECCC's residual phase. See p. 34 for further details on this development.

The ECCC's residual functions can be categorised into three main areas:

1. CONCLUSION OF JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS

- Reviewing applications for revising final judgments
- Assessing additional requests by lawyers
- Providing protection for victim-survivors and witnesses
- Sanctioning or referring wilful interferences with the administration of justice
- Supervising enforcement of sentences
- Monitoring treatment of convicted persons

3. OUTREACH TO CIVIL PARTIES, WITNESSES, AND THE PUBLIC

- Notifying civil parties of case updates
- Monitoring enforcement of reparations awards to civil parties (until the end of 2025)
- Imparting information to victim-survivors, youth, and the general public about the ECCC

2. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ECCC TO THE PUBLIC

- Reviewing and declassifying ECCC case file documents
- Maintaining, preserving, and managing the ECCC Archive
- Responding to document access requests
- Implementing diverse activities to disseminate information from the ECCC Archive as broadly as possible

JUDICIAL UPDATES



KHIEU SAMPHAN'S REQUEST FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION

In September 2025, defence lawyers for Khieu Samphan submitted a request to the Supreme Court Chamber (SCC) for a comprehensive medical examination, citing his advanced age and deteriorating health (Doc. F93).

The defence requested that the medical panel include at least one doctor and one psychiatrist specialising in geriatrics, capable of assessing Khieu Samphan's physical and mental condition to determine whether his current prison conditions are compatible with his state of health. Khieu Samphan is the last surviving senior leader of the Khmer Rouge.

On 5 December, the Supreme Court Chamber (SCC) denied the request

(Doc. F93/1), noting that there is no legal obligation to commission an independent medical panel unless detention is shown to be incompatible with a prisoner's health or there is evidence of failure within the domestic medical system. It also observed that no allegations of denied or delayed care amounting to inhumane treatment had been made, and that Khieu Samphan had received both emergency and ongoing medical attention during the relevant period.

The SCC further acknowledged that Khieu Samphan's cognitive and mental functions remain normal, and that any potential deterioration is speculative – with no indication that it is related to his current detention conditions. Nevertheless, the SCC stated that its decision is “without prejudice”,

meaning that the defence are at liberty to motion it again if Khieu Samphan's circumstances change materially.

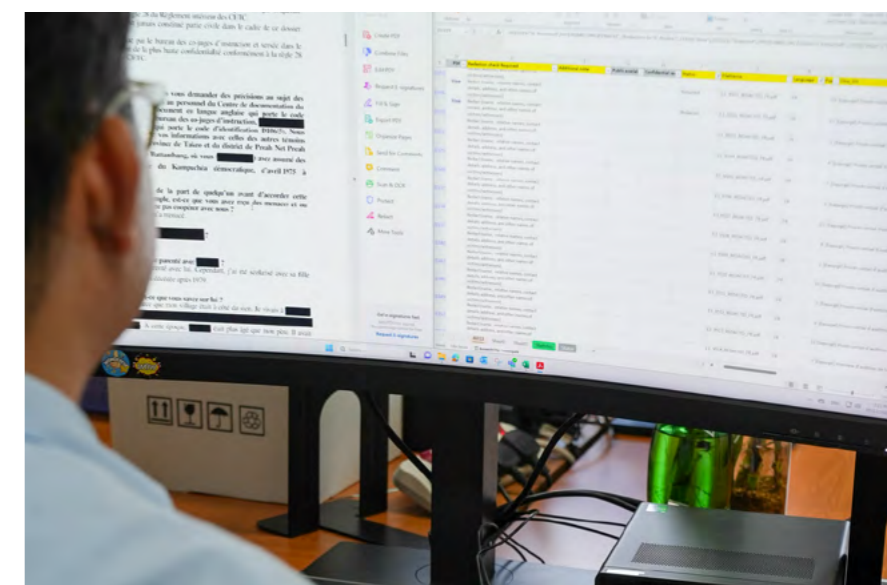
In August 2014, the Trial Chamber found Khieu Samphan guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced him to life imprisonment (Case 002/01). The SCC affirmed this sentence in 2016. Following a separate trial, the Trial Chamber found Khieu Samphan guilty – this time, of separate crimes against humanity, genocide, and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions – and imposed a life sentence in November 2018 (Case 002/02). In 2022, the SCC affirmed the conviction and sentence, marking the final major judgment at the ECCC.

RECLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS FROM CASES 003 AND 004

THE CASE 002 GUIDELINE

The 2023 Decision on Guidelines for Reclassification of Documents on Case File 002 (Doc. F71/1/1/8 – the “Case 002 Guideline”) establishes the procedures by which the Supreme Court Chamber (SCC) reviews, reclassifies, and declassifies documents from Case File 002. Its purpose is to ensure that materials no longer requiring confidential classification are made public while maintaining necessary protections for sensitive information.

Under the Case 002 Guideline, redactions must safeguard confidential or sensitive details whilst balancing the need to maximise transparency and for public access. Examples include identifying details of specific persons, medical information, or any content that could endanger individuals.



The redaction process is carried out by the Records and Archives Unit (RAU) before materials are made accessible to the public.

All documents cited in this report are available on the ECCC Archive website in Khmer, English, and French – users can simply enter the Document Number to access all available versions.

CASE FILE 003

On 2 December 2024, the SCC applied the Case 002 Guideline to the reclassification of documents filed in Case 003 (Doc. 5/4).

Subsequently, on 22 April 2025, the SCC ordered the review of more than 24,000 documents from Case 003 for reclassification (Doc. 5/5). The first batch of 5,410 documents, which required no redactions, has been made available to the public (Doc. 5/6), while work continues on a second batch requiring partial redactions (Doc. 5/7).

CASE FILE 004/02

The SCC also applied the Case 002 Guideline to Case 004/02 in May 2023 (Doc. E004/2/7/1).

In August 2024, the SCC ordered the Records and Archives Unit (RAU) to reclassify 35,461 records, and the first batch of 5,406 records was declassified in November 2024 (Doc. E004/2/7/2), as noted in the 2023 Court Report (see p. 12) and 2024 Court Report (see p. 7).

On 7 April 2025, the RAU completed the reclassification of all case files from Case 004/02. This included 5,440 documents made public without redactions, and 8,677 documents released with partial redactions (Doc. E004/2/7/5).

DECLASSIFICATION OF CO-PROSECUTOR AND CO-INVESTIGATING JUDGE DISAGREEMENTS



Archive

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Judicial Non-Judicial

Case File

- Disagreement OCIJ
- Disagreement OCP

DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN CO-PROSECUTORS

Nearly two decades after they were recorded, the written records of disagreement in between the Co-Prosecutors about Cases 003 and 004 were declassified in 2025. On 11 November 2025 the Supreme Court Chamber (SCC) ordered the publication of the last key documents central to understanding these cases and the subsequent judicial developments. Records of disagreement between Co-Prosecutors (and Co-Investigating Judges, see below) are envisaged under the ECCC’s legal framework as a way to document – and resolve – differing views on how to proceed with prosecutions.

Among the most pertinent disclosures in the now-declassified disagreement documents is the National Co-Prosecutor’s detailed reasons for not pursuing prosecutions beyond Cases 001 and 002. These reasons followed a request from the International Co-Prosecutor, who sought to forward additional suspects to the Co-Investigating Judges through a Supplementary Submission for Case 002 and two new Introductory

Submissions for Cases 003 and 004. The International Co-Prosecutor’s detailed reasons for pursuing additional suspects are also included in the now unsealed documents.

In 2009, the International Co-Prosecutor withdrew his disagreement concerning the Supplementary Submission for Case 002, following the death of one of the individuals proposed as a suspect. As this person never attained the formal procedural status of “suspect”, the SCC’s order also required that their name be redacted.

Declassification is a key measure of transparency and accountability. By making these records of disagreement public, historians, researchers, and the wider community can examine the ECCC’s complex proceedings with greater clarity and accuracy, ensuring that the contents of the Archive remain as widely accessible as possible for future generations.

DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN CO-INVESTIGATING JUDGES

On 16 May 2025, the SCC ordered the declassification of all written records of disagreement between judges from the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges (OCIJ) in Cases 003, 004 and 004/02 (Doc. 4), together with related investigative materials, in recognition of their inherent legacy value. These declassified records have since been processed by the RAU and are now available to view in the ECCC Archive.

The co-investigating judges’ disagreements followed the Co-Prosecutors’ earlier disagreements on how to proceed in cases 003 and 004 (see above). The SCC ordered the declassification of approximately 80 such documents, including the formal records of disagreement within the OCIJ and communications between the SCC and judges from the OCIJ and Pre-Trial Chamber. Most disagreements concerned the personal jurisdiction of the ECCC – specifically, whether the suspects in these cases could be tried under its framework.

While the substance of these disagreements is not new – as the judges frequently referenced them throughout proceedings – the newly released materials reveal how they were formally recorded under the Internal Rules. It was generally believed that these disagreements would remain confidential, either permanently or for an extended period. By releasing them, the SCC reaffirms the ECCC’s commitment to transparency and informed understanding, inviting direct engagement with the primary sources that provide a complete account of legal matters.

These documents are now available on the ECCC Archive and can be located by selecting the “Disagreement OCIJ” and “Disagreement OCP” filters under the “Case File” option.

ORDERS AND DECISIONS

DATE	DOCUMENT	DOC. NO
16 December 2025	Decision on the Release and Notification of Documents Declassified as “Public” with Redactions in Case File 003	5/7
5 December 2025	Decision on Request for Medical Examination of Khieu Samphan	F93/1
11 November 2025	Order on Co-Prosecutors’ Disagreement Documents	21
8 October 2025	Decision on CSO Request for Declassification of Documents	F91/1
18 August 2025	Decision on the Release and Notification of Documents Declassified as “Public” without Redaction in Case File 003 and Corrections to Annex	5/6
16 May 2025	Order on Disagreement Documents and Investigative Materials in Cases 003, 004 and 004/02	4
22 April 2025	Order for Reclassification of Documents Filed in Case 003	5/5
17 March 2025	Decision on the Release and Notification of Documents Reclassified as “Public” with Redaction in Case File 004/02	E004/2/7/4
28 February 2025	Judicial Consultation on Disagreement Documents in Cases 003, 004, and 004/02	2

RESIDUAL PHASE ACTIVITIES UPDATE



In 2025, the ECCC Archive became Cambodia's first public archive to receive ISO 9001:2015 certification – the global standard for quality management systems.

THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE ECCC ARCHIVE

The reach of the ECCC's archival work has grown rapidly as it continues its residual phase. Achievements throughout 2025 include international certification, capacity-building with local and international partners, sustained engagement with the Cambodian public, and the preservation of at-risk documents.

ISO CERTIFICATION

In August 2025, the ECCC Archive became the first public archive in

Cambodia to attain ISO 9001:2015 certification. This internationally recognised standard, developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), establishes criteria for ensuring consistency, efficiency, and continuous improvement in organisational processes.

In securing ISO certification, the ECCC Archive demonstrates its commitment to professional excellence, reinforcing its integrity

and accessibility for the benefit of victims, researchers, and the public.

INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES WEEK

In celebration of International Archives Week 2025, the ECCC hosted a series of public events between 9 and 13 June 2025 to raise awareness of the importance of archives in preserving historical memory.

In the spirit of the Week's theme (“#ArchivesAreAccessible – Archives



Students are introduced to the use of digital archives at the reception area, highlighting how technology helps preserve and access records of justice.

for Everyone”), members of the public were invited to visit the ECCC Archive and take part in workshops promoting its user-friendliness, join guided tours of the facility, and participate in a digital scavenger hunt using the ECCC's archive platform.

KHMER TRANSLATION OF UNESCO'S UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON ARCHIVES SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

On 17 February 2025, the ECCC submitted a Khmer-language translation of UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Archives to the International Council on Archives as part of its ongoing contribution to the global archival community.

The Universal Declaration on Archives is a powerful affirmation of the important role that archives play in promoting transparency and preserving collective memory. By producing and circulating a Khmer translation with Cambodian institutions and the wider public, the ECCC supports the wider use of the Declaration as a practical and symbolic tool.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

The ECCC continues to support archival development in Cambodia and the Southeast Asian region through partnerships, technical

exchanges, and training initiatives. These efforts aim to strengthen long-term archival capacity by drawing on the ECCC's new infrastructure and institutional experience.

Since 2022, the ECCC has participated in a regional training programme on records and archives management in partnership with the National Archives of Cambodia, the National Archives of Korea, the National Archives of Vietnam, and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. In 2025, representatives from Tuol Sleng, the National Assembly General Secretariat, and other government institutions visited the ECCC to learn about its archival systems, procedures, and digital tools.

ECCC archives staff also conducted a formal visit to the National Archives of Cambodia to assess the current state of its systems and identify areas for advancement. Following this visit, the ECCC team prepared a diagnostic report outlining key challenges faced by the National Archive and recommendations for operational improvement.

In parallel to these conversations, the ECCC continued to encourage broader capacity-building through training conducted in co-operation with the International Council on Archives. This year, the ECCC organised specialised training for staff and other local archival professionals, including participants from

the National Archives of Cambodia and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum.

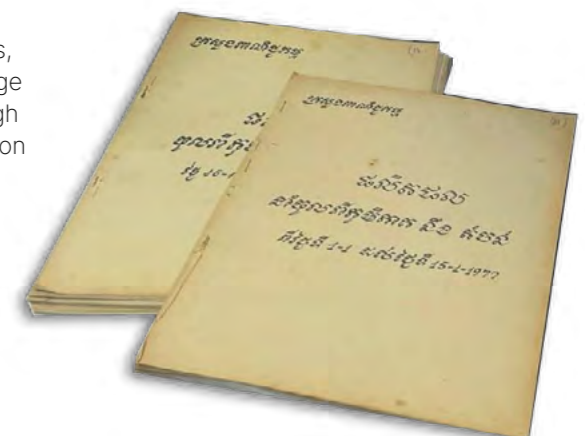
The ECCC has built one of the most robust and comprehensive digitised archives and will continue to apply its knowledge and resources towards the betterment of memory preservation across Cambodia and the wider region.

PRESERVATION OF VALUABLE DOCUMENTS AT RISK

In early 2025, the ECCC began a collaboration with the National Archives of Cambodia to preserve previously unscanned records related to the People's Revolutionary Tribunal (PRT) and the commercial records of Democratic Kampuchea.

These materials – totalling 27,869 pages and previously only available in physical form at the National Archives – offer crucial insight into the inner workings of the Khmer Rouge regime and its aftermath, with many being digitised for the first time. Together with the National Archives, the ECCC archives team launched a project to scan and preserve the whole collection.

Digitisation of the PRT collection has now been completed, and preservation of additional Democratic Kampuchea records remains underway. As part of the arrangement, the scanned versions will be shared with the National Archives. The ECCC has also provided archival supplies, including acid-free boxes, to support proper storage of the originals. Discussions on making these materials public are ongoing.





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Judicial Non-Judicial

Filing Party

- Public Affairs
- KRT Monitors
- Khmer Mekong Films

THE NON-JUDICIAL ARCHIVE

The value of the ECCC Archive in preserving the legal documents and case-related materials from the Khmer Rouge tribunal hearings is well recognised. Less well-known, however, is its non-judicial section, known as the "Non-Judicial Archive" – a key part of the ECCC Archive developed in parallel to preserve the ECCC's broader outreach and public communication efforts through the years.

These materials played a crucial role in a wider transitional justice context: fostering public understanding and dialogue about the ECCC's work and Cambodia's pursuit of justice. From nationwide radio programmes to posters displayed on commune hall noticeboards, these initiatives were designed to ensure broad accessibility across rural and less literate populations.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS MATERIALS

The Non-Judicial Archive consolidates digital resources that document how the ECCC's Public Affairs Section engaged the Cambodian public throughout its operation while judicial officials carried out their legal work. The collection dates back to 2006 and includes:

- Monthly court reports, press releases, speeches, and blogs covering trials, outreach activities, and public events;
- Royal decrees marking the key milestones of the ECCC;
- Practice directions outlining procedural guidance;
- Posters, factsheets, booklets, and publications designed to promote public awareness; and
- Financial and administrative documents reflecting transparency and accountability practices.

THIRD-PARTY MATERIALS

The Non-Judicial Archive also hosts collections produced by external partners and organisations documenting the ECCC's legal proceedings. These include independent trial monitoring reports produced by the Asian International Justice Initiative, and a series of four television programmes created by Khmer Mekong Films with support from the British Embassy, which followed the course of the trials and provided public discussions on the ECCC's progress.

With their inclusion in the ECCC Archive, the Non-Judicial Archive is a valuable resource for those seeking to understand how justice was communicated, received, and shared. It reflects the ECCC's commitment to accessibility and is a reminder that the Court's achievements hold their value only when their meaning is understood and carried forward by future generations.

A separate addition of public affairs materials is forthcoming, comprising extensive collections of photographs and videos that document defining moments inside and outside the courtroom.

A Khmer-language translation of UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Archives, submitted to the International Council on Archives.



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- ភាពសម្បូរបែបនៃបណ្ណសារក្នុងការកត់ត្រាគ្រប់ផ្នែកនៃសកម្មភាពរបស់មនុស្ស។
- ពហុភាពនៃទម្រង់ដែលបណ្ណសារត្រូវបានបង្កើតឡើង រួមមាន ក្រដាស អេឡិចត្រូនិក សោតទស្សន៍ និងប្រភេទផ្សេងៗទៀត។
- តួនាទីរបស់បណ្ណសារនុរក្ស ជាអ្នកជំនាញដែលទទួលបាននូវការបណ្តុះបណ្តាល រួមមានការអប់រំដំបូង និងជាបន្តបន្ទាប់ ដែលបម្រើសង្គមរបស់ពួកគេតាមរយៈការគាំទ្រដល់ការបង្កើតកំណត់ត្រា និងតាមរយៈការជ្រើសរើស ការថែទាំ និងការធ្វើឱ្យកំណត់ត្រាទាំងនេះអាចប្រើប្រាស់បាន។
- ការទទួលខុសត្រូវរបស់ទាំងអស់គ្នាក្នុងការគ្រប់គ្រងបណ្ណសារ មានជាអាទិ៍ ពលរដ្ឋ អ្នកគ្រប់គ្រងសាធារណៈ និងអ្នកធ្វើសេចក្តីសម្រេចចិត្ត ម្ចាស់ឬអ្នកកាន់កាប់បណ្ណសារសាធារណៈ ឬឯកជន បណ្ណសារនុរក្ស និងអ្នកឯកទេសព័ត៌មានផ្សេងទៀត។

អាស្រ័យហេតុនេះ យើងធ្វើការងាររួមគ្នាដើម្បីធ្វើឱ្យ

- គោលនយោបាយ និងច្បាប់បណ្ណសារជាតិដ៏សមស្របត្រូវបានអនុម័ត និងអនុវត្ត។
- ការគ្រប់គ្រងបណ្ណសារត្រូវបានវាយតម្លៃ និងអនុវត្តប្រកបដោយសមត្ថភាព ដោយស្ថាប័នទាំងអស់ ឯកជនឬសាធារណៈ ដែលបង្កើត និងប្រើប្រាស់បណ្ណសារក្នុងអំឡុងពេលដំណើរការការងាររបស់ពួកគេ។
- ធនធានគ្រប់គ្រាន់ត្រូវបានបែងចែកដើម្បីគាំទ្រដល់ការគ្រប់គ្រងបណ្ណសារឱ្យបានត្រឹមត្រូវ រួមទាំងការជួលអ្នកជំនាញដែលមានការបណ្តុះបណ្តាល។
- បណ្ណសារត្រូវបានគ្រប់គ្រង និងរក្សាទុកតាមរបៀបដែលធានាបាននូវយថាភាព ភាពជឿជាក់ សុចរិតភាព និងភាពងាយស្រួលប្រើប្រាស់របស់វា។
- មនុស្សគ្រប់រូបអាចចូលប្រើប្រាស់បណ្ណសារបាន ខណៈដែលគោរពច្បាប់ពាក់ព័ន្ធ និងសិទ្ធិរបស់បុគ្គល អ្នកបង្កើតម្ចាស់ និងអ្នកប្រើប្រាស់។
- បណ្ណសារត្រូវបានប្រើប្រាស់ ដើម្បីរួមចំណែកដល់ការលើកកម្ពស់ភាពជាពលរដ្ឋ ដែលមានការទទួលខុសត្រូវ។

ECCC LEARNING SERIES: PART 1



The ECCC's 10-module introductory curriculum for non-law undergraduates, with instructor training materials, is being rolled out with outreach officers supporting classroom delivery in early 2026.

Universities in Cambodia are about to receive a resource long missing from higher education in Cambodia: a comprehensive and interdisciplinary set of academic study materials on the Khmer Rouge trials. The ECCC is actively producing a dedicated seminar series that will turn its work into a lasting educational resource for undergraduates, with Part 1 ready for rollout.

Students and professors have long had little structured guidance on this tumultuous period of history, with the ECCC's website until recently being the only sources of information. That gap is now being addressed through a curriculum designed not only to explain the ECCC's role, but the part that it has played within Cambodia's wider, decades-long process of transitional justice. With

the support of academic experts in transitional justice and atrocity prevention, the ECCC has produced an opening curriculum of 10 modules aimed at non-law undergraduates, accompanied by materials for instructor training. During the first phase of the rollout, outreach officers will join instructors in classrooms to help ensure the modules are delivered effectively.

GENOCIDE EDUCATION AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY

This initiative reflects a wider national commitment to keeping the memory of the Khmer Rouge era alive, including beyond the progress made by the ECCC on this issue. In a speech delivered in May 2024, Prime Minister Hun Manet emphasised that all government institutions must

support genocide education for future generations. He also stated that “the duty to promote education about genocide belongs to all of us, not just the government”, and called for creativity in this task, stressing that the lessons of the Khmer Rouge era should not be confined to textbooks alone.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM

The course is intentionally interdisciplinary, in order to appropriately capture the long-term process of transition that Cambodia is continuing to experience. Alongside incorporating information about the cases before the ECCC, the course modules weave together history, geography, geopolitics, psychology, and conflict and peace studies,

facilitating an understanding of the broader contributions of international criminal law and justice towards the country's own journey towards peace and stability.

Teaching methods are designed to be interactive and inclusive. Rather than simply listening to lectures, students will participate in group presentations, oral history projects, and film screenings followed by discussions guided by facts. Assignments range from short quizzes and writing prompts, to research papers based on archive materials. Each module includes links to judgments and legal texts hosted on the ECCC's website, encouraging students to engage directly with archival sources and the original text.

FROM THE COURTROOM TO THE CLASSROOM

The choice to provide all materials in Khmer is deliberate. While English remains dominant across much scholarship, Khmer is the language of Cambodia. This approach reinforces the ECCC's commitment to

accessibility, ensuring that students from diverse academic backgrounds can engage meaningfully with the course.

What makes this initiative unique is that it marks the first time an international(ised) tribunal has created a university-level curriculum. This bold move towards embedding knowledge into the fabric of Cambodian society aims to leave behind not only judgments but understanding.

AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

The hope is that, once piloted, the course will become a lasting fixture in Cambodian higher education. Instructors will be able to use the

modules long after the ECCC's residual phase has ended.

Trials may deliver justice for past crimes, but it is education that shapes the future. By combining law, history, politics, and psychology in one curriculum, the ECCC Learning Series bridges the gap between the courtroom and classroom by positioning the work of the ECCC within a wider transitional justice process. It will furnish students with the tools to think critically about Cambodia's journey from conflict to peace and, in teaching Cambodia's young people the importance of carrying memory forward, encourage them to support a society where such atrocities can never happen again.

“ We must ensure that history teaching is properly integrated into public and private schools, from secondary to university, and that our teachers can join forces to spread genocide education in schools across the country [...] We can also explore innovative ways to narrate difficult stories to people of different ages and generations such as through arts, digital contents or even animation. ”



The development of these seminars is the first time that a tribunal has created a university-level curriculum. This bold move aims to leave behind not only judgments but understanding.

MOOTING COMPETITIONS: DYNAMIC CAPACITY-BUILDING AT THE ECCC



Between 2024 and 2025, the ECCC hosted the world's first Khmer-language moot competition, significantly expanding access to mooting for all universities in Cambodia.

A moot is a simulated court hearing that allows law students to formally prepare and argue a legal case. Moots are a key way of teaching students how to research the law, build legally sound arguments, and improve their spoken advocacy.

National and international moot competition routes to global recognition for students from developing countries and are a particularly valuable exercise in countries such as Cambodia, where such opportunities are limited or inaccessible.

The ECCC recognises mooting as a vital means of promoting engagement and supports numerous competitions as part of its capacity-building work. By offering world-class resources and the legal expertise gained from 16 years' worth of proceedings, the

ECCC helps Cambodian students compete on equal footing with their international peers. In promoting young people's technical engagement with the justice system, mooting also supports the ECCC's legacy function by embedding historical memory into national legal education and reiterating its unique contribution to international justice.

THE CAMBODIAN MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Between October 2024 and March 2025, the ECCC hosted the first edition of the new Cambodian Moot Court Competition (CMCC), developed in close collaboration with Cambodian universities, the law profession and legal practitioners.

As the first and only Khmer-language tournament of its kind, the CMCC

was designed to augment practical legal training available to Cambodian law students. With the established Cambodian moot court scene operating largely in English and limited to international competitions, the CMCC responds to the challenges many students face with engaging in legal proceedings in a foreign language. The CMCC enabled students to participate fully in Khmer throughout the entire process – from legal drafting to oral advocacy.

Cambodian law schools nominated one representative to participate on the advisory council guiding the development of the CMCC. Through this partnership, the ECCC created a competition providing a unique chance to engage with the Cambodian legal system in a way that remains accessible to students from across the country.



The team from the National University of Management won first place at the 2025 CMCC.

The facts of this year's competition were largely drawn from Case 001 at the ECCC (the Duch trial), giving students a rare opportunity to analyse complex issues related to crimes against humanity, the Geneva Conventions, and defendants' procedural rights within the context of Cambodian history and law. Notably, this competition was the first moot competition in Cambodia to include civil parties, offering students a deeper and more contextual understanding of Cambodia's legal landscape and victim-survivors' participation rights.

Training and Logistics

To ensure that all participants were well prepared, the ECCC organised

three regional workshops across the country to introduce students to the mechanics of moot courts and strengthen their advocacy skills. The workshops featured a lecture by a member of Cambodia's Supreme Council of Magistracy, offering students valuable insight into the judiciary's role. ECCC staff also travelled to Siem Reap and Battambang to host seminars, with guest speakers including the Chief Prosecutor of Siem Reap and the Deputy Prosecutor of Battambang.

These talks provided students with an in-depth understanding of courtroom roles and the legal procedures they would encounter during the tournament.

The 2025 CMCC featured 12 teams representing nine law schools from across Cambodia. More than 20 legal professionals volunteered as judges, many bringing significant national and international experience.

The CMCC took place in two stages:

- February 2025: Each team submitted three 10-page legal memorials – one each on behalf of the prosecution, the defence, and the civil parties.
- March 2025: Teams travelled to Phnom Penh to present their oral arguments in the new ECCC Courtroom. The CMCC judicial panel include sitting judges from Kandal and Stung Treng provincial courts, deputy prosecutors from Phnom Penh courts, and lawyers.

The team from the National University of Management won first place, followed by the team from the Royal University of Law and Economics in second.

The ECCC is currently hosting the second edition of the CMCC, with the number of registered universities increasing to 18 in 2025. This support is in continued recognition of the CMCC's unique value in helping Cambodian law students develop and refine their legal knowledge in a meaningful way.

INTERNATIONAL MOOTING COMPETITIONS SUPPORTED BY THE ECCC

JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION



In March 2025, the ECCC and the National University of Management jointly hosted a Regional Round of this international trade law moot – a fictional World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement hearing. Organised by the European Law Students' Association and supported by the WTO, the tournament brought together more than 50 students from eight countries. The winner, Ateneo de Manila University from the Philippines, joined three other teams from China and Taiwan in travelling to Geneva in June for the international competition.

PHILIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION (THE “JESSUP MOOT”)

The Jessup Moot is the world’s largest moot court competition – a simulated dispute between states before the International Court of Justice – with more than 800 teams worldwide participating in 2025. In March 2025, the ECCC hosted the Cambodian national rounds, welcoming law schools from across the country to compete. The American University of Phnom Penh and Royal University of Law and Economics won the competition. On account of their performance, both Cambodian teams qualified to compete in Washington D.C. at the international championship – a precedent set for future Jessup Moots.



ICRC INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW MOOT



In November 2025, the ECCC hosted the Cambodian national rounds of the ICRC International Humanitarian Law Moot for the third consecutive year as part of an MoU between the ECCC and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Royal University of Law and Economics won first place and will travel to Hong Kong to compete in the international rounds in 2026.

In addition to hosting official moot competition rounds, the ECCC ensures that its resources are available, free of charge, to students participating in international competitions who wish to develop their legal skills. This includes research and legal support from the Resource Centre, use of the Multifunction Hall for preparation, and the mobilisation of local networks to provide judges and coaches that can offer students valuable feedback on their work.

For instance, a team of four female students represented Cambodia in the 2025 Nuremberg Moot, ranking fourth worldwide for their written submissions and subsequently reaching the quarterfinals of this English-language competition in Germany. While their success remains firmly their own, the team were able to draw on insights shared through ECCC contacts and made use of the Multifunction Hall during their practice.

ECCC GOES MOBILE!

A mobile-friendly version of the informational section of the ECCC’s legacy website was launched in mid-2025, marking another step towards broader public access to information about the Khmer Rouge trials. This update reflects the ECCC’s commitment to make its resources available to the widest possible audience, including those who rely primarily on mobile devices to access the internet – as many Cambodians do.

By adapting the website for mobile use, users and students can now engage more easily with its content – whether reading about the ECCC’s establishment, exploring its mandate, or learning about the outcomes of its proceedings. This development is especially significant in Cambodia, where mobile phones remain the primary means of internet access for much of the population. It also enhances the website’s global reach, allowing international audiences to navigate the information more conveniently across a wider range of devices.



As of 2025, this mobile-friendly adaptation applies only to the primary informational sections of the legacy

website. The ECCC Archive and other interactive features – which include timelines, maps and databases – are not yet part of this phase. As they are more complex in design, they will require further technical adjustments to ensure full functionality on mobile platforms. Future development will continue to expand mobile compatibility across these areas, further strengthening the access to the ECCC’s archival and educational materials.

This step embodies the ECCC’s ongoing efforts under its residual functions to expand access to the rich body of knowledge generated by its work. By reaching people through a wider range of technologies, the lessons and legacy of the ECCC will remain accessible to future generations.



Access to a mobile-friendly version of the ECCC website is especially significant in Cambodia, where mobile phones remain the primary means of internet access for much of the population, including students.

NEW RECEPTION AREA AND CONSULTATION ROOMS



Villagers from Kampot take part in a weekly in-reach program at the ECCC Resource Centre in October, a public study tours that include intergenerational dialogue with civil parties, organized by the Public Affairs Section.

In 2025, the ECCC opened its new reception area and consultation rooms. Designed to welcome the public and provide a base for victim-survivor initiatives, these spaces have already begun playing a valuable and active role in making the tribunal more accessible.

Following inauguration by the Prime Minister in 2024, the completion of this project underscores the importance of ensuring that the ECCC's legacy extends beyond its legal judgments, and that its contribution to transitional justice and Cambodia's own journey towards lasting recovery and progress is anchored in the everyday life of Cambodian society.



A new addition to the Resource Centre this year are consultation spaces supporting victim-survivor initiatives; in this photo, Civil Parties receive updates from an ECCC Civil Party lawyer on the conclusion of the judicial proceedings.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Two photo exhibitions (*Lessons from the Past* and *Requiem*) were hosted in the reception area room in February and July respectively. Both brought varied audiences into the stories of those who endured the Khmer Rouge regime, and demonstrated how the new reception area space is already functioning as an active space for public engagement.

This new space has also hosted creative activities. During International Archives Week, a scavenger hunt was held in the consultation rooms, inviting students and young participants to explore the ECCC's extensive archival collections. The activity again reflected the central aim of the new space: to make the ECCC's work approachable and relevant to the broader public.

The opening of the ECCC's new reception area and consultation rooms provides much more than just a physical venue: they are gathering places where memory, education, and dialogue converge, ensuring that the painful lessons of the past continue to inform and inspire future generations.

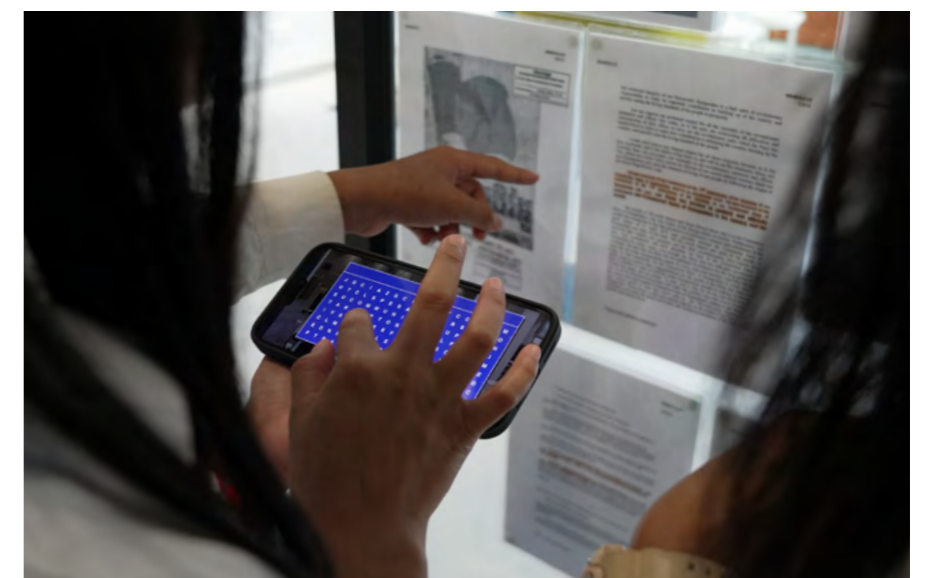
Visitors to the ECCC find more than seating and a welcome desk. They enter a venue alive with memory and vibrant responses to the ECCC's work.



The "Lessons from the Past" photo exhibition, hosted at the reception area in February 2025.



The "Requiem" photo exhibition, hosted in late July 2025.



Creative activities, such as a scavenger hunt, were hosted during International Archives Week to encourage exploration of the digital archive.

SALA YUTTIKAR: THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION OF THE ECCC'S LEGACY



Sala Yuthikar is a cornerstone legacy initiative in preserving the memory of the ECCC, with a unique value as being the only exhibition reflecting the ECCC's unique role as a judicial institution in a transitional justice context.

In December 2025, the ECCC Resource Centre completed its permanent exhibition, Sala Yuttikar ("Justice Hall"): a public-facing space that will remain in place long after the ECCC's mandate ends.

Sala Yuttikar explores the history and judicial findings of the Court, with a focus on the roles and experiences of civil parties throughout court proceedings. Rather than prescribing a single vision of justice, this legacy exhibition provides a modern and elegantly ordered space for visitors to reflect on what justice means to them across three key themes:

- **The first theme concerns criminal accountability.** Using physical documents and interactive displays, it illustrates Cambodia's calls for justice during the post-Khmer Rouge period and its

subsequent negotiations with the United Nations that led to the creation of the ECCC. This section explains why the ECCC was established when it was, the obstacles that had to be overcome, and why justice remained a priority for so many years after the atrocities occurred.

The distinctive features of the ECCC are also presented under this theme, including its structure as a hybrid tribunal, its mandate and jurisdiction, and the unique framework that supported the participation of civil parties. A physical tower of documents illustrates the breadth of work involved in advancing the Court's cases, while a detailed wall-to-wall timeline tracks their progress from investigation to



Visitors can use the interactive display to learn about the individuals who were investigated.

judgment. These features are complemented by video and sound projections of the judicial proceedings and a tactile display featuring information about the 10 individuals who were formally investigated. This multisensory section immerses visitors, helping them visualise the scope of the ECCC's work. It explains why the mandate was confined to senior leaders and those most responsible, and why 10 individuals were addressed over the lifetime of the ECCC.

- **The second theme focuses on the legal findings and evidence.** The related part of the exhibition focuses on the key moments and patterns of Khmer Rouge violence that were at the heart of the ECCC's findings. Rather than offering a general history of the regime, it presents the specific crimes and events directly addressed in the courtroom. In doing so, it highlights legal questions examined by the Court, including issues of forced marriage, population movements, and the operation of security centres and co-operatives. At the centre of the room is a large structure of drawers showcasing key pieces of evidence relied upon by the Court, explaining the way they



Visitors can explore key pieces of evidence relied upon by the Court, showing how judges examined them and how each fits into the larger puzzle of criminal responsibility, displayed in a central structure of drawers.

were examined by the judges, and how they fit into the jigsaw puzzle of criminal responsibility. Visitors are invited to open the drawers and explore how legal proceedings were built from testimonies, documents, and physical evidence.

- **The final theme concerns models of transitional justice.** The end of the permanent exhibition space shifts the viewer's focus to beyond the courtroom, and reflects on the ECCC as a model of transitional justice and how its lessons continue to

inform peacebuilding efforts in Cambodia and beyond. Featuring selected on-screen quotes from the ECCC's 'My Story' survivor storytelling project (see p. 32), the section invites visitors to reflect on how justice is understood across generations by offering them a space to sit in front of the screened quotes and access the full series on their personal devices via a QR code should they so choose.

The exhibition concludes with the "Leave a Trace" installation, where visitors can write or draw what justice means to them on an interactive tablet, and submit their responses for projection onto a wall of the exhibition.



Watching selected on-screen quotes from the ECCC's My Story survivor storytelling project, and taking the time to reflect on the ECCC's transitional justice model.

Notably, all information and exhibits are guided by the ECCC's own legal process and factual findings, rather than providing a standalone account of the Khmer Rouge period. All materials on display – from historical timelines to descriptions of crimes and responsibility – are drawn directly from the rich Archive. This approach distinguishes Sala Yuttikar from other historical and memorial institutions, precisely because it reflects the ECCC's unique function as a judicial institution.



With a focus on the roles and experiences of civil parties throughout the proceedings, visitors can learn what makes the Cambodian experience unique.

Sala Yuttikar also highlights the voices and contributions of civil parties in the judicial proceedings. Their testimonies are featured throughout the exhibition, illustrating how victim-survivors advanced the Court's work and their own perspectives on what they hoped justice would deliver.

Audio guides for this permanent exhibition will be available in several languages, with all exhibits translated into both Khmer and English, ensuring broad accessibility and reflecting the ECCC's nature as a hybrid tribunal.

The opening of Sala Yuttikar is a cornerstone in preserving the ECCC's legacy. By integrating the voices of civil parties into this permanent exhibition, and grounding it firmly in the Court's legal findings, it provides a compelling and educational experience for all visitors. Sala Yuttikar will continue to inspire and engage future generations, ensuring that the ECCC's work resonates far beyond its mandate.



By integrating civil party voices and grounding the exhibition in the Court's legal findings, it offers a compelling educational experience that encourages intergenerational dialogue.



ECCC AS A SPACE FOR ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING



A series of Expert-Led Lunch Talks in 2025, designed to inform and engage staffs on key issues in international criminal law and transitional justice; in picture, Dr. Christoph Sperfeldt leads the lunch talk.

As part of the ECCC's commitment to ongoing education, information sharing and diverse forms of capacity-building, it hosted a series of Lunch Talks in 2025, aimed at educating and engaging participants on critical issues in international criminal law and transitional justice. During these talks, staff and interns are introduced to international experts on developments in law, genocide studies, challenges in prosecuting gender-based violence, and the potential of hybrid courts.

Throughout 2025, the following people shared their insights:

- **Dr. Christoph Sperfeldt** from **Macquarie University** discussed findings from his empirical research on reparations at both the ECCC and the Extraordinary African Chambers. He highlighted the role of victim participation in

shaping reparations, sparking vibrant conversations on the balance between individual and collective forms of reparations. The discussion also canvassed whether hybrid tribunals, on account of their national context, offer more appropriate reparations than purely international courts.

- **Dr. Melanie O'Brien** from the **University of Western Australia** presented attendees with a comparative analysis of the crimes committed against Armenians by the Ottoman Empire, and crimes committed against Cambodians during the Khmer Rouge era.
- **Silke Studzinsky, former Civil Party Lawyer at the ECCC**, shared insights into the legal and practical challenges of

investigating and prosecuting sexual and gender-based violent crime in armed conflict. She highlighted the ECCC's pioneering role in establishing forced marriage as a crime under international law, and reflected on potential means of achieving gender justice in international criminal law.

- **Professor Wui Ling Cheah** from the **National University of Singapore** shared her findings on the Tokyo People's Tribunal, drawing on her specialist research in transitional justice in Asia. Professor Cheah's work with the diverse and complex roles of domestic and international criminal courts beyond adjudication offered valuable points for reflection for those interested in the broader impact of the ECCC.

Additionally, throughout 2025, the ECCC delivered a series of Law Talks covering a broad range of international criminal law and transitional justice topics, sharing legal expertise with both internal staff and the wider public.

Key sessions included:

- An ECCC Law Talk on heritage law and contemporary challenges.
- Discussions on the crime of aggression and recent developments in international accountability.
- A session on joint criminal enterprise at the ECCC for media students, supporting their audio storytelling projects for the Krahaam Podcast using judicial archives.
- An overview of supermajority decision-making and the ECCC's framework for judicial disagreement.
- Internal sharing sessions providing a space for reflection, dialogue, and learning, linking the ECCC's past achievements with present and future practice while strengthening collective institutional knowledge.



ECCC Law Talk on the heritage law and contemporary challenges.



ECCC Law Talk on archival politics of international tribunals.



As part of the internship program, legal interns conducted research and networked with national institutions, civil society organizations, and researchers, and presented their findings at the ECCC Resource Centre.

**YOUNG MINDS WORKSHOP:
SMALL DREAMS IN THE BIG PICTURE**



On 26 April 2025, the ECCC opened its doors to children aged 8 to 14 for Small Dreams in the Big Picture, Cambodia's first-ever workshop designed specifically to help young minds explore their country's history and navigate the path to justice cultivated by the ECCC. Supported by five facilitators, this three-hour event was delivered entirely in Khmer.

This workshop served as a pilot for a reproducible model that schools, NGOs, cultural centres and communities all over the country can use to help children understand Cambodia's history under the Khmer Rouge and the importance of justice achieved through the work of the ECCC.

The workshop began with a puzzle activity on an interactive board, inviting children to piece together different fragments as a collective expression of what justice meant to them. This broke down complex ECCC trials into tangible concepts that they could understand, helping them form their own perceptions of accountability and justice.

The next activity was a "fair or unfair" game. Guided by facilitators, participants were presented with scenarios drawn from the injustices and restrictions caused by Khmer Rouge policies, and asked to decide whether they were "fair" or "unfair". The exercise encouraged them to form their own views on fairness, reflect on their opinions, and connect these ideas to the work of the ECCC in promoting healing.

The young minds were later given the opportunity to express themselves through a canvas painting exercise, using colour to communicate their feelings about the Khmer Rouge period and the subsequent social reckoning. Each participant received materials to paint and draw the emotions they felt, from fear and sadness to hope and relief. The finished canvas – a powerful expression of a younger generation's hopes for the future – is now displayed in the ECCC's reception area room.

This workshop and its activities opened avenues for young Cambodians to connect with their history and better understand the experiences that shaped their families and communities. By bringing young people into conversations on history and justice, the impact of the ECCC's legal work will continue to resonate with future generations.



▲ This workshop, which forms part of the Children's Guide initiative, was designed to help Cambodian youth connect with their heritage and history. It offers a model that schools, NGOs, cultural centres and communities all over the country can use.

MY STORY PREMIERES AT THE 14TH CAMBODIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Civil Parties featured in My Story take part in an on-stage intergenerational dialogue during the premiere at the 14th International Film Festival.

On 22 March 2025, My Story – a six-episode mini-series co-produced by the ECCC and Educational Broadcasting Cambodia (EBC) – premiered at the 14th Cambodia International Film Festival (CIFF) at the Chaktomuk Conference Hall in Phnom Penh.

The theme, “Through 1975–2025: From Darkness to Light in Cambodia’s Story”, marked the 50 years since the Fall of Phnom Penh in 1975. Around 700 people attended the premiere, including representatives from government ministries, ambassadors, NGOs, students, and members of the public.

The premiere of My Story opened with remarks from Tony Kranh, the ECCC’s Acting Director of Administration. This was followed by a meaningful intergenerational dialogue, where civil party victim-survivors – participants in the My Story project who had also

testified before the ECCC – shared their perspectives and messages for Cambodia’s youth at a roundtable discussion. The event offered civil parties a vital opportunity to have their story shared beyond the courtroom, and to reflect on how participating in My Story had benefitted them.

Throughout the discussion, civil parties urged younger members of the audience to remember the past, and to deepen their understanding of the Khmer Rouge history and its impact on Cambodia.

“Sharing my personal story through this documentary has been both challenging and empowering. We do this because it is crucial for future generations to understand the atrocities we endured, so that we can move forward together with a shared commitment to peace and unity.”

In a touching moment, Yim Sovann, one of the civil parties, expressed pride in sharing her story at this event and that her past experiences would reach Cambodia’s younger generation: “Sharing my personal story through this documentary has been both challenging and empowering. We do this because it is crucial for future generations to understand the atrocities we endured, so that we can move forward together with a shared commitment to peace and unity.”

Yim Sovann, Civil Party

The impact Yim Sovann hoped for was realised when one university student in the audience expressed how the screening had deepened his understanding of past injustices and broadened his perspective: “As a young person, watching this film helped me gain a deeper understanding of my country’s history. It is crucial for us to remember the past and learn from it to build a better future. I am grateful that the ECCC held this public screening, especially for students like me.”

Following the screening, the ECCC launched supplementary activities, beginning with the Peacxel (Peace + Pixel) Project. This artistic initiative fostered dialogue and reflection on Cambodia’s path forward by inviting participants to draw words, symbols, or images on small paper “pixels.” These individual contributions were then compiled into a single mural, forming a shared foundation for justice and peace and expressing a united vision for Cambodia’s future, reinforcing the message that peace and justice can only be achieved collectively.

Beyond the premiere, the stories of victim-survivors will continue to reach Cambodians through the ECCC’s Mobile Resource Centre (see p. 40-41). During outreach missions across the provinces, episodes of My Story will be screened in schools, ensuring the series reaches younger audiences nationwide.

My Story is a story of Cambodia that acknowledged atrocities of the past, and stands as both a foundation for Cambodia’s future and a bridge between generations. It records the lived experiences and history of Khmer Rouge survivors in their own voices. The ECCC’s goal is to preserve and memorialise these stories so that My Story serves as a source of collective memory for future generations.

The series is also on permanent display at Sala Yuttikar.



Participants display their drawings from the Peacxel art project, where individual “pixels” come together to express a shared vision for Cambodia’s future and collective peace and justice.



My Story

by Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Playlist · 8 videos

My Story is a six-episode mini-series co-produced by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) a ...more

▶ Play all



All episodes of My Story are available for viewing online, with subtitles available in English and French.

Scan the QR code to watch the full series on YouTube.

EXTENSION OF THE ECCC'S RESIDUAL PHASE AND PROPOSED LEGACY INSTITUTION



Deputy Prime Minister Vongsey Vissoth chaired a high-level meeting at the Council of Ministers on 19 June 2025 to present the Concept Paper on establishing a Legacy Institution following the conclusion of the ECCC, with participation from government leaders, UN representatives, and international partners.

RESIDUAL PHASE EXTENSION

Following a successful three years since the beginning of its residual phase in 2023, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the United Nations (UN) agreed to extend the ECCC's residual phase for a further two years, from January 2026 to December 2027. This extension follows joint discussions on the ECCC's long-term legacy, including the preservation of archives, public access to case files, and the supervision of the sentence of Khieu Samphan.

The ECCC has been performing its residual functions – including the establishment of the ECCC Resource Centre (see p. 38-39) – since the successful completion of its trials in late 2022.

PROPOSED LEGACY INSTITUTION

This extension comes alongside Cambodia's plans to establish a permanent public institution to house the ECCC's records and serve

as a national centre for research and education. In the context of Cambodia's long-term journey from conflict to peace, the preservation of the judicial and non-judicial legacy of the ECCC, as part of a wider transitional justice process, is key. It is this dedicated Legacy Institution that will carry this process forward.

In 2025, the RGC expressed its intention to establish the Legacy Institution at the current ECCC Resource Centre following the conclusion of the residual phase. The RGC envisions the Legacy Institution as being able to:

- manage and preserve the ECCC Archive;
- foster training and research on the experience and jurisprudence of the ECCC;
- promote education and broaden outreach to younger generations and the public on the prevention of atrocities and genocide in Cambodia;

- establish a victim foundation and network to finance and address the needs of victims and survivors; and
- build partnerships with national and international institutions to advance education, peacebuilding, genocide prevention and transitional justice.

A meeting on 19 June 2025, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Vongsey Vissoth, saw the dissemination of a concept paper and the expression of full support for the establishment of a Legacy Institution by attendees, including senior government ministers, embassy representatives, and international organisations.

This Legacy Institution is expected to be fully established following the conclusion of the ECCC's residual functions, currently scheduled for December 2027.

VISIT BY THE ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 7 March 2025, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), visited the ECCC Resource Centre in Phnom Penh. The ASEAN delegation toured key facilities and engaged in discussions on sharing Cambodia's experiences in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and transitional justice across the ASEAN region.

During his visit, Dr. Kao praised the ECCC's achievements in delivering justice to victims, promoting post-conflict reconciliation, and contributing to lasting peace at both national and international levels. He described the ECCC as a "testament to justice, accountability and the pursuit of truth and national reconciliation, which are all principles that resonate deeply with ASEAN's core commitments to peace, human rights, and rule of law".

The visit and response from the ASEAN Secretary-General lend additional legitimacy to the ECCC's value as a regional model of transitional justice and signals the



The Secretary-General of ASEAN described the ECCC as a "testament to justice, accountability and the pursuit of truth and national reconciliation".

ECCC's intention to move beyond a purely Cambodian framework and share lessons on accountability, peacebuilding, and reconciliation within the broader ASEAN region. This aligns with the ECCC's mandate to disseminate information from its archives, jurisprudence and experience across Southeast Asia,

strengthening its role as a regional hub for dialogue on justice and memory. It also opens possibilities for close integration with ASEAN priorities through collaboration on archival preservation, public outreach, educational initiatives, and other joint projects between the two institutions.

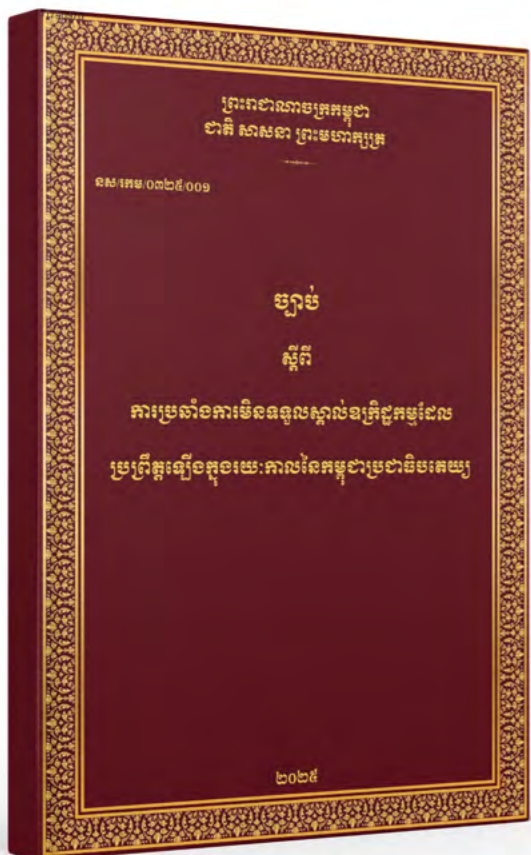


Secretary-General of ASEAN Kao Kim Hourn speaks with students using the research facilities at the ECCC Resource Centre.

LAW AGAINST NON-RECOGNITION OF DK-ERA CRIMES



The Law on Combatting the Non-Recognition of Crimes Committed During the Democratic Kampuchea Period was passed by the National Assembly. (Photo: STPM)



In early 2025, Cambodia's legislature recognised the contributions of the ECCC through its Law on Combatting the Non-Recognition of Crimes Committed During the Democratic Kampuchea Period (also known as the "Law Against Non-Recognition"), further solidifying the ECCC's legal legacy.

By preventing the denial, trivialisation, or promotion of the crimes judicially established by the ECCC – including genocide, crimes against humanity, and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions – the Law provides national and legislative affirmation of the ECCC's jurisprudence, embedding it into the country's historical record and further safeguarding against historical revisionism and glorification of the heinous crimes of the Khmer Rouge.

OBITUARY: CHET VANLY



Chet Vanly, Co-Lawyer for Civil Parties at the ECCC, passed away on 19 September 2025 at the age of 76.

A dedicated and compassionate lawyer, Vanly's life and career were underpinned by her values of hard work and open communication, and a deep sense of responsibility towards those who suffered under the Khmer Rouge. She was committed to supporting the next generation of legal professionals, and was known at the ECCC for her willingness to listen and share her experience as both a lawyer and a woman navigating Cambodia's legal system.

Vanly joined the ECCC in 2009, making a lasting contribution to its work with victim-survivors. In Case 002, she represented hundreds of civil parties, devoting extensive attention to helping them understand court proceedings and ensuring that their stories were heard.

At the ECCC, her ability to connect with people from all walks of life was unmistakable. Naturally charismatic, she could liaise with civil parties, colleagues, and youth to equal effect, and was widely respected as a dynamic advocate whose words resonated in and out of court. As one colleague observed: "People enjoyed listening to her".

Vanly's broader career reflected her dedication to Cambodia. Before 1975, she worked as a secondary school teacher in Phnom Penh. She later helped rebuild the capital's school system as Deputy Director of the Phnom Penh Department of Education, where she played a central role in establishing literacy programmes, opening new schools, and supporting UN initiatives designed to restore education in the capital.

In 1981, Vanly was appointed Deputy Chief of the pre-1991 Phnom Penh Court. True to her desire to promote open dialogue, she led legal education campaigns across Phnom Penh, ensuring that communities understood their legal rights. She coordinated the Court's work with the Ministry of Justice, the police, and other institutions, crystallising her position as a key voice in legal circles.

After a decade in this position, Vanly became Chairperson of the Senate Legal Council, refining draft laws, and strengthening international co-operation by facilitating study opportunities for Cambodian Senate officials in France, Australia, and Canada.

Vanly's legacy endures through the people she supported, and her impact on Cambodian legal and civic life through her work at the ECCC and beyond. She leaves behind a record of kindness and generosity of spirit that shaped the way she worked, and the way that she will be remembered.

Chet Vanly is survived by her husband, four children, and five siblings.



Chet Vanly, front row, during a hearing of Case 002/02 in 2015.

OUTREACH UPDATES

THE ECCC RESOURCE CENTRE: THREE YEARS IN

The ECCC Resource Centre was established in 2023 following the conclusion of the Court's trials in late 2022. It serves as a key access point to the ECCC's work for visitors – particularly Cambodian youths – and offers a wealth of resources to facilitate engagement with the ECCC and its valuable legacy.

The Centre's inauguration took place in 2023. Two new features were added to the Resource Centre in 2025: the reception area and consultation rooms, and a Remembrance and Reflection Space.

ECCC RESOURCE CENTRE MILESTONES

By September 2025, a total of 44,168 students and researchers had used the Research Hub, with 3,278 registered as library members!

Since its opening in 2023, the Resource Centre has also offered the following to its visitors:

Research Hub: Located on the first floor of the ECCC building, the Research Hub offers a quiet, fully equipped study space, housing a rich collection of over 1,500 reference books, specialised legal databases, and digital resources. These resources provide access to the ECCC case files, the history of the Khmer Rouge, and academic scholarship including international criminal law, transitional justice, genocide, war crimes, and legal writing.



ECCC Website: Available in Khmer, English, and French, the refreshed interactive website contains the complete history of the ECCC – from its inception to its final judgments – along with thousands of trial records, videos, and educational resources designed to deepen understanding of the legal efforts addressing the Khmer Rouge atrocities. The website marks a historic milestone, providing unprecedented access to judicial findings and the ECCC's work.



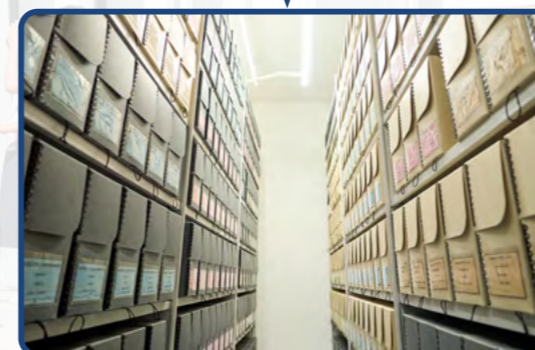
Reception area and consultation rooms: Designed to welcome the public and provide a base for victim-survivor initiatives, these spaces have already begun playing an active role in making the ECCC more accessible and preserving its legacy and achievements. For a comprehensive overview, see p. 22-23, and for details on the Remembrance and Reflection Space, refer to p. 48.



Permanent Exhibition: The Sala Yuttikar Exhibition showcases the ECCC's work and the legacy of the Khmer Rouge trials, bringing together legal findings, testimonies, and human stories. It is an open space for all to reflect, learn, and build a more peaceful future.



Multifunction Hall: Designed to sustain the legacy of the original ECCC courtroom, the Multifunction Hall is equipped with the technology used during the trials, offering users a chance to experience how proceedings were conducted. The Hall is used for meetings, training sessions, presentations, and moot court competitions. It also hosts intergenerational dialogues, external conferences, and weekly educational programs that promote justice, understanding, and reconciliation.



ECCC Archive: One of the ECCC's most distinctive achievements, the ECCC Archive is the official repository of its records. Built to international specifications, the Archive comprises over 2.5 million pages in three languages – Khmer, English, and French – and is designed to preserve documents for future generations. The Archive holds 233,836 documents, stored in a temperature and humidity-controlled room to ensure their preservation. See p. 12-13 for updates on the Archive in 2025.

2024

2023

2025

MOBILE RESOURCE CENTRE



▲ In 2025, the ECCC Bus reached more schools and students than ever before – over 80,000 children in total. During school visits, students are welcomed aboard to learn, engage, and participate in intergenerational dialogues with civil parties.

This year marked the second year of the ECCC Mobile Resource Centre, an initiative designed to extend the

legacy of the ECCC to communities across Cambodia. Throughout 2025, the Mobile Resource Centre

– also known as the “ECCC Bus” – connected with communities across the country through school visits, national commemorations, and other cultural events.

For example, the ECCC Bus was featured alongside an ECCC archive display during the official inauguration of the Victory Monument on 25 February 2025, allowing the public to gain a deeper understanding of the ECCC’s role in Cambodia’s post-conflict reconciliation efforts. The ECCC Bus also participated in a National Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Choeung Ek Genocidal Center on 20 May 2025, where more than 600 people boarded to view materials showcasing the ECCC’s legacy and achievements.

The ECCC Bus has proven to be a pivotal and successful means of bringing the ECCC’s legacy to



▲ Students aboard the ECCC Mobile Resource Centre at Hun Sen Roleapea High School, Kampong Chhnang Province, in December 2025.

The ECCC Mobile Resource Centre is a modernised bus – a fully equipped classroom, conference space, and library that conveys the ECCC’s legacy directly to those who stand to benefit, including people who may never have realised how profoundly their own communities and families were affected by the Khmer Rouge.

remote regions affected by the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime, ensuring that Cambodia’s history remains part of national memory. This is particularly visible in its visits to schools and students across Cambodia: in 2025, the ECCC Bus reached more schools and students than ever before, from the capital to remote regions.

To date, over 87,000 students from 98 high schools have participated in the ECCC’s outreach activities, with 19 trips completed and several more planned. By the end of 2025, the ECCC Bus is expected to have visited schools in every province in Cambodia. During school visits, students are invited to board the Bus, attend presentations, and participate in intergenerational dialogues with victim-survivors who participated as civil parties at the ECCC. As its second year concludes, the Mobile Resource Centre has enabled the ECCC to reach more students directly than any other post-conflict tribunal worldwide.



▲ The ECCC Mobile Resource Centre was showcased at the launch of the Victory Monument at the Win Win Memorial on 25 February 2025.



▲ Students spend reading time in the mobile library aboard the ECCC Mobile Resource Centre at Sok An Soben High School, Takeo Province, in July 2025.



▲ The ECCC Mobile Resource Centre at Srae Ambel High School, Koh Kong Province, in June 2025.

WITNESS OUTREACH BEYOND THE COURTROOM



▲ Witness Support Officer Sokha Keut during an in-person outreach to witnesses in Pailin Province.

As part of its residual functions, the ECCC continues to uphold its responsibility to those who contributed to the judicial process. In this interview with Witness Support Officer Sokha Keut, we discuss how the ECCC maintains connections with witnesses who testified before the Chambers, and how these efforts sustain the ECCC's legacy of recognition, protection, and support.

Q: Why has the ECCC continued to conduct in-person outreach to witnesses after the conclusion of judicial proceedings?

A: The ECCC stays engaged with witnesses to honour their vital contributions, maintain trust, and ensure that their voices remain central to its legacy of justice, remembrance, and reconciliation. As well as focusing on post-trial engagement with witnesses, we also seek to safeguard their wellbeing, safety, and security, including addressing any concerns that may have arisen following their testimony.

We undertook this initiative in line with the formal Addendum to the

Agreement made between the Royal Government of Cambodia and UN that provides for the continued protection of victims and witnesses. But more importantly, the request comes from victim-survivors themselves. Sustained engagement has been their express wish for many years now.

Q: How did witnesses respond to the ECCC's field visits?

A: Witnesses expressed deep appreciation for the ECCC's continued presence. Many reported feeling respected and valued, noting that receiving trial updates and formal Certificates of Appreciation recognised their sacrifices and reinforced their trust in the ECCC's legacy.

We had an opportunity to gather valuable feedback from this process, which is unique in Cambodia. First, many witnesses had limited awareness of the ECCC before giving testimony. Second, most experienced respectful treatment by judicial authorities, though some felt their testimony was constrained or inadequately recognised. This offers us and others opportunities to improve witness outreach and protection in various contexts.

Our outreach also revealed a broad understanding of justice as encompassing acknowledgement, truth, and accountability, alongside strong motivations to testify driven by a desire for justice, truth-telling, and a sense of civic duty. We identified the need for continued support in this area, particularly regarding psychosocial health and community reintegration, and we will report fully on our findings next year.

Q: How does the inclusion of health and wellbeing referral services fit into this outreach initiative?

A: We have always approached our work under the principle of "do no harm", aiming not to (re)traumatise the victim-survivors and witnesses we engage with. We therefore work side-by-side with psychosocial support experts from Transcultural Psychological Organization Cambodia (TPO) during all our outreach. This is due to the ECCC's commitment to caring for those who made the judicial process possible – not merely by recognising the legal value of their testimony, but also by supporting their health and wellbeing out of a sense of respect and responsibility.

Q: What lessons or best practices emerging from witnesses' experiences could help inform similar mechanisms in future tribunals?

A: A key lesson is that protection measures must balance confidentiality with sensitivity to local contexts. Witnesses emphasised the importance of clear communication and timely support. The importance of culturally appropriate safeguards was also highlighted, including the following measures implemented by the ECCC:

- Using interpreters who not only speak Khmer but understand local idioms, social hierarchies, and emotional nuances to prevent misunderstanding or distress



▲ The reports from the in-person outreach and other related docs to witnesses are filed and stored at the ECCC Archives.

- Adopting non-confrontational questioning styles respectful of cultures that value humility and indirect communication
- Holding meetings in safe, familiar settings such as community centres or pagodas, rather than formal venues that may cause anxiety or shame
- Providing same-gender interviewers for survivors of sexual or gender-based violence, and allowing elderly witnesses to have family support present
- Permitting witnesses to engage in spiritual or cultural practices (e.g. lighting incense) before or after testimony as emotional and spiritual preparation

Future tribunals can build on this by ensuring flexible, victim-centred protection mechanisms that prioritise dignity, trust, and sustained follow-ups beyond what is needed to ensure the safe delivery of testimony.

Q: The ECCC is documenting this outreach through statistics and sociological data. How will these findings contribute to the ECCC's institutional legacy?

A: By systematically documenting its outreach activities, the ECCC is contributing to informed and evidence-based practices which show how social support looks in practice. These activities not only strengthen its institutional legacy of methodologically sound and sustainable practices, but also offer future tribunals and accountability mechanisms concrete lessons on how to engage, protect, and honour those who contribute to justice – especially in societies they may not be familiar with.

KEEPING CIVIL PARTIES INFORMED

This year saw major progress in the ECCC's efforts to notify civil parties of the completion of proceedings and implementation of reparation projects. Throughout the year, staff travelled across Cambodia to the villages and communes where survivors live, presenting each civil party with a Certificate of Appreciation and two books summarising the ECCC proceedings that the civil parties were involved in.

For individuals who were difficult to locate, the ECCC reached out to village chiefs and consulted civil party application forms to confirm identities and addresses. Out of the 3,867 civil parties across all cases, 3,665 (94.8%) have now been notified, including 45 residing in France and the United States.



▲ While receiving certificates of recognition, Civil Parties are encouraged to board the ECCC Mobile Resource Centre to tour the facilities and engage with younger generations; pictured here, students take photos with Civil Parties at Pak Klong High School, Koh Kong Province, in January 2025.

PARTNERSHIPS

LEARNING SESSIONS ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SAUP



▲ Learning sessions provided an overview of the five pillars of transitional justice: truth, justice, reparation, memorialisation, and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Continuing the learning sessions from 2023 and 2024, students from across Cambodia had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of transitional justice and enhance their academic skills in a further series of interactive and interdisciplinary learning sessions held over several Saturdays in 2025.

These learning sessions were developed between the GIZ Civil Peace Service Southeast Asian University Partnership for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation (SAUP) and the ECCC. The partnership flows from a Memorandum of Understanding dated 2023 (see Court Report 2023, p. 33; Court Report 2024, p. 39), intended to strengthen academic teaching and research on transitional justice and the ECCC's legacy at Cambodian universities.

Throughout these sessions, students were introduced to the concept of transitional justice and the work of the ECCC, using interactive exercises to contextualise it within broader transitional justice practices. Students



▲ Students engage in exploring post-conflict trauma, individual and collective healing, and reconciliatory justice.

also met directly with ECCC experts to discuss the historical context of the Court, its achievements, and broader international transitional justice efforts.

These exchanges sparked lively debates and questions, reflecting the students' strong interest in the subject. Simultaneous interpretation provided by the ECCC allowed lecturers and students to participate in the discussions in Khmer or English, and registrations often exceeded available spaces, reflecting a growing curiosity among the younger generation to study Cambodia's progressive transition to peace.

These learning sessions will continue into 2026, including sessions on gender-based violence and gender in transitional justice, and will serve as another reinforcement of the ECCC's commitment to educating future generations.

WORKSHOP ON THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM KHMER ROUGE SURVIVORS

In April 2025, a workshop on collecting information from Khmer Rouge victim-survivors was held at the ECCC to exchange best practices among civil society organisations and state institutions in the effective and ethical preservation of historically valuable information.

The event was produced by the Working Group on Victim-Survivor Initiatives during the Residual Phase (VSR) in collaboration with the ECCC. VSR, a coalition of civil society organisations serving the needs of Khmer Rouge victim-survivors, has been actively involved with the ECCC throughout its residual phase.

The workshop addressed the urgent need for a coordinated and sensitive approach to preserving testimonies from an ageing population of victim-survivors and ensuring that their valuable stories are not lost to history. It promoted conflict-sensitive and trauma-sensitive methods of data gathering, and reaffirmed the importance of confidentiality and the principle of "do no harm" in all data collection and dissemination exercises.



▲ Participants take part in a breakout session during the workshop on "The Collection of Information from Khmer Rouge Survivors: Practices, Lessons Learned, and Ethics"

Current information collection processes remain fragmented, with various local and international organisations involved in separate efforts to gather testimonies. Although these initiatives are commendable, fragmentation risks duplication of work and re-interviewing – thus re-traumatising – victim-survivors. By fostering greater collaboration among stakeholders, the workshop

emphasises how data collection can be streamlined whilst respecting the dignity of the people involved.

Through continued documentation and international collaboration, the workshop demonstrates how the stories of survivors and the history of mass atrocities under the Khmer Rouge can be preserved for future generations in a sustainable, respectful, and ethical way.



ដើមឈើនៃក្តីសង្ឃឹម

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION: CONSENT DENIED



▲ Students receive briefings as part of the exhibition to better understand the regulation of marriage and sexual violence under the Khmer Rouge, clarifying this complex legal finding.

Throughout the year, the ECCC hosted numerous temporary exhibitions in collaboration with various partner organisations. One such exhibition, Consent Denied, brings to the forefront one of the Khmer Rouge regime's least visible crimes: the systematic use of forced marriage and sexual violence as tools of control against men and women.

Consent Denied is a reminder that issues of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly forced marriages, have yet to be fully integrated into broader narratives of justice and reconciliation. Produced with the support of GIZ and other partner organisations, the exhibition launched in October 2025 and highlights the commendable strides that Case 002/02 made in addressing this matter, primarily by including charges regarding forced marriages and acknowledging the profound impact that those crimes continue to have today.

Drawing on the judicial legacy of the ECCC, Consent Denied emphasises truth-telling and collective responsibility. Visitors are presented with dignified narratives from the victim-survivors themselves, supplemented by archival

photographs, curated video footage, and excerpts from the ECCC case files. Artwork by survivor-victims is also presented as a form of healing, resilience, and resistance. A “resource corner” with books, reports, and research on the issue of sexual violence during armed conflict is also offered. Individuals are also invited to leave their own thoughts through messages or drawings via an interactive “Tree of Hope” installation.

This progressive approach is a significant step forward in pursuing a more inclusive understanding of the atrocities committed, ensuring that the voices and experiences of those affected are heard and become an integral part of the historical record.



▲ Visitors add messages, drawings, and symbols to the Tree of Hope at the Consent Denied exhibition, expressing a shared vision for a future free from sexual and gender-based violence.

MOU SIGNINGS IN 2025

Throughout 2025, the ECCC continued building partnerships with national and international institutions to exchange legal expertise, share experience, and expand resources

for students and researchers. Through the following Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the ECCC and various organisations, the ECCC remains

active in promoting its contributions to Cambodia's justice process and strengthening the next generation of legal and non-legal professionals.

DATE	PARTY	PURPOSE
22 January 2025	Fragmentis Vitae Asia	To honour victims' memories, promote accountability and reconciliation, and foster intergenerational dialogue through shared documentation, technical co-operation, and support for memorial and research initiatives
9 April 2025	Durham Law School (United Kingdom)	To promote Cambodia's transitional justice mechanisms and experiences by offering Durham students and graduates exposure to Cambodia's unique transitional justice system
25 June 2025	National University of Management	To strengthen co-operation in sharing legal knowledge, the historical record of the Khmer Rouge regime, and the ECCC's best practices in trial procedures and court administration
2 July 2025	Royal Academy for Justice of Cambodia	To strengthen co-operation in sharing legal knowledge, the historical record of the Khmer Rouge regime, and the ECCC's best practices in trial procedures and court administration
9 July 2025	Union Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC)	To strengthen co-operation in sharing legal knowledge, the historical record of the Khmer Rouge regime, and the ECCC's best practices in trial procedures and court administration
24 July 2025	Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Samdech Kittiprittbandit (AMT) Scholarship Students Association	To engage the next generation in understanding Cambodia's complex history, with a particular focus on the Khmer Rouge era and Cambodia's path toward reconciliation and the rule of law
19 August 2025	BELTEI University	To strengthen institutional co-operation through knowledge exchanges, legal education, research, and capacity-building
12 November 2025	Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft (EVZ Foundation)	To provide the necessary technical support for the creation and effective functioning of the Legacy Institution
9 December 2025	Center for Khmer Studies	To strengthen institutional co-operation through knowledge exchanges, legal education, research, and capacity-building

LOOKING AHEAD

THE RESOURCE CENTRE CONTINUES TO GROW!

Building on the remarkable popularity of the Resource Centre and the need for expanded facilities, 2026 will see the addition of a new amphitheatre and coffee shop to meet demand.

Renovation began in October 2025 to transform part of the ECCC's outdoor area into an amphitheatre space, which will function as a new classroom, learning facility and reflection space. The Permanent Exhibition (Sala Yuttikar, see p. 24-27) will guide visitors to a shaded garden area which will also be used for outreach, intergenerational dialogue and public engagement.

A new coffee shop will enhance the welcoming nature of the premises and further promote it as a place for visitors to visit, rest, and re-energise, reinforcing the ECCC's accessibility as a welcoming facility for all its visitors.

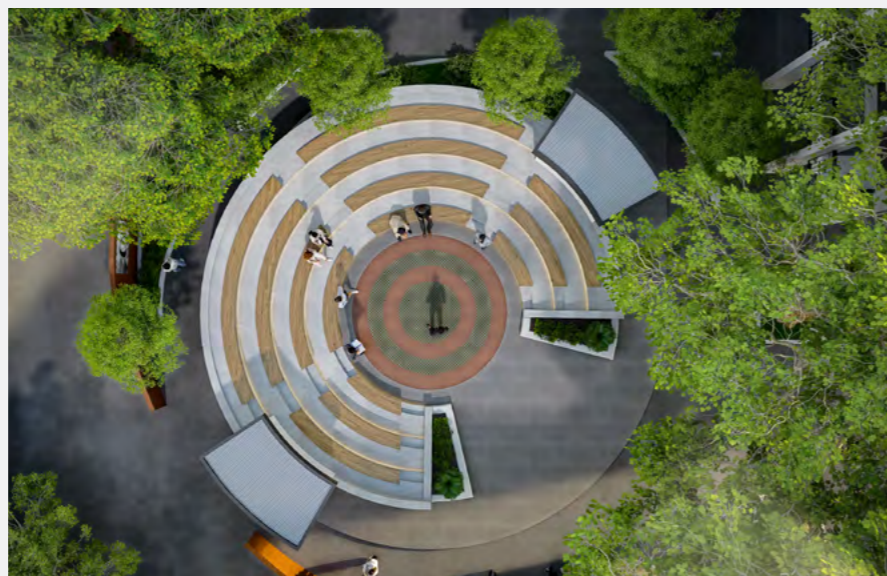
GUIDE TO THE ECCC

In 2026, a new volume 3 of the Guide to the ECCC will be published, bringing to light key evidence and how it was used during the historic trials.

A fourth volume regarding the ECCC's residual functions will follow, offering an overview of the ECCC's journey as it has navigated its post-trial phase.

ECCC LEARNING SERIES

Following the rollout of an interdisciplinary stream of the ECCC Learning Series, a second set of materials will be made available for law students in cooperation with Stanford University, situating the ECCC's legal work within a broader framework of international justice.



▲ A 3D plan of the amphitheater located behind the ECCC Resource Centre, directly connected to the permanent exhibition, Sala Yuttikar.

CONTACT US

ECCC Resource Centre

Building 40, Russian Federation Blvd (110),
Sangkat Mittapheap, Khan 7 Makara,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: 023 861 525

resource.centre@eccc.gov.kh

For archive enquiries or document access requests, contact archive@eccc.gov.kh

For general information, contact pas@eccc.gov.kh

Online

Website: www.eccc.gov.kh

Facebook: [@krtribunal](https://www.facebook.com/krtribunal)

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Flickr: www.flickr.com/krtribunal

Contributors

- Vikram Ramaswamy
- Jehaan Sivasankar
- Nicole Zhang
- Panha Som

