

## **Cambodian DPM Dr. Sok An says Khmer Rouge Courts and Angkor Safeguarding are models**

PHNOM PENH, March 5, 2010 (PQRU) – The international community saw Cambodian achievements in establishing the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) for the trial of the “Killing Fields” leaders and the programme for the safeguarding of Angkor, The International Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) for the safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor, are the models, His Excellency Dr. Sok An told the Laotian Ambassador. “The ICC and the ECCC are regarded as the models,” Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sok An told Laotian Ambassador His Excellency Chanthavy Bodhisane in a farewell meeting late Thursday.

Established in 1993 in Japan's Tokyo, The International Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) is designed as an effective tool for ensuring proper co-ordinating procedure for all concerned organizations for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC) under the Co-Chairmanship, Japan and France. The ICC lobbies 15 countries to support the preservation and sustainable development of Angkor complex where more than 90 ancient temples are located.

The biannual meeting between the Cambodian state run agency, the APSARA Authority and the ICC Secretariat, is to evaluate the over-all performance of various ongoing conservation projects as well as providing insightful adhoc expert recommendations to the ongoing conservation projects. The meeting also discussed the various new coming projects.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which listed the famed Cambodian Angkor Temple on the World Heritage List in 1992, also regarded the ICC's works as a great success, His Excellency Dr. Sok An said in the meeting. “ICC has been regarded by UNESCO as a model,” Dr. Sok An told the Ambassador.

He also recalled his meeting with Professor Surya P. Subedi, who was appointed as UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia, that “the U.N. is considering a possible establishment of a similar Tribunal in Sudan”.

H.E. Dr. Sok An said there are five main points which credited the Tribunal became a model court:

- We spent less compared with other U.N.-funded courts
- Our court's operation has been smooth and just within 11 months, we approved all the relevant regulations
- We have massive participation of more than 28,000 people witnessed the trial
- Just within one month we arrested all five suspects
- ECCC is the only court we have allowed the civil parties to have voices at the Tribunal

He also said Cambodia and the United Nations went through seven years of tortuous round of talks before an agreement was reached in 2003 and followed by the establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) officially in 2006 to try those most responsible leaders of murderous regime of Khmer Rouge between the years 1975- 1979 during which an estimated 2 million peoples died of starvation, overwork, diseases and execution.

(Press and Quick Reaction Unit)