

Members of the Panel,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to thank the Connecticut Journal of International Law and the Human Rights Institute of the University of Connecticut for convening today's Symposium entitled: The Path to Justice after Genocide: The Cambodian Tribunal. I am honored to be amongst distinguished guests this morning.
2. The thirst for justice is old as the creation of human societies. It means good being redone after that harm has been done. In the Cambodian context, indeed, genocide went unnoticed by the international community for a number of years though that this genocide was one of the most horrendous in human history, killing nearly half of its own population through deliberate policies.
3. As one of the many victims still alive in my country, the issue of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (KRT) has many dimensions.
4. One would be to render justice to the victims dead or still alive.
5. The second dimension is also a lesson for the international community to remember the huge harm that was done to a once peaceful nation and peace loving, tolerant, modest people of Cambodia. The remembrance has and should have a sensible tone combining remorse with national reconciliation and the rules of law.
6. The third dimension derives from the last words "rules of law." The Khmer Rouge Trial has an essential function to help rebuild a functioning judiciary system that abides with international standards. This represents to me, in fact the most useful, if not the most important function of the Court. Any country that has and enjoys a well functioning and efficient legal system is the one that has the safest guaranty of a durable political and social stability, which constitute the essence of a harmonious and flourishing society and the cement for a strong and resilient nation building.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. The Khmer Rouge Trial is also very importantly a test case of a hybrid court paying full respect for the legal powers of a sovereign country, while the latter agrees to allow foreign judges sitting on its judicial instance.
8. Cambodia has been many times in younger history a test case for the international community. Cambodia was the first country to experience the creation of a UN Transitional Authority leading up to internationally supervised elections, which translated into the first major United Nations success story.
9. Cambodia was the first country, where peace building, rehabilitation, national reconstruction and development went smoothly and successfully.
10. Cambodia was the first country to allow a Human Rights office run by the United Nations on its soil underlining the confident nature of the relations that this country has with the international community.
11. Last, but not least, Cambodia is set to become the first hybrid court that would have three important features, e.g., respect for the national sovereignty while bringing justice up to international standard and substantial cost reduction compared to the tribunals of the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. More importantly, we are hopeful that the Cambodian model may also serve as an inspiration for other countries in search for justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. The Royal Government of Cambodia is highly appreciative and grateful to the generous response brought by the international community to the appeal launched by the Secretary General of the United Nations on March 28, 2005, which enabled him to conclude that the legal framework to establish Extraordinary Chambers could now be put into practice.

13. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to welcome the appointment of Mrs. Michelle Lee by the Secretary General of the United Nations in October 14, 2005 as the Deputy Director of the Office of Administration of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. We look forward to having fruitful cooperation with Mrs. Lee and her Team when they go to Cambodia in early December of this year to enable the Khmer Rouge Trial to perform smoothly.

Thank You.