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### Ministry of Justice Launches USAID-funded IT Systems and Training Course

Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
June 30, 2009



*Ministry of Justice launches the "Justice Documentation Training Program" funded by USAID.*

USAID launched a training program on June 30 that will orient Ministry of Justice officials in a series of new information systems designed to increase the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the judiciary.

The USAID-funded systems will begin to modernize the way the ministry documents the work of the courts. The systems consist of a justice-statistics database, an office intranet for file sharing, and a webpage to publicize court information such as caseloads and clearance rates.

The training course, which is funded by USAID, will run for four months and train 75-90 ministry staff members. It is the first computer training course of its scope offered to ministry staff.

At a launch event at the Ministry of Justice on June 30, U.S. Ambassador Carol A. Rodley joined Minister of Justice Ang Vong Vathana in praising the potential of the new systems.

"I am excited about the potential of these systems to strengthen many aspects of legal and judicial reform," Ambassador Rodley said. "The ministry will have the ability to more quickly and accurately identify areas where judicial reform is succeeding, and where it needs greater attention."

As the Ministry of Justice, in concert with lawyers and judges throughout the country, works to modernize and improve the justice system, more and more Cambodians will come to trust the courts to resolve their disputes. As a result, the volume and complexity of the ministry's work will increase, an issue the new systems will help address.

USAID is committed to working with the Ministry of Justice and its Cambodian partners in the development of an effective, fair and independent justice system. To that end, USAID has provided approximately \$2 million this year to strengthen Cambodia's legal system by training judges and lawyers and by providing the public with greater access to information about the courts.