



COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE COORDINATION POUR LA SAUVEGARDE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DU SITE HISTORIQUE D'ANGKOR  
INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC SITE OF ANGKOR

**PLENARY SESSION**

# Nineteenth Plenary Session

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**Siem Reap—December 5-6, 2012—APSARA National Authority**

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**NOTICE:** The languages used during the sessions of the ICC are English, French and Khmer. In the English language record of the discussions, all material spoken originally in French or Khmer is therefore a translation. Presentations and comments made originally in English are indicated by <sup>[OrigE]</sup> at the beginning of the contribution. The insertion <sup>[OrigK]</sup> shows that the original statement was in Khmer.

## RECORD OF THE DISCUSSIONS

### I- OPENING SESSION

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#### **I.1 Statement by the Japanese Co-chair, His Excellency Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia**

"His Excellency Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Chairman of the APSARA National Authority,  
His Excellency Mr. Kol Bunly, high representative of His Majesty the King  
His Excellency Mr. Dominique MAS, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of France  
Ms. Anne Lemaistre, representative of UNESCO Phnom Penh office  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As co-chair, I am honoured to open this afternoon's session of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Co-ordinating Committee. I would like to thank all participants for their contributions to the ICC activities. First of all, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the Royal family, the government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the passing of His Majesty King-Father Preah Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia who played a key role for the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List.

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of the Angkor monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Throughout these 20 years, we have achieved two important goals: the strong ownership of Cambodia and the international coordination through the ICC, namely the restoration of monuments and the maintenance of a delicate balance between conservation and development. Today, Angkor monuments are well known internationally and attract not only academics but also tourists from all over the world.

As planned, this Plenary Session will debate key political strategies for the safeguarding and sustainable development of the Angkor site based on last June's technical discussions.

At the outset of today's conference, I would like to raise two major points on the agenda.

First, the Charter for Angkor: this Charter includes key values explaining the founding philosophies and working methodologies for conservation of World Heritage. It is based on the jointly led restoration works carried out over the past ten years by international high level professional specialists in restoration. I hope that this Charter for Angkor will be agreed on and approved during this Plenary Session. I am also looking forward to a debate on how to implement, respect and apply it in the field as a technical handbook serving all teams.

It is obvious that this Charter for Angkor does not become static, but to the contrary, should be reviewed in the future according to technological improvements and acquired experiences.

Second, the discussion on sustainable development: This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption by UNESCO of the World Heritage Convention as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of the Angkor monuments on the World Heritage List. Last month, the closing events of the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Heritage Convention was held in Kyoto and attended by His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister Sok An and Her Excellency Mrs. Irina Bokova, director-general of UNESCO and other valuable guests. The main topic of the conference was: 'World Heritage and sustainable development: the role of local communities'.

I think this topic should also be actively addressed for the discussion on Angkor monuments and the surrounding region. Indeed, the relationship between Angkor monuments and local communities is fundamental to address the challenges listed in the agenda such as development pressures and climate change.

The third topic concerns 'Roles and missions of the Angkor-ICC, twenty years of activities and prospects'. Since its establishment in 1993 following the first international conference for the restoration of Angkor held in Japan, twenty years ago, the ICC activities have changed. Our discussions at the ICC have developed, opening to new topics in-sync with the Angkor region's major developments.

Twenty years ago, the ICC mainly debated on urgent issues such as looting and the emergency safeguard of the monuments to prevent further collapse. Now, we must address sustainable development including the relationship between the economic and tourism growth without shunning the welfare of the local population.

In order to address these complex problems, this conference has a good opportunity to reflect on the future of the ICC. I look forward to hearing government representatives and experts sharing their views and visions on the ICC role. And I hope this ICC Plenary Session will have constructive discussion and be a milestone for the next ten years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fact that the Kingdom of Cambodia was elected as Chair of the World Heritage Committee clearly shows that efforts carried out by the Government of Cambodia for the protection and restoration of cultural heritage, together with the activities of the ICC—the latter plays a pivotal role in such endeavours—have been highly rated by the international community. I hope that the government of Cambodia, as Chair of the World Heritage Committee, will further promote its efforts for the protection and restoration of cultural heritage worldwide and take steps so that the experience and achievements of the ICC are fully utilised in restoration activities of other cultural heritage worldwide.

Finally, I hope that our discussions will result in constructive recommendations, and I firmly invite all participants to respect their allocated time for presentation. Regarding the agenda, today's version slightly differs from what you may have been sent previously. His Excellency Sok An will only join us tomorrow in the late morning and the orders of topics have been changed. Thereby, the 'Reports on special projects' presentations will be given tomorrow morning and replacing 'Themes for discussions' are 'Miscellaneous items'. In the afternoon we will start with the 'Themes for discussion' initially planned for tomorrow morning.

This marks the end of my speech and I thank you for your attention."

## **I.2 Statement by the French Co-chair, His Excellency Mr. Dominique Mas, *Chargé d'affaires*, Embassy of France in Cambodia**

"Excellencies Ministers and Secretary of State,

His Excellency Mr. Kol Bunly, under Secretary of State, high representative of His Majesty the King Norodom Sihamoni,  
Distinguished representative of UNESCO,  
Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors,  
His Excellency ICC Co-chair,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As *Chargé d’Affaires* of the Embassy of France in Cambodia, I am greatly honoured to open, together with His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, this 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Angkor-ICC. It is even a greater enjoyment as this is my first ICC session. I am today attending as a newcomer impressed by the passion for Angkor that is driving all of you.

This 19<sup>th</sup> session comes at a special time, as this year we are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List. May I pay tribute to His Majesty the King-Father, Norodom Sihanouk, who aspired for and proposed this inscription and whose commitment highly contributed to propel Angkor onto the list of our World Heritage jewels.

Next year, 20 years will have past since this formidable enterprise, the ICC, began. The ICC, a priceless instrument, has brought together energies and has enabled development of all activities related to the Angkor site conservation within the framework of the quality standard shared by all teams. This body has become an exemplary international co-ordinating instrument as is illustrated by the growing interest of countries and institutions aspiring to be part of the ICC, the increase in collaborative works among international teams and the diversity of the projects presented for the past twenty years.

One of the outcomes of this co-ordination and sharing of experiences and ambitions will be materialized tomorrow with the Charter for Angkor set for approval. All the teams working on the site have contributed to the drafting of this Charter, which aims to become an essential referral document. As stated by the Co-chair, I am also looking forward to its adoption during this anniversary session.

The experts’ recommendations taken last June are also on the table for adoption in these next two days. I have highlighted the importance of giving a more prominent place to local people within the long term impact of projects—all topics revolving around the Tourism Management Plan. Accordingly, the protection of Phnom Kulen site heavily threatened by large-scale deforestation and which was previously addressed by a special recommendation is once again on the agenda. This time, we have to act meaningfully and in the long term in favour of this site before it is too late.

As I said earlier, the ICC enters its twentieth year. As mentioned by the Japanese Ambassador, this is not only an opportunity to take stock, but also to reflect on the future. With another forthcoming intergovernmental conference, I believe it is useful to continue exchanging our views and expectations for the next decade of the ICC. This will lay the groundwork for what the ICC will become, and I hope, for a new shared vision for the development of Angkor.

I personally believe—but this is to be later discussed during our sessions—that the ICC still has to meet its original goals, but we need to take into account the Angkorian environment developments—by that I mean, for example, a booming tourism industry. I also acknowledge the political will of the Cambodian Authorities in favour of Angkor, whose aim is to take full ownership, not of a site which obviously is by right and heart theirs, but of the strategies and programmes established for the site.

This must lead us to fine tune missions and to better determine and even change the role of the different partners engaged within the ICC. Of course, and I repeat it, during this

session we will share some points to ponder which in the course of the following year will be detailed until the intergovernmental conference.

As an ephemeral Co-chair, I would like to thank all of those who through their daily commitments and passion, take part in the safeguarding and development of Angkor. It is a fine example of what humankind can achieve when we all pull together and work on one common goal. I hereby thank the Royal Government of Cambodia and the APSARA National Authority which have been indispensable for the past twenty years and have facilitated academics and technical teams working on the site to carry out their task in the best conditions.

I also thank all scientists, engineers and technicians and even stone masons who have revived these monuments and have enriched human knowledge. The millions of visitors who have come and will come to see the site have already paid tribute to the Kings who built Angkor, but also to those who, today, work towards its safeguarding and development.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a fruitful ICC session.”

### **I.3 Statement by the Representative of UNESCO Director-General, Mrs. Anne Lemaistre, UNESCO Representative in Phnom Penh**

“Distinguished Co-chairs,  
His Excellency Mr. Kol Bunly, representative of His Majesty the King Norodom Sihamoni,  
His Excellency Mr. Bun Narith, Director of the APSARA National Authority,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

As Secretariat of the ICC, it is a great pleasure for us to see you all gathered today on the occasion of this 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session. UNESCO would like to be associated with the national mourning suffered by the Kingdom of Cambodia following the passing of the King-Father and understands that the celebration marking the twentieth anniversary of the inscription of Angkor has been postponed to next year.

UNESCO would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to the late King-Father. UNESCO director general, Mrs. Bokova, has paid tribute to the memory of a deeply cultured individual who strongly supported international cooperation through the United Nations. The King-Father had actually laid the foundation of a close relationship between the Kingdom of Cambodia and UNESCO as early as 1989—Professor Claude Jacques sitting here now was witness to it.

At the time, president of the Supreme National Council and Head of State of Cambodia in 1991, Sihanouk’s appeal to the director general of UNESCO, Mr. Frederico Mayor, triggered the engagement of the international community for Angkor. This commitment materialized with the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List on 14 December 1992, then with the establishment of the ICC, which Sihanouk was honorary Chair, as said by the Ambassador of Japan.

Professor Beschaouch, chair of the World Heritage Committee at that time, underlined the specific situation of Cambodia since the signature of the Paris Accords. This was the basis which led to the decision of the World Heritage Committee to put aside some of the necessary requirements for the inscription with a view to meet this unusual setting.

We will have the opportunity to recall the conditions of the inscription of Angkor and to commemorate the Outstanding Values of the site in June 2013, during the next World



Heritage Committee session which will be held in Phnom Penh on 17-27 June 2013. A 26 minute short documentary titled the "Angkor Renaissance", filmed on the occasion of the joint celebration of the twenty year anniversary of the Angkor inscription and of the establishment of the ICC will be screened in a few minutes. As Secretariat of the ICC, UNESCO would like to warmly thank the APSARA National Authority and also all international teams which facilitated the making of this documentary and also agreed to be interviewed and testified.

As mentioned by the Ambassador of Japan, this autumn also marked the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. We would like to congratulate the Japanese authorities for the organization of this event in Kyoto in November 2012, just a few weeks ago, and His Excellency Sok An who opened the proceedings in his position as newly elected Chair of the World Heritage Committee during its last session held in Saint Petersburg.

As the ICC operates within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, I would like to remind you that this is the most ratified international treaty in the world for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. It counts 190 State Parties. Singapore, a regional country, ratified it this year and has become the 190<sup>th</sup> State Party. For your information: there are today 962 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List distributed over 157 State Parties of which 745 are cultural sites, 188 natural, and 29 mixed, which means cultural and natural at the same time.

One has to say that this singular international treaty has established a link between the concepts of natural preservation and cultural heritage conservation, acknowledging the interaction of human beings with nature and the fundamental need to preserve the equilibrium between nature and human kind—and I think that Angkor is a good illustration of this.

Professor Christina Cameron, a living memory of the World Heritage Convention who came to Angkor in the early 1990s (maybe some of you remember her) said that: 'The World Heritage Convention is an appeal for action, an instrument that facilitates the dissemination of good practices and which offers technical support to guarantee the monitoring of the most outstanding sites on our planet.'

In terms of international law, the Convention has marked an international change in the governance of cultural and natural sites and has been replicated by many other legal instruments, especially at UNESCO—I will not detail all Conventions that have been inspired from it.

Professor Francesco Francioni, an international legal expert and specialist of the Convention has named this national interests and international cooperation merger as 'responsible sovereignty'. In other words: a fully acknowledged sovereignty, but also acting cooperatively for the achievement of an international objective.

For its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year—as was rightly said by His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan—the Convention has decided to celebrate: 'Sustainable development: the role of local communities' as they play a fundamental role for the sites' preservation.

For the past ten years, the Angkor-ICC has been addressing these two topics and I think that we have started grasping their entire complexity. Thus, the APSARA National Authority was invited to submit an article on local communities in Angkor. Tomorrow, based on this article, a presentation will introduce this topic. I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Khuon Khun-Neay, the deputy director of the Department of Land Use Planning and Habitat Management in the Angkor Park, who wrote this article published in a new publication *Le patrimoine mondial en dehors des frontières*. This is a significant publication with interest for our ICC, as it compiles sustainable development experiences from 26 World

Heritage sites and I think that it could shed light on our future discussions on sustainable development.

Within the global stocktaking effort and part of this celebration, Angkor was included in, and I quote: 'The successes of the Convention'. I think that this can be a reason for legitimate pride for each of you who have taken part so actively and for so long in the conservation effort.

Finally, all participants present at the celebration events adopted a final text: 'The Kyoto Vision'. This text was handed out to you, in the room, and I think it can also be used as a background paper in the future.

In order to not repeat what was said by the Co-chairs on the agenda—and I thank them—note that the agenda addresses stocktaking these past twenty years of joint action, as well as the future. The Charter for Angkor is one of the tangible components of this international scientific cooperation and I would like to congratulate Professor Croci for having managed this work, which resulted in the finalization of the document yesterday morning to be adopted tomorrow. I would also like to congratulate all teams who actively contributed and also the APSARA National Authority for its input.

The approval of the Tourism management Plan (TMP), another topic of our agenda during this session, stems from a pressing matter as tourism in Angkor has increased by 27 percent since the first ten months of 2012. It is obvious that the threshold of three million tourists will be reached at the end of 2012. We are now a world apart from the 7,000 visitors recorded in 1993.

On these optimistic but also challenging numbers, UNESCO, as Secretariat of the ICC, wishes you efficient proceedings and is at your convenience during this day and a half Plenary Session.

I thank you for your attention."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much Mrs. Lemaistre. We are now going to start screening the *Angkor Renaissance* documentary. Mr. Beschaouch the floor is yours."

Information from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "During the coffee break, just after the movie, His Excellency Mr. Bun Narith will hand out medals to the Cambodian staff working for the Japanese project JASA. I believe that in order to support this young team still in training and which one day will take over this great Angkorian venture, maybe we could invite not only the Japanese academics but also everyone to attend this ceremony to demonstrate all the value we confer to the JASA project. Thank you."

Question from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Will this be held during the coffee break?"

Answer from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Absolutely, in the Banteay Srei room located on the first floor, and during the half hour coffee break."

### **[Film screening of Angkor Renaissance]**

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Could you please all take your seat, we will resume our proceedings. Let's start with Item II on 'Activity reports'. I would like to ask the ICC Scientific Secretary Professor Beschaouch to report on the ICC activity report."

## II- ACTIVITY REPORTS

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### II.1 ICC-Angkor activity report, by Professor Azedine Beschaouch, ICC-Angkor Scientific Secretary

"Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies Ministers, Secretaries of State,  
His Excellency, the Director General of the APSARA National Authority,  
Distinguished representative of UNESCO,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At each meeting we recall the procedure and the role of the Standing Secretariat, which, in between the technical and plenary sessions, represents to the best of its abilities the ICC. We are a spin-off of the ICC and in compliance with the procedure and internal rules, we endeavour to represent in the field the ICC and monitor the decisions.

You all know that these two statutory meetings are prepared and organised by your Secretariat, even the logistics. Of course, we draft the agenda that is discussed during quadripartite meetings and we try to make sure that the recommendations taken at the plenary and technical sessions are followed up. We have been doing this work for several years. We put in the right amount of time for this work, but our activities go way beyond this red tape and ritual tasks.

In the field we represent before you the APSARA National Authority and the international teams. Thereby, all members of the Secretariat, including the director of the Phnom Penh UNESCO Office, visit the site to review any outstanding issues that have been raised or will be subject for discussion. I would like to underline that this is being done as smoothly as possible. For the past twenty years, we have not had one issue with all the teams. To the contrary, we have always been welcomed and of course this includes the *ad hoc* group of experts which the Secretariat coordinates.

Following your wishes, we have focused on five items: firstly, on the hydraulic works and related decisions. We believe that our ICC should look into this topic essential for the equilibrium of the monuments, as recalled in Dr. Hang Peou's presentations. I also remember that the *ad hoc* experts and in particular Professor Lablaude presented with Dr. Hang Peou a diagram illustrating how this water issue may impact the temples and their stability. It is foremost as conservators on behalf of the ICC that we act before the teams and in the field.

Water has also a link with tourism and thus, I will come back to this matter later, we carried out monitoring. The fact with water is that proper management prevents flooding and Dr. Hang Peou and his partners (mostly French) will present on it later. We went on site several times, I always cherish these moments, and I have been every time I have visited, at least four or five times, to assess the scope of the works. I can testify that this is an ongoing work with a view to avert any issues with the population and to prevent flooding. This was illustrated this year as the city was not submerged. Tomorrow you will listen to a more detailed presentation.

The second topic is on local communities. For the past two or three years, the focus has been on this topic and, as was said by the Ambassador of Japan and the UNESCO Director this year in Kyoto, this issue of the local communities has been a key item. Next year at the 37<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee meeting chaired by His Excellency Sok An, one of the addressed items will be the community contribution to the safeguarding and development of World Heritage sites. With His Excellency Khuon Kun-Neay, we have asked questions several times and tabled the issues of appointing monitors within the populations, so that the APSARA National Authority in the future will include within its organization a body that may fulfil tasks beyond the role being played by the team leader, that His Excellency Khuon Kun-Neay in his function as deputy director general has been successfully doing. This will become the role of the monitors.

The third item is a point that has been addressed during the past plenary and technical sessions of the past two years. May I point out that the Secretariat puts forth the agenda, but the co-chairs have the final say. We understand what could be points of interest for the ICC members, what is advisable to be addressed and together with the APSARA National Authority we draft the agenda and the co-chairs make the final decision.

This item is the city of Siem Reap. Studies carried out by Mrs. Tep Vattho and her team have revealed that the city boasts some valuable heritage areas. It is important to recall that when the site was listed twenty years ago, Siem Reap town was included in zones 3 and 4, which are inscribed as buffer zones in the World Heritage Listing. We must then look into the issue of the city. This was done by you, by our successive co-chairs, and the ICC has always considered this issue a key focus. I am delighted to say that I have several times visited the canal areas and the ancient town along with Mrs. Tep Vattho. Two experts, Japanese and French, will introduce studies highlighting the value of the ongoing works, notably thanks to AFD and AIMF financing.

The fourth item is tourism. I would like to thank the APSARA National Authority and UNESCO for having allowed me for almost eight months to have monitored the drafting of the Tourism Management Plan (TMP), of which the final draft will be presented during this meeting. This TMP is a collaborative work between the APSARA National Authority and the Australian consulting firm GML, and is financed by the Australian government and the APSARA National Authority (the Royal Government *in fine*) and finally UNESCO. This co-operation led to three outstanding outcomes. I went to meetings where the private sector was invited, as the latter plays a key role for the development of the tourism industry. A meeting was held here, under the aegis of the APSARA National Authority and UNESCO, which was attended by monks who turned up in numbers to understand tourism issues that may be of interest for them. This matter will be later presented in detail with a thorough analysis.

You also asked us to focus on two key sites. Firstly, Phnom Kulen: it is on the agenda and I thank the Co-chairs who included it as a pressing danger. This is a real threat, so we made sure that the agenda was not only mentioning the threats, but also was debating a way to find solutions to overcome them.

The last item concerns Koh Ker. You have been informed several times on the value of this site. Professor Bourdonneau, an EFEO academic, introduced the site, Professor Claude Jacques talked about different inscriptions and I will later present one of his latest publications within the framework of the Hungarian project. This year Koh Ker is on the agenda and I will say a few words on the two pedestals that can be found at the entrance of the APSARA National Authority premises.

Why are they located here? Because they have been stolen from this country and it is far from an isolated incident. These statues were victims of barbaric activity as they have been cut off and the pedestal left on site with just parts of the feet remaining. The file was examined on your behalf, and the legal officers of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers

carried out a remarkable task and set up a complete operation. Recently, the *New York Times* published a notable article recounting the background of the case. One of these statues was put for sale by an auction house specialising in archaeological and art items and is to be soon confiscated by the government, the auction was stopped and we hope it will return to Cambodia.

As you can see, the Secretariat, the representative of the Office, your Secretary and all members of the Secretariat are all committed to these matters. For us, the safeguarding, conservation and development of monuments is not our only priority, we also aim to save anything Angkorian from potential threat and this is the assignment bestowed to our Secretariat.

I thank you for your attention."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan:* "Thank you Professor Beschouch. I think that you touched upon important items which will be debated during this Plenary Session: topics which go beyond the restoration and conservation activities whilst closely linked with them. I now give the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Bun Narith, director general of the APSARA National Authority who will present the activity report of the Authority."

## **II.2 APSARA National Authority general activity report, by His Excellency Mr. Bun Narith, Director-General**

"Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister,  
Distinguished Co-chairmen,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the onset of the ICC 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session, I have the great honour to welcome all participants, guest of honours, international delegations, experts, contributors from all horizons and all friends of Angkor.

You may have noticed that we all convened in the Angkor Room, one of the meeting rooms of the APSARA National Authority seat. The Deputy Prime Minister and President of the APSARA National Authority, His Excellency Sok An, was not able to attend today due to other important businesses but will be among us tomorrow.

As you all know, Cambodia has been in mourning since the death of His Majesty the King-Father Samdech Euv Preah Norodom Sihanouk. Besides His national achievements, His Majesty was the instigator of the inscription of the Angkor site on the World Heritage List. Many ICC members have been fortunate enough to work alongside him to set up the inscription process. We are all lamenting his passing and the APSARA National Authority has paid tribute to his memory and presents its deepest condolences to His Majesty the Queen Norodom Monireath Sihanouk and His Majesty the King Norodom Sihamoni.

The Royal Government, paying respect to these sad circumstances, has decided to postpone the planned events of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List. They will instead take place during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee meeting.

This is the first time the ICC Plenary Session is being held at the APSARA National Authority seat after the Technical Session organised last June. Once again the Royal Government agreed on an exceptional basis to a financial contribution in order not to interrupt the usual and necessary pace of the ICC proceedings.

I would like now to enter into the meat of the matter and to introduce the APSARA National Authority activities report:

#### 1. Road infrastructures:

The Small Circuit road which had been heavily damaged following last year's monsoon was rehabilitated over two stretches, spanning a total length of three kilometres. During the dry season, other stretches will be rehabilitated.

At the foot of Phnom Bakheng, construction works of a drainage canal have started over 600 metres. The present car park will be renovated at no harm for the site landscape and environment.

Donated by the Korean Republic, the construction of a ring road to the west of the temples area spanning 20.600 kilometres has been completed. The inauguration ceremony is scheduled for 15 December 2012. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the government of the Republic of Korea who has decided to extend works on this road, starting in the first stage by rehabilitating the stretch leading to Banteay Srei over 2.950 kilometres and from the northern portion of the Eastern baray of two additional stretches representing 15.700 kilometres from the former ring road.

With regard to the old ring road, covering a total of 20.6 kilometres and the presentation introduced by the KOICA representative at the last technical ICC, I would like to clarify the following: <sup>[slide]</sup> On the one hand the road has been built mostly on a pre-existing roads built by the APSARA National Authority from 2004. The other stretch to the east of Siem Reap River was previously a dirt track. Allow me to show you on a map the stretch built in 2011 and 2012 covering 20 kilometres. It starts opposite Angkor Wat and ends at the Banteay Srei road crossing, a stretch representing more than twenty kilometres. Most of the pre-existing road was a laterite track. To the east of the River there was also a pre-existing dirt track. The road has been built on an existing route.

Regarding phase III of the bypass road: The APSARA National Authority has taken into account the forthcoming re-flooding project of the Eastern baray and the recommendations of the ICC made at the Technical Session in June 2012. The original Korean project planned that once phase II was completed, the two stretches would meet at the end of the new road where it crosses the long existing National Road 67.

Due to the future project to re-flood the Eastern Baray, we stopped any construction in the baray and suggested to our Korean partners to modify the route. <sup>[slide]</sup> If they can continue the project, we have asked them to choose this route, A-B, then C-D and D-E. It enables us to keep on both sides of the eastern and northern dykes areas populated and where the dykes are presently used as roads. We proposed to change the route. Instead of building a road inside the baray, this route A-B, B-C, C-D and D-E has been proposed.

Our Korean partners have vowed to only build this portion here D-E located outside the baray stretching over two kilometres. <sup>[slide]</sup> Moreover, they will rehabilitate two more stretches, here and there, for a total length of more than 15 kilometres. The forthcoming stages of the bypass road project include two construction stretches: on Road 67 over more than two kilometres and the rehabilitation of two other stretches, one to the east of Angkor Siem Reap and the other to the west, covering more than 15 kilometres.

#### 2. Hydraulic works:

As I announced at the ICC 21<sup>st</sup> Technical Session, the APSARA National Authority with the support of the Royal Government and in close collaboration with the provincial authorities has commenced major restoration works on the hydraulic network of the Angkor site.

They include the rehabilitation of the ancient canals over a total length of almost 20 kilometres and the construction of a dozen sluice gates, the main one being located on the Siem Reap River nearby an Angkorian bridge, Spean Thom.

Although work has not been completed in its entirety, this network has already demonstrated its efficiency by controlling the flooding threats in September and October 2012. Some of the water flowing in the river was redirected to the west to flood the North baray, the Angkor Thom moats, the Western baray and the overflow was directed towards the Puork River. To the east, this water was used to flood Phnom Bok reservoir and the overflow sent to the Roluos River. This saved Angkor and the town centre of Siem Reap from flooding, although the latter had started to happen regularly these past years.

I would like to warmly congratulate Dr. Hang Peou for his work and he will show you in detail what is being done during tomorrow's ICC proceedings.

### 3. Conservation works:

The Department of Conservation of the Angkor Monuments and of Preventive Archaeology has carried out daily maintenance work on several temples and has undertaken propping at Lolei, Bakong, Banteay Kdei, Eastern Mebon, Wat Athvear and etc.

Construction of wooden staircases to protect fragile stones and to facilitate visitors' access on several locations of temples where original stairs were both difficult to access and dangerous, including a total of 28 stairs at the Bayon and of 17 at Angkor Wat. Some 30 cement-built guard rails located on the western causeway of Angkor Wat have been replaced by new rails in sandstone.

### 4. Forestry management:

The Department responsible inventoried 846 trees threatening structures at Preah Khan and on the Angkor Thom walls. 182 sick trees have been treated accordingly. To prevent any forest fires, firewall strips have been cleared and maintained, covering a total of 12,000 meters. More than 36,000 seedlings and 21,000 small trees have been planted. This allowed for the distribution of more than 21,800 young trees to pagodas, schools and village communities. The Department also saw to the maintenance of trees planted along Road 60—which accesses the APSARA National Authority seat—and at the Run Ta Ek ecovillage.

### 5. Strengthening human resources:

The French government has decided to continue training young executives in the field of heritage. The restoration works of the Western Mebon located in the namesake baray have been chosen as a training-site within the framework of a bilateral cooperation with the APSARA National Authority. There are eight trainees working for the APSARA National Authority: three of them will further their training to reach trainer level whereas five others will attend the training as auditors in order to enable them to understand monument conservation and surrounding area management approaches.

The Italian government, through the University of Palermo, has financed a two-year session of stone, wood and metal object restoration training. Acclaimed professors from the best universities in this field in Italy have trained 20 young executives of the APSARA National Authority, of the National Authority for Preah Vihear and of the Phnom Penh Faculty of Fine-Arts. After a year of training, these young students can now restore objects under the supervision of professors. Some of you had the pleasure of viewing the restored objects during the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Technical Session of the ICC last June.

### 6. Community support:

The Participatory Management of Natural Resources in the Angkor Park Project, in cooperation with New Zealand, has been extended from two to ten villages. The establishment of a group of liaison officers, appointed for communes and responsible for bolstering the relationships with the population, has started bearing its fruit. Thus, seminars and advisory meetings have been organised on a regular basis with villagers and training dispatched to their representatives. Small projects or activities have been set up to assist in generating revenue for the most vulnerable villagers.

These activities have also been supported by awareness and education campaigns to promote heritage issues, and trusting-relationships have been gradually forged between the APSARA National Authority and people living in the Angkor Park.

#### 7. Tourism and risks management:

The multilateral co-operation project between the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Australian government and UNESCO to establish a Heritage Management Framework has been making headway for two of its main components:

i) The Risks Map: is not solely dedicated to the identification of risks inside and around the monuments, but will also include natural and human resources risks in the Angkor Park. The APSARA National Authority officers working on this project have been trained for these miscellaneous components. Those in charge of the monuments have started implementing the prevention of risks on site; they have also starting managing a site at the Elephant Terrace and two additional sites on the Angkor Thom wall, supervised by their trainers. The outcomes of the work will be submitted to the assessment of our *ad hoc* experts. Regarding the study on natural resources risks, the collected data will be added to the monuments Risks Map and that of the communities living in the Park.

The forthcoming purchase of the necessary equipment to measure draw and monitor fieldwork will enable the project to progress more efficiently.

ii) The Tourism Management Plan: main component of the Heritage Management Framework, was completed yesterday following two years of extensive work for all national and international experts. This document will serve as reference for a balanced management between heritage and tourism. It advocates specific training for forthcoming site managers and a dynamic cooperation between all stakeholders. There is actually a need to efficiently manage the constant increase in visitors. For example, the tourism visitation for the first eleven months of 2012 reached 1,601,084 of visitors who bought a ticket, a 25 percent year on year increase with growth receipts increasing by 21.27 percent to total US\$45,361,380.

#### 8. Cultural development:

As I previously announced at several ICC sessions, the construction of the Museum of Traditional Textiles of Asian countries from the Mekong and the Ganges has been completed. It is a gift from the government of India. The Indian Council for cultural relations has sent experts in museography and textile to purchase the necessary materials needed to install the exhibition. The Indian Ministry of Textile will also donate some rare fabrics for the Museum. We are also eagerly looking forward to the contribution of other Mekong riparian countries: Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. We hope to be able to invite you to visit the museum at the next ICC session. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to offer my greatest thanks to the government of India, represented by His Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Dinesh Patnaik, who will attend tomorrow's session.

#### 9. Urban planning:



Development works of the Siem Reap River banks has continued. Development work was able to start once the squatters relocated. The water of the river also needs to be treated to reach sufficient cleanliness for bathing. Tomorrow the Department of Urban Heritage Development will present on this topic.

Two thirds of the Siem Reap town centre itinerary-tour has been completed and the remainder will be finished shortly. As soon as sufficient funding will be available, visitor centres at pagodas will be developed and the itinerary implemented will be rolled out. The situation is similar regarding cleaning of the canals in the outskirts of the city, along with the development of promenades for cyclists and pedestrian enjoyment.

Thank you for your attention."

### **II.3 Questions and Answers on reports on the projects implemented by the APSARA National Authority and the progress report of the projects conducted by the international teams (reports distributed in advance)**

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Excellency Bun Narith for presenting the APSARA National Authority activity report. Let's move on to item II.3 on the agenda: 'Question and answers on projects implemented by the APSARA National Authority and on the international teams progress reports'. These reports have been already circulated to you, so you can ask questions on these bilingual (English, French) reports.

Do you have any questions on specific projects mentioned in the reports? Before I give the floor, I would like to ask for more detail from Professor Lablaude on the Angkor Wat plaza project. This project has been up in the air for a while and I know that this morning a meeting was held with the contribution of *ad hoc* experts. Could you tell us more about the outcomes of this meeting and the follow up of the project?"

Comment from Mr. Pierre-André Lablaude: "Thank you Mr. Co-chair. You are right, a meeting was convened this morning with His Excellency Uk Someth and Mr. Azedine Beschouch on this project, the Angkor Wat plaza development. This is a matter often developed here within the framework of the ICC and which deals with the area located to the west of Angkor Wat causeway.

Before talking about projects that may be developed on this site, it may be necessary to give a background on former occupation prior to the 1970s as it is a site which was at the time partially built. The hotel Auberge des Temples was located there almost opposite Angkor Wat moat, slightly set back. These buildings were destroyed during the Pol Pot regime. Since the early 1990s there have been spontaneous constructions sprawled around which have then been slowly organised, but do not today meet any suitable standards.

You all have witnessed this situation when nightfall comes and the sunset vehicles drive right by the edge of the causeway dike while the visitor flow comes back from the temple. This activity incurs a dangerous crossing of circulation flows. Buses, remarks, taxis are waiting or dropping off their customers in an area set back from the causeway dike. In this same area are located several stalls and restaurants built in a spontaneous architecture which is rarely of high quality.

We must then admit that the present situation is not organized and unsatisfactory as this is located opposite one of the most prominent World Heritage buildings and this sprawling is prone for harsh criticism. The idea of the plaza development was launched almost ten years ago. The first drafts of the project date back to 2004.

This morning's project is the outcome of long consideration and is the follow up of a former more ambitious project. Today, in comparison with the former projects, the affected

area has been downsized. The initial project covered 15,000 square metres on the ground to be built opposite Angkor Wat and seemed out of proportion. The project has been scaled down to 5,000 square metres. The height has also been scaled down from 15 to eight metres. It has been further set back from the road and Angkor Wat moats. A traffic flow has been planned to bypass this area and to end this situation of cars driving right on the edge of the causeway dike. The diagrammatic drawings of the architecture are looking good and I believe we are heading in the right direction.

What we just need to be aware of is that we are addressing one of the most important World Heritage sites. There are many different procedures, for example: authorization, validation, control, etc., and recommendations which will be issued by international bodies responsible for World Heritage. The dossier will be sent to the World Heritage Centre. It is thereby vital to prevent any futile delay when recommendations are made, so the dossier shall include components which would enable us to firmly bundle up (if I can say so) this project.

We talked with Misters Uk Someth and Beschaouch about areas for improvement and consolidation, in particular the need to include pictures and a photo-montage highlighting the co-visibility between the projected constructions and Angkor Wat. In a nutshell: Can Angkor Wat and these buildings be seen together? And if yes, in which order and how and from which angle? Also, the need for attention to details when choosing materials and colours to blend better with the existing landscape.

There is also the fact that we need to preserve at maxima the existing vegetation, especially the big trees which are of interest. It is important to preserve and maintain them and in some areas to re-densify the vegetation canopy to create a kind of mask that will help the new developments and the World Heritage monument coexist in a suitable and natural manner.

These were this morning's guidelines. I might draft a small list of the additional elements needed which would have to be added to the file to finalise it with a view to sending it to the World Heritage Centre for approval. This is how far we are on this item."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Professor Lablaude. Are there any more questions or comments on this item? No. Then, some of the things you said will be included in this session's recommendations for tomorrow. Are there any more comments on this topic? Mrs. Lemaistre the floor is yours."

Comment from Mrs. Lemaistre: "Thank you Co-chair. I would like to thank Pierre André Lablaude who recalled the World Heritage procedure according to article 172 of the guidelines which specifically requests that any new major development projects within a World Heritage site be submitted for advance information and agreement to the World Heritage Committee. Thank you again for recalling this point.

UNESCO would like to intervene on another item and I would like to start by congratulating His Excellency Bun Narith for the detailed and excellent report that he presented. I also include the APSARA National Authority and in particular His Excellency Hang Peou who managed to prevent the river from bursting its banks and any subsequent dramatic flooding like that from last year.

UNESCO would like to talk about the use of the road that was presented. In June during the Technical Session, the KOICA representative explained that this was a Siem Reap town bypass road. This means that it would attract a lot of traffic with potential heavy vehicles. You can imagine that for UNESCO it would be surprising to divert the Siem Reap traffic towards a World Heritage site.

Thus, we would like to start pondering on the use of that road which should rather be for tourism for the 20.6 kilometres in blue on the picture as we correctly understood that this stretch is linked with the other traffic flow leading to the north of Angkor. Thereby, this 20.6 kilometres stretch should be for tourism vehicles only in order to reduce the congestion at the Angkor site, the Small and Big Circuits. This is something that we have previously suggested and which could open up new visiting opportunities. This proposal could then be integrated within the framework of the Tourism management Plan which is currently being drafted with the APSARA National Authority and will be presented tomorrow.

This is the end of my intervention and I would like this item to be taken in. Thank you."

Question from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Madame Lemaistre. Could the point you mentioned be included in the recommendations of this Plenary Session?"

Answer from Mrs. Lemaistre: "Absolutely, if the Co-chairs agree."

Question from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Does the APSARA National Authority own this road or is it under the responsibility of Siem Reap town local authorities? You talked about the use of this road and to restrict it solely for tourism. But who can make this decision: the APSARA National Authority or Siem Reap town?"

Answer from Mr. Bun Narith: "The APSARA National Authority is the owner of this road, but according to national law, the provincial authorities have jurisdiction on any activities taking place in the province. Hence, the APSARA National Authority should ask for the approval of the provincial authorities."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Professor Beschaouch wishes to take the floor."

Comment by Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Obviously, we need to register what His Excellency just said. Nevertheless, I would kindly ask to strongly recall that we are within the area of the 40,000 hectares of the World Heritage site and the highest authority in terms of jurisdiction is the APSARA National Authority."

Of course consultations must be carried out, but the decision comes from the site manager, otherwise this would go against World Heritage principles. Our role is to assist the APSARA National Authority and this will be done through a recommendation which will recall that the use of the road is set within the framework of the conditions for inscription so that the values are not threatened and the road is not for simple use. We are nowhere else but in a World Heritage site. I would like to insist and with your approval, we will draft a recommendation to help the APSARA National Authority in making the point. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "With the agreement of the APSARA National Authority this point will be included in tomorrow's recommendations. Are there any more questions or remarks on any specific projects? Mr. Beschaouch would like to take the floor."

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "I am especially delighted to see professor and rector Mr. Ishizawa attending and to have read in his team report that he is re-taking over the safeguarding activity at Banteay Kdei, etc. With your permission, I would like to ask him a question that is piercing us."

Often, people ask us what will happen with the Angkor Wat causeway dike, as in its middle there is a groove forming a discontinuity between works carried out by the EFEO and the Angkor Conservancy fifty years ago and the new restoration works. And for the visitors it is hard to fathom. In terms of methodology, what was done by Sophia University

needs to be distinguished from previous work. Nevertheless, with the heavy flow of visitors on it, this causeway dike needs to be homogeneous as stagnating water and the lack of uniformity is a matter of concern for tourists. The latter turns their remarks to UNESCO and the APSARA National Authority, but it is actually Professor Ishizawa and his team that can help us.

We are satisfied to find out that the APSARA National Authority respects all the teams. When a solution needs to be found, the Authority always says that the relevant team must be consulted. Could Mr. Ishizawa, the rector, let us know what his intentions are? It would help a lot. Thank you."

Question from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much. Regarding the Angkor Wat causeway dike, may I give the floor to Professor Ishizawa? He has no comment. Would anyone else like to say anything on the matter at hand? The restoration of the causeway should be completed."

Point from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "May I react? Not in my hat as Secretary but as a simple tourist. The rector said he had no comments, then are we allowed to tell the APSARA National Authority that they should undertake the work themselves? As every time we point to the APSARA National Authority that the causeway dike groove is a hindrance for visitors, the reply is: 'True, but we respect the Sophia University team'. This is all very well, but now that they do not want to comment, we need to act, and we will draft a recommendation allowing the APSARA National Authority to commence the restoration works so that we do not need to mention this point any longer. This is my suggestion."

Question from the Co-chairman for Japan: "What does the APSARA National Authority think of this? Are you ready to begin the work?"

Answer from Mr. Bun Narith: "Firstly, we would like to continue negotiating and discussing with Sophia University, whether they have the resources to continue the work in cooperation with the APSARA National Authority. When not, then we will assess the likeliness of continuing the project with a different approach. Thank you Co-chair."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Excellency. We can let the talks between the APSARA National Authority and Sophia University continue. Your point has been noted. Are there any more questions or remarks on the activity report? Mr. Bouchenaki, the floor is yours."

Question from Mr. Bouchenaki: "Thank you Co-chair. I would like to congratulate and thank the APSARA National Authority director general for all the activities implemented which are impressive, as are those undertaken by the international teams."

I would like to focus on the canalisation works being installed close to Phnom Bakheng. We drove past them and did not stop, as we were going to another site, but we noticed that the trenches are large. I only have one question: Has the APSARA National Authority appointed an archaeological team to study any archaeological layers or any potential findings during the digging operations? Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Would His Excellency Bun Narith like to answer?"

Answer from Mr. Bun Narith: "Thank you Co-chair. Presently, the APSARA National Authority has two Departments staffed with archaeologists to monitor excavation sites: the Department of Conservation of Monuments in the Angkor site and of Preventive Archaeology and the Department of Water Management. The latter oversees a lot of sites and the archaeologists of the Department of Conservation may not be able to meet the demand."

For each site and in any case, as a rule, archaeologists from each Department must monitor the work. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much. Are there any more questions? No. As there are no more additional questions or observations on a specific item, may I conclude this afternoon's session? The representative of France would like the floor."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Co-chair, a word from the Secretariat who is asking me to inform you that tonight's homework has been sent to you, as you have been emailed the Charter for Angkor as an attachment. Tomorrow we will debate on it and this is for those who have not thoroughly read it yet."

We also apologise as there were not sufficient hardcopies available. For those who cannot access their mailbox, I would suggest that they get in touch with the ICC Secretariat directly and for those lucky enough to be connected, I wish them a good evening read."

Point from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "A reminder Co-chair. This text has been distributed in the past at least three times. A few riders have been included, but you all have received it before. Thank you for reminding us that it has once again been circulated, but, in principle, everyone should have it in their archives."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "I did understand this, but it was to jog everyone's memory as tomorrow we will review it all together."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you again. I conclude today's session and right now, we are going to the opening of the 'Revitalizing World Heritage Site Museums in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam' exhibition at the Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum located right beside here and I think that we can walk there. The inauguration is at 5 p.m. You have been given a brochure on this and I invite you to bring it along."

Thank you for attending this session and we shall reconvene tomorrow morning at 8.30 a.m."

**\*\* Conclusion of proceedings for Wednesday 5 December 2012 \*\***

## **Thursday, 6 December 2012**

## III- REPORTS ON SPECIAL PROJECTS

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### III.1. Recent hydraulic works at Angkor, by His Excellency Dr. Hang Peou, Deputy Director-General, APSARA National Authority

**[This presentation was not recorded due to a technical fault]**

### III.2 Report on the conservation of Siem Reap urban heritage, by Mr. Yoshihisa Okada and Mr. Matthieu Berton, Experts

#### Mr. Matthieu Berton:

[slide] "Addressing is naming or numbering streets and buildings. [slide] The goal is to improve the orientation in town and to facilitate emergency services intervention (fire fighters, police, ambulance) and to locate urban and tourism services. [slide] In Siem Reap, it will also facilitate the inventory of the city's urban heritage which is needed to establish the heritage discovery itineraries.

Regarding the present project progress, [slide] the addressing work was approved in October by his Excellency Sou Phirin, governor of the Siem Reap province, by all the delocalised departments (Land Use, Public Works) and by the mayor of Siem Reap.

[slide] This enabled work to start early October. As of today, all streets located in most urban areas of Siem Reap have been signed. [slide] Temporarily these streets have numbers since a name will be given to them later, at least to major roads, as is the case in Phnom Penh.

[slide] Besides, survey and numbering operations of buildings located in the historical area commenced in October. An addressing team was appointed and made up of the DDPU staff. Building numbers have been painted on the walls using a stencil. The green colour evokes the overwhelming presence of nature found in Siem Reap. As of today, two thirds of the whole area has been covered.

[slide] The team has also been tasked with the inventory of all characteristics of buildings and to identify tourism infrastructures (hotels, restaurants, bars) and any outstanding features. What we mean by the latter are buildings or natural spaces which may be attractive and should be flagged, for example an old building presenting interesting architecture, or a contemporary building with the same quality. All Siem Reap buildings are being photographed whatever their type. Thus, a database on constructions is starting to be collected. DDPU would like this database to be used in the future when carrying out the heritage inventory when this will be scheduled.

[slide] A total of 600 hectares has been covered by addressing, surveys and numbering. This is the area comprising of tourism and heritage highlights in Siem Reap. DDPU is hoping for additional financing in order to scale up this work to other areas of the town.

[slide] In a few months, street plaques will be affixed in Siem Reap on some 500 crossings in the 600 hectare area presented on the former slide. [slide] I would also like to recall that relating to this operation, AIMF is also funding the establishment of a discovery itinerary of the historical area in Siem Reap. This is the extension of the Old Market itinerary which was designed last year by the Heritage Mission within the framework of the AFD financing. The itinerary will include a total of 19 stops.

[slide] Three types of signs are being produced. [slide] Firstly, a poster presenting the itinerary and the history of the city mounted in small wooden kiosks located along the river banks, [slide] then an aluminium panel on a metal pedestal for each of the stops. The pedestals of the first nine stops have been put up in the Old Market area. Real signs being manufactured and made of aluminium will soon replace the present temporary stickers. The next eleven stops will be fitted once the design of the signs has been completed. DDPU would like to take this opportunity to ask any of you whether you would possess any historical or graphic documents that may be sent to the Department to help design these signs?

[slide] Finally, direction signs, key to indicate the itinerary to be followed, have been put up in the Old Market area. It includes small white poles painted with stencils. The remainder will be signposted very soon.

[slide] This first phase of Siem Reap addressing, financed by AIMF, is scheduled for completion in the spring in hopes that it could be inaugurated together with the historical quarter itinerary for the next ICC. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you. You have not been very generous to your colleague, which means Mr. Okada, I would like you to be concise."

### **Mr. Yoshihisa Okada:**

[OrigE] "Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

[OrigE] Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to present the Siem Reap River Cleanup Project. [slide] The first time I came to Siem Reap I was very much impressed by the large trees flanking the riverside. [slide] It reminded me of Ise Shrine the most famous shrine in Japan. [slide] But I was disappointed when I saw the brown aspect of the water, it was not similar to the clean river water of the Ise Shrine. I imagined that if Siem Reap River water could become clean like Isuzu River water, it would be fantastic and would help promote Siem Reap tourism. [slide] This is the reason why I started the Siem Reap River Cleanup Project.

[slide] I would like to introduce the research cleanup systems: A) Fe<sup>2+</sup> Ferrous Ion + Carbon method. Next slide please. [slide] B) Bio-chemical Materials 'Aqualift' & 'Clay N' Method, Aqua-Service Co. Ltd. Aqualift is a bio-chemical material used to improve water quality which consists of natural bacteria softly affecting the environment. C) Aqua & Globe Water Cleanup Method.

[slide] I tried to cleanup test a pond with 'Aqualift' and 'Clay N' and it confirmed its efficiency. [slide] I asked JICA for these materials. I hope to operate cleanup tests of the Siem Reap River, near the Old Market, next January or February. [slide] In order to make these tests effective, I need to know the period when the water of the river will become very low and if possible, when the river water will not flow for a couple of weeks. I would appreciate it if anyone could let me know the time period by contacting me, my phone and email address are presented here.

[slide] I also plan on using the same test to cleanup black water. [slide] Here are prospective drawings and images of Siem Reap River with cleaned up water. [slide] I also imagine that tourists and local people will be able to enjoy the Siem Reap River site, just like Paris-Plage in the summer.

[slide] Finally, I will present my project report to the APSARA National Authority and I expect that in the near future this project will become crucial and will promote tourism in

Siem Reap. <sup>[slide]</sup> I hope one day that we will have Siem Reap-Plages. Thank you very much.”

Comment from the Co-chair for France: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> “Thank you Mr. Okada for your reference to Paris-Plages which is very enjoyable indeed. I do not know whether the governor of Siem Reap is attending today, I do not believe so, but we will convey your message.

<sup>[Back to French]</sup> Today’s third item is on a specific and regional project as it spreads across part of South-east Asia (Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam). It relates to developing museums associated with a World Heritage site. Mrs. Nao Hayashi will present. You have 15 minutes. Thank you.”

### **III.3 UNESCO/Japanese Funds-In-Trust Regional project on museums (South East Asia): Revitalizing World Heritage Site Museums in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, by Ms Nao Hayashi, Programme specialist, museum section, UNESCO Paris**

<sup>[OrigE]</sup> “Co-chairs,  
Ambassadors of Japan and France,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

<sup>[slide]</sup> It is a great honour for me to address this prominent committee again since the last intervention held during the plenary session of 2009. My presentation aims to report to the distinguished members of the ICC, on one of UNESCO’s recent activities in the field of museum development in Southeast Asia, a pilot project focusing on museums associated with World Heritage sites of the region.

<sup>[slide]</sup> The prominent role of museums as messengers of peace and intercultural dialogue cannot be overemphasised enough as they stand as major attractions in our globalised world, where more than one billion people travel every year to discover other cultures.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Even if the museums fundamental mission, as defined by ICOM, remains to be scientific authorities and institutions serving public interest and preservation of heritage, their contribution to local economic revitalisation and social inclusion have increasingly been recognised and evidenced. I believe that none of these prominent committee members doubts the immense potential of World Heritage site related museums to become central institutions for a country’s national pride and attraction, while the economic benefits is attested by the fact that 40 percent of the global revenue related to tourism is actually that earned by cultural tourism.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Major western museums have relentlessly committed to renew their institutional mandates to respond to new social requirements. In terms of economic impact, the British Museum is the top tourist destination in the United Kingdom, so is Le Louvre Museum in Paris which keeps its prestige with its eight million visitors annually.

<sup>[slide]</sup> However, numerous museums in developing parts of the world or countries in conflict, possessing invaluable collections for the world’s common history, remain sadly unknown or neglected, which would lead to a major loss of their collections together with the knowledge that they carry. UNESCO has intervened in securing and rebuilding major museums in the world: in Nubia, Egypt, in Kabul, Afghanistan, in Baghdad, Iraq to name a few.



Important projects are on-going in Egypt and Eastern Europe for reviving vast open air museums, and empowering museum professionals in Jerusalem. We have recently engaged in a sub-regional project in the Balkans, to link major national museums in Southeast Europe to consolidate professional ties of their staff and to produce a common exhibition 'Imagining the Balkans'.

[slide] In Asia, we have observed some recent examples of investment in museums linking national identity building, growing tourism and economic effects of culture, notably in Vietnam. The Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, strong with 29,000 objects, enjoys a great appreciation from its national visitors who make up half of the total number of annual visitors. Notably, this institution is famous for regular festivals and events which also help ethnic groups promote their handicrafts and local products, thus contributing to the safeguarding of traditional skills and fostering contemporary creativity. In addition to the construction of a new wing which will house the museum of the civilization of Southeast Asia, the government just announced a new investment of \$500 million to revitalize the Hanoi Historical Museum. (Over the past years, Vietnam has invested in the renovation of its Women's Museum in Hanoi, as well as opened the 'Life-long Learning Museum' in Ho Chi Minh City).

[slide] We are now coming to our project: The pilot project developed by UNESCO, generously funded by the Japanese government, has attempted to accompany our participating museums—nine in total, four from Cambodia, four from Vietnam, one from Laos—in the process of renovating their institutional vision and missions through a joint reflection over their contemporary role and notably developing long-lasting professional ties among its participants through joint activities. The participating museums have all different histories and institutional characteristics, but there are at once many commonalities which allowed this collaboration to be fruitful. I would like to thank you very much for attending the inauguration of the exhibition yesterday evening.

The participating museums to our project are:

- Angkor National Museum (Angkor)
- Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum (Angkor)
- National Museum of Cambodia (Phnom Penh)
- Eco-Global Museum of Preah Vihear (Preah Vihear)
- Thang Long Citadel site museum (Hanoi)
- My Son site museum (My Son)
- Da Nang Cham Museum of Cham Sculpture (Da Nang)
- Ho Citadel site museum
- Wat Phu site Museum (Champassak)

[slide] Through our three gatherings and reflections since the project initiation in spring 2011, a number of common challenges have been identified: primarily, the lack of museographical projects and experience in mounting the exhibition—including research capacities and interpretation skills to make attractive contents for both local and international visitors including writing skills and scenographical developments.

[slide] Secondly, all museums not only suffer from the lack of financial and human resources, but also face difficulties in attracting local communities in a sustainable manner. Speaking of the visitor profile, our recent survey also revealed that the majority of visitors of the participating museums are actually foreigners and mainly from other Asian countries.

[Back to French] The project was launched in spring 2011. [slide] The first meeting was held here in Siem Reap. It convened representatives of participating institutions, with a view to develop a common goal on activities that will serve in the best interests of the participants. Our team undertook several studies in order to establish an understanding of the visitor's

profile, assess the institutional situation and establish activities deemed as important and doable by the participating museums.

[slide] At this first meeting, the need to strengthen the communication on the World Heritage concept through museums associated with World Heritage was stressed. Despite the apparent success of the World Heritage label, only a few visitors have accessed information on this concept and on the rationale behind the inscription of the site on the List. Most visitors are not aware of their responsibilities as world citizens towards protecting common heritage of mankind. It was also highlighted that participating museums should promote each other and insist on the historical links between their mutual sites. And this is what led the participants to mention the idea to develop a joint and concrete activity. The latter will simultaneously attract local and foreign visitors.

[slide] After this initial meeting, a second more intense and technical gathering was held in Hanoi for three weeks in November 2011. This brainstorming and practical workshop convened circa 20 professionals from three countries and turned out to be a real field of experimentation. It included training and resulted in the organisation of a small exhibition. It actually became the embryo of the sub-regional exhibition inaugurated yesterday with you all at the Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum. A few days have been dedicated to the design and set up of an educational programme that can adapt to any member of the public of any age. Moreover, a field trip to the World Heritage site of My Son was organized.

[slide] It was between the Hanoi workshop from late last year and the third workshop in May again in Siem Reap that the [slide] main concept of the sub-regional exhibition was conceived. [slide] This four field exhibitions enjoyed the collaborative work of more than one hundred people.

[slide] After an introduction to the World heritage Convention, the exhibition presents, although briefly, a summary of the artistic representation of natural and mythological elements, commercial links, exchanges of ideas and influences among the participating World Heritage sites and other regions of the world.

[slide] The third field is the unique collection of each museum. It highlights their specific collections, while not distancing from the message—how each site is put in perspective with the history of the region and the world. Thus, the Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum selected a thematic on the 'Mystery of the destruction of the Buddha statues excavated at the Banteay Kdei site'. The Angkor National Museum focuses on Jayavarman VII and associated artistic programme, the National Museum of Cambodia presents the 'Kbach in Khmer decoration'. As for Preah Vihear Museum, it will exhibit the 'Perspective of the temple within the global history of the Angkorian Empire'.

[slide] The nine museums will inaugurate their exhibitions until early next year. These exhibitions are associated with educational programmes developed by each museum in partnership with UNESCO. The programme presented to the public by the museums is a way to increase engagement with the local populations. It is also a great opportunity to remedy the alienation of the populations' heritage. During the second phase, UNESCO and partner museums will continue developing an educational programme. The Japanese government has already agreed to finance this new phase. This programme will focus more on the enhancement of intangible heritage associated with World Heritage sites.

Twenty years of international cooperation have saved and continued the grandeur of Angkor by conveying the knowledge and know-how on the safeguarding of built heritage. The vernacular and oral hidden dimensions of this heritage, and those associated closely to the intangible side of heritage, such as the oral tradition, legends, the knowledge and traditional and religious practices, must also be used and disseminated to all through the active

contribution of those possessing this huge cultural wealth. And the Museum must be at the heart of this approach, acting as mediator between visitors and local populations.

To conclude, I would like to express on behalf of UNESCO, the participating museums and all of those who contributed to the implementation of this project, how grateful we are to the Japanese government who made this project possible and who gave us freedom to develop activities according to the needs that we determined ourselves. We also extensively used the works of French academics from the early days of scientific explorations and the support of continuous contributions.

We are confident that the institutions of the region will develop, based on this great joint heritage, a more fruitful and sustainable future collaboration, and that this heritage will be used to revitalise museums for generations to come.

I thank you for your attention."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you Madame for this highly interesting and detailed presentation. Let's continue straight away, as I believe we are slightly behind schedule, with the Tourism Management Plan. This has been designed within the framework of the project we talked about yesterday, the Heritage Management Framework at Angkor. It will be introduced by the Embassy of Australia *Chargé d'Affaires*, with additional presentations again by Dr. Hang Peou and Professor Mackay."

### **III.4 The Tourism Management Plan elaborated within the framework of the Angkor Heritage Management Framework project**

#### **a. Introduction by Mr. Dave Gordge, *Chargé d'Affaires*, Australian Embassy in Cambodia**

[*OrigE*] "Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Angkor Tourism Management Plan is a key outcome of the Angkor Heritage Framework joint project of the Royal Government of Cambodia, UNESCO, the Australian government and Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants. We believe it will be an important tool for all stakeholders to assist with the management of the increasing influx of tourists to Angkor. I would like to acknowledge the cooperation between project partners: the APSARA National Authority, the Ministry of Tourism of the government of Cambodia and the Australian consultant Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants with support from UNESCO.

The Tourism Management Plan was developed in a very collaborative and iterative process. With that, I would like to hand over to His Excellency Dr. Hang Peou deputy director general of the APSARA National Authority and Professor Richard Mackay of GML Heritage Consultants to elaborate further. Thank you."

#### **b. Presentation by His Excellency Dr. Hang Peou, Deputy Director-General, APSARA National Authority, and Professor Richard Mackay, GML Heritage Consultants**

**Dr. Hang Peou:**

"Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Tourism management Plan (TMP) that will be introduced to you in a few moments is the outcome of an extensive expertise and consultative process commenced a year ago

within the framework of the Heritage Management Framework project (HMF). This project is co-financed by Australia and the Kingdom of Cambodia and coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh.

During the past year the APSARA National Authority, the Minister of Tourism, the Australian consultants and UNESCO have collaborated closely to share their respective expertise, but also to consult with stakeholders concerned by tourism in Angkor: the private sector, the local and religious communities and non governmental organisations. The outcome of this joint work is presented and submitted to the assessment of the Plenary Session of the ICC.

Before handing over the floor to Professor Mackay, I would like to stress that the work elaborated for the TMP has been under the intense scrutiny of the ICC Group of *ad hoc* experts for sustainable development and that our scientific Secretary, Professor Beschouch, also kept a close watch. Thank you."

**Mr. Richard Mackay:**

[*OrigE*] "Your Excellencies,  
Honourable Co-chairs,  
Ambassadors,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a privilege to present the Angkor Management Plan for endorsement by the ICC. If I may quote Professor Beschouch, permanent Secretary of the ICC: 'This is the moment where the Tourism Management Plan moves from being a collaboration between the project partners to become APSARA's plan for management of tourism at Angkor'.

[*slide*] As has been mentioned, the Tourism Management Plan is part of the Heritage Management Framework and it is based around the concept of values-based management to conserve the various values of the Angkor World Heritage site arranged according to six key policy programmes. As there are a series of major initiatives and priority areas, and a set of actions identified for immediate action. I should speak about each of these.

A synopsis of the Tourism Management Plan has been distributed around the room and the full plan has been previously circulated. As recently as Monday of this week there was a workshop at which the content of the implementation plans was agreed through consensus.

[*slide*] It has been a long and collaborative process. During this process, which was instigated by the ICC, an outline was prepared and feedback was received. There has been two drafts leading to the final Tourism management Plan, and at each stage we have enjoyed and benefited from the skills, expertise and knowledge of many contributors: from the tourism industry, from our APSARA colleagues, from community stakeholders, from the *ad hoc* experts and I pay special tribute to Jean Marie Furt the *ad hoc* expert for sustainability. I also particularly thank our project chief His Excellency Dr. Hang Peou and Madame Chau Sun Kérya for their invaluable contributions.

[*slide*] A particularly innovative part of the process and action, which I believe was introduced for the first time for a management document for Angkor, was a public exhibition where anyone could access the draft Tourism Management Plan and could make submissions. It was issued to all of the workshop participants within the industry and community and there was an opportunity to make a submission through an online survey form.

[slide] Of course the most valuable feedback came from the APSARA National Authority who focused on priority actions. A pragmatic report with emphasis on realistic and effective actions, who asked us to consider the relationship between Angkor and Siem Reap and surrounding areas and made very valuable suggestions on priorities and programmes.

[slide] They were many contributors. Too many to name and acknowledge individually, but their work was contributed throughout the project by our technical committee made up of enthusiastic and experienced APSARA personnel.

[slide] The Tourism Management Plan is arranged around six sets of key policies: improving visitor experiences; reducing visitor impacts; partnering with the tourism industry; providing benefits to local people; effectively deploying resources; engaging with stakeholders. By effectively doing these six things, tourism at Angkor will be managed in a way that is sustainable.

[slide] There are, however, eleven major initiatives identified. These are the important changes, fundamental things that will need to be very different as we move forward in managing tourism at Angkor. There is a need for integrated temple management with individual managers at major temples, for better visitor flow management. There is an important need for: better transport system; improved visitor orientation; better visitor services and experiences; [slide] tourist guide training; promotion of local craft within the Park; significant changes in ticketing and pricing; promotion of better industry relationships and communication and addressing the role of Angkor in relation with Siem Reap, the Tonle Sap and the Kulen hills.

[slide] The final major initiatives relate to the ICC. It is an important ongoing role for the ICC in receiving annual implementation reports on the Tourism Management Plan and undertaking five yearly reviews of priority actions because the priority actions are the critical components for making the tourism management feasible. [slide] Collaboratively, we have worked hard to prepare seventeen, two page implementation plans that set out the objectives of these actions and the policy links. They identify the specific tasks for APSARA and other personnel. They outline timelines and resource requirements and specify training needs.

[slide] They set out the appointment of responsible officers, not only within APSARA who will obviously be the lead official, but also from the Ministry of Tourism and the provincial government. There will be new positions including a tourism liaison officer, someone within APSARA to whom the tourism industry can meet with to have their problems solved, and a webmaster due to the increasingly important use of the internet and social media.

[slide] There are priority actions aimed at reducing site impacts. Of these, the most urgent and strongly recommended to the ICC is a carrying capacity study. Then there is the introduction of an integrated temple management and the development of a temple classification system that identifies which temples are appropriate for what type of tourists. New transport systems are extremely important and there is a particular need to move away from the heavy presence of large vehicles within the core areas of the Park.

[slide] There are initiatives that will improve visitor experiences: visitors' services plan, retraining of Angkor tourist guides in which the APSARA National Authority must take a leading role and there will be development of codes of conduct for visitors, tourism industry operators and for guides.

[slide] A fundamental change is a new partnership with the industry. I am pleased to note that at the request of His Excellency Dr Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of the APSARA National Authority, an industry consultation group is to be established which will provide a forum for regular engagement. There will be regular meetings, the appoint-

ment of a liaison officer, a telephone hotline for problem solving, and regular updates to the APSARA website.

[slide] Local people will benefit and in the short term the priority actions focused on support for authentic craft certification and sales include the establishment within the Angkor Park of a dedicated local craft market for makers and crafts people who live within the Park from whom the tourists should be able to buy directly.

[slide] The final two priority actions focus more broadly outside the Park: to support the conservation and presentation of the urban heritage of Siem Reap about which we have heard this morning and to prepare a strategic plan for the Kulen hills because of the fundamental role they play in the future of the Angkor World Heritage site.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

[slide] This is a major plan and a major moment in the history of Angkor. There are serious implications if we are to move towards sustainable management of tourism at Angkor. The major change will rely on support from everyone, from government, community and industry. There are important priority actions such as the carrying capacity study and the transport plan that will only happen if they are well supported with donor contributions.

[slide] Let me say this in conclusion: As we sit here today at this ICC in 2012, there were 30 times the number of tourists at Angkor this year than there were the first time the ICC met. However, there are not thirty times the resources available to manage them. The massive increase in visitation requires a corresponding increase in the resources available to manage the influx of tourism at Angkor. Because, Ladies and Gentlemen and Excellencies, the management of tourism at Angkor must be sustainable if there is to be sustainable heritage at the Angkor World Heritage site. Thank you."

## General discussion

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Gentlemen for this presentation and reminding us of the benefits of tourism for Angkor and the country, although it incurs restrictions and needs to be managed in the long term. I would now like to open the floor to those wishing to express themselves.

I think that Mr. Berthelot would like the floor. Mr. Berthelot, you need to come near a microphone so we can hear you. First intervention is by Mr. Berthelot who is the president of the SIAVB, and do correct me if I am wrong, but it is the acronym for Syndicat intercommunal d'assainissement de la Vallée de la Bièvre.

I would like to ask all of you to be as concise as possible, as we are slightly behind schedule and to go directly to the point which highlights the effectiveness of your intervention."

Comment from Mr. Berthelot: "Let me apologise for the absence of Mr. Marchand who could not be among us today. I would like to express our great gratitude (through the AAA associations) regarding works undertaken on the hydraulic management of heritage. These works have made us aware that many things can bring benefit to the population and that our *Syndicat* and Association AAA will take all necessary means to try to attract as many partners as possible for a completion of the project on the hydraulic management of the Angkor site. I thank you for your attention."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Mr. Berthelot, and also for this excellent news. I believe that Mrs. Sisowath Chandevy would like to take the floor on behalf of the Heritage Mission."

Intervention of Mrs. Sisowath Chandevy: "Thank you Co-chair. I would like to provide an update on the new Heritage Training Centre Curriculum. The Heritage Training Centre has renewed its training field focusing this time on training future trainers. The goal is to consolidate technical skills and especially the ability for trainees to train, focusing on the educational side of the curriculum. A series of five seminars over 18 months is scheduled for each session. Several sites have been chosen in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Different typologies of natural or urban heritage will give the opportunity for trainees to work on specific cases.

The first seminar starts on December 7 (tomorrow). Thirteen trainees have been selected including six Cambodians, five Vietnamese and two Laotians. Auditors will also attend the training. The Western Mebon restoration site will be the study-site for this forthcoming training. Moreover, the École de Chaillot is still running the curriculum of the Heritage Training Centre. National and international speakers will lecture on different topics.

Finally, this training will be an opportunity for trainees to develop their autonomous capacity in the management, conservation and restoration of different types of heritage. I thank the French government and in particular Mrs. Francine d'Orgeval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bruno Favel from the Ministry of Culture and Communication, Mrs. Mireille Grubert, director of the École de Chaillot, as well as the Cambodian government, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the APSARA National Authority, and in particular His Excellency Bun Narith and all professors and speakers that have helped us establish the curriculum.

Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you for this information. Would anyone like to take the floor?"

Remark from Mr. Tan Boun Suy: "My name is Tan Boun Suy, I am a deputy director general at the APSARA National Authority. I would like to reiterate the issue related to profit generated by tourism not accruing to the local population. I would like to point out that when you visit a souvenir stall, 80 to 90 percent of the products are made abroad. Therefore, the local population cannot reap the benefit of tourism and I think this a very important matter and that the project dedicated to solving this issue is critical. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Mr. Tan for this reminder and you are right in that it is a major issue. The representative from India would like to take the floor. Please."

Comment from the Director of the Forest Research Institute of India: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "Thank you very much Co-chair. Excellencies, first of all I would like to thank the Ministry of External Affairs and UNESCO—I am not from the diplomatic services, I am the Director of the Forest Research Institute—for providing us with the opportunity of saying the following.

The comment I have to make regards the first presentation with the water management issue. I am a tree doctor and I would like to draw your attention to the role of trees in management of floods. You see that on structures just because of the growth of the roots, the infiltration into the soil and into the water, it protects the soil and also the transpiration of the water through the stems results in biodrainage.

What I would like to submit to the Cambodian authorities and the APSARA National Authority, in particular, is that when they showed those dikes they were treeless. If they plant native trees along these dikes, the root activity will provide strength to them which will prevent the continuous expenditure in constructing these dikes and maintaining them. This is an environmental benefit. The other environmental benefit is that it will fix carbon dioxide, so you have CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) benefit.

And finally my friend made a comment that souvenirs are coming from outside the country and we saw souvenirs that are made up of wood. Thus, wood can be used for income generation. First of all, when you create this plantation, there will be income and then maintaining this income is possible when the wood is harvested. Therefore, the money will come. I have three ideas right now. I would say that the current data that has been presented showed us that the carbon footprint of a Siem Reap person has been increased because of externalities. People like you and me come here and increase the carbon footprint. I see three industries: one is the air industry, the other is the oil industry and third, I am sure all of you are drinking bottled water. It would probably be a good idea to appeal to these three respective industries to support tree plantation activities, which later can be used as CDM activities also.

If you all allow us, what we can contribute after the initial stage is the preparation of a concept note and if some financial help is provided, we can travel, collect the data, generate numbers and prepare a project. Thank you very much."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Sir for recalling the role of the forest and especially in the fight against erosion and infiltration. Are there any more comments or remarks to these initial observations? The floor is open to our standing or perpetual Secretary as he wishes."

Comment by Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Thank you Mr. Co-chair. May I backtrack to the safeguarding of the historical features of Siem Reap town? I would like to insist on one point. This is something we can lament over, but Siem Reap it has to be said, has remained one of the last horizontal cities despite real-estate pressures. People talk about a trend, but as I am getting older I am also more aggressive and I would say that it has more to do with financial interests than a trend. Skyscrapers, etc. are depressing developments throughout the world, not only in Asia. We would need to pressure the authorities and stick to what was said earlier on by the director of the Department of Urban Development. There is a labour that has bore its fruit: the Preservation and Town Planning Plan, which entices us to support the APSARA National Authority. The fact is also that the governor of the town is also deputy director at the APSARA National Authority. This is a great opportunity to save our heritage.

May I also ask our Co-chairs to allow the Secretariat to draft a recommendation in this matter to support the APSARA National Authority. I would also like to remind you of the efficiency of the ICC. Seven years ago, we recommended twice that we should tackle the issue of the people living along the Siem Reap River embankments. And we won. The governor was able to submit this recommendation to the Royal Government. This gives us hope and encourages us to move forward for the rest of the town. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Professor. Any comments on behalf of the APSARA National Authority? Maybe from Mrs. Tep Vattho? Is there any contradiction in including a recommendation from the Secretariat for this session? You have the floor Madame."

Reply from Mrs. Tep Vattho: "I thank the Co-chairman and Mr. Beschaouch for having raised this issue of the Land Use Map (LUM). Siem Reap town is presently under threat from the construction of potential high buildings that would pierce the vegetal canopy and affect the green features of the town. It is urgent, though I do not know how, as I am not a



lawyer, to endorse this document so that all the technicians from Siem Reap may work and that our Department may continue to efficiently preserve urban heritage. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Mrs. Tep. I note that it has been asked to the Secretariat to draft a recommendation for the approval of the LUM, subject to the LUM not being a vertical Land Use Map, but I am pretty convinced that this is not the case.

Someone is asking for the floor at the back of the room. Sir you have the floor."

Comment from Mr. Ros Borath: "My name is Ros Borath, I am a deputy director general at the APSARA National Authority. I would like to highlight something and remind you of another point. When Mr. Koichiro Matsuura was the director general we had a conversation regarding the urban planning development of Siem Reap. The only thing he mentioned at the time and which I conveyed to my superiors was: how can the small, charming city of Siem Reap be allowed to sprawl with no control when it is located 8 kilometres from Angkor Wat? He meant with no LUM and without assessing the impact on the profile of this town seen from the monuments' perspective. I believe that this thinking and idea raised by the director general is profound.

We cannot let the gateway to the Angkor site, which is inscribed on the World Heritage List and a beacon, develop unbridled and have unregulated town planning. Please allow me to insist on the fact that we must support with all the ICC's power this Land Use Map, which protects the urban heritage of Siem Reap, and that this city should become green and be covered with water. I do not believe that there are any other directions to follow. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you director general. I think that the recommendation will also include your concerns. If no one else would like to take the floor I would move on to the most beneficial part of this morning's session, the coffee break. But I do not want to restrict anyone and will just add that during the intervention from our Indian colleague, he talked about a concept note. I actually think that this would be very useful if your institution could pass on to the Secretariat and the APSARA National Authority your suggestions. I thank you for your proposal. We will reconvene in exactly 15 minutes, at 10 a.m. Thank you very much."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Please take your seats. Would it be seen as a putsch if I started without the attendance of the Co-chair and of the Secretariat? We are resuming the proceedings and I think that the Japanese Ambassador will join us briefly. As we are slightly lagging behind schedule, I would like to give the floor to our *ad hoc* group of experts who will present their report and as is the tradition, Mr. Beschaouch will introduce."

### **III.5 Report from the *ad hoc* group of experts for conservation, by Professors Mounir Bouchenaki, Giorgio Croci, Kenichiro Hidalka and Pierre-André Lablaude**

#### **Mr. Beschaouch:**

"I would just like to remind you, as this is one of ICC's values, that we constantly welcome new participants. Also that at the Secretariat we organise visits..."

Interruption from the Co-chairman for France: "Please take your seats, we cannot hear Professor Beschaouch."

#### **Mr. Beschaouch:**

"These visits are organised after approval from the Co-chairs. They are then spread out among the experts. There are visits involving all the experts depending on the questions, as was the case yesterday that was brilliantly presented by professor Lablaude regarding the Angkor Wat plaza. He was in charge of drafting the report.

Today we are going to listen to a joint report. One by one the experts will present since they have divided up the reports between them. One expert will read out the report but it is on behalf of all of them. Professor..."

*Interruption from the Co-chairman for France:* "I have been told that Professor Croci would start and then Professors Bouchenaki, Lablaude and Hidaka."

**Mr. Beschaouch:**

"Absolutely, then the report will be sent to the Co-chairs so that it is archived, but some of the points mentioned will be included in the recommendations."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Fine. Thank you very much. Let's move on to Professor Croci, you have the floor."

**Mr. Giorgio Croci:**

<sup>[OrigE]</sup> "Thank you Co-chair. The first site that we are presenting is **Banteay Samre**. The visit of the site was organized to assess the damage and potential risks related to the movement of some blocks and leaning of the walls. Actually, all the walls are leaning and the deformation appears to be quite uniform. These aspects of uniformity have made us consider the possibility that the leaning is not a damage caused by the age of the building, but because of a fault when the monument was designed. Because when the damages are produced by settlements, which is the most common cause of deformation of the walls, they are not regular, whereas, here, what caught our attention is that they are all leaning in the same fashion. This point needs to be confirmed by further research and historical documentation.

Another structural problem we saw on the floor were several gaps of a few centimetres that are opening between blocks. These correspond to horizontal movements. The cause of these movements is not clear. One hypothesis could be related to the load of the tower of the structure, which acts transversally on the soil and creates pressure on the retaining walls and potential outward movement.

All these uncertainties require the acquisition of more data before starting any work. We have already mentioned the opportunity to develop historical research and to form a methodology; all this is explained in the document we are presenting this afternoon, the Charter for Angkor. This methodology includes investigation, analysis of all the data and interpretation, a phase of diagnosis, a safety evaluation and finally the therapy and the necessary controls. At the same time that these activities will be developed, some measures need to be undertaken, for example additional propping in order to reduce present risks.

The second monument that we are presenting is **Ta Keo**. We visited Ta Keo during the last ICC meeting in June and the main point that was discussed at the time was to follow a line in order to minimize dismantling blocks as much as possible and to maintain the blocks to be coherent with the deformation of the structure and only if necessary to allow dismantling for consolidation. It was proposed to analyse the possibilities of installing tie

rods in the corners of the wall, and now I briefly summarise what we saw and discussed on the site.

The site visit was mostly to analyse the structure situation after some blocks had been removed, and the study situation was clearer than what we saw six months ago. Focus was on the corners of the walls, which represent the main ring supporting the gallery and the second level terrace. All corners have suffered in different ways; large outward deformation and opening of the joints which compromise the equilibrium. I want to draw attention to the corners, which are the weakest points of this mountain temple, due to the horizontal forces produced by the pressure of the soil.

The southwest corner has been partially dismantled and the removal of the unsettled blocks has revealed behind them the presence of a solid structure that can be maintained. This, then, has considerably toned down our previous plans and it has been decided to limit reinforcement. It will be sufficient during the replacement of the removed blocks to insert on horizontal courses strips of synthetic fibres (for example, aramidic or similar) in order to reach an efficient connection and stabilize the structure. This is an example of a first strategy supported by thorough investigation and removal of blocks in order to better understand the structure. This enables us to choose the right approach with limited intervention, but still guaranteeing stability in all cases.

On the northeast corner, the situation is more complex because on the top of the corner there is the load of a tower which connects the two galleries. The tower is in a very bad condition and an intervention has to be carefully carried out. It is then suggested before starting with consolidation works to remove some unstable blocks on top of the tower and to strengthen the structure with additional anchorages. In this case, the removal of the blocks remains limited and specific problems arose and consequently the intervention will be decided after the provisional anchorage has been put and the unstable blocks removed.

Specific problems have arisen from the conservation of the stones which present large signs of decay and degradation. Due to the importance of the site and the interconnection of the different problems, it is suggested during the next ICC meeting to organize a full-day workshop on the site to analyse all data available including geotechnical and materials data to diagnose and finally to determine the methodology and criteria for intervention."

**Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki:**

"Co-chairs, I will take over from my friend and colleague Giorgio Croci. I just would like to add one thing following our visit to **Ta Keo** when we suggested to our Chinese friends and colleagues to quickly build temporary protective roofing on the upper part of the wall where the ornamented areas are in an advanced state of decay. We also proposed to organize in February or March, the sooner the better, a workshop convening Chinese experts and those who have experience in conservation and stone consolidation works, in particular in ornamented stones. This was to complete Mr. Croci's paper. I wanted to insist on this point which after works on site will allow us to find the relevant solutions for the conservation of this heavily deteriorating wall as previously shown in former sessions of the Committee.

I will now present our visit to **Srah Srang**. This site falls under the responsibility of the APSARA National Authority and the visit was organised by Misters Tan Sambon and Heng Jeudi. We noted the progress of work regarding the protection of the jetty with the construction of a cofferdam and the clearing of the slab made of a cement mortar of 8 centimetres thickness, legacy from previous restoration works from 1955-1960. Geotechnical tests have been carried out all around the jetty with mechanical and manual corings on 7 to 10 centimetres depth. The findings from the corings have evidenced that the stratigraphy is regular with a succession of clayish sand which enables us to state together with our col-

league from the APSARA National Authority that the soil movements have not caused any of the damages noted on the jetty.

It is the recent history of the pond, in particular the differences between dry and wet spells, that have originated the damages which are the consequences of successive dry seasons, and re-flooding of the pond during the wet season, triggering sand migration and slabs and sandstone blocks movements constitutive of the courses of the jetty and the tier.

The jetty restoration project must also include the stabilisation of the level of sand in the pond and it needs to be discussed with Mr. Hang Peou for the hydraulic development of this area. The experts' recommendations are the following:

1) The APSARA National Authority needs to draft in detail the site reinforcement project.

2) An implementation timetable with an estimate of the costs of the work should be provided. We have insisted on this as it is a small site and we hope that at the next session of the Committee, simultaneous to that of the World Heritage Committee, we will be able to show the result of one of the projects that has been directly managed by the APSARA National Authority.

3) The methodology of work recommended for this task should follow that used at Angkor Wat when resetting the tiers and to lay a geotextile to insulate each stabilized layer of sand before relaying the stone blocks.

This was for Srah Srang. I will now start with the second site visited with Mr. Hang Peou for the APSARA National Authority and Mr. Pascal Royère of the EFEO. Once again we noted the progress made since the construction of the site cofferdam that was exhibited this morning by Mr. Hang Peou's presentation on the **Western Mebon**.

This cofferdam was established to enable setting up the working site and the first phase of work aimed at obtaining a deeper knowledge of the soil properties onto which the Western Mebon was built. There is more detailed data in the document that was given to us, pages 6 and 11. I therefore will not dwell on it, as it is already included in the APSARA National Authority and EFEO joint report.

In a nutshell, the situation is rather unusual as the site is surrounded with massive amounts of water. Aerial views present a telling picture and when you are on site, you are impressed by this complex located in the middle of water. The teams working on site must see to their own and the site's protection by constantly pumping water during the monsoon to prevent rising water levels.

On site and in this room, Mr. Hang Peou presented the water management system which will maintain a stable level of water and mitigate risks of the dikes breaking when facing a sudden rise in water level especially during heavy rainfalls. We believe that with a desirable co-ordination between his and the provincial departments, any danger of overflow and flood should not occur.

Regarding the works per se: Archaeological test pits and trenches led by Mr. Pascal Royère were dug. The goal is to understand the causes of the leanings and collapses of structures located on the tiers and walls of the temple and to find out what were the type of structures or foundations they were built on.

We have found the methodology and the present work fitting for this type of project. The team that went on site recommends:

1) To set up coordination regarding the management of water between the APSARA National Authority and the body in charge of the hydraulic management for the Siem Reap province.

2) To continue excavation works as scheduled to acquire detailed knowledge of the foundation layers of the surrounding wall and to understand all the archaeological features of this site.

3) To use the inventory of the collapsed surrounding wall and pavilions towards the establishment of the resetting of fallen structures.

4) To analyse the stones, in particular those carved and which have been pulled out of water, as we believe that these stones may suffer decay with the salt rising when they are drying.

5) To build an interpretation centre somewhere on the site within the duration of the restoration work in order for visitors to be informed and understand.

I thank you for your attention.”

**Mr. Pierre-André Lablaude:**

“I will report on the *ad hoc* group of experts’ visit at two sites, the Elephant Terrace in Angkor Thom and the Bayon.

You all know that the **Elephant Terrace** is a supporting structure which formed the base of the ancient Royal Palace opposite Angkor Thom’s central square. This prime location was celebrated by rich carvings of elephant parades, a masterpiece of Khmer art that is one of the main tourist attractions of the Angkor site.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site was cleared from vegetation at the foot of the façade, where the bas-reliefs are located, to expose the elephant carvings and the clearance also resulted in removing the soil accumulated on the upper terrace.

Following this initial clearance, restoration works were carried out by the EFEO to repair the most damaged entrance steps with rework of the upper terrace paving which had suffered from tree roots growth. The previous clearance at the foot of the façade wall has nevertheless incurred almost constant water stagnation during monsoons which has been perceived as being detrimental to the carved décor conservation due to the soluble salts migration alteration process. This décor has decayed faster in one century than it did during the six to seven previous centuries.

Fortunately, work started two years ago by Dr. Hang Peou below the esplanade—work which at the time had been presented—enabled drainage of the water stagnation at the foot of the carved wall, although the decay on the carved décor is still obviously active. The visit also helped us in confirming that beyond this concerning issue of the carved décor conservation, there is also a stability problem regarding the supporting wall suffering from rainwater seepages through the upper terrace paving.

These damages may incur collapses in the short term, despite partial propping, which would be detrimental to the image of Cambodia on this World Heritage site and in particular to the APSARA National Authority who is in charge. This is why the *ad hoc* group of experts has formulated the following recommendations on the Elephant Terrace:

On a technical matter, we recommend to:

1) Put up additional shoring on the retaining wall to guarantee the structure stability and prevent potential collapses as mentioned earlier.

2) Close the visit of the terraces for safety concerns since collapses are possible and could present a potential risk for the visitor.

3) Precisely diagnosis the active pathology regarding the wall stability by digging test pits at the rear of the façade wall in order to better understand the construction methods of the structure and the active pathology.

The *ad hoc* group of experts has regretted that, during the visit of this monument which falls under the responsibility of the APSARA National Authority, work had not been commenced on this structure although we visited it six months ago and that the Authority itself had flagged us to the emergency of the situation.

The group is also lamenting the absence of any qualified representative from the APSARA National Authority during this visit and we also found out that other work was ongoing on another portion of the Terrace, carried out by a different team of the APSARA National Authority, though this latter work had not been previously conveyed to the *ad hoc* group of experts.

Thereby, the group strongly invites the managers of the APSARA National Authority to improve co-ordination among the different teams working on the site and more generally to start a proper scheduling approach site by site of the different works carried out.

I now move on to the **Bayon** site visit, which falls under the responsibility of the JASA team. Professor Nakagawa and Dr. Shimoda took us around the monument, along with different Japanese and Cambodians specialists, mainly on the tower 57 working site—sorry for this technicality—which is one of the corners where the Japanese team is working presently.

This was an opportunity to learn about the working methodology being undertaken by JASA throughout the different phases of work. Again, I apologise for the technicality of my paper, but I believe it is important to recall these phases: it starts with the geometric surveys, followed by archaeological investigations prior or during the work. I believe that these are things that need to be constantly reminded. As soon as archaeological restoration or canalisation digging works (such as those opposite Phnom Bakheng or even roadworks, as mentioned by my colleague) are undertaken, there must always be an archaeological investigation. This is what is being implemented at the Bayon working site.

The third important element is the geotechnical investigations and the fourth, the inventory of the stone storage areas found on site. You are aware that the Bayon collapses were cleared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and that, at the time, stones were stored without any recordings of their original locations. This means that there is the need for a complex inventory work stone by stone and to try to find the original location of each stone on site.

Then, the anastylosis feasibility studies: To try to understand how these stones could be gathered and put back on the monument our Japanese colleagues use a well experienced, methodical, systematic and spectacular technique.

The next step is to repair these sandstone blocks as many of them are broken, damaged, split, etc., which means that they have to be reassembled and connected. Then, the re-assembly of the structures and supporting terraces can start with not only a laudable concern from our Japanese colleagues to always preserve ancient materials, but also ancient building techniques when dealing with internal backfills of the terraces.

This means that they go beyond the simple notion of saying that what is important is what is visible and that the invisible inside can be dealt with differently. Our Japanese colleagues have demonstrated that what is hidden is as valuable and that a monument is not only material, but also construction methods and that a monument has not only a tangible aspect, but is also intangible. This is really typical of their implementation works.

Finally, the restoration programme of the statuary, the great statues of naga and lions associated with the monument, is undertaken. This restoration is carried out by removing previous dysfunctional or ill restorations and repairs. Also, the restoration process uses ancient techniques and materials by recycling carved sandstone blocks or modern materials with stainless steel rods and epoxy and polymer resin.

The *ad hoc* group of experts admired the value and quality of the anastylosis technique of dismantling and rebuilding applied on this site. Using anastylosis, a principle I may recall that is perfectly authorised according to article 15 of the Venice Charter, seems simple on the surface. The monument has been dismantled, stones are on the ground, it is like a construction kit: all you have to do is the reassembly. But in reality it is way more complex than that. It requires for the staff in charge, which in this case is exclusively Cambodian, to apply extreme attention to detail and sensitivity, a lot of care and also to have experience in this field.

What is being done at the Bayon demonstrates the pros of this intervention method, the anastylosis, dismantling and reassembling. I am not saying that it solves all issues and works all the time, but here it has demonstrated that it fits with the issue at hand. Firstly, due to the nature of Khmer traditional construction methods you know that in Khmer temples each stone has its location in the monument and they cannot be inverted. The stone was also laid dry, no mortar was used and the monument can be dismantled and rebuilt easily. Besides, this method also respects authenticity in the form of materials used and initial techniques utilised. The monument has been restored using the same materials and techniques as those used for its construction.

A positive point of these techniques is that it prevents any interference with the authenticity of the monument when using modern materials at odd with the original construction, or restricts the use of new materials to problems that only these modern materials are able to solve.

Additional positive points when dismantling and reassembling include the use of local technology and materials, which make for substantial savings, as well as cutting down on products imported from outside and foreign know-how. Finally, these dismantling and reassembling sites, not only that of the Japanese team site but also that of Baphuon and other ongoing works at Angkor, apply a methodology which generates employment in a country where manpower costs remain relatively low despite some improvements. This allows for job creation rather than importing foreign products.

The other side of the coin is that this technique requires a rigorous methodology and impeccable implementation otherwise its application may trigger catastrophic outcomes.

Beyond this debate which will never end between the respective pros and cons of traditional and modern techniques, the last anastylosis and dismantling/reassembly experiences carried out at Angkor, and in particular at the Bayon, have shown that there is room for improvement and that this is a working methodology that is presenting interesting solutions.

Regarding recommendations, I would conclude that we do not have a lot to say on this site and that we have been impressed with the rigour and accuracy of the methodological approach at the Bayon. We were also very satisfied to find out that the JASA team is

giving more prominence to Cambodians covering a large spectrum of professions, know-how and scientific and technical fields.

Regarding the restoration of the statues, we would just like to encourage the JASA team to continue its effort. To tackle the conservation side of the statues of the carvings, they should experiment with a wider range of consolidants and adhesive products beyond the sole epoxy and polymer resin presently being used. These experiments might be very useful and rich in information for future work on the carved decors of the bas-relief gallery of the Bayon.

Thank you."

**Mr. Hidaka:**

[OrigE] "Thank you. I am reporting on Ta Prohm and Angkor Wat. Mr. Sood, an engineer, guided the *ad hoc* expert to four places at **Ta Prohm**: the East Gate, the Hall of Dancers, the South Gate and the West gopura of the third enclosure.

The East Gate: documentation has been completed perfectly. We have appreciated the accuracy of the drawings. Stone blocks still remain buried up to a depth of 50 centimetres. The documentation of these blocks will be done during the excavation process. Regarding the visible part of the gate, overall 60 percent of the original blocks are still *in situ*. The discussion will be developed on how far the reconstruction should go with the introduction of new blocks. Sharp contrast between the old and the new should be avoided or mitigated by careful surface treatment.

The second part concerns the Hall of Dancers. Regarding the repair work of the broken door lintel of the Hall of Dancers, the work has been done successfully by inserting steel rods through the lower part of the lintel. The control of the boring is satisfactory without making any harmful vibrations. Once the repair is completed they are doing a load test by putting on a weight of approximately 500 kilograms. In the gallery of the Hall of Dancers clamps were set on the broken pillars across the vertical cracks which enabled the removal of the old belt and placed horizontally to keep the broken parts together. The documentation of the laterite floor and the restoration of other pillars are in progress. The method and quality of the work as a whole has been highly appreciated by the experts.

Regarding the South Gate: it is totally damaged and has been abandoned in ruined condition. Experts have proposed to the APSARA National Authority the possibility of using this area of the temple as an exit for visitors of the site, as this famous site is overcrowded by tourists and one potential solution would be to create a circuit which starts at the East Gate and ends at the South Gate. It would be an effective option to control tourist flow.

On this item, two points should be stated:

1) The diversion of the road passing by the South Gate in order for tourists coming out of the gate to benefit from sufficient space.

2) The restoration of the South Gate in the broader framework of site management should be launched.

Regarding the middle gopura in the west of the third enclosure: experts became worried about the stability of the façade of the outer surface although movement monitoring is ongoing and the data has been taken and analysed. Present propping is not perfectly effective. On the upper part of the gate, the present outer leaning stone blocks should be appropriately anchored, even provisionally. An inclination with rotation movement of the upper part due to the heavy weight of the pediment should be taken into account for the



analysis and the new reinforcement project of this portion. I am personally worried about the thermal effect upon sensors' data on the south face which records strong sunlight in the afternoon from the west.

I proceed to the second place, **Angkor Wat**. The *ad hoc* experts were guided by Mr. Santoro, whose work on the northern part of the west dike is on-going as recommended by us during the last ICC. In the central part of the temple some areas still display strong contrasts between old and new stones. Additional efforts should be conducted by patinating new surfaces to mitigate the contrast. Experts are particularly worried about the rapid development of recent deterioration of some stones in the central court. More specifically, additional preventive measures should be taken on the pillar at the corner of the west wing of the court. Taking these threatening symptoms in consideration, experts expect that a new project should quickly be launched as a continuation of the work done by the Italian team up to present.

The recommendations regarding Ta Prohm and Angkor Wat:

**Ta Prohm:**

- The *ad hoc* experts recommend continuing work on the documentation and restoration of the East Gate on the basis of experience acquired at the Hall of Dancers, where the completion of the complex work has been fully acknowledged.
- To correlate the project of the restoration of the South Gate to the overall circulation of tourists. The present road passing just outside the South Gate along the east-west direction may somehow be deviated from the gate to create an appropriate space for tourists coming out from the site through this gate.
- To make a one-way tourism circuit starting from the East Gate and ending at the South Gate will be effective.
- To implement safety measures to prevent the fall of the blocks of the façade of the West gopura on the third enclosure is necessary. Detailed monitoring of the structural movement and the analysis should be the basis of the restoration project to stabilize the façade by provisional anchorages of the upper part of the structure. The principle of minimum intervention should be kept to limit the removal to the least possible area at the top.

Recommendations regarding **Angkor Wat**, the *ad hoc* experts recommend:

- To make further efforts to keep the visual integration between the old and new cleaned surfaces.
- The *ad hoc* experts expect the Italian team may proceed to a new project in Angkor Wat as continuation of the excellent restoration done by the team up to now.
- Lastly, in view of the statement of encouragement proposed by Professor Bouchenaki yesterday and regarding the restoration of the west causeway, the *ad hoc* experts expect the work will be effectively completed.

That is all. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chair for France: "Thank you very much professors for those excellent reports. I think that ICC members will allow me to congratulate you on their behalf for the quality of your work and proposals and in a broader perspective, for your constant input to our institutions."

Intervention from Mr. Bouchenaki: "Co-chair, would you allow me? We have an additional general recommendation, not a specific one, it will just take a minute. Firstly, to thank the UNESCO Secretariat which remarkably organized the visits and of course the international

teams that hosted us and took time to explain the work implemented and also to thank the APSARA National Authority. It is the latter I would like to turn to on behalf of the group of my colleagues.

We already made some general recommendations, but we decided during our visit that it was extremely positive to note that within all the teams working at Angkor, young Cambodian experts are associated with them and that technical training is undertaken.

Due to the importance and vastness of the Angkor site, it is important that the Angkor site monuments be visited and maintained on a regular basis and to this matter training should be taking place continuously. Cambodians will be responsible for the protection and development of the Angkor Park. This is the reason the group I am speaking on behalf of recommends that works directly undertaken under the aegis of the APSARA National Authority is to be submitted to exchange viewpoints with the group of experts. As stressed several times, the experts are pleased to exchange with their young Cambodian counterparts regarding all arising problems on technical interventions under the umbrella of the APSARA National Authority.

To summarise, we wish that in the future more young Cambodian experts will be incorporated with the experts' visit. Thank you Co-chairs."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Mr. Bouchenaki for this recommendation. I actually think that it is important to take care of the future through young academics and technicians working on the site.

I know that I am a really bad Co-chair and that we are already slightly late on the programme, but I would like to allocate a couple of minutes for comments, from the APSARA National Authority or mentioned teams. I see that our Italian colleague would like the floor."

Comment from Mr. Andrea Speronello, First Secretary, Embassy of Italy: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "Thank you co-chair. Just to pick up on what has been said by the *ad hoc* experts that I would like to thank on behalf of the Italian government for the evaluation, which is very important for us and confirms the effort we are making all together within the UNESCO and the APSARA National Authority framework and with the Cambodian authority. I would like to underline two main issues which are basically the importance of education and involvement of young Cambodian experts working with the APSARA National Authority. Today we have 20 people being trained by the University of Palermo and it is very important. I was glad yesterday that His Excellency Bun Narith mentioned them during the opening session; it has been very important for us.

I would also like to talk about the other engagement mentioned by Professor Hidaka, with regards to the work carried out by IGeS at Angkor Wat. The Italian government is committed to continuing the work. Of course, we have to deal with budget constraints and all the effort we are pulling together with our European partners for budget issues. But things are back on track and already the first positive results from a micro economic point of view have been seen. So, we are definitively committed to keep on working together with UNESCO, the Royal Government of Cambodia, the APSARA National Authority and etc. Thank you very much."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you. Are there any other requests for the floor? France, you have the floor."

Comment from Mrs. d'Orgeval: "I would like to share my own experience. There was a time when the *ad hoc* group of experts' visits were opened to members of the ICC. I remember visits when all the APSARA National Authority staff attended and there was a session of question and answer between the *ad hoc* experts and the different representatives of the

APSARA National Authority. There was a real dialogue and interdisciplinary spirit. This is what I wanted to share and it is noticeable to say that in these latter years, the *ad hoc* group of experts' visits have been more confidential which, maybe, we find regrettable.

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you. I think that the last recommendation has triggered some buzz and thank you for formulating it. If there are no more comments... I look towards the APSARA National Authority. No. Let's move on to the next point, 'Miscellaneous items'. There are several of them and I believe that Mrs. Lemaistre, the UNESCO representative, will give us information on next year's schedule."

## IV- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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### IV.1 Points of information

#### 1. 2013 Calendar:

- a. The 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee in Cambodia
- b. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICC-Angkor
- c. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Technical Session of the ICC-Angkor
- d. The 20<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the ICC-Angkor
- e. The third intergovernmental conference on Angkor (after Tokyo and Paris).

#### Mrs. Anne Lemaistre:

"Thank you Co-chair. The ICC Secretariat has several points of information to convey regarding next year's schedule. I would like to begin with the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the World Heritage Committee which will be held in Cambodia, in Phnom Penh on 17-27 June 2013. We congratulate the Cambodian authorities for their initiatives and generosity towards this organization. As I have worked for many years with the Committee and I am acquainted with many heritage professionals, I know that they are looking forward to coming to Angkor.

Regarding the festivities celebrating the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List, they have been postponed until next year to a date close to the World Heritage Committee due to the national mourning.

As for the next ICC Technical Session: the organisation of the World Heritage Committee meeting which lasts ten days and will mobilize full time national authorities and in particular the APSARA National Authority and the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh, the Secretariat has consequently put forth organising the technical and plenary sessions simultaneously to a date to be confirmed in 2013. You know that traditionally the Plenary Session is organised towards the end of the year in early December, as is the case today, and it may be that both sessions would be held at the same period of time. This is a proposal which is still to be discussed.

Other points on the calendar: You may remember that the first intergovernmental conference establishing our ICC was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 13 October 1993. At the time, it was agreed that the second meeting would be organised in Paris in November, ten years on, after an agreement of the French and Japanese co-chairs. During this second

intergovernmental meeting, it was suggested that the third intergovernmental meeting should be held in Cambodia in 2013.

Now the time has come twenty years after the establishment of the ICC and this is now what is proposed to the Cambodian authorities to decide on. Thank you Co-chair."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you very much for this information. If I correctly understood: in June the World Heritage Committee and in one way or another, the celebration of the anniversary of the inscription; and in November or December the Technical and Plenary Sessions to be held together; then, the intergovernmental meeting which has yet to be planned.

Preventive excavations now, and we will listen to Mr. Philippe Delanghe for points of information on this matter."

## **2. Preventive excavations at Cheung Ek site, by Mr. Philippe Delanghe, Culture Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh**

"Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A year ago at the previous ICC Plenary Session, Professor Olivier de Bernom, the EFEO director and the president of the Guimet Museum of Asian Arts, informed us on the historical value of the round village of Choeng Ek, an industrial site occupied continuously before, during and after the Angkorian era and key in understanding the history of Cambodia.

During his paper, Professor de Bernom had in particular underlined the urgency to carry out preventive archaeology on this unique site in Southeast Asia located in a rapidly developing urban area. The goal was to set up an activity to gather as fast as possible a maximum amount of data and to document the site before any construction started.

I am delighted to report today that, following several joint requests submitted by Professor de Bernom and the UNESCO Office, financing and institutional support have been secured and preventive archaeological excavations will start at Choeng Ek in February 2013. Thus, a UNESCO participation programme has been approved to finance, via the National Commission of Cambodia to UNESCO, a preventive archaeological excavations programme which will be implemented in collaboration with the Faculty of Archaeology of the University of Fine Arts.

Besides, an expert from the national institute for research in preventive archaeology from France (INRAP) has agreed to manage the excavations using a mechanical digger, a complex but efficient method to implement emergency excavations on such a vast site. This will give a unique opportunity for training in preventive archaeology to the Royal University of Fine Arts students. It is generously supported by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia after agreement by His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Keat Chhon.

The whole set up was presented to His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sok An, who approved and requested that it should be institutionally supported by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

Thank you."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you very much. Our Scientific Secretary would like to inform us on a scientific conference held in Dublin followed by a literature review to end the points of information session."

### **3. EurASEAA (European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists), 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference, September 18 – 21, 2012, Dublin, by Professor Azedine Beschouch**

#### **Mr. Beschouch:**

"Thank you Co-chair. May I follow in the footsteps of the announcement from our colleague Mr. Delanghe that we are honoured to have among us the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture. As an archaeologist, he will facilitate and coordinate the work on this major site. We are fortunate to have His Excellency Chuch Phoeurn leading this activity.

I wanted to talk about a report that was sent to me by someone who is not attending today, our colleague Mr. Pottier. Mr. Claude Jacques also attended this 14<sup>th</sup> conference of Southeast Asian archaeologists and so did Dr. Susanne Renner from the Hungarian Institute, but it is in fact Mr. Dominique Soutif who is the best informed to talk about the importance of this meeting, which for a few minutes should draw the attention of our ICC.

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you. Mr. Soutif, you have the floor."

#### **Mr. Dominique Soutif:**

"Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

Without conveyance of knowledge, research loses most of its meaning; without exchanges and debates of ideas, it obviously loses its quality. For the past few years, several international research teams have organized in collaboration with the APSARA National Authority colloquiums, training workshops or panels in international conferences in order to disseminate and share the most recent researches on Cambodia and I would like today to briefly present three of these initiatives.

Firstly, I would like to provide information on the 14<sup>th</sup> international conference of EurASEAA, European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists, held in Dublin on 18-21 September 2012. You are probably already aware of the importance of this conference, organized every other year, for the international academic world beyond the purely European circles as it also includes many young researchers from Southeast Asia. It crosses the borders of archaeology as it encompasses fields such as architecture, history of art and epigraphy in Southeast Asia. The regular publication of its proceedings is evident of the value of the papers submitted.

Held this year in Ireland, the 14<sup>th</sup> conference was rich with studies on Ancient Cambodia with more than 40 papers on Khmer studies. They dealt with various fields, mainly compacted within three specific sessions.

The first session highlighted the importance in comprehensively understanding ceramics in Southeast Asia. The second, organised by Janet Douglas (Freer and Sackler, Smithsonian Institution) and Federico Carò (Metropolitan Museum of Art) was dedicated to the use of sandstone in Khmer sculpture and architecture. Lastly was the work of my colleague Christophe Pottier (EFEO) and of Mitch Hendrickson (University of Illinois, Chicago) who presented a large scale panorama of challenges and new perspectives subsequent to recent papers on the history of archaeology on the Khmer empire.

Awaiting the forthcoming publication of the proceedings, it can be noted that many of the participants of this EurASEAA international conference are familiar with the ICC and that they contribute to showcase the research dynamic on the Khmer civilization.

The second initiative was heralded during the last Technical Session of the ICC in June 2012: the third Siem Reap Conference on Special Topics in Khmer Studies which was held in Siem Reap, in this room actually, on 9-11 June 2012. I recall that this round of conferences is a joint initiative from the APSARA National Authority, CKS, the EFEO and University of Sydney.

The third conference was entitled Religious Studies in Cambodia: 'Understanding the Old and Tracing the New' organized by Dr. Julia Estève and addressed religious sciences. Similar to its foregoers—epigraphy in 2012 and archaeometallurgy in 2011—it addressed the specificity of the religious science field by highlighting the diversity of topics and relevant eras, and presented the latest evolution of research in this field. With presentations touching on all eras, it was also meant to build bridges for diachronic studies, a very important approach, as in Cambodia, modern and contemporary studies are often overshadowed by the splendour of Angkor.

The goal of the organisation of this conference was dual: To highlight the value of the Religious Sciences field within Cambodian studies and also, didactically, to enable relevant young Khmer researchers and students to establish contact with international academics and to obtain an update on this field. The success of this conference—whose proceedings shall be published toward the latter part of 2013—surpassed the two previous ones, with more than 200 people listening to presentations expounded by circa 30 speakers. His Excellency Bun Narith and Professor Beschaouch honoured us with their attendance.

I am also delighted to announce that Professors Ang Choulean, Julia Estève and Dominique Soutif have started since a month ago to organise at the APSARA National Authority premises a weekly seminar on Khmer epigraphy. Comprising members of the epigraphic team of the APSARA National Authority, it aims to study ancient texts from their discoveries for the purpose of publication. Issues such as inventory, database and electronic corpus are set up and of course the reading, translation and analyses of these texts are touched upon.

Besides these activities held at the APSARA National Authority premises, some working sessions will be organized on site to rubber stamp new inscriptions and more generally to gradually gather a complete collection of reading documentation, rubber stamps or photographs. This part of the work is of high value as the APSARA International Documentation Centre, which collaborates with the APSARA epigraphy team, already owns a sizeable collection of rubber stamps that require inventory and completion.

Beyond simple training, the final aim is to set up a proper scientific collaboration in order to further the inventory of the Khmer inscription corpus and to re-boost epigraphic studies through the publication of unprecedented documents.

I thank you for your attention."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you Mr. Soutif. We are concluding the points of information with recent publications. Mr. Beschaouch the floor is yours."

#### **4. Recent publications**

##### **Mr. Beschaouch:**

“Thank you Co-chair. I am really delighted to comment on three major publications. They are all the fruit of the senior academic members of this nearly 20 year old scientific institution.

The first is by Professor Claude Jacques who is present here today. In a long foreword he introduces his book, the second volume of the Hungarian Research Institute on South-east Asia, which was published thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Susanne Renner, also in attendance. The first one, I am sure you remember, focused on Koh Ker and today it presents a venerable inscription renowned among experts, Sdok Kak Thom. It was published in 1915 by Louis Finot, reworked by the Great Coedés in 1943, by Claude Jacques himself and by Chakravati, an Indian scholar in 1978 and finally today, by two academics. It includes not only Claude Jacques’ introductory essay but also a translation and analytical essay by Professor Tibor Novák.

There is great value in this analysis which includes translation of the major part of this inscription. I remind you that this inscription is one of the longest of the corpus and that it is in two languages, Sanskrit and Khmer. I think that what is of value is something I can share with you: Professor Claude Jacques lectured at the École des hautes études and I was able to attend at times for my own leisure. I am a Greek and Latin epigraphist and the Professor was always explaining the stanzas and poems written in Sanskrit. As well, he has actually been questioning the fundamental belief that these were not prayers, as most of other academics thought that these were not requests made to the gods.

One needs to distinguish between Sanskrit, which is the language of the gods, and Khmer, the language of humans, with the latter dealing with common matters such as money, land tenure, lineages, etc. This part is what we could call the secular portion of the inscription. The noblest portion, that which concerns the home of the Sovereign and of those who built the temple and are close to the god is in Sanskrit.

This is what I have taken from this interesting and delightful book, although I am not a specialist. On behalf of all of us, I congratulate the Hungarian Institute in publishing this great work. Epigraphy is not an easy task because people sometimes publish things that you may find difficult to read, especially the characters, etc. This book is well designed and the quintessence of the inscription is there within 200 pages.

The second book is also the work of a senior member who has also been a Dean and like Professor Claude Jacques has been working on Angkor for 50 years. He has been Head of the Sophia University historical archaeological mission since 1980. He spent thirty years working in the field and studied Angkor as early as 1961. I am here introducing Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa.

*Challenging the Mystery of the Angkor Empire* is for the general public, but is also a scientific publication. I have browsed through it and I thank him for having given it to me. What is interesting is that archaeology is the subject through which he draws historical conclusions on what he calls the ‘new aspects of the Angkor Empire,’ based on the past twenty years of archaeological research in Angkor and also on epigraphy.

I recall that he and Professor Claude Jacques published a volume of Khmer epigraphy supported by the Japanese government and that he displayed his skills as an historian and epigraphist. He studies Khmer culture in this book and I would like it to be disseminated as these 150 pages are a compendium of major questions that are asked by those who study Khmer civilization.

The third book of the series is a work of great and major scope, *The Hindu Temples in Southeast Asia*. Again, the author of the book is in this room, Professor Sacchidananh Sahai

who is advisor to the APSARA National Authority and the National Authority for Preah Vihear. His book was a good excuse to spend a sleepless night.

Greatly appreciated in this book and clearly written for specialists and non-specialists, is the information on religious and political history as well as his venture into social history. The latter is unveiled through epigraphy, archaeology and a point of view that can be seen as fundamental. I have tried reading the biography provided to better understand and this morning I have questioned some specialists, as there is in this book an idea which to me seems novel.

This is the value of his book and this honours our ICC. The professor has admitted that since he has been attending our ICC he believes he has been useful to the international scientific community and even to non-specialists. He posits this idea: that temples began as open air areas before being built and that the design of temples as it is known to us with sandstone and laterite went hand in hand with what he calls 'parareligious urbanisation'; which means that simultaneously with the development of the architecture of temples was the development of the Khmer city. An additional idea is that of 'Sanskritisation,' which involves the belief that with the introduction of Sanskrit and then of ancient Khmer, original village culture and then Khmer culture as a whole was inspired.

These ideas cannot be summarised in a few words, but I am delighted to have introduced this book. And also to tell you how Professor Sahai, who was a brilliant student at La Sorbonne a long time ago, I will not reveal his age nor mine, is famous for having been a student of the great George Coedès; the person that originated the development of Khmer epigraphy after Louis Finot.

Let me conclude with the APSARA National Authority as, this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of Angkor, His Excellency Ros Borath and his team working in the Department headed by Mrs. Mao Loâ and her collaborators had an idea. They wrote it in Khmer, but he promised me that this 300 page book will be published in English or French. It summarises the essential achievements of the APSARA National Authority for the safeguarding and restoration of part of the heritage that has been entrusted to it.

I thank him for this work which should have been presented this year, but as he has been given an additional six months, as was announced by Mrs. Anne Lemaistre, it is next June that the celebrations will take place. He will then have time not only to translate for better dissemination, but also to make sure that the other book that was given to us should include emergency works and preventive excavations. In two small but precious volumes, we have the quintessence of what has been achieved by the APSARA National Authority and I believe that this is one of the features of our ICC. For the past 20 years we have strived towards the safeguarding of Angkor not only with international teams, but also with the national team who are the contracting authority.

Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Professor for a summary of these four publications. I am convinced that you would be a great bookseller as you have made me want to read these books. Anyway, after your speech, I have the feeling that I am cleverer than when I arrived here.

There is still some time for questions and answers or miscellaneous items. As I do not know you all, I will say Sir or Madam and please use a microphone when speaking."

Intervention from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "He is the president of the Hungarian Institute."



Announcement from Mr. Zelnik: "Co-chairs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as chairman of the Hungarian Indochina Company and of the Southeast Asia Research Institute, I am delighted to inform this honourable assembly that yesterday the Cambodian APSARA National Authority and the Southeast Asia Research Institute and the Hungarian Indochina Company signed a memorandum of understanding for the next five years.

The working programme includes the following items:

- 1) Continuation of excavation works at *Prasat Krachap* in Koh Ker.
- 2) Continuation of research and publication of inscriptions found at Koh Ker, and I can already reveal that we found new ones.
- 3) Within the framework of the LiDAR programme to which we contributed, we intend with the APSARA National Authority to publish a large documentation gathering all collected data thanks to this brilliant programme in co-ordination with our Australian friends.
- 4) In June as per schedule, we will be delighted to present the first major album on the history and history of art of Koh Ker.
- 5) We will build a community house for the village of Koh Ker.

Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you very much for the good news. Are there any other requests for the floor? Yes. The floor is yours, Sir."

Intervention from Mr. Ros Borath: "Thank you Co-chair. Ros Borath from the APSARA National Authority. I apologise but earlier on I had to leave the room and could not listen to Mr. Lablaude's entire intervention, and some notes have been given to me regarding the Elephant Terrace and I would like some clarifications and recommendations.

The first item regarded the lack of qualified representatives during the visit. I would like to say that neither myself nor Mrs. Mao Loâ were able to attend, but that Mr. Seum Thom, the deputy director of the Department, was in attendance, I am not sure whether he is in the room. This is to clarify.

The second point is that I would have liked to have more recommendations on what Mr. Lablaude pointed out regarding additional propping and closing the terrace to visitors, I understood this, and also the test pit. In order not to take any time away from the meeting, I would like to meet the experts later, including Mr. Lablaude, in order to obtain more details regarding this recommendation. Thank you very much."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Mr. Ros Borath for this clarification. Actually, I do think that it might be useful in the margin of this meeting to have a discussion with the *ad hoc* experts in order to properly detail the recommendations, as the principle purpose of recommendations is that they are to be implemented, so you may as well be geared up for it.

No more items to discuss? Are the participants exhausted and would lunch like to be taken? No. You have the floor Professor."

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "I am one of the participants, but I am not exhausted, thank God. If you allow me Co-chairs, I wish to inform you that this afternoon at 4 p.m. during the coffee break, there will be a ceremony of interest for World Heritage whose scope goes beyond the memorandum of understanding that will be signed by Cambodia and Japan. It is an agreement between Waseda University and the National Authority for Preah Vihear regarding the temple of Preah Vihear. The latter was subject to many debates and thank God, international assistance and the understanding of UNESCO have reconciled the two countries and conflicts are matters of the past. They are even in the

process of resolving the issue of the border demarcation with The Hague International Court of Justice.

Today, the problems are gone, and the National Authority for Preah Vihear has asked me to inform you, if you wish to attend, that His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, our Co-chair, will attend this signing ceremony with His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, at 4 p.m. in the Banteay Srei room. As well, our small Committee and that of the ICC of Preah Vihear, our younger brother, will benefit thanks to the first international event of importance. The prestigious University of Waseda will take part in the safeguarding of this temple, and maybe others will follow suit and contribute to the preservation of this small site of major, major value. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you Mr. Beschaouch for this information. I realised that you systematically organise events during the coffee break, the participants are faced with a dramatic quandary: coffee or the official events?"

Interruption from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "But you can do both!"

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Actually, yes we can accommodate both. This is then confirmed: you can take part in the event whilst drinking a coffee. Thank you for attending.

Are there any other requests for the floor? If there are none, then I would suggest we conclude this session slightly earlier than scheduled. I am not sure if this is evidence of a good or bad chairmanship, but we are finishing earlier than scheduled, and I would like all of you to reconvene at 2 p.m. with the Deputy Prime Minister attending. Professor Beschaouch would like to add something."

Information from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Just for your information Co-chairs and for Madame the UNESCO representative, I have just been told that the Deputy Prime Minister is arriving for lunch. At midday you will be at the restaurant of the APSARA National Authority, you are all invited, but you will first have to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister in a few moments."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Fine and thank you very much. The session is closed, enjoy your lunch."

## V- TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

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Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "This afternoon we are addressing four major and global topics to be discussed, also related to the conservation and development of the Angkor temples. The first topic is the endangered Phnom Kulen. Professor Beschaouch and Mr. Jean-Baptiste Chevance, the head of the Archaeology and Development Foundation, will present this topic. You have thirty minutes, but I would like to save some time for the ensuing discussion."

**V.1 Endangered Phnom Kulen: stopping the threats! By Professor Azedine Beschaouch, Scientific secretary of the ICC-Angkor and Mr Jean-Baptiste Chevance, Project Manager, Archaeology and Development Foundation**

**Mr. Beschaouch:**

"We actually have twenty minutes as we are leaving ten minutes for the debate. As the Secretariat is the memory of the ICC, may I recall that we focused on Phnom Kulen exactly seven years ago during our proceedings. I would like everyone to know that a question was put to the Deputy Prime Minister, who was president of the APSARA National Authority at the time, strongly appealing that Mount Kulen's cultural and natural heritage should be looked into. One of the participants, an academic, developed a discourse that you all need to be made aware of highlighting that we do not only have monuments at Kulen. Later on, my colleague, Mr. Chevance, will expose the urban sprawl and in particular the development of religious constructions. Seven years ago we had already drawn attention to these matters.

Why do we wish to re-focus on this issue today? Because, sadly, despite Royal Government recommendations and endeavours of the APSARA National Authority, the destruction continues. Deforestation is ongoing. You will see its serious consequences. The fact is that whence flying to Preah Vihear by helicopter, we realized that there were patches of land cleared and that those responsible for attacking the forest knew exactly how to hide their activities as you need to be in a helicopter to see that many glades have been opened incurring major damages.

The second point is that as early as in 1992, the World Heritage Committee asked for this area to be added to the Angkor site inscription area, but at the time conditions were not met. Historically speaking, this site is the origin of the Angkor site. This plateau acts as a water tower, you will see it, and historians and archaeologists in this room will be prepared to explain how this plateau originated the Angkorian settlements. The value of this plateau justifies its safeguarding. I am not a Khmer epigraphist, but earlier on when I presented the book introduced by Professor Claude Jacques, I noticed that in one of the inscriptions the plateau is mentioned. According to Professor Claude Jacques, it is Mount Kulen plateau and etc. This inscription is dated from 1008, early 11<sup>th</sup> century.

It must be said that saving Mount Kulen is not only vital because it is a forest. I would like to say that—and I am glad to see him attending following a sick leave which I hope was only short and that he has now fully recovered from—Professor Tan Boun Suy took the floor three times to defend Kulen, saying that if we were not to save Mount Kulen and that deforestation was not stopped, then the Angkor site would suffer damages. These are the words he spoke. We have seen it; the damage has started.

The floods earlier expounded by Dr. Hang Peou are not only the consequences of the rainfall and climate change, they are also a dramatic consequence of the deforestation. We would appreciate if His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister could express our alarm and explain that something must be done urgently. I reminded you that seven years ago he mentioned it. It is not too late, actions need to be undertaken.

We could fight against deforestation and save Mount Kulen. Before passing a recommendation and to suggest what could be carried out under the aegis of the APSARA National Authority and with the help of His Excellency the governor, Mr. Sou Phirin, please allow my distinguished colleague Mr. Chevance, who has worked on the site and recently took Mrs. Anne Lemaistre to the site to show her the damages, to present Kulen in a brief communication. Thank you."

**Mr. Jean-Baptiste Chevance:**

“His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

[slide] The UNESCO Office and the ICC Secretariat have asked us to take stock of the situation at Phnom Kulen. The Archaeology & Development Foundation has been working for several years on the massif and has previously presented its activities in past ICCs.

Thereby, today, I will only introduce the general features of Phnom Kulen and the threats that we think are overhanging and finally the solutions being implemented and that could be developed to secure improved archaeological and environmental conservation of this outstanding site.

[slide] Phnom Kulen massif, opposite to the west of Phnom Kbal, makes up one of the most important reliefs of the Siem Reap region. Located 40 kilometres from Angkor, the Phnom Kulen plateau stretches over 25 kilometres by 15 kilometres, with an aspect to the north, northwest, south, southeast and peaks and valleys of an altitude varying between 300 to 500 metres.

[slide] Phnom Kulen specificity is that it is under the stewardship of several bodies: [slide] the archaeological sites of the massif located in the Siem Reap province are under the jurisdiction of the APSARA National Authority.

[slide] Phnom Kulen massif stretches over two districts, Svay Leu and Banteay Srei while the National Park stretches over three (Svay Leu, Banteay Srei and Varin). [slide] The different areas set out by the 1994 adopted zoning and management of the Siem Reap Angkor region include the rivers in zone 3 as a ‘protected cultural landscape’ from their source located on the plateau.

[slide] The Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia also has responsibility, as the site has been inscribed as a National Park on a total area of roughly 37.500 hectares. As recalled by Mr. Beschaouch, it is also inscribed on the Tentative List of sites proposed for World Heritage by the Royal Government of Cambodia since 1992, a List which was confirmed by the government in June 2009...”

Interruption by the Co-chairman for Japan: “I am sorry to interrupt but could you speak more slowly for the interpreters and for myself? Thank you.”

**Mr. Chevance:**

[slide] “This mountain range is the source of the three watersheds of the region: Roluos, Siem Reap and Puork. [slide] A population of 5,000 live on Phnom Kulen plateau over ten villages. [slide] Tourism mostly focuses on the 1,000 linga site, *Prasat Krol Romeas* (temple of the waterfall) and the Preah Ang Thom Pagoda. It is one of the most visited sacred sites in Cambodia, notably during festive seasons.

[slide] Tourism access to the site is managed by a private concessionary company levying an entry fee. [slide] Phnom Kulen archaeological wealth is undeniable: carved river beds, temples, rock shelters, dikes, ponds, ceramic kilns, pre-historical sites, etc.

Our research has provided evidence of different types of occupation, mainly between the late pre-Angkorian period and early post-Angkorian. One of the most remarkable sites is the ancient capital from the late 8<sup>th</sup> early 9<sup>th</sup> century. The management of the sites is presently in the hands of the APSARA National Authority team.

[slide] Let's move on to the threats: the main one is deforestation. [slide] Despite National Park status, the Phnom Kulen forest has dwindled and what is left is under great threat. [slide] This is the consequence of slash and burn agriculture, a livelihood farming practised by the majority of the people living on the plateau. [slide] Here is a series of pictures depicting this phenomenon.

It starts with the clearing of plots of land at the beginning of the year, very often in January or February on gradually increasing areas. [slide] This is a view of the larger valley to the south of the plateau. [slide] These plots are then burnt in February or/and March in the midst of the dry season; [slide] here is a view after burning. [slide] The trees affected are getting older. This phenomenon is also taking place in archaeological sites, here at an Angkorian pond. [slide] Seen from the sky, this looks like what Mr. Beschaouch described. This is an overview of the road leading to the 1,000 lingas site and you can see that there is a curtain of trees hiding the disappearance of the forest resulting in this patchwork. [slide] A view, taken from even higher, of deforested plots of land and the clearing stretches practically on the whole area of the massif. A satellite picture clearly shows that two thirds of the southeast area is affected by this matter.

[slide] Rice is planted in May, sometimes right by the edge of the monuments, [slide] for example here at *Prasat Neak Ta* and on increasingly larger areas. The increase in population living on the massif explains this, but it is also related to the arrival of cashew nut monoculture. I would like to focus a little bit on this aspect, as this monoculture is cumulated with slash and burn agriculture practise and has been slowly replacing areas earmarked for slash and burn agriculture. [slide] Villagers go deeper and deeper in the forest and the former rice cultivation plots of land are turned into cashew nut plantation, to such an extent that if this phenomenon continues Phnom Kulen, meaning litchi mountain, will have to be renamed Phnom Svay Chanti (cashew nut).

[slide] The second threat is the continuing illegal logging of big trees. [slide] We saw it again last week in one of the Community Protected Areas (CPA). Some of these pictures are only ten days old.

[slide] The main problem with deforestation is the lack of resources available to the Ministry of Environment. They are not sufficient to efficiently manage the National Park, the applicable laws are not enforced and the boundaries are not marked on site. The environmental and economical consequences are already dire for these populations and also for the whole Siem Reap Angkor region. The Angkor water tower is not playing its role anymore and the whole region has started to feel the impact.

[slide] The third threat relates to tourism pressure, mainly for the Preah Ang Thom sites and surrounding areas, which are the most visited areas. In the absence of any overall management of this complex, important damages have occurred. [slide] The latter have impacted the archaeological sites' conservation and the environment: [slide] several stalls or tourism infrastructures have been built, [slide] parking is unregulated with no prior reflection on the general organisation, impacting on the sites integrity; [slide] huge quantities of waste are thrown away with no recycling and mostly ending up in the river or nearby pits.

Besides, the main recipients of this tourism are populations coming from all over the country who have settled at Preah Ang Thom village and taken the place of the indigenous people. The latter do not enjoy the present tourism windfall. Finally, no profits reaped by the concessionary company are being used for site conservation activities.

I will not dwell too long on the other threat overhanging the archaeological sites conservation and will explain why. The APSARA National Authority team is comprised of one archaeologist and I have just been told of an additional one newly appointed, and of 24 workers. The team severely lack resources to be able to correctly fulfil its mandates: daily

maintenance, <sup>[slide]</sup> vegetation clearance on the upper parts of the towers, surveillance of the protected zones, management of the heavily visited zones, <sup>[slide]</sup> prohibition of illegal constructions, <sup>[slide]</sup> tree planting, care of the sites' access dirt roads and <sup>[slide]</sup> emergency propping on several monuments.

The proposals are: <sup>[slide]</sup> to fight against deforestation and its impact. In collaboration with the APSARA National Authority, protected zones or buffer zones have been set up around the archaeological sites. This was done in concert with the local people by delineating, using georeferenced markers, the forest and the immediate surroundings of the sites. This enabled the protection of 400 hectares in 2011. <sup>[slide]</sup> An ADF financed nursery has been entrusted to the APSARA National Authority and provides these areas with young trees to be replanted.

The results are promising, but it is vital that the APSARA National Authority and the Ministry of Environment strengthen their resources for the surveillance and setting up of additional protected areas whilst efficiently enforcing the environmental laws. <sup>[slide]</sup> This map shows the areas protected by the APSARA National Authority in yellow and the zones managed by the Ministry of Environment in pink, which should be replicated on the other archaeological sites. The red dots mark the illegal logging of trees and the yellow dots the cashew nut tree fields which we have not yet all registered.

<sup>[slide]</sup> There are also alternative farming solutions generating incomes that we have proposed to villagers (mushroom farms, fish raising) and which can also fight against deforestation. <sup>[slide]</sup> It is vital to reorganize as fast as possible the livelihoods of the villagers in agreement with the local populations. The slash and burn farming of rice is still a need but most stakeholders should prohibit the cashew nut tree monoculture. Alternative crops should be planned.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Some programmes have already been set up by the APSARA National Authority in the Angkor Park: community development activities, education to the environment programmes or the restoration of ancient reservoirs, they could be tailored to Phnom Kulen.

Finally, an overall management plan for the Preah Ang Thom area, the thousand lingas and *Prasat Krol Romeas* is necessary to see to proper management of the whole site. An integrated approach gathering all stakeholders (concessionary company, the APSARA National Authority, the Ministry of Environment, Heritage police, the local and religious authorities and ADF) is necessary to determine everyone's responsibilities and mandates.

<sup>[slide]</sup> ADF has made available the overall map area of the remains in order to guarantee better knowledge and protection. We can also bring our expertise in the field of archaeology and devise the management plan. The APSARA National Authority has set up a protection system for the lingas and is starting to contemplate the area's development.

We are delighted with the recent construction of an office of the APSARA National Authority in this area, but we would like to recall that resources allocated to the protection of the archaeological sites should be subsequently increased for the whole massif with a view to improve conservation and tourism management. As an example, the existing team has for the moment no transportation modes, hardly any tools and no uniforms.

I would like to conclude by talking about an archaeological and environmental protecting instrument for Phnom Kulen. <sup>[slide]</sup> Contributing to the LiDAR consortium set up in 2012, ADF financed and processed data coming from this technology on an area of 30 km<sup>2</sup> over Phnom Kulen. These are the different areas recorded in 2012, and a close up on the helicopter route which flew over two axes of 30 km<sup>2</sup> on the southern part of Phnom Kulen.

[slide] The footprint taken in 2012 has highlighted the map of an urban complex probably relating to the city existing in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century and early 9<sup>th</sup> century. Its boundaries extend over the 2012 LiDAR captured area.

It has also revealed the existence of many unknown sites, for their typology but also functions (ancient roads, plots of land, canals, etc.) with an accurate aspect and overcoming the specific topographical features of the massif. New temples have also been discovered. It is a huge urban complex that is shaping. [slide] Some examples: This is a 'field of domes', never encountered before in Angkorian archaeology, knolls aligned and sometimes associated with ponds, here they are with a dike that we already knew of close to Anlong Thom village. Another example, to the north of Rong Chen temple, the sole mountain temple of the massif, a series of six unprecedented temples have been located thanks to this technology.

[slide] It is indispensable to continue and extend the LiDAR coverage in order to have an overall vision of the whole remains. Not only will this data give us better historical knowledge, but it would also be an essential instrument for the protection of the archaeology and environment of Phnom Kulen. We are looking for financing which may enable a renewed LiDAR campaign, maybe for April 2013.

[slide] I hope that this presentation has given you some help in understanding the threats bearing on Phnom Kulen, but also which activities are to be undertaken to continue and consolidate the measures that could protect this outstanding site for its history, geography and hydrology with direct impact on the Angkor site.

[slide] I thank you for your attention."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much for this presentation explaining the threats and proposals to counter them. The floor is now open for comments or reactions on this topic. Mrs. Lemaistre the floor is yours."

Comment from Mrs. Lemaistre: "Thank you Co-chair. As was mentioned, UNESCO was fortunate enough to visit the site in November. We take this opportunity to thank the APSARA National Authority and the ADF NGO which helped us organise this visit and presented their respective activities.

As said previously, so no need to come back to that, we have been able to realize the scale of deforestation. Despite National Park status, Phnom Kulen forest has dwindled and what is left is facing major threat. We congratulate the APSARA National Authority and ADF for the reforestation programme and for the protected zones that have been set up around the archaeological sites. Thus, 400 hectares has been safeguarded and we strongly encourage continuing to add protected zones around archaeological sites.

We are also delighted with the creation of a team of the APSARA National Authority at Phnom Kulen and thank the organization and in particular His Excellency Seung Kong who recently consolidated this team. It is a promising start.

On a more general note, we found out on site that there is the need for better management of the site and better coordination between stakeholders. A tourism management plan would also be necessary. As pictures illustrated, we observed the increase visitation at the one thousand Lingas River and Preah Ang Thom site where proper management is badly needed.

With regard to sustainable development as this is part of our work: the nutrition and sanitation programme being implemented by ADF to the poor local people needs to continue, and we encourage potential donors to contribute to it.

The symbolic features of Phnom Kulen as the birth place of the Khmer Empire are the reasons it needs to be protected, and I do not believe that I need to go into too much detail, as this was very well introduced by Mr. Beschaouch and expounded by Jean-Baptiste Chevance. I know that many researches are conducted on this topic and there is no need for me to dwell on it.

It is also the source of the three rivers that irrigate the province, there is the archaeological wealth of the site as unveiled by Boulbet and new archaeological sites rediscovered thanks to the LiDAR programme which present the different types of occupation from the pre-Angkorian era up to now with Buddhist hermitages in line with the same tradition. On a more general note, it highlights an astonishing continuity and consolidates the sacred feature of this massif.

All these historical, archaeological, hydraulics and environmental reasons bring UNESCO to foster the Cambodian authorities in reviewing an idea dating back from 1991-1992 and to include Phnom Kulen in the World Heritage site property, at the time, I must say the safety conditions made it impossible to extend the Angkor World Heritage zone to include Phnom Kulen. It is the symbolic source of Angkor. I thank you for your attention."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you for the symbolic proposal from UNESCO. Are there any more comments or observations? Would the APSARA National Authority like to say a few words?"

Comment from Mr. Sou Phirin: <sup>[OrigK]</sup> "Your Excellency President of the APSARA National Authority, Excellency Co-chairs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, regarding the issue at hand, I agree with the report presented. We have looked into the issues and will report to the President of the APSARA National Authority with a view to finding solutions as was requested by Mr. Beschaouch in June this year during the Technical Session.

We agreed to organise another meeting, as actually this area is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment of the fourth Military Region and of a private operator. To let activities with negative impact on our sacred forest continue is not good, as is the case for Angkor, the main topic of our meeting. We will strive to preserve for the future the heritage value of the site.

Tomorrow, we will send on site a multidisciplinary team and will ask the Deputy Prime Minister or the Prime Minister the authorization to develop this site into an ecotourism place, for natural and cultural tourism. We consider this work as vital. As governor, I am aware of the importance of cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders operating in the province territory. It is a co-operation to the interests of humankind, as is our ICC, and it is bearing fruits. I thank you for your attention."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much Excellency Sou Phirin, governor of the Siem Reap province, for your positive reaction and swift action to address this issue. We rely a lot on your cooperation and activities to solve this issue and I suggest this point is included in the Plenary Session recommendations."

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Thank you Co-chair. Your Secretariat will draft a related recommendation that will be sent to you a bit later."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much. Are there any more comments? No. Let's proceed to the next item for discussion on heritage and population presented by Mr. Khuon Khun-Neay, deputy director general with the APSARA National Authority. The floor is yours."



## V.2 Heritage and populations, by His Excellency Mr. Khuon Khun-Neay, Deputy Director-General, APSARA National Authority

[OrigE] “Excellencies,  
Co-chairs,  
Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before starting, I would like to recall extracts from the Kyoto Vision document which was distributed yesterday. ‘Such strengthened relationships should be grounded in a multi-disciplinary and participatory approach to heritage conservation which would integrate consideration of social, economic and environmental dimensions, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups respecting all relevant international standards and obligations. Unless such a sustainable development perspective is integrated in the management of a World Heritage property, it will be difficult in the long run to ensure the conservation of its Outstanding Value. (...) Communities, in particular, should be empowered to harness the benefits of heritage to society through specific awareness-raising initiatives, skills-development programmes and the establishment of networks. They should be fully involved in management and conservation activities’.

I would like to expand on how this principle, this vision, can be applied to the Angkor World Heritage site. [slide] This is to remind you of the dimension of the Angkor Park and of its different zones. The Angkor Park is a living site with population increases year on year, from 20,000 in 1992 to circa 130,000 in 2012.

What has the APSARA National Authority been doing in collaboration with different international team? Australia through the Greater Angkor project with the University of Sydney has conducted the Living with Heritage project in association with the APSARA National Authority. [slide] The project has helped in defining important, significant, scientific, symbolic and social values in addition to the historic and aesthetic values that have previously been given prominence. [slide] Here are some pictures to illustrate this connection.

[slide] These slides chosen by Professor Mackay are among his preferred slides. They show that tangible and intangible heritage are closely associated. In the case of Angkor we cannot separate them. [slide] Recently the APSARA National Authority established the guidelines for the preservation and development of intangible heritage in the Angkor Park. In collaboration with New Zealand, the APSARA National Authority conducted the Angkor Management Project from 2004 to 2007 and [slide] has produced a document.

From this document the government of New Zealand subsidized a project called Angkor Participatory Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Programme (APNRMLP). The overall aim of the programme is to reduce the poverty level of the populations of the Park by sustainably increasing their income opportunities.

[slide] The components of the project are: Capacity building for the community and for the APSARA National Authority, Participatory Natural Resource Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. This slide shows the ten villages [slide] that have been covered by the New Zealand project. [slide] We started consulting with the population and we conducted participatory rural assessment to know exactly the needs of the population. [slide] Then we asked them to draw how they would like to see their villages develop in the next fifteen years. This is the case concerning the two villages of Rohal and North Srah Srang.

[slide] Then we tried to organize the development of the community for them to be able to build different committees (health, education, agriculture, community forest, handicraft, water filters, oxcart trails, etc.). [slide] For the younger generations we conducted environment awareness programmes (planting trees, etc.) with the support of the APSARA

National Authority. <sup>[slide]</sup> Then we provided support to community schools with non-formal education of the English language.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Agriculture was also one of the activities promoted: for example, we have introduced farming melons. We organised an exposure trip to O'Mnoas which is south of Banteay Srei and then the population in Rohal expressed their wishes to experience this type of farming. <sup>[slide]</sup> For rice planting we introduced new techniques using one plant. <sup>[slide]</sup> This year in September 2012 we carried out a campaign and you can see the difference in size of the rice when using the new technique although only traditional methods are applied. <sup>[slide]</sup> We have also promoted eel and fish raising and <sup>[slide]</sup> self-help groups, so that the communities can support themselves with their commercial and business activities.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Rainwater collection was promoted as well to catch water in the dry season. <sup>[slide]</sup> Also, small water infrastructures were built to control flooding and to provide water for agricultural purposes. <sup>[slide]</sup> Regarding handicrafts, we encouraged them to continue handicraft organised in communities. <sup>[slide]</sup> These craftsmen used to sell their products to middlemen who were taking the lion's share of the benefits. To increase profit directly to the population, we trained them to sell directly to clients instead. For example, in 2012 we organised a stand during the water festival and trained them to sell directly to customers. <sup>[slide]</sup> Then we built a shop at Ta Prohm located at the gate of Ta Prohm before the villages of Rohal and North Srah Srang. <sup>[slide]</sup> We have promoted clean energy use such as solar energy to save the environment and also to provide light for domestic use.

<sup>[slide]</sup> The establishment of the Community Liaison Team by the APSARA National Authority: <sup>[slide]</sup> We would like to appoint one officer from this team per commune to maintain relationships between the APSARA National Authority and the communities. <sup>[slide]</sup> Community Tourism initiatives were developed as a supplementary activity to the traditional sectors such as agriculture and handicraft.

<sup>[slide]</sup> At the West Baray for example, we have built infrastructures around the lake and on the dike to allow for better tourism visits. <sup>[slide]</sup> Here is the Ak Yum temple where viewpoint platforms were built on both the east and west dikes. <sup>[slide]</sup> At Srah Srang we have managed a project concerning the villages of North and South Srah Srang and Rohal around the Srah Srang and Banteay Kdei complexes. <sup>[slide]</sup> In the vicinity of Srah Srang we have organized trails for walking or cycling. <sup>[slide]</sup> This is the circuit we developed between Srah Srang and Rohal to see handicraft products produced in the villages. Tourists may walk or use ox carts and observe landscapes that vary depending on the season.

<sup>[slide]</sup> At the North Baray we have also carried out a project allowing visitors to follow an itinerary. All these infrastructures have been built already. <sup>[slide]</sup> From this point we are promoting within the Australian project the development of a boat ride managed by the communities. It will start from here to Preah Khan and go to this side. <sup>[slide]</sup> We also have studied the development of a bicycle tour from Srah Srang and Rohal up to Leang Day and Phloun.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Heritage education is very important and we would like input from villagers. But to get this participation, villagers need to be knowledgeable. Otherwise, if they do not know the temples or the sites, they are not allowed to participate. So, they need to know about heritage. <sup>[slide]</sup> Education plays a very important role so that people know heritage and are able to participate in its conservation. We conducted two heritage awareness campaigns to young people starting with 8-9 year olds up to 10-11 year old children.

This included three partners: the APSARA National Authority, The National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan and the Provincial Department of Education. <sup>[slide]</sup> A tool was developed and this is the results of students' activities. <sup>[slide]</sup> Students were also taken on tours to visit the temples and we have also provided heritage education to populations

living in the Angkor Park through the project in collaboration with New Zealand. <sup>[slide]</sup> Sessions were held in the villages.

<sup>[slide]</sup> We would also like to develop relationships with other organizations and NGOs. <sup>[slide]</sup> We had meetings with NGOs of which there are more than twenty NGOs operating in the Park. We also met with the director of the school to teach them the rules and regulations of the Angkor Park. <sup>[slide]</sup> We have also organized a seminar with monks. In a Buddhist country like Cambodia, monks play a vital role for the moral and spiritual education of the population. <sup>[slide]</sup> This year we conducted the second monk seminar and also a workshop held in October. We had the participation of 28 pagodas in zones 1 & 2 with some monks becoming trainers of heritage education.

<sup>[slide]</sup> As regards to Participatory Land Use Planning, we also asked the population to participate. <sup>[slide]</sup> They have drawn maps and we have transferred the maps on paper and digitalised them and produced maps such as <sup>[slide]</sup> this of Rohal and North Srah Srang. <sup>[slide]</sup> Once we get the map from the aerial pictures, the participatory land registration process can take place. We will travel to villages to ask people to show us their properties, then we measure them, with the aim of delivering land certificates. <sup>[slide]</sup> There are also sessions of monitoring and evaluation.

Finally, in May this year, the government of New Zealand mandated an independent consultant from Wellington to review the project. He has produced a final report. I will distribute extracts of the report this afternoon to the participants. What are the findings? Mr. Choeun Chean, Chief of Angkor Thom District said that the District has documentation of 300 people engaging with H.E. Hang Peou's Water Management Programme. Villagers now believe that the APNRM&L programme will help realize benefits for the Park. Mr. Om Chun, Chief of Nokor Thom Commune, said that local communities feel they have ownership of Park assets because they believe their ancestors built the temples. Everyone is now more aware of APSARA's intentions. Mr. Meas Nee, Consultant in Monitoring and Evaluation, said where there used to be complaints about APSARA there are now many constructive comments.

<sup>[slide]</sup> The consultant concluded the following: 'There is a remarkably different attitude towards APSARA (both in the community and at local authority levels) than there was six years ago. APNRM&L mapping work is extraordinary because of the levels of participation by the community. The programme is addressing real needs in poor communities and assisting APSARA to realize an innovative vision for managing World Heritage sites that is respectful of participatory approach'. Then, the consultant concluded for recommendations that phase 2 of APNRM&L programme should be considered successful. For these reasons the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade should give favourable consideration to phase 3 of the Programme.

<sup>[slide]</sup> We then asked what should be done next since the APRNM&L Programme covers only 10 of 112 villages in the Angkor Park. The actual Programme will end in June 2013. A request was submitted to the New Zealand government to extend the Programme in other villages (Phase 3). The consultant mandated by the New Zealand government recommends this. Until now, there is no firm commitment. Even with a positive response from New Zealand, there are still many villages to deal with. <sup>[slide]</sup> Are there any other countries and/or organizations present here who would like to collaborate in this kind of sustainable project for communities? This is the question I ask the audience so let's debate on it.

Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much. Are there any more comments on this topic? No. Next item is the 'Roles and missions of the Angkor-ICC, twenty years of actions and future prospects'. We have 45 minutes allocated for this debate. We

previously said several times that next year will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Angkor-ICC and today we would like to have exchanges and discussions, as we are here to make decisions. I believe that we will need several discussion sessions to clarify this topic. Today is just the preliminary discussions on the roles and perspectives of the Angkor-ICC. Before opening the floor, both Co-chairs would like to briefly introduce the topic.”

### **V.3 ICC-Angkor roles and mission: twenty years of action and prospects for the future (general debate), introduction by the Co-Chairs**

#### **Mr. Masafumi Kuroki:**

“I personally have seen a certain change in the ICC activities, firstly, on matters dealt with during the ICC. There has been a change and evolution during the past twenty years. In the early days of the ICC, from 1993 and up to the second intergovernmental conference, the main subject of the ICC was the safeguarding and conservation of endangered monuments. After ten years, I believe that the safeguarding and conservation goals have made progressed. It was mainly from the second intergovernmental conference in 2003 that in addition to conservation issues we have also addressed matters on sustainable development and ethical and sustainable tourism. Today, our two main topics are conservation activities and sustainable development and tourism.

Regarding the ICC function: I believe that at the onset of the ICC, the main roles and functions were to co-ordinate the international teams’ cooperation activities, but since the *ad hoc* group of experts was established at the ICC, function is not only restricted to the co-ordination of international teams activities, but also to draft recommendations and advice so that individual projects comply with the World Heritage standards. It not only acts as co-ordinator of the international cooperation activities, but the ICC has turned into an organisation which emits recommendations, so that specific projects are complying with World Heritage standards.

The structure has not changed for two years with a co-chairmanship held by France and Japan. After 1994, two sessions per year were set, with a Technical and a Plenary Session. The Technical Session addresses specific matters whereas the Plenary Session defines the general strategies and orientations. A distinction is being made between the Technical and the Plenary Session. I believe that from time to time the distinction between the two sessions has not been that obvious and that we should talk about the different roles of these two sessions.

Another marker of the ICC is the ownership of the conservation and sustainable development activities by Cambodia. There is increase in the participation and activities carried out by the APSARA National Authority on the Angkor monuments. The way forward is to continue and bolster the role of the Cambodian authority for conservation and sustainable development of Angkor monuments.

We have to discuss the future role of the ICC and topics that will take precedence within this body; its function and structure must also be discussed during this session. The floor is now open to the French Co-chair.”

#### **Mr. Dominique Mas:**

“Thank you Co-chair. I fully support what you said and will add a few elements, by suggesting points to ponder and fueling the discussion that will take place in this session and coming months. I start with preliminary remarks.

I think that the ICC's added value is undeniable; it has facilitated dialogue among all stakeholders of the Angkor site, including that of the government, academics, and local people that was just mentioned, and of course by donors. This dialogue has allowed for harmonious development of the Angkor site. It has also enabled transparent management of the site by imposing a dialogue on all the restoration or development projects in Angkor. Yesterday and this morning we heard that there are expectations for further information on some projects, but I would say that these are exceptions which prove the rules and perfectly demonstrate that the ICC encompasses this expectation for transparent management of the site.

Last initial remarks are that the ICC spurred a dynamic towards consolidation of national skills which led to the development of the APSARA National Authority through knowledge transfer and the establishment of conservation-related jobs. I think we must take into account these new skills and that all of the ICC and stakeholders must behave as partners more than helpers or supporters as was the case these last 20 years, though it was based on completely justified grounds.

Another point to highlight is to take heed, as I said in my opening speech, of the changes that have occurred in Angkor during the past ten years. This includes not only the dramatic boost in visitor numbers, but also their diversity of origins. They can be foreign tourists or Cambodian school kids or Cambodian tourists or foreign school kids and their expectations differ.

Which strategy should be advocated to maintain the efforts towards democratization of tourism in Cambodia? Does it mean opening the site to a constantly increasing number of tourists who wish to visit? But how can this be managed without threatening heritage? How do we adapt the site to a public with multiple expectations and tastes, while of course preserving the symbolic points of the site, its sacred and authentic features and safeguarding the local people's quality of life? The last presentation has insisted on these latter points.

In relation to these preliminary remarks, may I suggest some points to ponder that should be looked at? They may not be novelty ideas, as we heard today that these topics have been addressed, but maybe we should go farther and develop them more.

Regarding the ICC activity substance, I believe that two major angles need to be looked at, they do not cancel each other and are not new—I have mentioned that already. They deal with the management of the tourism flow that is at the heart of the Tourism Management Plan mentioned this morning. Finally, another leading topic or at least one which will gradually occupy us: knowledge and skills transfer. These are two topics that you have already started to address, but to my mind will grow in the forthcoming ten years.

A word on the procedures mentioned by the Ambassador of Japan: How can the APSARA National Authority skills actually be strengthened? I believe that the mid-term vision for us at the ICC and for the APSARA National Authority is to make sure that the latter may take full ownership of the Angkor sites' development strategies and lead their implementation. Thus, the role of the ICC is more to validate strategies, advise, and monitor good practices in line with the Charter that we will most likely endorse later on.

I believe that one of the strategies for the procedure lays in the consolidation of the APSARA National Authority within mid-term definition of its programmes, to assist in the implementation and I would use an English word, something I should not do, by kind of having the ICC as a 'back up'. Of course, the enlargement of the APSARA National Authority responsibilities means we need to think about the running of the institution, internal operation, and the need to develop cooperation between different departments. Also, we need to reflect on the human resources strategy in order to favour the integration of young experts who have been trained in the past years.

In a nutshell, a complete rethinking of the organisation to enable it to be capable of better managing, steering and monitoring of projects. And, we have to mention this and not overlook it as this is an issue common to all organizations, bestowing more responsibilities means increasing resources. We talked about it earlier on for Phnom Kulen, this is a question put to the national authorities: How do you give complete authority to the APSARA National Authority when exercising, I would say, its growing sovereignty mission? Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much to the French Co-chair. The floor is now open, please express yourself. Mr. Bouchenaki the floor is yours."

Comment from Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki: "Co-chairs, this is a very important subject that has been put on the ICC agenda: role, functions and future of the ICC. I would like to note two points for now.

The first one is an anecdote: Two months ago, UNESCO asked me to attend a meeting on the ICC-Iraq to explain why the ICC-Angkor operates and yields results and why the ICC-Iraq does not. This means that the scheme devised twenty years ago after the Tokyo meeting—which I was honoured to attend with my friend Azedine Beschaouch—has been fortunate and has demonstrated its usefulness. How did we conceive it?

UNESCO launched in the 1960s what was at the time called International Campaigns for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage. To run these campaigns, the General Conference of UNESCO gave authorization to the director general to launch an appeal to the international community, stating that some sites—at the time the first campaign was for the endangered Abu Simbel and Philae monuments in Egypt—and countries alone could not face the situation which threatened monuments, as in the case of subsequent floods due to the Aswan dam construction in Egypt. Once the appeal was made, UNESCO asked the international community for financial and technical contributions to implement projects. This is how UNESCO launched a series of campaigns and I was fortunate to monitor a dozen from 1982.

The campaign was launched, the international community stepped in and in those days UNESCO established a working group to monitor the safeguarding of operations. This is how it was organised for Egypt, Borobudur and Venice. The Venice case gradually differed, adding to country contributions what is now called Private Committees and for thirty years until today UNESCO has seen to the coordination of the activities of the Private Committees acting for the restoration of Venice.

The international campaign notion changed throughout the years and was subject to an assessment by the UNESCO General Conference in 1989-1990 which concluded that there were too many campaigns and that the international community could not contribute to a total of 28 campaigns. This is the reason that the appeal for Angkor was not labelled as an international safeguarding campaign but as a special project when the late King Sihanouk came to visit Mr. Mayor to plead for support to Angkor.

This was a time when UNESCO was entrusted with monitoring International Safeguarding Campaigns—they continued, were implemented and finally completed (for example in Pakistan, Moejodaro, or with Azedine Beschaouch for the major Safeguarding campaign of the Carthage monuments)—which enabled UNESCO State members to declare, once these campaigns were completed, that UNESCO could take charge of other works.

History has created dramatic moments when many countries suffered dramatic situations and the only solutions found by UNESCO to resolve these problems has been the establishment of ICCs. An ICC for Afghanistan was established in 2002. We have never

managed to meet in Afghanistan, but have always met in Paris and once we met in Rome. In two days, once I leave Cambodia, I will attend a Technical Committee meeting for Bamiyan to discuss how the international community today is responding to the Afghanistan heritage situation and in particular after the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas.

The same goes with Iraq. In May 2003, I was sent for an assignment just after the end of the war and a group of international experts was immediately formed, constituted of different heads of archaeological missions working in Iraq. Based on this core group the International Co-ordinating Committee for the Iraq monuments was established. We have never been able to convene in Iraq. Recently, following the major earthquakes that shook Haiti, Mrs. Bokova established an International Co-ordinating Committee to assist Haitian authorities with restoration of their heritage.

I do not want to take too much time, but we are dealing with an important matter which has proved, as was explained, that there are a lot of positives that can come out of this exchange of work and experiences and that it deepens the level of knowledge and of the protection of a major site. It has also demonstrated, and this is something I pointed out to the Iraqi delegation (Iraq and Kurdistan ministers of Culture, the director general of the Iraqi heritage), that political will is paramount. And here, the Cambodian political willingness for the past twenty years must be lauded. God knows that I attend many meetings throughout the world, and I have rarely attended meetings where the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Culture and Tourism and a Governor sit for the whole duration of the meeting.

It is the first time that His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister was not able to attend the whole meeting because he had other businesses to attend. This is rare, and I told this to the Iraqis. Usually the authorities arrive and open the meeting. Here, this is the big difference and it needs to be underlined: The authorities, the representative of His Majesty, the president of the APSARA National Authority, the director generals and deputies, and colleagues listen for the duration of two days to all discussions and contribute to the debates. I think that this is the kind of angle that should be presented next year when the World Heritage Committee will convene here, as you will be asked many questions. I think that many States will wonder how the ICC-Angkor success can be explained.

Thank you Co-chairs."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much Mr. Bouchenaki. The floor is now open to Professor Croci."

Comment from Mr. Giorgio Croci: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "I would like to say a few words about the role of the experts. I think that in past years, the experts have played, in a certain way, an important cooperation role in two aspects. The first, jointly with the international teams and the local engineers to improve the quality of restoration, of management and etc. I think that on this point it is clear that there has been success.

The other point regards training. We mentioned it several times, but I think it is so important that even if we say it once more it is worth it. Sometimes we jokingly say among us that the success of our task will be completed when we will not be required to come here anymore. Because the most important part of our task is to cooperate, train, and create a new generation of local experts. We said it several times before, but I believe it is time to put together a taskforce to realize this goal.

Everybody agrees that this is important. It is difficult and useful when local young participants join the field visits, but it is not enough. It is necessary that they cooperate in implementing projects and that they travel abroad to ICCROM to take part in training sessions. We could also introduce plans to come here to teach additional training and oversee their improvement.

It is a very important challenge and it would be an opportunity for different people to work together and propose something practical, because, and I repeat myself, we have talked about it several times, but I do not see any progress or outcomes on this point.”

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: “Thank you very much Mr. Croci. Are there any more comments? The representative of Japan.”

Comment from Mr. Shinji Nagashima, Director, Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division Public Diplomacy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> “Thank you Co-chair. Both Co-chairs gave us an historical background of the ICC and Mr. Bouchenaki has just exposed the comparison between ICCs in different parts of the world. Maybe I should not add too much, but I would just like to make a general remark. We know that the ICC here in Cambodia is a wonderful framework where participants bring wisdom, experience and advice and then all participants share this intellectual asset. In this sense the ICC has played a significant role in the preservation and management of the Angkor site and also has a mission to hand it over to future generations.

We firmly believe that this ICC should continue, but as the Co-chair said, we are facing new phenomena arising from the phenomenal changes and development that Cambodia has undergone over the last two decades. We are not only dealing with the safeguarding and preservation of heritage sites, but also how to strike the right balance between preservation and development. We also have to think about education and awareness raising among the people living around the site.

Now, after twenty years of ICC meeting here, we are facing new issues and challenges. It is a good opportunity to review our achievements in the past and think collectively about how we deal with the challenges we will be facing. Thank you very much.”

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: “Thank you very much Japan. Would any other countries like to take the floor? UNESCO, or any other countries? No. Mrs. Lemaistre the floor is yours.”

Comment from Mrs. Lemaistre: “Thank you very much Co-chair. UNESCO supports what was previously said and would like to contribute to this reflection from its beginning and raise more avenues of thought. Generally, I subscribe to what was said by Mr. Dominique Mas on skill and knowledge transfer as a moral prerequisite of intervention on site for all international teams for the past twenty years. We congratulate them. Since then, the APSARA National Authority has been established and evolved and it might be that we enter a specialization phase of the Authority and a reversal of knowledge in this direction. I will talk about the specialisation of professionals who work here for the APSARA National Authority.

Also, one more avenue to ponder: UNESCO would like to instil the approach of prevention when conserving heritage. We can only be delighted with major restoration works carried out for the past twenty years. They have demanded from all of you great endeavours in all fields (human, financial resources, etc.), with a lot of time and expertise invested. We would like to highlight that preventive interventions not as visible and spectacular may facilitate sustainable conservation of sites and this preventive approach could be eased by the establishment of the Risks Map which could be included in the Geographical Information System that is being developed by the APSARA National Authority within the framework of the Heritage Management Framework.

This is an avenue we would like to ponder and may be implemented during the next decade.”



Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Madame Lemaistre. Mr. Beschouch would like to take the floor."

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschouch: "Thank you very much Co-chair. May I talk on two levels? The first, as an individual who led an operation in Carthage for some ten years (as mentioned by Professor Bouchenaki) and who, I must admit, almost refused to end it. The reason is that I thought ending the project was a terrible idea. But one day the international action had to come to an end, as Mr. Bouchenaki said—who for 24 years has been at the heart of all these UNESCO operations and is well placed to comment and analyse as he did on all these difficulties. These actions are time-bounded.

We are today reaching the 19<sup>th</sup> year and we are nearing wisdom. We are three in this room that remain witnesses, Mr. Bouchenaki, myself as Chair of the World Heritage Committee at the time and Madame representative of the French government. We are living memory of the extraordinary wisdom of the message that His Majesty Sihanouk conveyed, saying that it was not for a short period of time and not a rescue mission. He was inviting a large cooperation and he even mentioned international fraternity and solidarity. This is what makes the ICC so special. We are not time-constrained.

My children asked me: 'Dad, you have been going there for 19 years, are you going to continue?' I answered: 'I will continue as long as it does not stop, unless my strength lets me down.' I can guarantee you that I have never felt that one day I should stop, as it is wonderful continuing to come to Angkor and serve.

When I look at Professor Ishizawa who began 50 years ago and restarted in 1980 and is still here, one asks, why should I stop? I believe that this is the first point. We are wonderfully welcome and this is a partnership not a rescue operation. I believe that is key in the establishment of this international campaign—actually, it is not an international campaign. I remember that the representative of the government at the time from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Secretary of State, surprised us when he started his speech by saying: 'We do not want an international campaign.' This is what Mounir explained: an international campaign is time-bounded and has inherent difficulties and restrictions.

I will not say it, as Mounir said it. I originate from a part of the world called the 'third world' of which Algeria, Tunisia and Cambodia belong to and we are used to ministers arriving, holding a speech and leaving. But as he said there is a strong political will here. This political will was not always there, ministers changed, etc. It is the continuation that made us. There are faces that have been here for almost 20 years. It is exceptional. This means there is a familiarity with the site that does not exist elsewhere.

What I experienced in Carthage were people rotating every six months or year and it was impossible to have the continuation that exists here. Never has a Cambodian asked, not a foreigner nor a colleague: 'So when is it finishing? When are you leaving?' We are so used to it that it continues. And I think Co-chairs that this is also the success of this ICC. We work on a long-term basis.

I can express myself as I am the oldest, at least among those working at the Secretariat. I will ask some questions to you if I may: His Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister, do you still want us to stay here? If you would like us to continue, we will stay as long as we can, this is the first point. For an ICC to survive there is need for political willingness. Excellency, if you say that you want us here then we will stay, that is the first outcome.

The second outcome: You have taken us from Tokyo to Paris, Paris to Phnom Penh, ten years plus ten years. This is something we are all satisfied with and we are used to it, France and Japan, Japan and France, we have never thought of changing it. So, Co-chairs on behalf of your respective countries, do you wish to continue to chair this Committee? This is also key as otherwise we would become orphans. The Cambodian authorities might

want us, but we are not certain that France and Japan wish to chair us much longer. So, please do let us know if you can, or try with your respective governments to continue managing this operation which will last another ten years, I hope, and in ten years we will say thirty years, and we will continue because at the age of thirty we are still young. Then we will reiterate the question.

We are fortunate enough to say that the Royal Government wants us. We hope that France and Japan will also continue to chair and this will enable us to say that this Committee is outstanding—and I can assure you that in ten years of Carthage I never felt this. People use to hold speeches, sometimes paternalistic, whereas, here, you are with us. To their Excellencies Ambassadors I would like to say one thing that I was telling Mrs. Lemaistre and Mounir Bouchenaki: In which international committee will you see ambassadors sitting for two days or a day and a half working? It is unprecedented. They listen and exchange. We are all partners and this is the basis of our international activity.

We all thank you for having opened the debate and we are close to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I think that next year's party will be complete when we are told that France and Japan with the Royal Government and the support of UNESCO, will continue this wonderful enterprise. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you very much Professor. You are not waiting for the answer? Or would you like to hear that of His Excellency Sok An? Are there any more comments on this topic? Our discussion is in free flow and personal comments are welcome. Ambassador of India, the floor is yours, Sir."

Comment from His Excellency Dinesh Patnaik, Ambassador of India: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "Thank you very much. I just wanted to echo what Professor Beschaouch said. I have seen many intergovernmental organizations. It is the first one where I see a willingness to work together on both sides. The Cambodians are willing to work together and the experts love their work. I mean the kind of combination which is here I have never seen in any other intergovernmental organizations I worked with before.

The other thing is, I wanted to apologise, that for the first time Dr. Sok An could not completely attend the whole meeting and it is because of me, because he went in the morning to attend an ASEAN-India car rally. Thank you very much."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Ambassador. Are there any more comments or observations? As far as the APSARA National Authority is concerned, do you have any remarks or comments to make, as many people have mentioned the role of the APSARA National Authority and activities for the conservation of monuments and sustainable development? No. Would anyone like to take the floor?"

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "I just wanted to comfort Professor Beschaouch by stating that the Franco-Japanese couple has reached maturity, twenty years is wonderful and for the moment no divorce is scheduled on this matter. It seems rather difficult to divorce."

Interruption from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "As long as it is twenty years of true love."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "No more observations? Thank you very much for all your comments. I am not here to close this discussion as I think that it will continue. At next year's intergovernmental conference, this topic will be on the agenda and this will be a good opportunity to officially set out the role and assignments of the ICC.

Let's proceed to the last topic for discussion: 'The Charter for Angkor'. Professor Croci will take the floor. He has worked hard on the drafting of this Charter, but first Professor Beschaouch will introduce it."

#### **V.4 The Charter for Angkor: conclusion and observations, by Professor Giorgio Croci, ICC-Angkor *ad hoc* expert and Professor Azedine Beschaouch, Scientific secretary of ICC-Angkor, followed by a discussion**

##### **Mr. Beschaouch:**

"Thank you Co-chair. Excellencies, dear colleagues, I would like to remind you that for exactly ten years, we have begun reflecting and Professor Nakagawa will allow me to repeat that it all started during one of these unique meetings organised for nine years, which at the time were a specificity of our international action. Thanks to financing from the Japanese government, there were specialised meetings held on the Bayon and it is on the occasion of the second meeting that we launched the idea of the Charter for Angkor under the aegis of the APSARA National Authority on the one hand and UNESCO on the other hand.

We have continued this process and many of those throughout the world who have shared this reflection have contributed. And it is during one of these meetings that I remember that Professor Petzet, president of ICOMOS International attended and we pitched the idea of establishing major guidelines for Angkor. He agreed to it. When at UNESCO and then at ICCROM, Mr. Bouchenaki wanted to continue the process not only as Mr. Bouchenaki, but also as General Director of ICCROM to explain that this institution, which as you know plays a key role in training, was supporting this initiative.

For ten years we kept the thinking alive knowing that it was regularly revised through Angkor technical specificities. We have not tried to replicate the Venice Charter, nor shun the Nara Declaration or any recommendations from UNESCO. During these 19 years of work, we have endeavoured gathering the work and that each of us who continuously contributed, either for UNESCO or for the APSARA National Authority, has been included in this document which is part of the reflective process.

The document at hand is not a personal achievement, although I would not think for a second of looking down on Mr. Croci's endeavour who, I remember, was the first to provide us with a seven page draft. He introduced this draft and based on this document we brought our input and we met him often, not always here, to get an update on the progress. Each of us sent our thoughts to the UNESCO Secretariat and up until last week input was made.

Recently, during a meeting we have tried to give the final say to each contributor, so that, as we told the Co-chairs, this document commits all of us. It does not only commit the president of our working group, Professor Croci, or one or the other from the same group, it gathers each of our ideas (Japanese, French, Americans, Italians, Indians, etc.). Everyone had an input.

We came to the conclusion that something had to be done. Not to replicate something already existing, but to show that the activities undertaken at Angkor may give birth to a document that may be useful in many ways. Not only for future generations here at Angkor but also globally. Our activities are specific but they concern a historical, cultural and natural site where all action complies with the guidances for implementation of the World Heritage Convention and Charters and Declarations always advocated by UNESCO.

Three days ago the process was concluded and we had to choose a title. It was a lively debate, some proposed the Angkor Charter and we finally agreed on the Charter for Angkor. Why? Because many of us belong to international bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS, etc.) and we did not want to mislead anyone by pretending we invented a new Charter. The Venice Charter and the Nara Declaration, almost a Charter, already exists and we have based

this document on them and added our own experiences. Thereby, it is called the Charter for Angkor, as its goal is to provide the next generation of people coming to work here, and especially young Khmers, the bases and guidance for the work, as well as ethical and practical guidances. It is not only a question of what is done in the field for heritage, but also of ethics.

From this perspective, we may one day submit it with the support of the APSARA National Authority, and we aspire to send a letter to the ICOMOS president so that he may himself assess the value of this Charter. One day, if they wish to contribute and open a debate and would like it to become the Angkor Charter, why not?

Today it is called the Charter for Angkor and all of us, at our level, agreed to this title. This is what has been submitted to you Co-chairs. The text is the fruit of a consensus. Professor Croci will analyse it. With your authorisation, we hope that the text will be approved today. This will be testament to the good work carried out by all for the past 19 years. We have based it on key texts, Charters and Declarations that have proven useful. Thus, we will be able to say in the future there exists a document at Angkor that commits the international community. I thank you and please give the floor to Professor Croci."

### **Mr. Giorgio Croci:**

<sup>[OrigE]</sup> "Thank you. Very synthetically, I will try to show the organization of this Charter. <sup>[slide]</sup> One part is on what I would call the general rules. For example, the authenticity: 'The value and authenticity of architectural heritage cannot be assessed by fixed criteria because the respect due to each culture requires that its physical heritage be considered within the cultural context to which it belongs.' I will not go on and read the whole statement, but this is just to give you an overview.

Further, individuation of the causes: 'Before making a decision on structural intervention it is indispensable to first determine the causes of damage and decay, and then to evaluate the present level of structural safety.'

<sup>[slide]</sup> Maintenance: 'Adequate maintenance can limit or postpone the need for subsequent intervention.' The criteria for minimum intervention to respect the historical value of the architecture; the difference between traditional and innovative techniques: 'Whenever possible traditional techniques should be preferred but sometimes modern techniques allow restorations which better respect the historical value of the monument'.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Another important point: the compatibility of the material. We do not indicate any specific materials as it is a general statement. Before using any materials, they must be tested and guarantee the compatibility with the action that will be undertaken. This is compulsory, etc.

<sup>[slide]</sup> The second part concerns the analysis of the different monuments that can be individuated into four main elements: the walls, the arches, the towers and the mountain temples. <sup>[slide]</sup> For the walls, we indicate the typical type of damages that can occur. Walls are very stiff elements, <sup>[slide]</sup> and very sensitive to soil settlements, you can see it here on the left.

<sup>[slide]</sup> Arches: It is fundamental to understand and to know the difference between Roman arches on the left and Khmer arches on the right. The difference is in the horizontal layers and these cause completely different problems to the traditional Roman arch. This is two-dimensional and with this technique it is impossible to build domes and copulas, but the result is tall towers because it is necessary to have a heavy load to guarantee friction between the blocks. Here you can clearly see the difference on the block assembly. Conse-

quently, the way you are working, or verifying the safety conditions seem to be the same, but in detail they are totally different.

[slide] Towers: As I have just shown, the result of assembling the block in this manner, in two-dimensions, produces a tower. It would have been impossible to build a dome with this technique. This is the type of damage, and the next slide [slide] shows you even more damages.

[slide] Mountain temples: It is important to understand their behaviour, because the galleries underneath are architectural elements which stabilize and resist to soil pressure that compose the base of the mountain temples.

[slide] Then we consider the actions that act on structures: direct (loads, trees); indirect actions are usually deformation due to soil settlements and temperature impact; and finally dynamic actions (earthquake, winds). There was a time when it was discussed that flight of aircraft may produce vibrations, but fortunately this has been excluded. Then you have the physical and chemical elements (environment, roots, vegetation and so on).

[slide] Our analyses: I'll just show some pictures now, as I do not want to tire you too much. This, for example, is a tower of Pre Rup showing a problem of soil deformation which created movement of blocks and a collapse on the top. The problems were resolved by acting on the foundation of the soil and creating rigid slabs and at the same time connecting the tower on different levels with tie rods. [slide] Unfortunately, the problem of the decay can be found everywhere.

A few words about the organization of the work. [slide] It is important to follow a certain methodology as a doctor would in medicine. You start with the anamnesis, the history, and the diagnosis to understand what is the cause of the illness, and finally the therapy. This is as with humans, although here we do not deal with human bodies, but it has to be treated in the same fashion. Analyses are done on the monument and could be compared to endoscopies realised in human bodies.

[slide] How we evaluate the safety is very important because depending on the safety level we decide whether we reinforce or not. There are three important lines: the historical research, deformation coming from the history, based on past history, the observation, similar to a physician, of the types of cracks. A crack related to soil settlement has a different meaning than a crack due to heavy load; it is very important to understand it through the observation of the structure. And finally, the structural analysis: today very useful mathematical models can be used, but their interpretation needs to be correct.

[slide] I approach the end of my presentation. Monitoring could be useful when there are certain evolutions or phenomena. [slide] Intervention criteria: to maintain or to dismantle. [slide] Trees, environment: if possible these should be maintained. [slide] The opposition between modern and traditional techniques: [slide] for example, here steel chains can be very useful to keep the shape of a tower that suffered some deformations. [slide] In this case it is also possible to utilise jacks to lift up the blocks and to recreate equilibrium without dismantling the structures.

[slide] Other items addressed: Monitoring and controls, [slide] sonic test, [slide] mathematical models and so on. I apologise in having taken some of your time, but I hope I succeeded in showing you how this Charter was prepared. Thank you very much for your attention."

Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan: "Thank you Professor Croci for the presentation of the Charter for Angkor. I believe that you had ten years to debate on this Charter, so I

guess that there cannot be that many comments, but if you have any, the floor is now open.”

*Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschouch:* “I remind everyone, unless someone contradicts me, that this document was sent to all of you yesterday. So, no one can say that he did not receive it with sufficient time to review it.”

*Comment from the Co-chairman for Japan:* “Do you have any comments to make on this Charter? Can this Plenary Session adopt this Charter for Angkor? If there are no objections, *[the room bursts into applause]* we adopt the Charter for Angkor. Thank you very much.

We will take a fifteen minute break and reconvene at 4:20 p.m. with the ICC recommendations. I believe that you have been handed the draft recommendations so you have had time to review it. Thank you very much.”

## **VI- ICC RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **VI.1 Adoption of the recommendations examined at the last technical session and proposed to this session with favourable opinion (recommendations finalised and distributed in advance)**

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* “Ladies and Gentlemen, if you want to conclude at 5:30 p.m. I would ask you to cooperate and take your seat. Maybe it would be easier to adopt the recommendations in an empty room! We will do something very democratic, if you agree, which is to save some time and adopt the recommendations without the experts attending.

We start our session, Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen. For those arriving late, please take a seat immediately. This is the run-up to the end of the session. A very important run-up as it regards adopting the ICC recommendations for this 19<sup>th</sup> session.

In the first instance, we are requested to accept projects adopted at the last ICC Technical Session that have been suggested by the experts of this session with their endorsement. I understood that traditionally this is done by an adoption by acclamation, so if you have no objections let’s acclaim. I recall that this document has been distributed. Recommendations are on page 165 in the French version and 149 in the English version, recommendations that were mentioned in these documents. If no one objects, we consider these recommendations of the ICC Technical Session as adopted. Thank you very much.

Once again our gratitude goes to the members of the ICC Technical Session for this bulky and very useful work.”

### **VI.2 Presentation of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICC-Angkor Plenary session recommendations by the ICC-Angkor Secretary**

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**ANGKOR  
ICC**

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**19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session  
(Siem Reap, 5-6 December 2012)**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**I. General Recommendations**

**I.1. Heritage Management Framework – Tourism Management Plan (TMP)**

The ICC expresses its full satisfaction regarding the completion of the elaboration process of the Tourism Management Plan and extends its congratulations to the APSARA National Authority, to the Australian government, to the Australian consultancy group GML and to the UNESCO Office in Cambodia. The ICC approves the TMP and recommends its efficient implementation, within the best conditions, as soon as 2013, with regular monitoring by the group of *ad hoc* experts.

**I.2. Projects of the APSARA National Authority**

It is recommended that works directly undertaken under the aegis of the APSARA National Authority should be discussed with the group of *ad hoc* experts on the occasion of their regular visits. As mentioned several times, the *ad hoc* experts are very glad to interact with their young Cambodian colleagues on any issues the latter may face when undertaking the work for which they are responsible.

**I.3. The city of Siem Reap**

Located at the edge of the buffer zone of Angkor, inscribed on the World Heritage List, the city of Siem Reap possesses a valuable cultural heritage. The harmony of its well preserved urban fabric and the many points of interest on both sides of the river are assets for tourism development.

Moreover, the city of Siem Reap is considered to offer exceptional quality compared with other cities in Southeast Asia.

The ICC strongly recommends that the APSARA National Authority and the relevant provincial departments implement a sustained policy for the preservation and enhancement of the urban, historical and cultural heritage of Siem Reap. To this end, it specifically recommends:

- a. the approval of the Land Use Plan (a developed document that has already been defined) in the city;
- b. the validation of the Protection and Development Plan for the Old Market area (PPMV, a document that has already been prepared by the *Mission du Patrimoine*);
- c. the establishment of a Co-ordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of Siem Reap Urban Heritage

**II. Specific recommendations**

### **II.1. Ring road in Angkor Park**

a. The ICC welcomes the contribution of KOICA (Korean International Cooperation Agency) to the improvement of the road network for the development of a periphery road;

b. In light of the commitments made by this South Korean Agency, during the presentation of the project at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Technical Committee (6 and 7 June 2012), namely:

- i.* To protect the area of cultural heritage, by diverting the flow of heavy vehicles;
- ii.* To improve road safety;
- iii.* To ensure the bypass road is an ecological road;
- iv.* To prohibit the circulation of overloaded lorries.

c. And by reference to the obligations of the APSARA National Authority, managing agency of the site inscribed on the World Heritage List (Article 172 of the Guidelines), the ICC strongly wishes that the ring road serves only the needs of the population and the circulation of tourists. Consequently, the passage of lorries should be prohibited. However, taking into consideration the technical and social difficulties raised by this proposal, the National Authority and the ICC Secretariat will present at the next ICC session a joint proposal for its implementation.

### **II.2. Angkor Wat**

The ICC recommends further efforts be made to keep the visual integration between old and newly cleaned surfaces and hopes that the IGeS team may proceed to a new project in Angkor Wat as a continuation of the excellent restoration work completed by the team up to the present.

### **II.3. Development of a *parvis* (plaza) of Angkor Wat Temple**

a. The ICC takes note with satisfaction of the resizing of the project (building area reduced from 15,000 to 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, building height reduced from 15m to 8m, and thick covering vegetation);

b. It is strongly recommended that the revised draft, to be presented by His Excellency Mr. Uk Someth, conforms with the Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and takes into account the comments and suggestions made on 5 December 2012 by Professor Pierre-André Lablaude, ICC *ad hoc* expert. Once approved, the project will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO before the deadline set for 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013.

### **II.4. Angkor Wat causeway**

The middle part of the Angkor Wat causeway has been distorted for many years by a deep groove separating the Southern part previously restored by the Angkor Conservation/EFEO from the Northern part recently restored by Sophia University Mission. As this situation has become increasingly dangerous for visitors over the years, it is strongly recommended that the APSARA National Authority submit an appropriate technical solution to the ICC.

### **II.5 Srah Srang**

The ICC recommends that the APSARA National Authority:

1. Prepares a detailed description of the strengthening of the pier;
2. Provides a calendar of implementation as well as estimation of the cost of the work;
3. Follows the adopted practice in Angkor Wat for the resetting of the steps by putting a geo-textile in order to isolate each stratum of sand that has been stabilized before replacing the stone blocks.

### **II.6 West Mebon**



The ICC recommends:

1. that coordination is provided regarding the management of water between the APSARA National Authority and officials responsible for the hydraulics of Siem Reap province;
2. that excavations can be carried on, as planned, in order to acquire more precise knowledge of the foundations of the middle layers of the enclosure and to understand all components of the archaeological site;
3. that the inventory of the blocks that have fallen from the enclosure and pavilions can be used for the reconstitution programme of the collapsed structures;
4. that an analysis of the stones be carried out, especially those which are decorated after having been immersed in the water for so long. As these stones dry they can undergo a process of decay with salts migrating to the surface;
5. that an interpretation centre be established on the site of the Western Mebon so that visitors can be informed of the ongoing work.

## II.7 Bayon

a. Based on the report of the group of *ad hoc* experts, the ICC expresses its appreciation for the rigour and the precision of the methodological approach carried out by the JASA in the Bayon site.

It notes with satisfaction the increasing role given, within the JASA team, to Cambodian personnel in an ever-wider range of skills, know-how, scientific and technical disciplines.

b. With regard to the restoration of statuary components (representations of nagas and lions), the ICC recommends that the JASA team tries out a wider range of strengthening and adhesive products than the one of epoxy resins and polymers presently being used. This experimentation may prove extremely valuable and instructive in prevision of future interventions on carved sceneries in the bas-relief gallery.

## II.8 Elephant Terrace

The ICC recommends in technical terms:

- to undertake additional shoring of the retaining wall of the terrace, with its elephants decorations, in order to ensure the stability of the work;
- to close the terraces to visitors, for safety reasons;
- to undertake surveys behind the front wall in order to better identify the original construction principles of the retaining wall as well as to assess active pathologies.

## II.9 Ta Prohm

The ICC recommends:

1. The continuation of the work on the documentation and restoration of the East Gate on the basis of their experience upon the Hall of Dancers, where the completion of the complex work is positively appraised;

2. To link the project of the restoration of the South Gate to the overall circulation of tourists. The present road running just outside the South Gate in an east-west direction, should somehow be diverted from the gate to create an appropriate space for tourists leaving the site through this gate.

- to make one way tourist circuit starting from the East Gate and ending at the South Gate.

- to implement provisional safety measures to prevent the collapse of blocks from the façade of the West Gopura on the third enclosure. More detailed monitoring of the structural movement and the analysis of the monitoring data should be done, which may be the basis for a restoration project to stabilize the façade including a partial removal of the upper part of the structure. The principle of minimum intervention should be kept in attempt to limit the removal to the least possible area at the top.

## **II.10 Phnom Kulen**

The historic, national and cultural plateau of the Phnom Kulen is in danger: deforestation is continuing and many monuments have been seriously damaged as has the cultural landscape.

Urgent action is necessary:

1. The ICC urges the authorities of the Royal Government to take action in order to:
  - a. Stop deforestation;
  - b. Safeguard the environment;
  - c. Protect the archaeological sites and the historical monuments.
2. The ICC encourages the APSARA National Authority to reinforce its action as it is starting to produce promising results. In particular, for the in-place technical teams.
3. Encourages the Cambodian Authority to consider the extension of Angkor Site already classified World Heritage Site to the Phnom Kulen Site which constitutes a symbolic source of Angkor.
4. In the medium and long term, it is strongly recommended to set up a national and sustained interdisciplinary programme for:
  - a. Maintenance
  - b. Enhancement
  - c. Reforestation
  - d. Tourism management

## **II.11 Development of museums associated with the World Heritage Sites**

The ICC recommends:

1. To promote the museums related to the World Heritage Sites as a genuine link between various contemporary issues related to culture and development, and regional cooperation in this area.
2. That similarly, as mediators between the visitors and the local population, museums are to promote participatory activities focusing on the development of intangible heritage associated with the World Heritage Sites.

## **II.12 Ta Keo temple**

The ICC recommends to the Chinese Team, in cooperation with the APSARA National Authority:

1. In relation with the complexity of the situation and the interconnections among the different problems to organize an onsite workshop on the occasion of the next meeting of the ICC.
2. The workshop, in addition to the structural aspects, should include the issue of the degradation of decorated walls with the participation of specialist teams (national and international) having worked on similar issues of stone degradation and stone pathology.
3. A sample test should be undertaken with comparative evaluation of the use of different materials and chemical products.

Meanwhile, the ICC recommends to put in place a temporary protection over the deteriorated wall in order to reduce the variation of temperatures and the direct impact of rain on the decorated stones.

### **II.13 Banteay Samre temple**

The ICC recommends to the APSARA National Authority to:

1. Undertake a thorough documentation on the monument, its history, the restoration done by EFEO and its present state of conservation;
2. Prepare a project with a list of priority actions to be undertaken in order to reduce the risks of degradation (for example putting in place provisional propping);

Ensure regular monitoring for this monument (both for stability and conservation of carved decorations).

## **VI.3 Adoption of the recommendations by the ICC-Angkor**

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Presentation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session recommendations: You have all been distributed this three-page document gathering all the recommendations that have been suggested during this Session. You have had a few moments to review it. We will not read them out in their entirety. I will just mention them one by one stating their title and if there are any objections, please flag them quickly as time is precious.

In the General recommendations: The first one I.1 is on the Heritage Management Framework and the Tourism Management Plan. Are there any objections? Mrs. Lemaistre you can start."

*Comment from Mrs. Lemaistre:* "Thank you Co-chair. This is something we overlooked which is my responsibility but it would be a good idea to add a sentence thanking the Cambodian and Australian governments for their support and financing of the project."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "I absolutely agree. Do you have something ready? Ok, so we trust the Secretariat to add a sentence thanking both governments for this project.

Recommendation I.2 on the APSARA National Authority recommendations. Are there any objections? No. It is adopted.

Recommendations I.3 regarding the city of Siem Reap and the Land Use Plan and development of the Old Market quarter. Any objections? No. Adopted.

In the specific recommendations, the II.1 on the Angkor Park bypass road. Are there any objections? Just an innocent question: on C, the last point, you are suggesting that lorries must be consequently prohibited from traffic. Are only lorries affected or any other type of commercial vehicles, regular bus lines etc.?"

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Co-Chair, when we state that the traffic of lorries must be prohibited, it concerns lorries which have no link with the local people (for example those that supply food), and are just driving through. They are a nuisance as they just drive through. They want to save seven or eight kilometres and these kilometres create a threat. This is why we define lorry traffic. With the APSARA National Authority we will set out these limits. When it is a lorry that brings food supplies to the market once a week, it is not an issue, but when there are dozens of lorries that drive through the site with no relation with the local traffic then they should not be allowed."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Fine. Is this recommendation clear enough for all of you? Mr. Delanghe, the floor is yours."

Comment by Mr. Delanghe: "Just to outline Co-chair, that there is a recommendation regarding the temple of Ta Keo which has not been included yet."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Let's continue first with the Angkor Park bypass road. I consider it as adopted."

The recommendation II.2 regarding Angkor Wat pending the correction of misspelling as it is the ICC and not the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It is considered as adopted.

Recommendation II.3 on the development of the Angkor Wat plaza. Are there any amendment proposals or objections? No. Adopted.

Recommendation II.4 on the Angkor Wat causeway dike. Adopted—I feel as if I were in an auction house.

Recommendation II.5 on Srah Srang: No objection. Adopted.

Recommendation II.6 on the West Mebon. If there are no objections then it is adopted.

Recommendation II.7 on the Bayon: No objections? Adopted.

Recommendation II.8 page 4 regarding the Elephant Terrace. Any objections, proposed amendments? No. Adopted.

Recommendation II.9 on the Ta Prohm temple. Yes, please take the floor."

Comment from Mr. Sood: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "The gopura is on the third enclosure not on the fourth enclosure. I repeat, it is actually on the third and not on the fourth enclosure that gopura is mentioned."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Did the Secretariat take note and can you answer the proposal?"

Question from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "I am sorry but I did not understand what was said."

Comment from the co-chairman for France: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "Could you please repeat Sir?"

Comment from Mr. Sood: <sup>[OrigE]</sup> "The gopura mentioned in the recommendation is on the fourth enclosure, but actually it is on the third enclosure."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Fine. We need to change 'fourth enclosure' for 'third enclosure', is that right?"

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "The director general of the APSARA National Authority has sent us an observation on behalf of the Royal Government: 'Of course we are listening carefully to the ICC recommendations, nevertheless if we state that the passage of lorries must be prohibited'..."

Interruption from the Co-chairman for France: "I am sorry to interrupt but for a better understanding for all here, we are reverting to the recommendation II.1 on the Angkor Park bypass road."

Answer from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "As the APSARA National Authority and the Royal Government always take heed of our recommendations, they are requesting that we find and revise the words 'must be prohibited' and that together we first look at provisional measures and then to a final solution. Because if we state it as it is, there might be a lack of organization in the area. They would like wording that stipulates that this recommendation must be reviewed with the Secretariat and in particular the UNESCO Office and the *ad hoc* experts."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Ok. Can we get someone from the Secretariat to work with someone from the APSARA National Authority on the wording of this last sentence to accommodate everyone before the end of this session?"

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "I will take charge of it and at the end we will inform you, I promise."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you honourable Secretary. We will get it approved by all at the end. It is actually a sensitive matter and I'd rather have everyone validating it."

Let's continue my auction; we were at Ta Prohm where an amendment was asked on the gopura enclosure.

Recommendation II.10 on the Kulen. Any observations?"

Remark from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "The wording needs to be redrafted on one point regarding this matter. We have asked the APSARA National Authority to bolster an already encouraging achievement and if you agree, we need a sentence mentioning the teams on site, as this is what will enable the director general of the APSARA National Authority to commit more teams on the ground, once it has been agreed by the president. This must not only remain a simple wish."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Absolutely. Generally speaking and to show you that I have listened to your different interventions, I have noticed that there were different proposals, especially concerning the consolidation of the APSARA National Authority teams on site—what you have just talked about. There was also a second proposal to extend the protected zones and UNESCO suggested the government includes the area of Phnom Kulen on the overall World Heritage protected site."

I think that in one way or another, these two proposals need to be highlighted with suggestions to the Royal Government. It can then, on its own will, implement its approach if it wishes so. Can we ask the Secretariat to reword these three points on this recommendation? Mr. Chevance, the floor is yours."

Remark from Mr. Chevance: "I just want to mention that populations involved in deforestation should, for my liking, be stated in the recommendations and especially in the point regarding income-generating activities. They are the main loggers and could also be the first recipients of the income that may be generated to prevent this phenomenon."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Very well. Mr. Beschaouch would like to take the floor."

Remark from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Just if you and the colleagues agree to state in the sentence 'starting to produce promising results, in particular, for the in-place technical teams', this is the first point. The second point is point 3: We could write: 'Encourage the Cambodian Authority to consider the extension of the Angkor Site already classified World Heritage Site to the Phnom Kulen Site which constitutes a symbolic source of Angkor'. This is an extension that the World Heritage Committee must decide on, but we need to mention the political willingness in the readiness of the dossier, etc. If you agree we would like to add this sentence."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Very well. Did you all understand and agree with these two modifications? There is a word on the consolidation of the technical teams which is fostered and then I do not remember the exact wording on the government which studies the possibility..."

Interruption from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "'To consider the extension of the Angkor Site already classified'. In the UNESCO and World Heritage lingua, it is called extending a site. The UNESCO Office can help."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Are there any objections? No. Subject to these modifications, recommendation II.10 is adopted."

The recommendation II.11 on the development of museums associated with World Heritage sites. Are there any objections? No. Adopted.

I think that you have all been handed out a leaflet for the Temple of Ta Keo."

Interruption from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Can we start with Banteay Samre? Ta Keo concerns the People's Republic of China and we asked them for their input and then you will be given the final version."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Let's start then with the recommendation on Banteay Samre. Are there any observations or amendments? Can I consider it as adopted? Thank you. Can we now review the recommendation on the temple of Ta Keo or are we expecting any modifications?"

When I took the chairmanship I had been assured, 'no need for concern, this is the only international committee where the recommendations are drafted on time, etc.,' and now the ICC is not living up to its reputation."

Interruption from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "This is not to appraise our ICC, but I can guarantee you that I have been a rapporteur and a Secretary for thirty years of my life and this is the only place where we talk, write, propose, talk, write and all of this in the same day."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Obviously I was not criticising. I was just playing my role as TV game show host and trying to kill time waiting for the go ahead in my earpiece. It is like in the news on TV. What was the problem with the recommendation on this point? I have just been told in my earpiece that two or three minutes are allocated to review all the recommendations in case something has slipped your attention."

In the meantime is the modification on the bypass road ready?"

Answer by Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "The best amendment for the director general of the APSARA National Authority who agrees to the principle is that, instead of stating 'recom-

mend' we reword it to 'strongly wishes that the ring road serves only the needs of the population and the circulation of tourists. Consequently, the passage of lorries should be prohibited. Adding then: 'However, taking into consideration the technical and social difficulties raised by this proposal, the National Authority and the ICC Secretariat will present at the next ICC session a joint proposal for its implementation.'"

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Would it not be easier to write: 'Consequently, the passage of lorries should be prohibited. The National Authority and the ICC Secretariat will present at the next ICC session a joint proposal for its implementation?' Because 'social difficulties' will always exist. I mean, it is as you wish."

Interruption from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "The fact Co-chair, is that people from the outside might say: 'what are they going to study?' If you agree, we need to mention the technical difficulties, because which other road may be used? Besides, the social conditions must be stated, as there are people who get their livelihood from the food brought to them. This is why we need to preserve the words 'technical and social difficulties' so that it is not associated with any complacency."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Are there any observations? Can you re-read the exact wording so that we are all aware of it?"

Answer by Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "By reference to the obligations of the APSARA National Authority, managing agency of the site inscribed on the World Heritage List (Article 172 of the Guidelines), the ICC strongly wishes that the ring road serves only the needs of the population and the circulation of tourists. Consequently, the passage of lorries should be prohibited. However, taking into consideration the technical and social difficulties raised by this proposal, the National Authority and the ICC Secretariat will present at the next ICC session a joint proposal for its implementation."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "I think that we all agree with this proposal? Adopted. Thank you very much."

One last proposal on Ta Keo, I was told two minutes but..."

Interruption from Mr. Beschaouch: "We have it in English, and it is being translated."

[OrigE] 'The ICC recommends to the Chinese team in cooperation with the APSARA National Authority: a) in relation with the complexity of the situation and the connection between the members, to organize on the occasion of the next ICC meeting a site workshop. b) The workshop, in addition to the structural aspect, should include the issue of the degradation of decorated walls with the participation of specialist teams (national and international), having worked on similar issues of stone degradation and stone pathology. c) A sample test should be undertaken with comparative evaluation of the use of Chinese materials and other chemical materials. Meanwhile the ICC recommends to put in place temporary protection over the deteriorated wall in order to reduce the variations of temperature and the direct impact on the decorated stones'.

[Back to the French language] The French translation has just been given to me, it will be in the final text."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you very much. Mr. Bouchenaki, would you like to say something?"

Comment from Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki: "Just a minor observation."

[OrigE] We are mentioning the fact that tests should be done using different material, instead of speaking of 'Chinese and other', I would favour the formulation 'The use of dif-

ferent materials and chemical products'. It is true that during our visit we talked with our Chinese colleagues, and it is true to say that they have traditional Chinese materials. We also talked to the GACP and Geolab about other chemical products. This will be a discussion to be held during the seminar, but on this recommendation we do not need to specify whether it is Chinese or not. It is better to write 'The use of different material and chemical products'. Thank you."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Thank you. The comment you made seems logical, we will modify it as such."

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Co-chair, the text is ready in French and in English. Taking into account what Mr. Bouchenaki justifiably remarked, we will hand it out and simply say to all that the word 'Chinese' will be substituted by 'different'. That's all."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "Can we consider that there are no amendments or objections and that this recommendation has been adopted? It will be given to you for filing. You will just need to strike out the word 'Chinese' and replace it by 'different'."

Comment from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Co-chair, I am responsible for overseeing something. Despite all the papers surrounding me, though I work from memory, but, still, you need papers. One hour ago, it was confirmed to me that the vice president of the SIAVB (*Syndicat intercommunal pour l'assainissement de la Vallée de la Bièvre*) announced that he received technical and financial support. We have an official letter and I do not need to draft a recommendation. According to our procedure, it is during the Plenary Session that we announce when an agreement has been concluded. Let me read you an extract of the letter sent to His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sok An:

'SIAVB has given careful examination to the APSARA National Authority proposal to carry out the work as soon as the project is approved by the ICC. I will get confirmation by potential financial partners, the Water Utility Seine Normandie, the AFD and other local authorities.'

There is one certainty with the support of the Water Utility Seine Normandie and AFD, so we should not let such an opportunity..."

Interruption from the Co-chairman for France: "Mr. Beschaouch what would you like to do exactly? To add a recommendation?"

Answer by Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "No. Simply to let people know that there is a possibility for a yes."

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: "I believe though, under the control of His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister, that proposals to finance the APSARA National Authority will never be turned down. I actually believe that several financing appeals have been mentioned. There was a request put to our colleagues from New Zealand, and I also understood that for urban heritage, a need for further financing was expected. Maybe such and such projects or donors should not be specified. I believe that, as is the custom during the other ICCs, we can only reiterate our appeal for financial contribution to our partners. Obviously my heart goes with France, but I guess there is no need to state it."

Remark from Mr. Azedine Beschaouch: "Co-chair, may I comment on behalf of the past? It has never been the case for the Royal Government to directly reply to France nor Japan, nor to any other countries. They always use us as an intermediary, and we are always the one that declares, as you just said, whether this should be put in the report. What we are requesting is that in this report it should be noted that the Committee agreed to the financ-



ing partnership project between the APSARA National Authority and SIAVB. That is enough, as usually we only reply once the ICC agrees.”

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: “I am going to speak under the supervision of His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister. If I understood correctly, this letter is addressed to His Excellency. Normally, the administrative procedure requires that His Excellency should reply. I do not have any prior experience with this and especially none like yours at the ICC. I do not know whether we usually mention the outcome of each financial proposal or perspective. As I am, not in age, but in experience certainly, the youngest in this room, I will leave this matter to your discretion and especially to that of the Deputy Prime Minister.”

Intervention from His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister Sok An: “Thank you Co-chair. We are extremely delighted and we value very much that the *Syndicat intercommunal pour l’assainissement de la Vallée de la Bièvre* has taken interest in a partnership with the APSARA National Authority. This cooperation matter is important as it focuses on one of the key problems at the Angkor Park, namely water. The *Syndicat* has examined this vital issue and has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the APSARA National Authority on this matter. But with regards to Angkor, the government and partners have always made sure that any commitments and cooperation comply with the technical regulations under technical supervision of the ICC. This is the reason the *Syndicat* has requested the agreement of the ICC.

This is a logical procedure. The *Syndicat* extends its cooperation with the APSARA National Authority and do not want to proceed against the regulations and I believe that this is a request that we need to meet. Fortunately, there is a delegation of the *Syndicat* here and I would like you, Co-chair, to hand over the floor to the representative of the *Syndicat*.”

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: “Thank you, Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister. They already took the floor previously, but if they have something new to add they are welcome to do so.”

Comment from the SIAVB representative: “This cooperation includes the *Amis d’Angkor* (AAA) and the *Syndicat de la Bièvre*. Due to the rather complex scheme set up to obtain subsequent funding, the donors requested an agreement, not from the Technical Committee, but from the Plenary Assembly. I agree entirely with His Excellency’s comment. It is purely formal, but we need this decision...”

Interruption from the Co-chairman for France: “Very well. If this is just formal, I have the agreement of the Deputy Prime Minister that a word will be added on this point, hoping that this is not making a case law for other donors.”

Comment from the SIAVB representative: “For us this is the condition to get this...”

Interruption from the Co-chairman for France: “...additional funding. Fine. Thank you.”

Intervention from His Excellency Sok An: “Thank you Co-chair.”

Comment from the Co-chairman for France: “You are welcome Excellency. We can consider that all the recommendations including those amended have been adopted. Thank you very much.

We are slightly behind schedule, let's proceed to the closing and final session and I'll give the floor straight away to my colleague the Co-chair for Japan, His Excellency Mr. Kuroki.”

## VII- CLOSING SESSION

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### VII.1 Closing speech by the Japanese Co-chair, His Excellency Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Ambassador of Japan in Cambodia

"His Excellency Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Kol Bunly, High representative of His Majesty the King His Excellency Mr. Dominique Mas, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of France Ms Anne Lemaistre, representative of UNESCO Phnom Penh Office, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of myself and my co-chairperson for this meeting, I would like to sincerely thank you for attending this 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session.

During the two days of this Plenary Session celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List, we have had sufficient time allocated to discuss the ICC perspectives, as was the initial goal of this Plenary Session.

The Adoption of the Charter for Angkor has given a special meaning to the success of our work. This Charter will play a major role on the normative guiding principles of many fields globally. I would like to pay tribute to the work of the experts coordinated by Professor Croci. They dedicated a lot of effort in drafting this Charter.

We also had fruitful debates on the future of the ICC, its role, mission and structure. Some comments have established the distinction between this Angkor-ICC and others. I have noticed that it is based on solid foundations, on the one hand with the Cambodian government demonstrating its continued political willingness and on the other with the commitment of the international community for long-term cooperation. I believe that with this solid base we can discuss the ICC guidelines and then adapt them to the changes that have occurred in the past twenty years.

Moreover, Cambodia will host the World Heritage Committee next year. It's my sincere wish that the Committee will be successfully conducted under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, based on the experience acquired in work undertaken for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Cambodia.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to all participants, the UNESCO Secretariat and ICC Permanent Scientific Secretary, Professor Azedine Beschaouch who actively contributed to this meeting. I also deeply appreciate the efforts of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia who has cooperated in our activities and in the organization of this meeting.

Thank you for your attention."

## **VII.2 Closing speech by the French Co-chair, His Excellency Mr. Dominique Mas, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of France in Cambodia**

"His Excellency Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Excellencies Ministers,  
His Excellency Mr. Kol Bunly, High representative of His Majesty the King  
Excellencies,  
Excellency Governor of Siem Reap,  
Honourable Co-chair,  
Ms Anne Lemaistre, representative UNESCO Phnom Penh office,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

I must admit, and you might have found it out by yourself already, that I had a great time co-chairing this ICC and experiencing your meetings. I think that, despite my short hour-long experience among you, this meeting bore its fruit.

As mentioned by my colleague Ambassador, we have achieved the Charter. I would like to digress in order to align myself with the congratulations made by His Excellency Kuruki to all the team that drafted it and in particular to Professor Croci who headed the working group and on a more general level, to all the people who for the past ten years have contributed to the drafting of this Charter.

We have also achieved some major recommendations. I am not going to go over them again. Of course, this is something you know better than I do, it is not sufficient to just give out recommendations because they also need to be efficiently implemented and monitored. I am certain that the Secretariat in connection with the APSARA National Authority will update us on a regular basis on the implementation of these major recommendations.

We have also achieved interesting prospects in terms of projects. We just mentioned the projects for hydraulic development cooperation. I also think of the tourism management projects, of the work undertaken in Siem Reap city for its tourism development and of other numerous projects from international teams and the APSARA National Authority that will be undertaken in the coming years.

We also succeeded in advancing ideas and perspectives for the next ten years. What do we expect from an ICC in ten years? What is the mid-term vision of its activities? These are important questions and this must entice each of us to continue pondering and exchanging with the co-chairmanship and the Secretariat on these perspectives. Anyway, I invite all of you to deepen your thinking and not to hesitate in informing us on the level of your reflection on this matter. We need rich discussions to prepare for the forthcoming decade.

Finally, I would like to thank all the speakers, and especially the Scientific Secretary. Yesterday or this morning, I was jokingly saying Scientific Secretary or Perpetual or Standing Secretary, but after Professor Beschaouch stated that we are here and we are going to stay, I think I was right: you are a Perpetual Secretary and we are delighted with this.

I, of course, would like to thank the APSARA National Authority, not only for the smooth preparation of this meeting and their technical support, but I must admit, also for the logistic set up and its reception in these premises and the delicious lunch offered. Thank you to their Excellencies, the president and the director general.

I will not leave without omitting to praise the Royal Government, our host in Cambodia. I would like to congratulate it for twenty years of collaboration within the ICC and I

thank it in advance for the next twenty years of collaboration. I would like to wish the Royal Government, via its Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sok An who will be in charge of this matter, a successful meeting of the World Heritage Committee. We will be supporting you, if necessary, for the smooth proceedings of these events.

Thank you to all of you.”

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* “Would His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister like to take the floor for its closing speech?”

### **VII.3 Speech by the Representative of the Royal Government of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the APSARA National Authority**

“Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies Ambassadors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen Professors and Heads of archaeological mission,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Plenary Session is of particular importance in various respects I have been delighted to attend with all of you under the joint chairmanship of the Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Masafumi Kuroki, and the Chargé d'Affaires of France, His Excellency Dominique Mas. Let me congratulate them warmly for the way they have conducted proceedings.

Firstly, this Session marks twenty years onwards, almost to the day, of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List. It was on 14 December 1992 in Santa Fe, United States of America that during the 16<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee chaired by Mr. Azedine Beschouch, it was decided by consensus to proceed to the inscription based on criteria (I), (II), (III) and (IV) and to include in the protection boundary as proposed by ICOMOS all monument complexes and the archaeological area of Roluos until Banteay Srei.

The World Heritage Committee took, at the time, a very brave and innovative decision which took heed of the unique situation of Cambodia following the July 1991 Paris Peace Accords, and by then relinquished for the first time some of the 1972 Convention implementation conditions required by the Guidelines on protection of World Heritage sites.

Conversely, ‘in order to face swiftly and efficiently the pressing conservation challenges’, this is an extract from the Committee Decision, the latter asked the Cambodian authorities to take the necessary steps towards meeting the following conditions within three years (1993-1995):

- a) Promulgation of a relevant protecting law;
- b) establishment of a National Agency for Protection adequately staffed;
- c) setting out the permanent boundaries based on the UNDP project (ZEMP document, zoning environmental management plan);
- d) setting out significant buffer zones;
- e) monitoring and coordination of the international effort for conservation.

These conditions—as you know very well and twenty years after one should be proud of it—were met. Thereby, during the Suzhou 28<sup>th</sup> session in China on 7 July 2004, the Committee decided to take Angkor off of the World Heritage Site in Danger List.

In the meantime in these years 1993-1995, the Tokyo Conference was held (12-13 October 1993), the funding conference which—as you are all aware of—established our ICC. The first session of this ICC—and you know that too—was held in Phnom Penh on 18-19 December 1993.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we need to take stock of our past activities domestically and internationally. We must in particular highlight the willingness and personal commitment of the late King Father, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, honorary president of the ICC for what he has achieved for Angkor and the ICC.

Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

History is a fundamental benchmark for those who know how to cleverly draw lessons from the past and from experiences in order to be better prepared to face future hazards. We know that the Angkor monuments are eternally the national symbols of Cambodia and its people. Besides, widely introduced to UNESCO within the World Heritage Committee, the international community has long considered the Angkor site and monuments representative of one of the most valuable cultural heritage sites in Asia and the world.

Thus, twenty years after its inscription, no one is questioning the year after year ever increasing particular importance of the international cooperation for the safeguarding and development of the Angkor site and of its ancillary the city of Siem Reap.

Thus, I am delighted and honoured on behalf of His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister and of the Royal Government to express our heartfelt gratefulness for the action carried out by UNESCO up to the present. Also, our deepest gratitude to the countries and governmental or non-governmental organizations which continue to cooperate with the APSARA National Authority and the institutions and departments of the Siem Reap province with a view to implement conservation, development and sustainable development programmes and projects.

I would like to highlight what was said by his Excellency Mr. Beschouch. We do greatly acknowledge the fraternity, informality and close collaboration that we feel during the ICC sessions.

I remind you that our ICC will celebrate next year its 20 years of existence, continuous activity and acknowledged achievements. Let's already enjoy it and recognize that the ICC framework has enabled us to greatly fulfill the goals set out by the Tokyo Declaration (23 October 1993), and those established by the Paris Declaration (15 November 2003). We also bear in mind the organisation of the new international conference in 2013, next year.

It must be acknowledged above all that the heartfelt thanks we must express to France and Japan are well motivated and justified, as they have been for the past twenty years assuming with wisdom, dynamism and harmony, the task of the ICC co-chairmanship. It is legitimate to include in this deep gratitude UNESCO, which manages the Secretariat with coherence, continuity and great efficiency.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Due to the national mourning, the celebrations marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of Angkor have been postponed to next year. There is only one item which will be organised as scheduled, a national television game show to boost competitive spirit and competition. We will actually organise a competition among students and pupils that includes the ICC and the APSARA National Authority as the topics. This programme will be aired on the national network.

I propose to join your efforts with that of the APSARA National Authority in order to mark with dignity and in the best possible ways the value that UNESCO and the international community have bestowed upon the Angkor site. We are fully sincere when being proud of our achievement which unanimously is great. Exhibitions and the media will expose the long journey started in 1993 when the 40,000 hectares of the site were still mined and the monuments in danger. Angkor is now on the map and thanks to continuous fighting against illegal trafficking and organized plunder, the site has stopped being the favourite playground of antiquities dealers.

I would like to add one more thing about the ICC. Concomitantly with the inscription of Angkor, we will celebrate the ICC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I was very interested by the idea of discussing and commenting on the future of the ICC. Constructive and deep ideas have been raised on its future and perspectives. But I would like to add one point. We cannot talk about the ICC without mentioning financing.

Earlier on, the cooperation with the *Syndicat* was discussed when addressing the flood issue and there again the same issue arises: financing. How can funds be found to support this cooperation? This is the reason I would like to add an additional item on the discussions tabled this morning on the rationale behind ICC's success.

I would like to mention and recall the continuity in funding from France and Japan. Without these contributions, the ICC would not have been able to reach today's level. Let's not overlook UNESCO funding and that of the national authorities in order to run and support the activities of the APSARA National Authority.

Besides the spectacular work in consolidation and restoration, it is also important to disseminate to all the huge achievements in archaeological research. People need to know that these studies have sometimes reviewed our knowledge on the history, chronology, and organization of Angkor and in particular with Angkor Thom on the one hand and Siem Reap province on the other, the large territory of the Angkorian boundary.

Also not to be neglected is the work which within twenty years has changed the look of Angkor: the development of the monuments' approach areas and of tourism access roads.

On the research field, I would like to add one more point. We had thought deeply on the way to facilitate research studies of the different institutions that have been cooperating with the APSARA National Authority. A Documentation Centre was established a little while ago and headed by professor Tan Boun Suy. The aim of this Centre is to support and facilitate research studies in the boundary of Angkor. I would like to remind you of it so that our academic colleagues may be in touch with Mr. Tan Boun Suy for any research work.

I would like to point out another matter, that potential exhibition ideas and awareness raising activities are all welcome for 2013. Next June, the Kingdom of Cambodia has the privilege to organize with UNESCO the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee. This is a unique opportunity to showcase to worldwide delegations what you have achieved in twenty years and how you have succeeded in saving a World Heritage site, then to con-

serve it and in cooperation with the APSARA National Authority to oversee its proper management. I am convinced that you will all answer this appeal and that the Phnom Penh UNESCO office will support this endeavour.

Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now turn to our present Plenary Session and its agenda. I would like to focus on three points that I consider as key for the future of Angkor and the Siem Reap region.

- Firstly, the hydraulic work:

The Royal Government has prioritised this programme. Special funds have been allocated to the APSARA National Authority so that it takes preventive measures against potential flooding in the Angkor Park and Siem Reap city. Work led by Dr. Hang Peou, department head at the Authority, has been met with great success. Moreover, in conjunction with this large scope of work, studies have been undertaken on the ancient Khmer hydraulic network, barays, moats, canals and connections with rivers. The study yielded positive outcomes and it will continue.

I would also like to update the forthcoming construction of a Centre to showcase visitors the Angkor hydraulic network. After long studies, the APSARA National Authority, through Dr. Hang Peou, has been able to recover the entire hydraulic network at Angkor. A few months ago, thanks to successfully implemented work, the areas of the Angkor temple and of the city have been protected from flooding.

If the outcomes of the research had not been applied, it is certain that the areas of Angkor and of the city of Siem Reap would have been flooded in September and October 2012. In the Centre, a model will be exhibited to explain to visitors the Angkor hydraulic network which managed to feed a population of one million in the city of Angkor which was a farming urban area, as there was no industry in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. Despite all of this, our ancestors managed to nourish and supply one million people living in the city of Angkor. Research has confirmed this fact.

- The second item of interest regards the City of Siem Reap:

What has come out of the ongoing studies is that this city has many monuments with historical value and a heritage of importance (even close to Angkor) with specific cultural landscapes. All foreign visitors endow upon the city a charm that should be safeguarded and it has remained one of the last cities with no urban chaos and densification in South-east Asia. This is a great asset for sustainable tourism and guarantees visitors' comfort. This is evidenced by a rapid development of night markets. I was very surprised when I last visited the night market. It has grown so quickly. The provincial authorities and especially the local governance should be praised as it is very well organized. Remarkable is that there are almost no complaints from visitors and tourists that enjoy an evening at the night market. We will see to the protection of Siem Reap assets.

- Finally, the third point concerns Phnom Kulen:

We have sounded the alarm as threats overhanging this historical plateau have been proven. It is necessary that emergency first, then long-term measures are implemented.

I entrust the governor of Siem Reap, His Excellency Sou Phirin, with establishing a Commission convening managers and experts so that they can analyse the situation in the field and prepare a documented report that specifically puts forth corrective and preventive measures. The APSARA National Authority and UNESCO will be invited to send representa-

tives to this commission. Deforestation must be stopped and cultural heritage threats as well, at once.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

All the items that you have reviewed are of interest. But I have purposely focused on key items. I will only add two things of interest for the ICC:

On the one hand, the headway made by the Green Belt Programme supported by the Federal Republic of Germany and in particular a notable feature on rural handicraft. On 12 December, next week, an International Exhibition and Information Centre will be inaugurated on this exposure programme to rural handicrafts specificities.

I am mentioning this point because the Green Belt can be considered as a success story. Why? Recently, I welcomed a delegation headed by the German Secretary of State for cooperation. His Excellency, the Secretary of State, expressed his delight and satisfaction once he visited villages and communes where the Green Belt Programme was set up. Germany has organised many field trips for agronomists or other individuals who have travelled to Germany. This has given additional motivation to participants.

His Excellency expressed his great satisfaction when he conversed directly with people in the communes and was told that thanks to the Green Belt project, some communes have been able to put aside savings (\$20-30,000) by selling products made in the framework of the Green Belt project.

Some people criticise the authorities saying that they only focus on urban development and that in the outskirts people continue to remain very poor and are not the recipients of the profits generated by urban development. The truth differs, we started this project a while ago (4-6 years) and today the outcomes are showing. We have motivated people from the suburbs and from regions far from the city who have been willing to sell their products to Siem Reap markets, to hotels and tourists. This is the result of what people want and know how to produce. The sharing of knowledge is the outcome of this Green Belt project.

It is also related to the project on the communities in protected areas presented by His Excellency Khuon Khun-Neay, in cooperation with the government of New Zealand. This programme has yielded results with the aim of integrating communities (farmers, villagers) living inside and outside the communes located in the protected zones and to improve their standard of living. This is in line with government policies to fight and reduce poverty.

Let's establish a comparison between Siem Reap and Battambang or Kampong Cham provinces. There are no comparisons as the gap is huge. Battambang or Kampong Cham provinces were more developed than Siem Reap province. The latter was always considered as a poor province. In 1993, when we commenced with the coalition government, tourism in Cambodia had statistics that we recently discovered mentioning the figure of 118,000 visitors per year. After 1999, once peace and stability had been restored in the country in the aftermath of the breaking up of the last Khmer Rouge strongholds, security, order and political stability were reinstated and tourism started to develop.

In Siem Reap today, we have reached the two million visitors figure, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Tourism. In the last ten months of 2012 the increase in tourism went up to 57.5 percent year-on-year. This is the reason Siem Reap is no longer among the poorest provinces of Cambodia.

However, not only the city has developed since there are also practical projects such as the Green Belt to develop communities within protected areas and they have yielded



results. The standard of living of the population has sharply increased, not only in Siem Reap town, but also in surrounding areas and in further districts and communes.

The second information regards heritage and population. This is the core topic of the World Heritage Committee and recently in Kyoto, Japan, the celebrations marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1972 Convention have highlighted this topic in papers and publications.

I headed a delegation to Kyoto—and I take this opportunity to thank Japan through His Excellency the Ambassador here among us. I was invited as Chairman of the World Heritage Committee to make a commemorative speech on the 1972 Kyoto Convention. I was delighted with the conference and I can openly say that I have brought back from Kyoto some positive aspects which have already been implemented: The close relationship between heritage development within the communities specifically regarding the relationship between humans, culture and nature. In Kyoto, we talked about the community. How can the village community be integrated with sustainable development of heritage?

I have already established within the APSARA National Authority a group that I have called the Community Work group. This group is made up of all the managers of the APSARA National Authority in connection with work carried out in the communes. For example, the head of the community development project in protected zones, the head of Security and Order, the head of the development project of Run Ta Ek, the head of the Water Resources Management project, etc. All these project heads who have a relationship with the community have been organized and we have allocated sufficient resources so that they can go to the villages every day. The group is made up of several representatives, one of them must visit the villages to assess what can be undertaken to improve people's harmony with sustainable development in the area of our heritage.

Another idea that I have brought back from Kyoto is to integrate youth with heritage development. In Kyoto, there were youth delegations coming from more than ten countries who are learning to love heritage and to talk and think heritage. I have already had talks with the chairman of the Youth Associations of Cambodia to establish a relationship between the youth and preservation and sustainable development of heritage. The chairman of the Associations was delighted and gave his full agreement to take part in this project.

We plan on inviting groups of youth to visit the APSARA National Authority and Angkor, then the APSARA National Authority will look into organizing awareness sessions in groups so that the youth are better aware of the value of heritage: National heritage, World Heritage for humanity, but also the key role of heritage for the country's economy. In Cambodia, one can say that heritage or culture also means economy. You have to realise that an increase of 57 percent attracts many economic stakeholders.

Whilst mentioning Kyoto, I would like to remind you that we have already started working in this direction: More integration of villagers and farmers. How to consolidate the harmony between the community and heritage development and integrate gradually the youth to heritage work, to love heritage, to preserve heritage and to contribute to its sustainable development?

As we are hosting in June 2013, the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh and Angkor, I take this opportunity to clarify that we will organize this 37<sup>th</sup> session in both Phnom Penh and Angkor. At least the last two days will be held in Siem Reap Angkor, to give an opportunity for the participants to visit Angkor.

Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you for your watchfulness and constant support to the Royal Government policies in safeguarding the cultural heritage and balancing tourism development. You have demonstrated the usefulness of the ICC and the need to conserve for the long-term this think tank, dialogue and monitoring body.

Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now turn to our present Plenary Session and its agenda. In the footsteps of the twenty years that will be celebrated next year, I strongly hope that France and Japan the Co-chairs, that UNESCO the Standing Secretariat and the States and institutions members of the ICC decide not to stop there and prepare a new decade.

Long live our ICC! And may the wonderful Angkorian adventure continue!

I thank you for your attention. Thank you very much.”

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* “Thank you, your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister. Thank you also for your words and for all the information and feelings that you shared in particular for the future of the ICC.

I now give the floor to the representative of UNESCO in Cambodia, Mrs. Anne Lemaistre.”

#### **VII.4 Speech by the Representative of UNESCO Director-General, Mrs. Anne Lemaistre, UNESCO Representative in Cambodia**

“His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Sok An,  
Excellency Mr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism,  
Excellency Mr. Sou Phirin, Governor of Siem Reap province,  
Distinguished Co-chairmen,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,  
Dear friends,

As was mentioned by the Co-chairs, this Plenary Session addressed cross-cutting topics related to cultural tourism, water management, local communities, urban heritage, the role of the museums in particular associated with World Heritage sites and the stocktaking and future of our ICC. This is what a Plenary Session should be: a holistic vision on topics shared by all teams.

We have adopted two landmark documents: the TMP (Tourism Management Plan) and the Charter for Angkor. These documents, of which implementation is paramount, will assist in guiding for the coming years our respective activities in tourism management and conservation of the Angkor monuments.

Our next ICC meeting will be late 2013 for a Technical and a Plenary Session and we hope for a third intergovernmental meeting for Angkor.

In the meantime, and as mentioned by His Excellency Sok An, the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Phnom Penh from 17-27 June 2013. As I previously said, His Excellency Sok An will chair this World Heritage Committee, and I take this opportunity to congratulate him for his election.

Your Excellency, Dr. Sok An, the World Heritage Committee will be fortunate this year to draw from your long experience of our ICC to guide the proceedings of the Committee, thereby deciding whether to inscribe sites on the World Heritage List and to exhaustively review the reports on the conservation condition of the inscribed sites.

As you know, the World Heritage Committee convenes once a year and includes representatives of 21 State Parties to the Convention elected by the General Assembly of the State Parties.

I noticed that among elected members of the World Heritage Committee are several members of our ICC: Germany, Cambodia of course, the Russian Federation, France, India, Japan, Switzerland and Thailand. It is a fortunate coincidence. You are our ICC ambassadors to the World Heritage Committee. Thank you.

UNESCO, acting as the Secretariat of the ICC, would like to express its gratitude and congratulations to the Co-chairs for their efficiency in keeping to the timetable and for their input into the reflection on the ICC roles and missions.

UNESCO would also like to express its gratitude to the Ambassadors for attending this session, and also for their unwavering support to the safeguarding and sustainable development of Angkor, assistance which has materialised through highly motivated international teams also among us today.

This ICC could not be held without the informed and constructive advice of the *ad hoc* experts and of Professor Beschouch, who, you have heard, has been the institutional memory of our ICC since its establishment. I insist on this matter.

I also congratulate the Cambodian authorities led by His Excellency Sok An, and also the director general, His Excellency Bun Narith, and all the APSARA National Authority departments for the quality of their presentations and their support to the organization of this session and the ICC Secretariat and the interpreters for their efficient assistance as always.

As 2013 will be the moment to celebrate the twenty years of the inscription of Angkor and of the establishment of our ICC, I wish for festive friendship celebrations motivated by our shared passion for heritage and in particular that of Angkor.

I thank you for your attention."

*Comment from the Co-chairman for France:* "Thank you to the representative. I only have to wish to all of those who do not live in Cambodia a safe trip back home and to declare this 19<sup>th</sup> session of the ICC closed. Thank you."

**\*\* Conclusion of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICC Plenary Session \*\***

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