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# REPORT 2012 - 2013



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

អង្គការ  
អប់រំ វិទ្យាសាស្ត្រ និង  
វប្បធម៌ នៃសហប្រជាជាតិ

PHNOM PENH  
Office



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Educational, Scientific and  
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# REPORT

## 2012 - 2013

A photograph of a person from the chest up, wearing a blue denim baseball cap with a red and yellow flame-like logo on the front. They are also wearing a light blue surgical face mask and a yellow and white horizontally striped shirt. The person is looking slightly to the right. In the background, there are many colorful balloons in shades of blue, yellow, orange, pink, and white. To the left, a white building with a red sign that says "CO" is visible. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

# TABLE of CONTENTS



**01** • Foreword

**04** • UNESCO in Cambodia Today

**16** • Education

**30** • Natural Sciences

**34** • Culture

**44** • Communication and Information

**52** • The Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

**54** • UNESCO Staff Members

**56** • UNESCO Partners

**60** • Glossary



# FOREWORD





It has been a remarkable biennium (2012-2013) for UNESCO in Cambodia, and it is with great pleasure that I share with you the Report of UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh. Our organization witnessed a diverse and dynamic set of programmes and activities in all our fields of competence namely, Education, Culture, Natural Sciences, and Communication and Information. Our activities are designed under the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy and within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

As a technical agency, UNESCO has strived to support the national authorities to launch new policies to accompany changes in the Cambodian society: Major steps have been undertaken towards the first National Cultural Policy, a Tourism Management Plan for Angkor, a National Teacher Policy and a potential Access to Information legislation. Major regional workshops were also organized in Cambodia on new themes such as cultural diversity and underwater heritage as well as numerous training workshops in the field of quality of education, journalism and cultural management.

Years 2012-2013 saw the results of UNESCO's leadership, coordination and advocacy efforts in the Education Sector. UNESCO coordinated inputs into the preparation of the draft Education Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018, and contributed to the successful application to the Global Partnership for Education for the amount of US \$38.5 million dollars to support the Education Strategic Plan implementation for the 2014 – 2016 period.

As Chair and Secretariat of the Education Sector Working Group, UNESCO has made great strides in achieving Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development (MDG) goals in Cambodia by working with donor agencies and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. A number of UNESCO toolkits have been translated and adapted in Khmer, and educational officials have been trained in the use of the toolkits. The UNESCO Phnom Penh Office also focused its attention on the development of

the media by providing and strengthening communication and information facilities at the local community level. UNESCO gave support to enhance the professional standards of working journalists and media professionals.

Among the highlights of this biennium, Cambodia hosted the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee jointly organized by UNESCO and the Cambodian authorities. His Excellency Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, chaired the session as the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee. This event was honored by the first official visit of Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, to Cambodia. In December 2013, UNESCO Phnom Penh celebrated the 20th anniversary of the ICC-Angkor (International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor), in the presence of high-level, international guests through exceptional cultural events, an exhibition and a publication marking two decades of cooperation.

All of these achievements were made possible by the extensive support of our partners from the Royal Government of Cambodia, other UN agencies, development banks, bilateral donors and local, international NGOs and of course, my UNESCO colleagues. Together, we can achieve to give a better life to the Cambodian people.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anne', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that ends in a small arrowhead pointing to the right.

Anne Lemaistre  
UNESCO Representative in Cambodia

UNESCO

in CAMBODIA TODAY



UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was established in November 1945, at a time when the world had experienced two devastating wars. UNESCO foundations were rooted in the concerns of the time. Through this specialized UN agency, we aim to build peace and security among nations through all its fields of competence: Education, Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

### UNESCO VISION:

“To build peace in the minds of people” by contributing to peace and security in the world and promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture, communication and information.

### UNESCO MISSION STATEMENT:

The overall mission of the Office in the country aims to promote UNESCO's mission for peace, poverty reduction, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, sciences, culture and communication and information.

### UNESCO PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS:

To fulfil its mandate, UNESCO performs five principal functions within its spheres of competence:

- A laboratory of ideas by anticipating and defining the most important emerging problems in the light of the ethical principles, and identifying appropriate strategies and policies to deal with them;
- A standard-setter as a central forum by articulating, building understanding, benchmarking, mobilizing and forging universal agreements on emerging ethical issues;
- A clearinghouse for gathering, transferring, disseminating and sharing information, knowledge, best practices and innovative solutions, and testing them through pilot projects;
- A capacity builder in Member States through organizing international cooperation in building the country's human and institutional capacities in diverse fields to deal with the challenges addressed within UNESCO's mission;
- A catalyst for promoting international cooperation among State Members and Associate Members in the field of education, sciences, culture and communication: as a technical multi-disciplinary agency, assuming a catalytic role in introducing innovation, effective intervention and wise practice into development assistance through multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

### UNESCO PRINCIPLES:

UNESCO is working to create the conditions for genuine dialogue based upon respect

for shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture. This role is critical, particularly in the face of terrorism, which constitutes an attack against humanity. The world urgently requires global visions of sustainable development based upon observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which lie at the heart of UNESCO's mission and activities.

## UNESCO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

The nine strategic objectives (SO) are the following:

- SO 1:** Develop education systems to foster quality lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SO 2:** Empower learners to be creative and responsible global citizens
- SO 3:** Shape the future education agenda
- SO 4:** Promote the interface between science, policy and society and ethical and inclusive policies for sustainable development
- SO 5:** Strengthen international science co-operation for peace, sustainability and social inclusion
- SO 6:** Support inclusive social development and promote intercultural dialogue and the rapprochement of cultures

**SO 7:** Protect, promote and transmit heritage

**SO 8:** Foster creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions

**SO 9:** Promote freedom of expression, media development and universal access to information and knowledge

## OVERALL STRATEGY OF THE UNESCO OFFICE IN PHNOM PENH

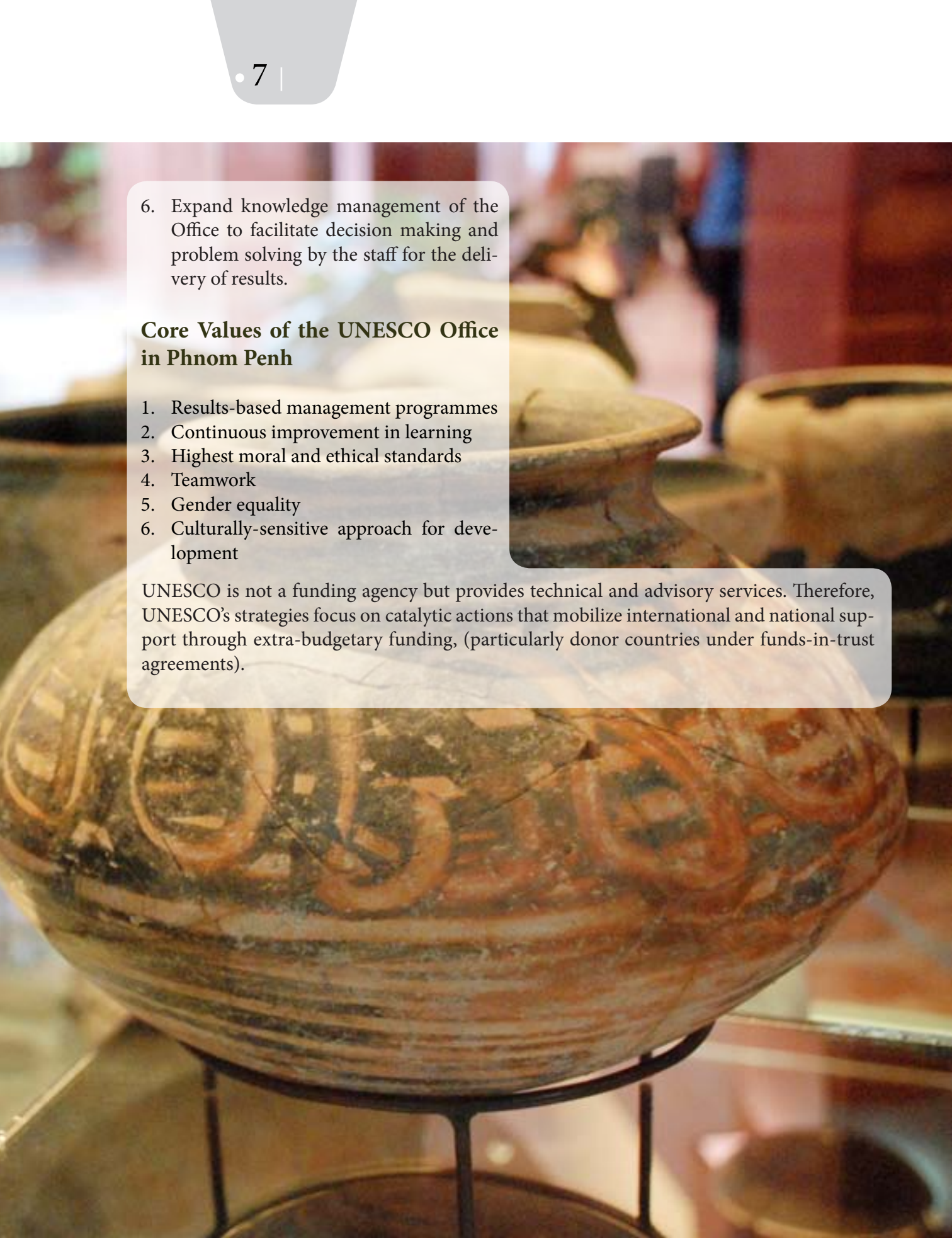
1. Design and implement programmes and projects contributing to the strategic objectives of UNESCO in the country.
2. Develop projects, raise funds and implement the projects in the areas of competence of the Office to reinforce programme activities.
3. Promote and enhance partnerships and networks for disseminating and sharing information and ideas with the stakeholders in the country.
4. Enhance the capacity of the staff for strategic planning and management of the programmes and projects for delivering results in the country.
5. Position the environment of the Office for efficient and effective delivery of programmes and projects in the country.

6. Expand knowledge management of the Office to facilitate decision making and problem solving by the staff for the delivery of results.

### **Core Values of the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh**

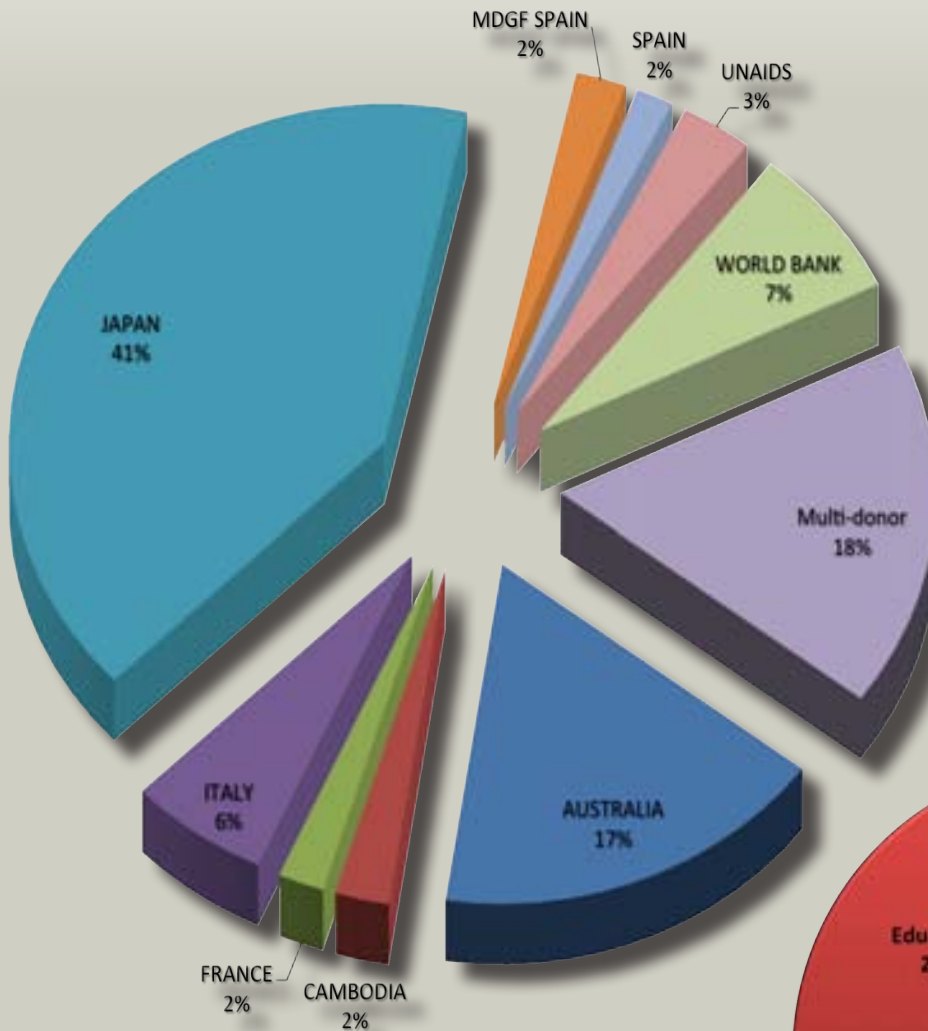
1. Results-based management programmes
2. Continuous improvement in learning
3. Highest moral and ethical standards
4. Teamwork
5. Gender equality
6. Culturally-sensitive approach for development

UNESCO is not a funding agency but provides technical and advisory services. Therefore, UNESCO's strategies focus on catalytic actions that mobilize international and national support through extra-budgetary funding, (particularly donor countries under funds-in-trust agreements).

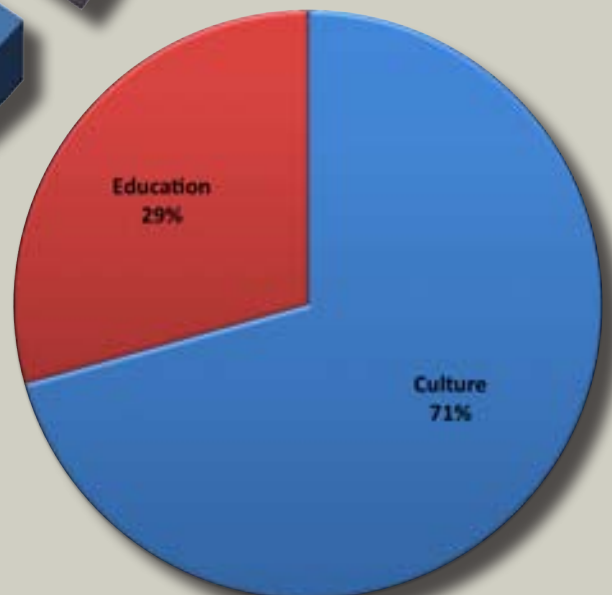


# UNESCO PHNOM PENH in NUMBERS

## EXTRA-BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTION BY DONORS 2012 - 2013 (in USD)



## Extra-Budgetary Projects by Unit



Sources of Funds	Project Description	Allocation 2012-2013	Total Allocation of Project	Valid
MULTI-DONOR	Emergency Assistance Preah Vihear Temple	23,068.00	72,922.00	2012-2015
SPAIN	2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: Capacity-Building and Raising of Awareness to foster ratification and implementation	50,949.00	50,949.00	2011-2014
FRANCE	International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor	61,461.00	168,566.00	2008-2015
AUSTRALIA	World Heritage Site of Angkor, Heritage Management Framework	528,982.00	981,157.00	2009-2014
ITALY	Safeguarding of the Angkor Wat Temple - Phase II	186,518.00	200,000.00	2012-2014
JAPAN	Safeguarding of the Bayon Temple of Angkor Thom, 4 <sup>th</sup> phase of the UNESCO / JASA Project	1,111,151.00	2,500,000.00	2011-2016
JAPAN	International Coordinating Committee for Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor)	58,508.00	58,520.00	2012-2014
JAPAN	Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage through the Strengthening of National Capacities in Cambodia	88,792.00	88,792.00	2011-2014
CAMBODIA	World Heritage Site of Angkor, Heritage Management Framework	71,719.00	81,043.00	2009-2014
MDGF-SPAIN	Joint Programme for Children, Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia	68,317.00	230,157.00	2010-2014
UNAIDS	UBRAF: Strengthen and scale up sexuality education for young people through educational settings and empower MSM through more effective HIV response	96,801.00	97,000.00	2012-2014
MULTI-DONOR	Capacity-development for Education for All	514,359.00	830,125.00	2009-2015
MULTI-DONOR	Supporting Development of Education Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018	226,682.00	226,682.00	2013-2014
TOTAL		3,087,307.00	5,585,913.00	

Representatives of 37 countries met in London to sign UNESCO's Constitution which came into force on 4 November 1946 after ratification by 20 signatories.

16 November  
1945

UNESCO recommends that Member States make free primary education compulsory and universal.

1948

An intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO adopts the Universal Copyright Convention. In the decades following World War II, the Convention served to extend copyright protection to numerous states not yet party to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886).

1952

The Republic of South Africa withdrew from UNESCO claiming that some of the Organization's publications amount to "interference" in the country's "racial problems". The state rejoined the Organization in 1994 under the leadership of Nelson Mandela.

1956

Inauguration of UNESCO's permanent Headquarters in Paris designed by Marcel Breuer (US), Pier-Luigi Nervi (Italy) and Bernard Zehrufuss (France).

1958

Launching of the Nubia Campaign in Egypt to move the Great Temple of Abu Simbel to keep it from being swamped by the Nile after construction of the Aswan Dam. During the 20 year campaign, 22 monuments and architectural complexes are relocated. This was the first and largest in a series of campaigns including Moenjodaro (Pakistan), Fez (Morocco), Kathmandu (Nepal), Borobudur (Indonesia) and the Acropolis (Greece).

1960

196

1990

The World Conference on Education for All, in Jomtien, Thailand, launches a global movement to provide basic education for all children, youths and adults. Held ten years later in Dakar, Senegal, the World Education Forum committed governments to achieving basic education for all by 2015.

1992

Creation of the Memory of the World programme to protect irreplaceable library treasures and archive collections. It now includes sound, film and television archives.

1997

The United Kingdom returns to UNESCO.

1998

The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, adopted by UNESCO in 1997, and endorsed by the UN.

1999

Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura undertakes major reforms to restructure and decentralize the Organization's staff and activities.

2001

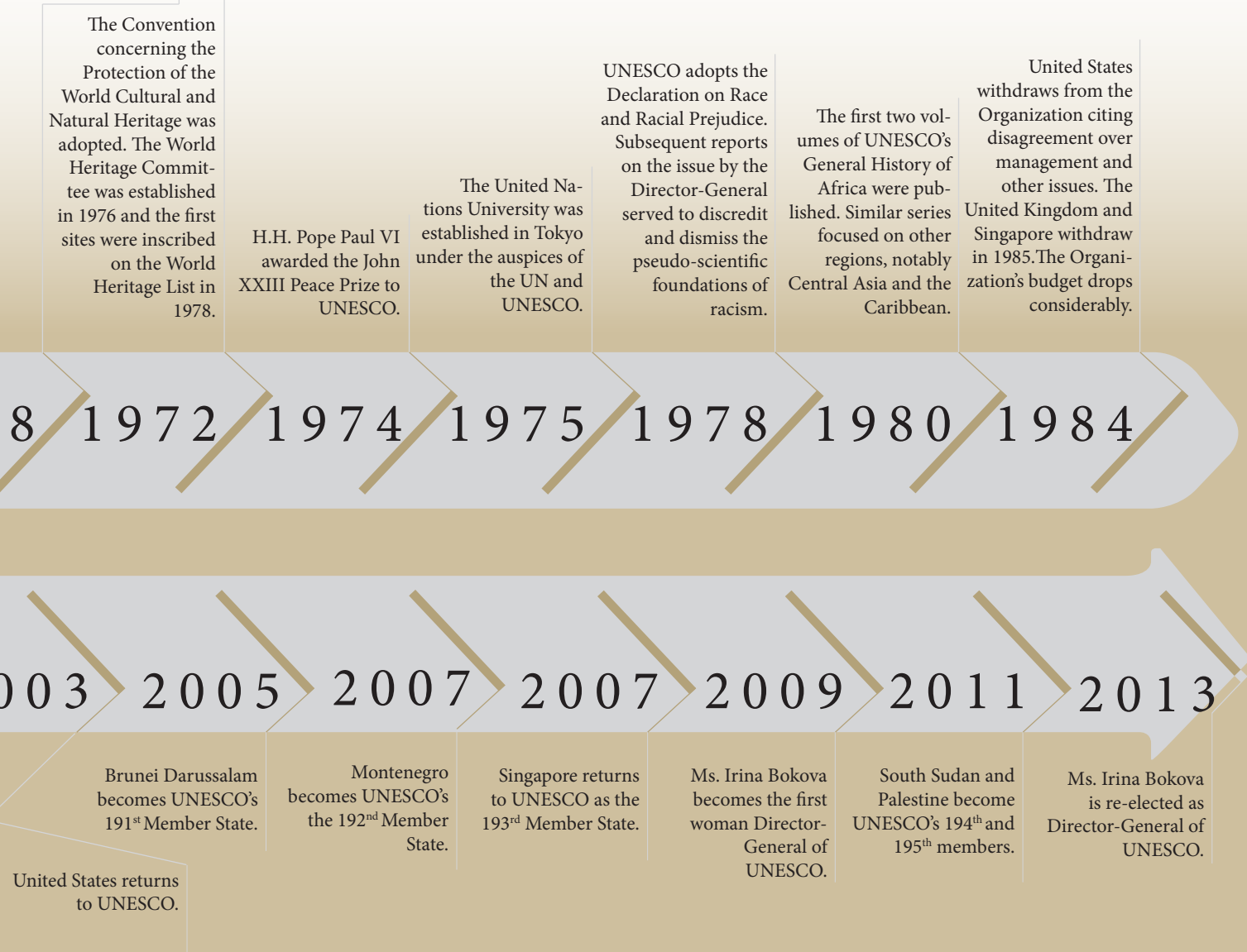
UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by the General Conference.

20

UNESCO organizes the first intergovernmental conference aimed at reconciling the environment and development, now known as “sustainable development”. This led to the creation of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme.

## History:

# Key Milestones from 69 Years of UNESCO Existence



# Key Milestones of UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh



UNESCO provides assistance for a series of educational projects for refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Between 1980 and 1989,

UNESCO provides

assistance for small-scale

education projects, such as early

childhood education for refugee

children and the development

and printing of in-camp

teaching materials.

From 1981 to 1989, UNESCO

staff carries out a number of

technical missions to Cambodia

in the framework of a

UNESCO-UNICEF Cooperative

Programme.

1989 is an important year for

UNESCO in Cambodia. His

Majesty Preah Bat

Samdech Preah Norodom

Sihanouk Varman, King of

Cambodia (then His Royal

Highness Prince Norodom

Sihanouk) requests the organiza-

tion to co-ordinate all interna-

tional assistance for Angkor. In

May 1989, UNESCO completes

an initial assessment of the safe-

guarding needs of Angkor.

UNESCO resumes its full assis-

tance to Cambodia. In January-

February 1991, an Inter-sectoral

Basic Needs Assessment Mission

composed of experts in the areas

of basic education, educational

planning, educational statistics,

cultural heritage and commu-

nications is conducted in the

country.

The UNESCO Liaison Office in

Cambodia officially reopens.

**During 1980s**

**1989**

**1991**

**15 January 1991**

**1993**

**1997**

**6-8 December 2000**

The International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and the Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor), is established, as part of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations.

Tonle Sap Lake is successfully nominated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In this regard, a Royal Decree for the Establishment of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve is adopted in April 2001.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, makes his first official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 6-8 November 2000 and meets with His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, King of Cambodia and Prime Minister Hun Sen. During his visit, the Director-General of UNESCO reaffirms the Organization's continued assistance to the country's development efforts.

Cambodia hosts the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation.

**6-8 March 2001**

The Royal Ballet is proclaimed as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

**8 November 2003**

Angkor is removed from the List of World Heritage in danger.

**5 July 2004**

**November 2005**

“Sbek Thom”, the big shadow puppet, is proclaimed as Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

**June 2006**

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is ratified.

Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage is ratified.

**February 2008**

The Tuol Sleng Museum Archives is registered on the Memory of the World Regional List (Asia-Pacific).

**November 2009**

Cambodia is elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee.

**February 2010**

Living Human Treasures System in the Kingdom of Cambodia is established.

**April 2010**

Capacity Development for Education for All (CapEFA) programme 2010-2012 is launched.

**2010**

A second MDG-F joint programme, the first in education, is approved in Cambodia to support Children, Nutrition and Food Security.

Cambodia hosts the Regional Expert Meeting on the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

**6-8 December 2004**

Cambodia acts as a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

**2004-2007**

The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, makes his second official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 25 to 26 July 2005. During his visit, he meets His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia to personally congratulate him on his coronation as Head of State on 29 October 2004.

**25-26 July 2005**

**April 2008**

Through a joint UN-Royal Government application lead by UNESCO, Cambodia becomes one of the 18 countries in the world to be selected by the Spain-UN Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund (MDG-F). Through the Fund's "Culture and Development" thematic window, a project supporting creative industries amongst Cambodian Indigenous People is implemented.

**8 July 2008**

Preah Vihear Temple is inscribed on the World Heritage List for its Outstanding Universal Value.

**31 July 2009**

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives is registered on the International Memory of the World Register.

**15-20 June 2013**

Ms Irina Bokova makes her first official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 15 to 20 June 2013. During her visit, she meets His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and Prime Minister Hun Sen. During her visit, the Director-General of UNESCO reaffirms to the Government the Organization's continued assistance to the country's development efforts.

**16-27 June 2013**

Cambodia hosts the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and His Excellency Sok An is elected Chairman of the World Heritage Committee (2012-2013).

**5 December 2013**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor is held in Siem Reap/Angkor to celebrate the 20 years of the International Coordinating Committee for Angkor.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a yellow wall with blue wooden shutters. In the lower half, two young children are visible. On the left, two boys are peeking out from behind a shutter, looking towards the camera. On the right, a girl is peeking out from behind a shutter, also looking towards the camera. The word 'EDUCATION' is centered in a blue box over the upper part of the image.

# EDUCATION

UNESCO's work in Education in Cambodia during the 2012 – 2013 biennium has focused on:

- i. Strengthening institutional capacities of the government and non-governmental institutions and technical capacities of the senior and technical officials to improve equitable access to quality teaching and learning opportunities for all through formal and non-formal education.

- ii. Facilitating coordination and dialogue between international and national development partners and with the government to improve overall support to the education sector. It also included advocating the national and international partners/stakeholders for equal opportunity and quality education for all, through the celebration of national and international days mainly International Literacy Day on 8 September.

- iii. Promoting and supporting inclusive rights-based approach to quality education for poor, disadvantaged and marginalized groups, and learners with physical and learning challenges.

A number of UNESCO toolkits such as *Creating Inclusive, Learner Friendly Environments*, *Mother-tongue based Bilingual Education*, and *Gender in Education* have been translated and adapted in Khmer, and educational officials have been trained in the use of the toolkits.

- iv. Improving quality of teaching and learning in basic education through integration of Information and Communication Technologies, gender, HIV, life-skills, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into teaching-learning programs. Support has been provided to developing and adopting the National ICT Policy and National Teacher Policy, and integrating ESD into the pre-service teacher training curriculum for the upper-secondary education. Similarly, quality improvements in higher education were promoted by supporting the higher education institutions to implement internal quality assessment and by creation of the Cambodian Education Research Forum to promote educational research practices among the faculty members and students of higher education institutions.

- v. The institutional and professional capacity strengthening of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, their senior leadership and technical officials focused on exposure to global good practices in sector-wide, evidence-based education planning



and management, implementation, coordination of stakeholders and monitoring and evaluation. This was accomplished through institutional training workshops at the national level, participation in regional and international technical training forums and through direct technical assistance in developing policy and guideline documents.

- vi. Ensuring effective communication, cooperation and coordination among the development partners and dialogue with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has been the key contribution of UNESCO in the education sector development in Cambodia. As Chair of the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), Secretariat of ESWG, Coordinating Agency for Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and in-country lead partner for the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), UNESCO successfully coordinated regular MoEYS - ESWG policy dialogue, mid-term review of the Education Strategic Plan (2009-2013), and the preparation of the draft Education Strategic Plan (2014-2018).



## TEACHERS

### Improving Qualification and Status of Teachers

UNESCO provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) in developing the Teacher Policy that addresses the recruitment, retention, and development of teachers. The Teacher Policy was adopted by the MoEYS in mid-2013 and is expected to have significant improvements for the status of teachers.

Further support has been provided to integrate several cross-cutting issues such as Education for Sustainable Development, human rights education, World Heritage education, conflict resolution, citizenship education, bilingual/multilingual education, gender in education, climate change and HIV/AIDS preventive education into the teacher training program.

## LITERACY AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

UNESCO is the only multilateral development partners actively supporting literacy and Non-Formal Education in Cambodia. While Cambodia is committed to achieving the Education for All goals by 2015, it will not be possible to achieve the literacy goal if current trends continue.

Cambodia's literacy challenge also lies in reducing disparities in literacy rates among

age and gender groups (85.1% among males and 70.9% among females), between urban and rural populations (90.4% and 74% respectively), and among ethnic minorities and the most marginalized. In order to reverse the trend, the Department of Non-Formal Education has developed in cooperation with UNESCO a Country Literacy Acceleration Plan. The plan identifies clear priorities and strategies

specifically targeted to reach marginalized groups to accelerate literacy improvements in Cambodia. Representatives from all provincial and district education offices participated in several UNESCO capacity-building trainings on evidence-based analysis and planning, efficient use of existing resources, and mobilization of partnerships for improved literacy rates in the country. The plan is expected to be implemented from 2013-2015.



### Capacity Development for Education For All

Capacity Development for Education for All (CapEFA) is UNESCO's global initiative to respond to the capacity development needs of the members states. Since its inception in May 2010, CapEFA in Cambodia continues to strengthen capacity of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the stakeholders in Non-Formal Education sub-sector towards achieving Education for All. One of the most significant achievements under the CapEFA is the development of the Three Year Non-Formal Education Capacity Development Action Plan 2011-2013 (NFE Action Plan) endorsed by the Minister in June 2011. The plan was developed based on a stakeholder mapping exercise and self-capacity assessment as well as a series of consultation workshops with high-level officials of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in attendance. Several new initiatives have also been implemented to accelerate Education for All progress under the CapEFA: Developing a pilot project to establish education information system for Non-Formal Education for evidence-based planning and monitoring; Conducting Non-Formal Education policy and programme reviews to develop the new Education Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2018; And conducting assessment to reactivate weak Community Learning Centers.

UNESCO also played a leading role in establishing Non-Formal Education Sub-technical Working Group under the Joint Technical Working Group chaired by the Minister in order to enhance coordination and monitoring functions among diverse stakeholders.



## TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Royal Government of Cambodia understands the important role that Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays in poverty reduction and economic growth. The government has initiated reform policies, strategies and actions, increased funding support and developed new partnerships to develop and strengthen TVET. UNESCO has worked cooperatively with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and development partners including the Asian Development Bank, International Labor

Organization, JICA and KOICA in various TVET areas. UNESCO has been involved in the following activities:

- **Vocational Orientation Guidelines**

With the realization that access to information with regard to TVET opportunities and labour market information remains a big challenge among secondary students, UNESCO has provided technical and financial support to the Department of Vocational Orientation to lead the development of the Vocational Orientation Guidelines for Lower Secondary Level Education. The Guidelines aim to provide lower secondary students to identify themselves academically and personally and offer



a better access to a wide range of study and career information as well as labour market information. It also aims to promote the image of TVET among local stakeholders, especially parents and community members.

- **Technical and Vocational Education and Training Coordination Working Group**

The Coordination Working Group was established with a clear understanding that the current TVET development and future direction would be addressed with participation and input from the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, development partners and private stakeholders. The Working Group is led by the Directorate General of Technical Vocational Education and Training and the meeting of the group takes place every two months. UNESCO is a member of the working group and advocates for improving accessibility, quality and relevance of TVET.

- **Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy Review**

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training is mandated to prepare the Cambodian workforce for new and decent jobs and enforce the administration of the Labour Law. In order for the Ministry to effectively support the development and governance reforms, it needs capacity building and technical support for its staff. In this regard, UNESCO and the International Labor Organization jointly organized a series

of National Technical Workshops on TVET Policy in Cambodia in 2012 facilitated by the Directorate General of Technical Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. These workshops were aimed to provide a platform for sharing the findings and recommendations from the TVET policy review and identify the key priorities for immediate and long-term actions. Consequently, the final draft of TVET Policy Review in Cambodia has been published and widely disseminated.

- **Cambodian Qualification Framework**

UNESCO supported the development of Cambodian Qualification Framework which was approved by the National Training Board in February 2012. UNESCO actively engages in important meetings which include on-going discussions with Directorate General of Technical Vocational Education and Training and contribution to the on-going discussion of the National Training Board on the development of Cambodian Qualification Framework. UNESCO continues to engage and provides additional technical assistance to further develop important documents and strategies to finalize and support the implementation of the Cambodian Qualification Framework.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Creation of the Cambodia Education Research Forum (CERF)

To build an enabling environment in the education sector and to strengthen the research capacity of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, universities and institutes, UNESCO has assisted the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in developing an Education Research Policy since 2009, aiming to provide a guideline for educational research, in particular at the tertiary level, and produce a common tool to conduct and monitor research activities.

Further, UNESCO has supported Cambodian Higher Education Association

to setup the Cambodia Education Research Forum. The Cambodian Higher Education Association is an umbrella organization of the private higher education institutions in Cambodia with a common interest of enhancing quality and excellence in higher education in the country and in the region. The Cambodia Education Research Forum engages the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, development partners and the private sector, and provided a platform



to bring together higher education students, researchers and practitioners to share research. The compendium of research presented at the forum has been disseminated widely and made available electronically to the public to promote research and dialogue. The Cambodia Education Research Forum will be an annual event of the Cambodian Higher Education Association with technical and financial support from the governmental and non-governmental organizations, development partners and the private sector.

### Strengthening Quality Assurance and Accreditation

The Higher Education sector has experienced a very rapid expansion over the last decade, particularly the expansion of the private provision of higher education. The Quality Assurance and Accreditation processes are critical in ensuring that the learners, society and the economy is benefiting from quality higher education. UNESCO supported the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) in training its Assessors in conducting external quality assessments and report writing as per the ACC Minimum Standards for Internal Quality Assurance. In addition technical experts from 15 Higher Education Institutions responsible for internal quality assessment and monitoring were trained on the application of ACC standards in their institutions and drafting of self-assessment reports.

### Capacity Development in Sector-Wide Education Planning and Management

UNESCO assists the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of public servants in sector-wide education policy planning and implementation. A technical team led by the Department of Planning of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport was trained on the adaptation of CANPRO, an education planning and projection tool. Further, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training officials were exposed to international good practices in education management through their participation in UNESCO - organized international educational training.

### Expanding Access to Quality Early Childhood Care and Education

UNESCO has worked closely with UNICEF to support the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in developing policies and strategies for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). UNESCO's intervention focuses on introducing global-level policy trends and innovative practices by translating UNESCO publications, such as the ECCE Policy Briefs, for dissemination and use among policy makers and education practitioners.

## Promoting Gender Equity and Equality

UNESCO works in close coordination with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, UNICEF and Ministry of Women's Affairs by supporting the national counterparts in their work towards achieving the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs) of promoting gender equality, empowering women, and prioritizing gender as a cross-cutting issue in achieving Education For All. In the UNESCO Mid-Term Strategy 2014 – 2021, gender is a priority area to be accorded in all our fields of competence.

UNESCO actively participates in the UN Gender Theme Group, raising issues that involve gender equality, education and culture in Cambodia. As part of this coordination group, UNESCO has supported the implementation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Convention and the formulation of the joint UN Strategy on gender in the country.

UNESCO, in cooperation with UNICEF, has supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs in conducting review and preparation of the Education chapter of the Cambodia Gender Assessment report. The recommendations arising from this report are used to draft the gender strategy for 2014 – 2018.

## Improving Inclusive Education Policies and Systems

Inclusive Education is a developmental approach that refers to all areas of education.

Inclusive Education involves a diversified and effective inclusion open to, and taking into account, all learners regardless of ethnicity, religion, geographic location, economic or social standing. In Cambodia, school enrolment amongst disadvantaged populations, such as the poorest of the poor, ethnic minorities, and children with disabilities, are still low particularly in remote and rural areas.

In response to the local needs, UNESCO works very closely with both the central and local government, UNICEF and NGOs, to initiate policy dialogues between policymakers and stakeholders for policy formulation and implementation using the holistic approach of Inclusive Education.

As a step towards including ethnic minority groups in remote areas, UNESCO supports the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to promote bilingual literacy classes in the Rattanakiri province. This is mainly done through the provincial and district education offices, and the teachers trained are locals from the rural villages where the literacy classes are conducted.

## Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) helps people to develop attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions.

The National Institute of Education, with UNESCO's technical and financial support has successfully reviewed the Teacher Training Curriculum and developed guidelines for introduction of ESD concepts and practices in different subject areas. These guidelines have been introduced in the pre-service teacher training curriculum. In addition, the National Institute of Education continues the Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Education as part of its pre-service teacher training curriculum.

### Joint Programme for Children, Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia

The Millennium Development Goals Spanish Fund Joint Programme for Children, Nutrition and Food Security in Cambodia addresses critical issues related to nutrition and food security that have been determined as a priority at a global level, as well as by the Royal Government of Cambodia and other key stakeholders in the country. Six UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, FAO, WFP, ILO, and UNESCO), were part of this programme. As a result, UNESCO supported:

- i. Enhanced capacities of the provincial education officers by mainstreaming food security and nutrition through non-formal education in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport;
- ii. Development of the National Plan of Action for Early Childhood Care in partnership with the Department of Early Childhood Education and UNICEF;
- iii. Development of a curriculum guide on nutrition to be included into the Early Childhood Education teacher training programme; and
- iv. Development of media guide and training of journalists in partnership with the Ministry of Information on food security and nutrition.

## HIV/AIDS

### Life Skill Curriculum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education

UNESCO offered extensive technical expertise to assist the Inter-departmental Committee on HIV/AIDS and Drugs of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (ICHAD) to review and develop the *Life Skills Curriculum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education*. Four sets of the curriculum were designed specifically for students and youth at different levels including primary education level (grades 5 and 6), lower secondary education level (grades 7 and 8), upper secondary education level (grades 10 and 11) and non-formal education programs (out-of-school youth). Following the approval of the technical contents of the curriculum, ICHAD organized national, provincial and district roll out training courses (cascade trainings) for orienting national trainers, teachers at different school levels and non-formal education officials on the revised curriculum.

### 2013 Annual Operational Plan

UNESCO provided significant support to the development of the 2013 Annual Operational Plan of the Inter-departmental Committee on HIV/AIDS and Drugs of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (ICHAD) through various consultative workshops involving ICHAD leadership, senior representatives and technical officials from technical departments of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and partners.

### Development of National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS in Cambodia (NSP III) 2011-2015

The National Aids Authority was supported, both financially and technically in the development of a

National Strategic Plan for a comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia for 2011-2015. The plan provides clear principles and guidance for government institutions and relevant stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.

### Men Who Have Sex with Men

UNESCO has assisted the creation of the national Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) Technical Working Group. UNESCO supported the development of the National Strategic Framework and Operational Plan on HIV/AIDS for MSM and the MSM National Guideline.



UNESCO supported the translation of UNAIDS Policy Brief on HIV and Sex Between Men and the translation, adaptation and joint publication of a manual on HIV for peer educators working with MSM.

Furthermore, UNESCO has supported the National MSM Network (the Bandanh Chaktomuk) in developing its work plan and its 3-year strategic framework for 2011-2013.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

As an active member of UN Task Force Team on Youth, UNESCO supported the General Department of Youth at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in the preparation for implementing the Cambodia National Policy on Youth Development. A number of consultations were held between UN Youth Task Force Team and Technical Team of the General Department of Youth to draft the National Youth Action Plan. In addition, significant efforts were made, through the coordination of the office of the UN Resident Coordinator, to provide technical support to the UN Youth Advisory Panel in Cambodia as well as the development of the UN Advocacy and Communication Documents on Youth Development.

## AID EFFECTIVENESS

UNESCO is the Chair of the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) since 2012, as well as the Secretariat. Since 2002, the Education Sector Working Group serves as a platform for information sharing for all development partners in the education

sector, and ensures harmonization in providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in working towards the Education For All (EFA) goals and Cambodia Millennium Development Goals. The Education Sector Working Group is committed to supporting Cambodia in all areas and levels of education with an emphasis on education access, quality and capacity. The sector-wide approach in the education sector benefits the local ownership and the alignment and harmonization of the donors, which contribute to the sustainability of aid coordination.

During 2012 - 2013 biennium, UNESCO's advocacy efforts have led to establishment of the two sub-technical working groups on Non-Formal Education and Higher Education. As a result of the pro-active coordination between the ESWG and the Ministry Leadership, a number of policy dialogues have taken place, such as the declining government resources to the education sector, need for improvements in textbook provisions, need for comprehensive teacher policy, national assessment of learning achievement and need for improving quality assurance and accreditation in higher education.

In terms of aid effectiveness, the Education for All - Global Monitoring Report (EFA-GMR) prepared by an independent team of experts and published by UNESCO is an authoritative reference that tracks progress, identifies effective policy reforms, informs, influences and sustains genuine commitment from the national and international cooperation towards Education for All. Every year, UNESCO in



cooperation with the development partners organizes a national launch of the EFA-GMR in the presence of senior policy makers from the government. In 2012, the report “Youth and Skills” was launched by the Deputy Prime-Minister, bringing together the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training for the first time. The 2013/2014 report “Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality Education For All” was launched by the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports who appreciated the recommendations of the report in recruiting, training, allocating and retaining qualified and trained teachers for quality of teaching and learning.

Through the celebration of international days (mother-language, literacy and teachers) and EFA Global Action Week, UNESCO continues to rally the national and international stakeholders in the advocacy efforts for equal opportunity for quality education and learning for all.

Further, UNESCO coordinates the Global Partnership for Education Grant, based on the approved Education Strategic Plan 2014-2018 which clearly identifies the investment priorities, resources and funding gaps in the sector.

The image is a composite. The top half shows a group of people, mostly women, sitting in traditional wooden boats on a river. They are wearing casual clothing like hats and sunglasses. The background features lush green trees and a slightly hazy sky. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the text 'NATURAL SCIENCES' in white, serif, all-caps font. The bottom half of the image shows a close-up of a bamboo fence made of vertical sticks tied with black rope, situated along the riverbank. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery and the fence. The overall scene suggests a peaceful river tour or a traditional waterway in a rural or natural setting.

# NATURAL SCIENCES

The Natural Science Sector of the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh works to build peace and to eradicate poverty through the promotion of sustainable development. Our primary objectives are to conserve natural resources, to mobilize scientific knowledge and to promote science education for the sustainable development of Cambodia. The Natural Sciences Sector collaborates with other sectors—namely, Education and Culture—in working towards:

- Promoting sustainable management and conservation of freshwater, terrestrial resources and biodiversity through the Biosphere Reserves;
- Fostering policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation;
- Raising awareness in regards to sustainability and climate change;
- Enhancing the linkages between cultural and biological diversity by the preservation of natural resources.

### Fostering policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

Science, technology and innovation are clearly recognized as key to attaining sustainable development and understanding the importance of the environment which is vital for current and future human well-being. UNESCO assists the Royal Government of Cambodia through the National Committee on Science and Technology (NCOST) in formulating the National Science, Technology and Innovation policy as part of UNESCO flagship programme “Comprehensive Programme





to Enhance Technology, Engineering and Science Education.” In order to promote access to scientific and technical knowledge and contribute to development of a culture of science education, UNESCO has supported in November 2012 and 2013 the celebration of the Science Film Festival in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Goethe Institute in Bangkok and the Khmer Youth and Social Development NGO. The film screenings took place in Phnom Penh and some provinces.

### **Integration of Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation of MAB Ecosystem Initiatives**

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme aiming to set a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environment globally. Biosphere Reserves are, therefore, sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO’s MAB Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts.

- **Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve**

UNESCO is contributing to the drafting process of the integrated Management Plan for the alleviation of poverty and enhancing sustainable development in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, home to an extraordinarily high biodiversity and one of the most productive captive fisheries in the world.

In addition, UNESCO supports the exhibition on the Tonle Sap that the NGO Krousar Thmey hosts in Siem Reap by supervising the update of the content as well as developing the section dedicated to the Biosphere Reserve concept.

- **Conservation of the Cardamom Mountain range**

UNESCO is working towards preserving one of the most pristine regions in mainland South East Asia: The Cardamom Mountains in Cambodia which hold one of the last intact wild forests. This site is an important ecosystem, both for species and for people. The forested mountains represent some of the region’s largest remaining habitats for threatened species. Moreover, the site has demonstrated signs of human presence during prehistoric times in the area.

### **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources**

UNESCO works to conserve Cambodia’s environment which is facing several threats. Special attention is being paid to the forestry sector in regards to its sustainable development. In 2012, the UNESCO became a member of the Technical Working group on Forestry Reform. At the Technical Working Group, UNESCO, in cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions, provides technical assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia in identifying priority areas, harmonizing activities, improving the utilization of resources and supporting efforts to strengthen the forestry sector’s capacity to contribute to economic growth.



# CULTURE



UNESCO's work in Cambodia in the field of culture is considerably wide and highly visible at the international level. Cambodia has two World Heritage sites: the Angkor Site listed in 1992 and the Preah Vihear Temple listed in 2008. In addition, the Royal Ballet and Lkhaon Sbek Thom (the Shadow Puppet Theater) were both integrated into the Representative List of Intangible Heritage in November 2008 after having been recognized as Oral Masterpieces of Humanity respectively in 2003 and 2005.



It is well known that the Angkor Temples were seriously damaged during years of continuous war from the 1970s to the 1990s. Tangible heritage such as monuments and archaeological sites suffered from neglect, degradation and pillage, while intangible heritage, such as performing arts, nearly disappeared as many masters and artists passed away during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Following the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991 and the restoration of Constitutional Monarchy after the general election in 1993, the Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledged the important role of Culture in shaping national identity, strengthening social cohesion and contributing to the social and economic development of Cambodia.

The capacity of the Royal Government for the protection, preservation and development of the Cambodian cultural heritage has been gradually strengthened over the past two decades through the strengthening of the national authorities' abilities to safeguard and promote the country's national tangible and intangible heritage.

In addition to the preservation, conservation and restoration of Cambodian tangible and intangible heritage, UNESCO works with the Royal Government of Cambodia in the field of eco-tourism, museums, Underwater Heritage and the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals.

## TANGIBLE HERITAGE

### Angkor and Preah Vihear: Conservation and Sustainable Development

UNESCO directly manages three projects namely:

- Conservation and Restoration of Angkor Wat Temple (*Italy Funds-in-Trust*)
- Conservation and Restoration of the Bayon Temple in the Angkor Thom Complex (*Japan Funds-in-Trust*)
- The Angkor Heritage Management Framework (*Australian Funds-in-Trust*)

Of the 91 monuments of the Angkor Complex inscribed in the World Heritage List, 26 monuments are inside the Angkor Thom Complex, 10 to the south of Angkor Thom, 23 to the east of Angkor Thom, 10 to the north of Angkor Thom, 12 to the west of Angkor Thom, 3 close to the Siem Reap

River, 6 of the Roluos Group and 1 of the Banteay Srey Group (exhaustive list of the 91 temples can be downloaded from the UNESCO Phnom Penh website).

Most of these restoration and conservation projects are long-term projects, focusing on the technical aspects of restoration, community development and the training of national Cambodian staff. Over the years, such trainings have contributed to the high-quality technical expertise of the APSARA national authority staff.

Year 2013 was a remarkable year for Cambodia in terms of cultural events. The country hosted the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage chaired by Cambodia in June 2013. This World Heritage session was organized by UNESCO and the National Commission of Cambodia with the support of the Office of the Council of Ministers. A total of 5 natural and 14 cultural heritage sites were newly inscribed on the World Heritage List during the event.

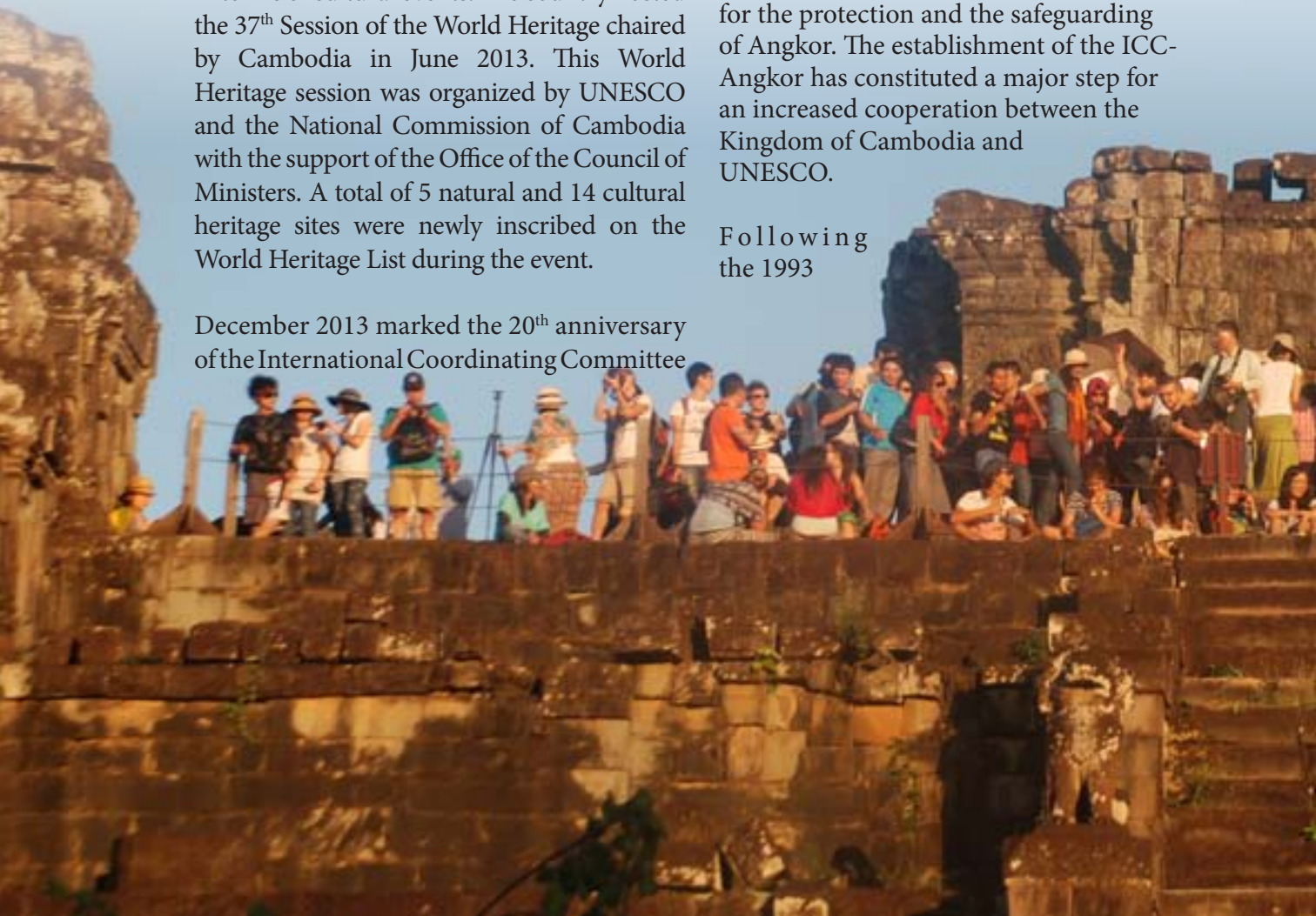
December 2013 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Coordinating Committee

for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor took place under the theme “Comprehensive and Sustainable Management of Angkor World Heritage, Living heritage,” at Siem Reap/Angkor.

### International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor)

All efforts have been undertaken within the framework of the international programme for the protection and the safeguarding of Angkor. The establishment of the ICC-Angkor has constituted a major step for an increased cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and UNESCO.

Following the 1993



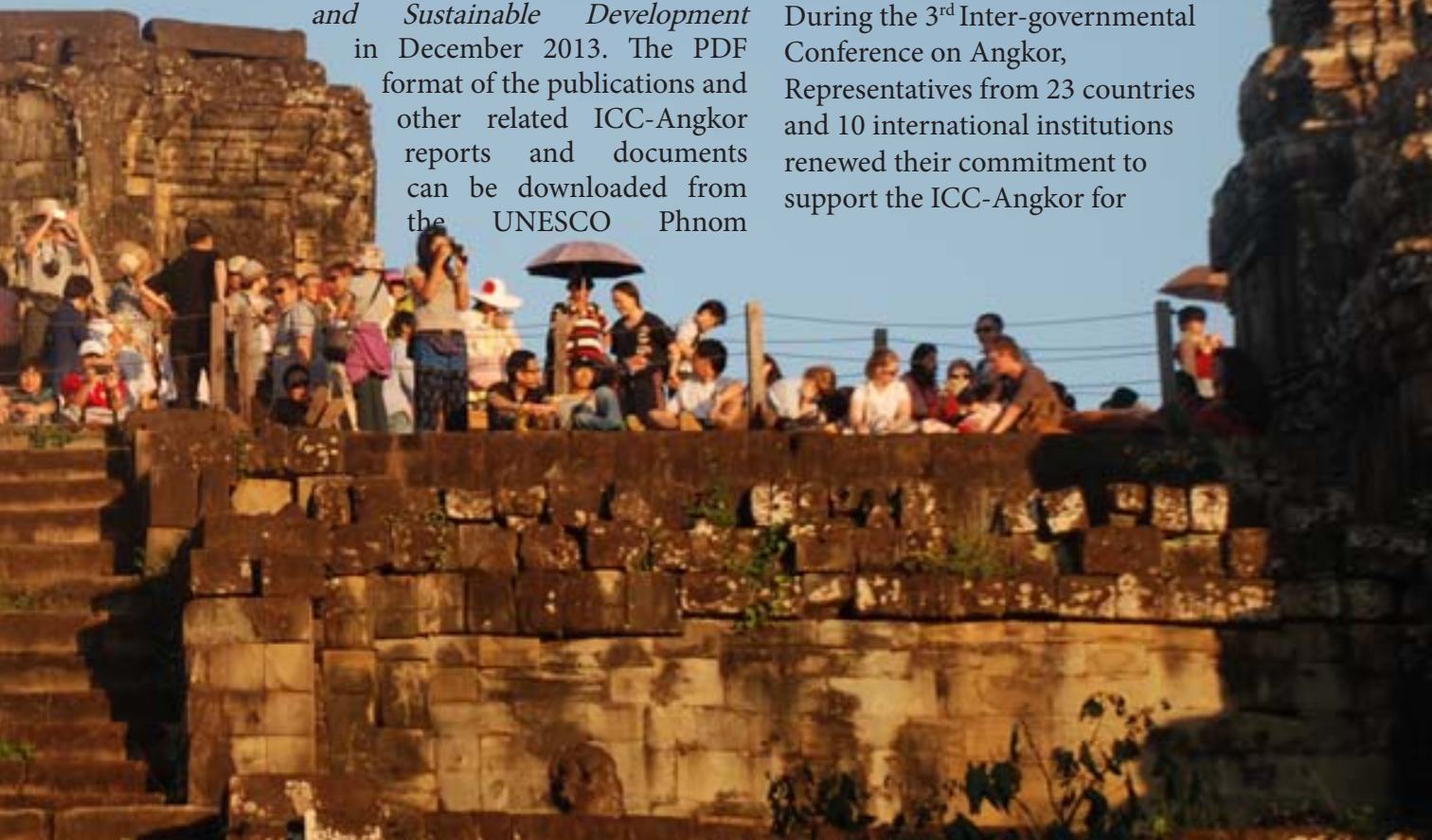
Intergovernmental Conference of Tokyo, the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor) was established under the co-presidency of France and Japan, with the UNESCO Phnom Penh Office acting as the Standing Secretariat.

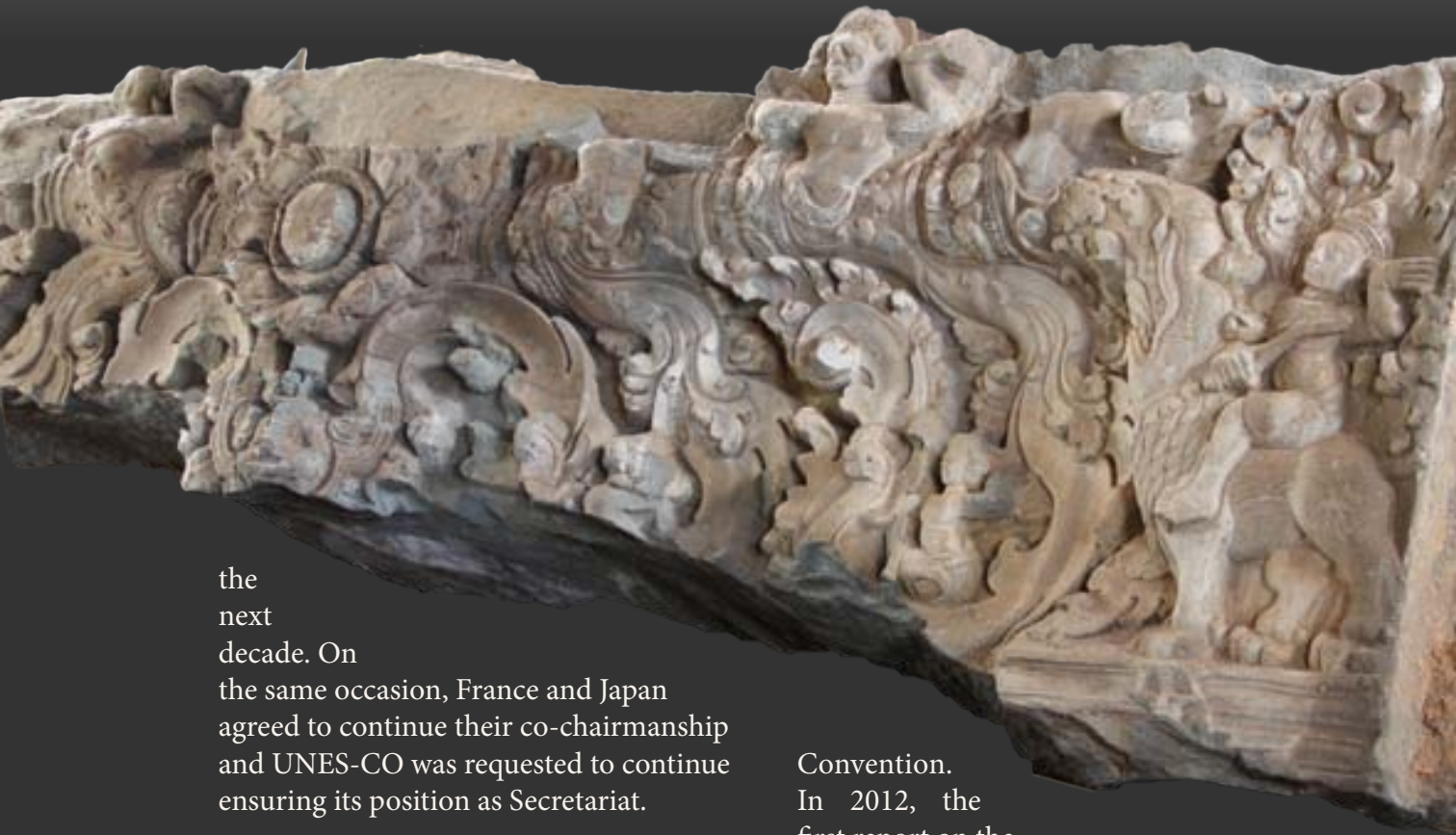
For over 20 years now, the ICC-Angkor has been coordinating preservation, conservation and restoration initiatives at the World Heritage Site by 16 countries from 4 continents, represented by more than 30 national and international teams that implement more than 60 projects. The Secretariat of the ICC-Angkor ensured by UNESCO coordinates the meetings of all concerned partners. UNESCO has published a book entitled *ICC-Angkor, 20 years of International Cooperation for Conservation and Sustainable Development* in December 2013. The PDF format of the publications and other related ICC-Angkor reports and documents can be downloaded from the UNESCO Phnom

Penh Office website: [www.unesco.org/phnompenh](http://www.unesco.org/phnompenh).

With the investment of more than 250 million USD, the strong commitment of the Kingdom's authorities and the successful coordination of ICC-Angkor, the work at Angkor has yielded positive results. Nearly one hundred restoration and development projects were implemented. More than 25,000 anti-personnel mines were cleared – some 3,000 of which were found in archaeological sites – and 80,000 explosive devices were removed. The establishment of a special heritage protection police force, the creation of a detailed inventory of cultural goods and awareness-raising campaigns against the sale of stolen objects have all contributed to stopping cultural pillaging in the protected area.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-governmental Conference on Angkor, Representatives from 23 countries and 10 international institutions renewed their commitment to support the ICC-Angkor for





the next decade. On the same occasion, France and Japan agreed to continue their co-chairmanship and UNES-CO was requested to continue ensuring its position as Secretariat.

To commemorate the 20 years anniversary of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List, UNESCO, as Secretariat, has also developed an exhibition which was shown in June and December 2013 as well as a documentary film entitled *Angkor Renaissance* in three languages: Khmer, French and English. The film relates the history of inscription, past and on-going restoration work at the site, development projects and research work.

## THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Many activities were implemented during the biennium in relation to the 1970

Convention.

In 2012, the first report on the implementation of the 1970 Convention in Cambodia was published with specific attention to additional agreements between state parties and the return of trafficked cultural goods. As such, a database was created in cooperation with the National Museum on the returned items since 1993. Year 2013 may also be considered as a success year for the implementation of the Convention as two Pandava statues belonging to the Prasat Chen of Koh Ker were returned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and were handed over to the Cambodian authorities during the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee. A US Federal Court case was also won against the auction house Sotheby's in New York with regard to the Duryodhana statue,

another exquisite piece of Art from the same Prasat Chen at Koh Ker. An agreement signed on 13 December 2013 by Sotheby's, its client and US Federal Officials ensured the return of the statue to Cambodia.

Unfortunately, archaeological sites are still targeted by looters. The Cambodian cultural artefacts are still circulated in art markets. In view of preventing further illicit trafficking and recovering stolen cultural objects,

UNESCO is working, in close partnership with the National Museum of Cambodia, under the authorities of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, to establish an inventory of stolen and returned objects at the Battambang Museum.



*Bhima*



*Duryodhana*

## UNDERWATER HERITAGE

A “Regional Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region on the Underwater Cultural Heritage Protection” attended by representatives of 13 countries and 9 international experts, was organized by UNESCO in close cooperation with the Cambodia Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, in Koh Kong, Cambodia, in May 2012. This was followed by a national workshop in Phnom Penh, October 2012 at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (MoCFA) with the participation of Cambodian officials from 24 provinces. A national workshop aimed at disseminating the results of the Asia Pacific Regional Meeting and unveiling the results of the first survey on underwater heritage, by the newly established Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

## INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

### Safeguarding, Preserving, and Revitalizing the Royal Ballet of Cambodia and Other Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Royal Ballet, closely associated with the Khmer court for over a thousand years, narrowly escaped annihilation in the 1970s. Distinguished by graceful hand gestures, stunning costumes and a repertoire of ancient legends, this royal court dance embodies values of refinement and spirituality characteristic of the Khmer culture.

With the support of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust, UNESCO has worked to safeguard, preserve and



revitalize the Royal Ballet of Cambodia. Under this initiative, UNESCO aimed to provide sustainable foundations for the transmission of skills to the younger generations and to promote awareness of the value of – as well as of the importance to safeguard – this intangible cultural heritage among the Cambodian community. The project focused on several priorities including the capacity building for Cambodian officials from 24 provincial Departments of Culture and Fine Arts in the field of research and project management, documentation of knowledge and artistic skills.

In 2013, an international event with the Royal Ballet of Cambodia was staged at the Temple of Angkor Wat on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor, under the patronage of H.M. the King Norodom Sihamoni and in cooperation with H.R.H. Princess Buppha Devi. For the first time, the Myanmar National Orchestra performed outside of Myanmar.

Through a project coordinated from the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok, which aimed at national capacity-building in the Asia and Pacific region, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, in cooperation with the UNESCO Phnom Penh Office, supported by the UNESCO-Japanese Funds-In-Trust Project on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, organized a series of national workshops in Cambodia including:

- Workshop on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, 13-17 August 2012;
- Workshop on community-based inventorying, 14-21 February 2013;
- Workshop on preparing nomination files for the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List, 21 – 25 October 2013;

### Sbek Thom

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, in close collaboration with UNESCO, has conducted research on *Sbek Thom*, the Khmer Shadow Puppet Theater. This project, funded by the Government of Japan, has conducted research across Cambodia including Phnom Penh, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap. The book was published in March 2014.

The training of trainers on *Sbek Thom* was organized in Phnom Penh and other provinces with the involvement of NGOs such as the Cambodian Living Arts, *Kok Thlok*, *Ta Tychien* and *Wat Bo* troupes.

### Promotion and safeguarding of indigenous cultures

Since 2007, UNESCO has been supporting and encouraging programs related to the promotion and safeguarding of indigenous cultures and languages in Cambodia, first through a seminal publication entitled “Recherches préliminaires sur les langues des minorités du Cambodge” then through a series of activities undertaken within the framework of the MDG-F Creative Industries Support Programme which included research publications in the field of ethno-linguistics, commercial promotion of handicraft and awareness-raising on indigenous forms of cultural expressions.

The most visible result of this endeavor has been the conceptualization, building and inauguration, in late 2012, of the Rattanakiri Cultural Centre, located in the capital city of the most ethnically diverse province of Cambodia. Since then, UNESCO has been assisting the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in facilitating the organization of socio-cultural events at the Centre.

### Living Human Treasures System in the Kingdom of Cambodia

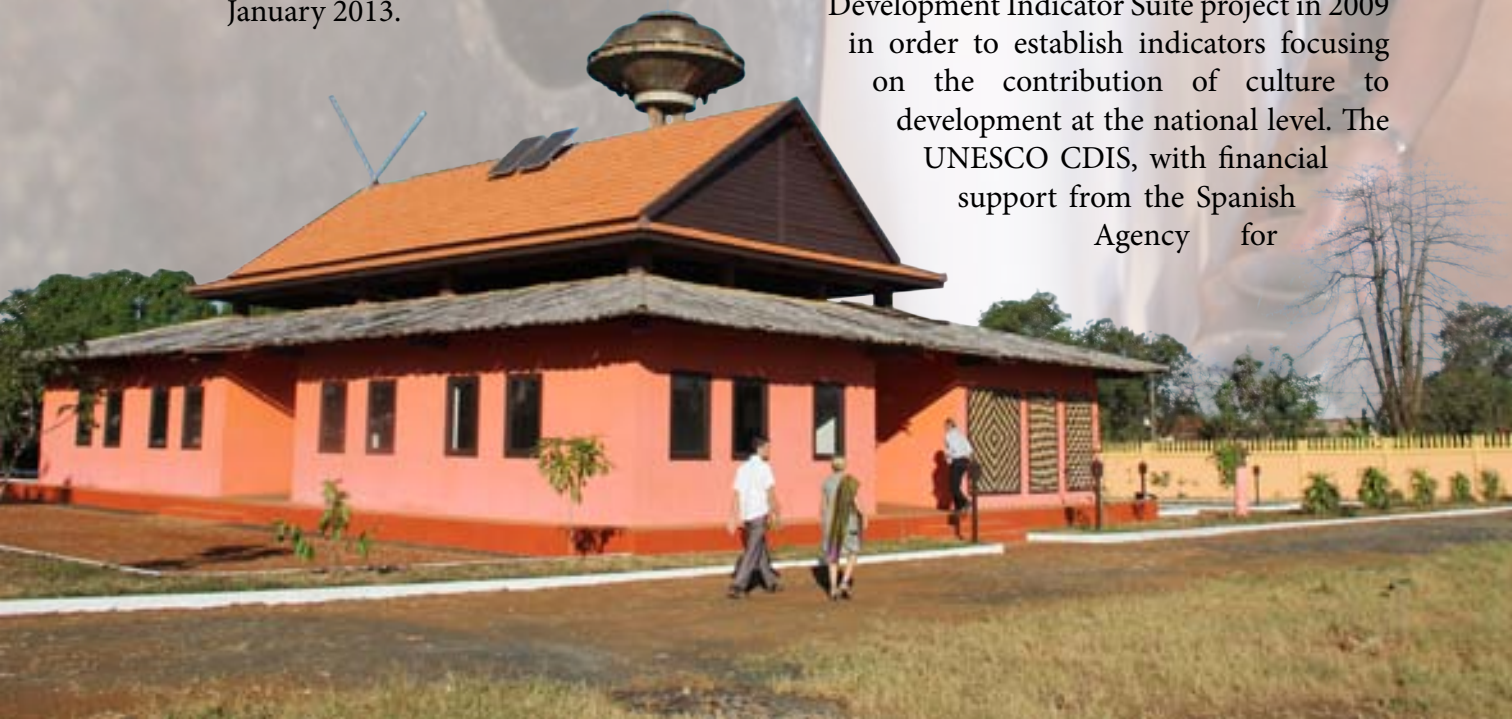
Following several years of close collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and UNESCO, within the framework of a Korean Funds-in-Trust and the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, a Royal Decree was established on Living Human Treasures System in Cambodia. Following the adoption of the Royal Decree in February 2010, the first 17 Living Human Treasures in endangered cultural disciplines were appointed in January 2013.

The nominated Masters assists in documenting their endangered disciplines and transferring their knowledge and skills to the younger generations.

### Cultural Policy in Cambodia

For the last 4 years the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, in close cooperation with UNESCO has been working on the first “National Cultural Policy” for Cambodia. The exercise entailed national consultation workshops, the assistance of an international consultant, the support of three experts missions (two international experts) funded by the 2005 Convention Fund through a European Union contribution and the assistance of the UNESCO Culture for development Indicator Suite project culminating in a presentation of the results at a national consultation meeting in November 2013.

UNESCO launched the Culture for Development Indicator Suite project in 2009 in order to establish indicators focusing on the contribution of culture to development at the national level. The UNESCO CDIS, with financial support from the Spanish Agency for



International Cooperation and Development (AECID), provided essential data and statistics for the development of the National Cultural policy. It is expected that the National Cultural Policy document with its annexes will be approved by the Royal Cambodian Government in early 2014.

### Collaboration with the National Commission for UNESCO

In close collaboration with various scientific institutions, UNESCO has been assisting the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO in designing and coordinating the implementation of two major Participation Programmes.

The first project, *Identification, safeguarding and digitization of ancient Cambodian manuscripts*, pursued the daunting task initiated 25 years ago to locate, restore and inventory the remaining palm leaves manuscripts that survived the war. Damaged, dismantled and scattered in pagodas all around the Kingdom, these last manuscripts represent only 2% of what used to be a primary component of Khmer literary heritage which was almost completely obliterated by more than 20 years of conflict.

The second project, *Choeng Ek: An exceptional site in danger – Proposal for emergency preventive archaeological excavations* brought together Prof. Olivier de Bernon, an expert from the French National Institute for Research in Preventive Archaeology (INRAP) and the Royal University of Fine Arts (Faculty of Archaeology), to launch the first preventive archaeological project using an excavator in Phnom Penh capital city. The programme not only enabled the study of a major site soon to be overcome by urban development but also provided a unique opportunity to build new capacities amongst future Cambodian archaeologists.



# COMMUNICATION and INFORMATION



Freedom of information is the cornerstone on which democratic societies are built. Independent, free and pluralistic media have a crucial role to play in good governance of democratic societies by ensuring transparency and accountability, promoting participation and the rule of law, and contributing to the fight against poverty.

UNESCO has assisted the country in working towards a free and open press and media through training programmes. UNESCO's Communication and Information sector bases its work on the promotion and defense of human rights and basic freedoms, and aims to raise awareness of freedom of expression and freedom of information.

In addition, it provides and strengthens communication and information facilities at the local community level. In addition to the regular programme, the Communication and Information Unit implements various projects in collaboration with other UN agencies, with international and national non-governmental organizations, public institutions and the local authorities.



## CAPACITY BUILDING OF MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

### Supporting Media and Communication Professionals and Students in a Post-Conflict Country

It is mainly through the Cambodian Communication Institute at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Media Training Centre at the Ministry of Information that UNESCO has supported Cambodia to enhance the professional standards of working journalists and media professionals. UNESCO provides relevant publication materials and implements several training activities with both institutions each year.

### Supporting the Media and Building the Capacity of Communication Professionals and Students: Cambodia Communication Institute

After more than twenty years of conflict and international isolation, the mainstream communication infrastructures of Cambodia were severely affected. Moreover, the country lost the majority of its educated and skilled media professionals. Set up in 1994 as the first media training centre in the nation, the Cambodia Communication Institute, a joint project of UNESCO, the Royal Government and DANIDA, aimed to assist in the reconstruction and development of the communication sector.

UNESCO has continued its support to Cambodia Communication Institute to support journalist training in print, radio and television and has produced learning materials in Khmer and English which have been distributed among journalists, policy makers, NGOs and media experts with the aim to influence change at the policy level as well as at the grassroots level.

### UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

Provincial journalists and young reporters of Cambodia are in need of basic and essential skills to report on issues facing the livelihood of people in the provinces. Building the capacity of these journalists will help Cambodia in its continuing efforts towards democratization and foster a greater public awareness about the various issues facing the country.

Two Communication and Information projects have been implemented in 2012 and 2013 in Cambodia, within the framework of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). The first project, *Capacity building for local radio staff*

*to produce community programmes*, was implemented in collaboration with the Department of Media and Communication at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. The project sought to upgrade the skills of existing provincial radio staff at the Ministry of Information to enable them to produce sustainable community-based radio programmes serving eight provinces across Cambodia.

The second IPDC project, *Sustaining Community Media Participation to Promote Freedom of Expression in Cambodia*, was implemented simultaneously. The aim of this project was to focus on addressing the need for training of citizen journalists, particularly those who are female and



from ethnic minority backgrounds, in the three rural target communities of Preah Vihear, Mondulkiri, and Rattanakiri. At the completion of the project, at least 50 news reports from the trainees were broadcast on national and subnational radio stations. Most importantly, these projects aimed to create new networks for radio journalists and to bridge the media outlets and the indigenous communities so that the voice of the indigenous people could be heard both at the local and the national level.

## PROMOTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

### World Press Freedom Day

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated across the globe every 3<sup>rd</sup> May, presenting an opportunity to encourage and develop initiatives in favour of press freedom, to assess the state of press freedom worldwide, and to remind governments of the need to respect their commitments to freedom of expression.

In Cambodia, journalists, media associations, non-governmental organizations, diplomatic missions and United Nations organizations came together to celebrate the World Press Freedom Day under the theme of “*Promoting Responsible Journalism in Cambodia*” in a conference held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012. World Press Freedom Day

2013 was celebrated by UNESCO, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ministry of Information in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, Cambodian Communication Institute, Club of Cambodian Journalists, and the Department of Media and Communication at the Royal University of Phnom Penh under the theme of *Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media*. Directors, editors-in-chief, journalists, and human rights advocates working in the media sector of Cambodia dis-



cussed the challenges they faced, and offered recommendations on how the government, international organizations, civil society, the media and other private sector actors could ensure Cambodian journalists' safety.

### Access to Information

Through the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations has expressed a strong support of democratic and participatory governance, and recognized access to information and independent media as the necessary tools to achieve these goals. An Access to Information Law will call for transparency in decision-making, empowerment of citizens and accountability in the quest for development, and will be central to the success of the post-2015 development agenda. Cambodia is a signatory to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in which Article 19 declares that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice." Moreover, the National Constitution expressly states in its Article 31 that the Kingdom of Cambodia recognizes and respects Human Rights contained in all the treaties.

UNESCO, the Embassy of Sweden, Cambodia Center for Independent Media (CCIM), and the Advocacy Policy Institute (API) held a two-day conference from 30 to 31 May 2013. The objective of the conference was to discuss the importance of open government

and access to information in the context of improving livelihoods, governance and freedom of expression in Cambodia. During the two-day forum, national, regional and international experts in government and civil society organizations discussed about the challenges involved in drafting, passing and implementing Access to Information laws.

### UNESCO Community Radio Programme in Rattanakiri Province

The purpose of community radio is not to do something for the community but to provide the community with an opportunity to do something for itself. Through community radio, the community can promote its own identity and character, raise voices about their concerns and also contribute to the local culture and become part of a plurality of voices.

In Rattanakiri province, the community radio is currently broadcasting for one hour each day in the four different indigenous languages covering important issues such as health, education, agriculture, culture, forestry, environment and more. The community radio programme is significant in its potential to reach the various disadvantaged minority communities of rural and remote provinces of Northeastern Cambodia which has a significant number of indigenous people. Media geared towards the community can act as an instrument to significantly improve living standards. UNESCO aims to provide information to the people who are usually excluded from

traditional communication means. Through the radio, the indigenous community of Rattanakiri promotes its identity, character and local culture, and forms part of a plurality of voices.

## PRESERVING DOCUMENTARY AND AUDIO-VISUAL HERITAGE

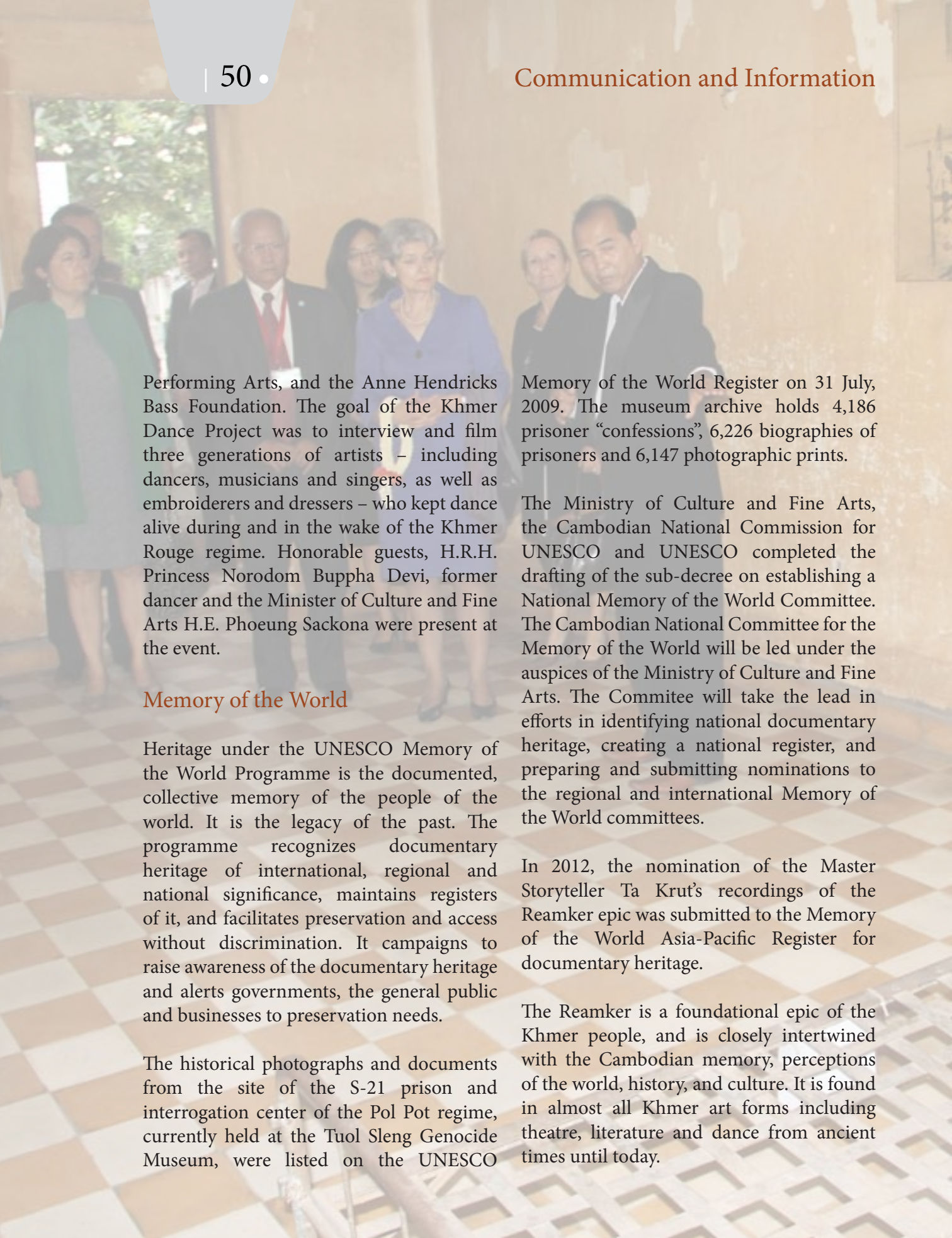
### UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> October each year, serving as an important occasion to remind people of the importance of audiovisual heritage, which have become a permanent complement to the traditional written documents, recording values, visions, creative energies and information.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012, UNESCO, in close cooperation with the Bophana Center, celebrated the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage under the theme of “Young Filmmakers on Stage,” with the aim of reminding people of the importance of audiovisual heritage. Bophana Center and UNESCO have called for an open submission of independent films made by young amateur filmmakers of Cambodia. Through the month of October, the Bophana Center held screenings of all submitted short films addressing a wide spectrum of issues such as domestic violence, human trafficking, social media and love. On 27<sup>th</sup> October, after the screening of the films, the Cambodian Film Commission (CFC) and the directors of the seven selected films held a lively discussion session about their inspiration to make their films and the difficulties that they faced producing them with limited resources.

In 2013, the Khmer Dance Project was launched for the first time in Cambodia in cooperation with the Center for Khmer Studies, Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library for the



A group of people, including officials and artists, standing together at an event. The background is a blurred image of a group of people, including officials and artists, standing together at an event. The image is used as a background for the text on the page.

Performing Arts, and the Anne Hendricks Bass Foundation. The goal of the Khmer Dance Project was to interview and film three generations of artists – including dancers, musicians and singers, as well as embroiderers and dressers – who kept dance alive during and in the wake of the Khmer Rouge regime. Honorable guests, H.R.H. Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, former dancer and the Minister of Culture and Fine Arts H.E. Phoeung Sackona were present at the event.

### Memory of the World

Heritage under the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme is the documented, collective memory of the people of the world. It is the legacy of the past. The programme recognizes documentary heritage of international, regional and national significance, maintains registers of it, and facilitates preservation and access without discrimination. It campaigns to raise awareness of the documentary heritage and alerts governments, the general public and businesses to preservation needs.

The historical photographs and documents from the site of the S-21 prison and interrogation center of the Pol Pot regime, currently held at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, were listed on the UNESCO

Memory of the World Register on 31 July, 2009. The museum archive holds 4,186 prisoner “confessions”, 6,226 biographies of prisoners and 6,147 photographic prints.

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO completed the drafting of the sub-decree on establishing a National Memory of the World Committee. The Cambodian National Committee for the Memory of the World will be led under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. The Committee will take the lead in efforts in identifying national documentary heritage, creating a national register, and preparing and submitting nominations to the regional and international Memory of the World committees.

In 2012, the nomination of the Master Storyteller Ta Krut’s recordings of the Reamker epic was submitted to the Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Register for documentary heritage.

The Reamker is a foundational epic of the Khmer people, and is closely intertwined with the Cambodian memory, perceptions of the world, history, and culture. It is found in almost all Khmer art forms including theatre, literature and dance from ancient times until today.



# The CAMBODIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION for UNESCO



UNESCO is the only UN Agency to have a global network of national cooperating bodies known as National Commissions for UNESCO. National Commissions make part of the overall constitutional architecture of the Organization. Set up by their respective governments in accordance with Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution, the National Commissions operate, on a permanent basis, for the purpose of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies in education, sciences, culture and communication with the work of the Organization.

Presently, there are 199 National Commissions for UNESCO across the world. They constitute a truly global family with as an authoritative network of stakeholders, partners and experts and offer a comparative advantage to the Organization within the United Nations system. This network plays a significant role in the liaison with partners, the coordination of activities and the promotion of UNESCO's visibility at the country level.

### Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

Chairman: H.E. Mr. Sok An  
Deputy Chair: H.E. Ms. Sun Saphoeun  
Secretary-General: H.E. Ms. Tan Theany

Deputy Secretary-General:  
H.E. Mr. Chuch Phoeurn  
Deputy Secretary-General: Mr. Yos Eang  
Deputy Secretary-General: Mr Sar Sothear

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Year established: 1997

The Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO is the main governmental counterpart of the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh. Since its creation in 1997, the National Commission has been the institution responsible for structuring and maintaining the contacts that UNESCO keeps with the civil society and national authorities. The National Commission is therefore the focal point for the implementation of many UNESCO activities in the country. In Cambodia, the National Commission includes representatives from the Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and Ministry of Information. The Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO initiates and participates in many projects and activities of UNESCO in Cambodia. These projects are funded under the UNESCO Participation Programme and are directly implemented by different concerned Ministries such as the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Environment.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a classical building with a yellow facade and white architectural details. It features large arches and a balcony with a white balustrade. Green foliage is visible in the foreground and top right. A semi-transparent blue box contains the text.

UNESCO

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Sreyroth Hem  
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CLT unit



Thol Duch  
Driver  
ADM unit



Vong Sovityea Thang  
Intern  
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Vuy Va  
Security Guard  
ADM unit



Michele Romano  
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# UNESCO PARTNERS

The main interest of development agencies is to make sure that the assistance provided for the recipient country has a real and positive impact and leads to an improvement in the living standard of its citizens. In order to strengthen aid coherence and effectiveness, there is a need for co-operation and co-or-

dination among the different donors under the leadership of the Government. This is why UNESCO works in strong partnership with line ministries of the Cambodian Government, other UN agencies, development banks, bilateral donors and local and international NGOs.

## UN Agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
 International Labour Organization (ILO)  
 International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
 International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)  
 United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)  
 United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT)  
 United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)  
 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT)  
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
 United Nations Women  
 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
 United Nations Volunteers (UNV)  
 World Food Programme (WFP)  
 World Health Organization (WHO)  
 United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS),  
 Office of the Resident Coordinator of United Nations Operational Activities for  
 Development (UNRC)

World Bank  
Asian Development Bank

Embassy of Australia  
Embassy of the Republic of France  
Embassy of Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
Embassy of the Republic of Singapore  
Embassy of Sweden  
Embassy of Italy, Bangkok, Thailand  
Spanish Government Representative in Cambodia

## NGOs

UNESCO works in strong partnership with local and international NGOs in all its relevant fields of competence.



## Cambodia Government Authorities

Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport  
Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Information  
Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training  
Ministry of Planning  
Ministry of Tourism  
Ministry of Women's Affairs  
Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Energy  
Ministry of Commerce  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries  
Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO  
Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap  
(APSARA National Authority)  
Cambodia National Mekong Committee  
Cambodian Communication Institute  
Council of Ministers  
Media Training Centre  
National AIDS Authority (NAA)  
National Assembly  
National Information Communication Technology Development Authority (NiDA)  
National Museum  
Preah Vihear National Authority (PVNA)  
Royal Academy of Cambodia  
Royal University of Fine Arts  
Royal University of Phnom Penh  
Senate  
Tonle Sap Basin Authority  
Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum



# GLOSSARY



**APSARA**

Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap

**CAMNAC**

The Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO

**CCA**

Common Country Assessment

**CCI**

Cambodian Communication Institute

**CLC**

Community Learning Centre

**ECCE**

Early Childhood Care and Education

**EFA**

Education For All

**ESD**

Education for Sustainable Development

**ESWG**

Education Sector Working Group

**ICC**

International Coordinating Committee

**ICT**

Information and Communication Technologies

**IEC**

Information, Education and Communication

**ILO**

International Labour Organization

**MOW**

Memory of the World

**MSM**

Men who have Sex with Men

**MYIFF**

Multi-Year Indicative Financing Framework

**NMSMTWG**

National MSM Secretariat Technical Working Group

**NSDP**

National Strategic Development Plan

**PVNA**

Preah Vihear National Authority

**TVET**

Technical and Vocational Education and Training

**UNAIDS**

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**UNDAF**

UN Development Assistance Framework

**UNDP**

United Nations Development Programme

**UNESCO**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**UNFPA**

United Nations Population Fund

**UNICEF**

United Nations Children's Fund

**UNRC**

United Nations Resident Coordinator

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