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Organización
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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First Technical Session of the International Coordination Committee for the Temple of Preah Vihear

Siem Reap, 6 September 2015

Address by

H.E. Dr Hao Ping

President of the General Conference
Vice-Minister of Education
of the People's Republic of China

Your Excellency Dr Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister,
Distinguished Ambassadors
and Members of the International Coordinating Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

I'm very pleased to meet you again at Siem Reap, 9 months after the last session of ICC. First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Sok An and the Government of Cambodia for the invitation gathering the members of the ICC to follow up the recommendation and consensus of the last session on the spot of the Preah Vihear. I am very happy with the endeavor and the commitment of the members to align with international community to protect this site of the world heritage. Please allow me to appreciate the successful and fruitful missions made by the international experts' team on the in-depth research of the conservation of Preah Vihear since last December.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This session is held as relay of the first session of ICC in last December 2014 which laid down a milestone on the march for international understanding and solidarity. I cherish very much the memory of my last visit to Cambodia, during which I had the honor to have audience with His Majesty the King Sihamoni, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and I was warmly received by His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen. For the first time, I had the chance to admire the unique cultural value of Preah Vihear.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This session coincides with the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Over the past 70 years, UNESCO has been mended to promote international solidarity for the defense of peace through cultural exchanges and dialogue. The 1972 World Heritage Convention has been an essential instrument to protect and preserve the common assets of humankind by establishing the list of heritages with universal outstanding value.

However, the protection of world heritage still faces with great challenges. We would not forget the damages caused to world heritage in Nepal and those in conflict areas in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. We should send collective condolence to the respectable archeologist Khaled Assad cruelly killed by the extremists. The cultural cleansing and the violent extremism should be condemned by us all. It also reminds us of the urgency to take actions to protect the valuable assets that we should pass on to our future generation. In this context, the meeting that we are having today is of particular significance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Protection of world heritage is a duty of the international community as a whole. It calls for collective efforts combining political commitment, technical assistance and financial support. In this regards, the ICC Angkor has provided us with very useful references and good practices. I am glad that the Chinese authority of Archeology is sending a delegation to Cambodia to join the efforts of protection of Preah Vihear. I believe that the today's session of ICC will further strengthen international cooperation and contribute to a better progress.

I am confident that, with our joint commitment and expertise, the ICC will play an important role in the protection of cultural diversity and promotion of peace and sustainable development through mutual understanding and dialogue.

I wish a great success to this meeting.

Thank you very much!

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