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#### **ICC-Angkor MEETING IN SIEM REAP 5-6 December 2012**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session meeting of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor) will be held on 5-6 December 2012 in Siem Reap at the APSARA National Authority premises.

After Angkor was inscribed in the World Heritage list on December 14, 1992, an International Co-ordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor) was established. The creation of the ICC was one of the conditions given by the World Heritage Committee to accept the Angkor Site on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Since that time, the ICC has convened regularly twice a year, thus consistently following up with all operations being carried out on the site. It is the international mechanism which coordinates assistance to the Angkor extended by different countries and organizations. The ICC-Angkor ensures the consistency of the different projects, defines, when necessary, the standards, and calls the attention of the concerned parties when required.

The ICC-Angkor is co-chaired by France and Japan, represented by their Ambassadors in Cambodia. UNESCO provides the services of a Standing Secretariat. The ICC-Angkor demonstrates a mechanism which represents a truly international and multilateral dimension of the work being done at Angkor. A look over years gives reason for satisfaction at the extent of the work accomplished and the quality of the relationships born of this framework.

In the morning of 5 December, a tour will be organized for the ICC-Angkor participants, to show the hydraulic structures and the urban heritage of Siem Reap. The tour will highlight the works done in the past years to prevent Angkor and Siem Reap from flooding and efforts to preserve Siem Reap's urban heritage. This visit is organized by the Secretariat of the ICC-Angkor in collaboration with APSARA National Authority.

The afternoon of 5 and 6 December will be devoted to a number of presentations by specialists, covering issues of conservation, archaeological research, tourism and community development. Particularly, discussions will be held on various themes related to Angkor and its population. The session will be opened by the co-chairs, H.E. Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia and H.E. Mr. Dominique MAS, Chargé d'Affaires with the Embassy of France. The Royal Government of Cambodia will be represented by His Excellency Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the APSARA National Authority who will make a special statement. The UNESCO Representative in Phnom Penh, Ms. Anne Lemaistre, will also make a statement.

This ICC-Angkor meeting will serve as the opportunity to launch the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List. Due to the national mourning period for His Majesty the King Father, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, who played a key role in inscribing Angkor on the World Heritage List, the celebration planned for the 20th anniversary of this inscription (1992 - 2012) is postponed until the next World Heritage Committee meeting in June 2013.

**For further information about the 19st Plenary Session program, kindly contact:**

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