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PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration Ceremony of the Exhibition
**“Our Common Heritage: Exploring the World Heritage Sites in Cambodia,
Laos and Viet Nam”**
Angkor National Museum
Siem Reap
26 April 2013, 5:30 PM

The opening of a special exhibition entitled “Our Common Heritage: Exploring World Heritage Sites of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam” will take place on 26 April 2013 at the Angkor National Museum in Siem Reap. This exhibition is the fruition of efforts made under the UNESCO-Japan Fund in Trust project, “Revitalizing World Heritage Site Museums in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam”. The project was launched on July 2011 and followed by two regional workshops, the first in Hanoi (in 2011) and the second in Siem Reap (in 2012), with participants from the nine museums – National Museum of Cambodia, Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum, Angkor National Museum, Preah Vihear Eco Global Museum from Cambodia, Thang Long Imperial Citadel site museum, My Son Interpretation Center, Da Nang Cham Sculpture Museum, Ho Citadel site Museum from Vietnam, and Wat Phu Museum from Laos.

The exhibition “Our Common Heritage: Exploring World Heritage Sites of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam” will be organized at the above-mentioned nine museums. For Cambodia, this is the third inauguration of its kind - the first inauguration was held in December 2012 at the Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum in Siem Reap, the second at the National Museum of Cambodia in February 2013. The last exhibition will be inaugurated at the Preah Vihear Eco Global Museum this year as well.

The exhibition is composed of four groups of panels – The first introduces the concept of the World Heritage Convention, its history and the location of the participating World Heritage sites and museums, as well as the Outstanding Universal Values of these sites; the second and third groups of panels will showcase the commonly developed themes such as Nature and Myth and Trade and Exchange. The last group shows a theme specially created by the museum itself – Jayavarman VII: Life and belief.

In addition to the exhibition, the Angkor National Museum, as well as other eight participating museums will run an educational program for school children until the end of June 2013. The aim of this exhibition is to provide visitors with new narratives by shedding light on the historical interconnection between various World Heritage sites and related populations of sub-region.

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