



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ



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ក្រសួងវប្បធម៌ និង វិចិត្រសិល្បៈ

Chapey dang veng (long-necked lute), accompanying epic singing, is a Khmer traditional form of performing art that has existed since the olden days. The performance of *chapey dang veng* is closely interwoven with the life and traditional customs and beliefs of the Khmer people.

The Royal Government of Cambodia together with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts have undertaken remarkable efforts to conduct extensive research to preserve and promote training as well as to support senior teachers of *chapey dang veng* in their performance of singing. Attention has been particularly paid to the performance of *chapey dang veng* to promote education and development, and to support the living standards of epic singing artists.

In a restored form, *chapey dang veng* is supported and performed by the Department of Arts and Performing Arts, the Royal University of Fine Arts, and by troupes supported by Non-Governmental Organizations as well as individuals in the country. It entertains at various traditional and official festivals, and at national, international, and private gatherings and receptions.

Understanding the importance of *chapey dang veng* to Cambodia and the world, the Royal Government of Cambodia together with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts have submitted to UNESCO to proclaim the Khmer *chapey dang veng* a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

According to the 2003 Convention, intangible heritage can only be identified with reference to communities, groups or individuals that recognize it as part of their cultural heritage. Thus, it is important that we identify clearly one or several communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned with the nominated element.

Phnom Penh, May 16, 2011

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