



Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Nation Religion King

40th GENERAL CONFERENCE of UNESCO

Speech by H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron

Head of the Delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia

And Minister of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

- *Excellency President of the General Conference*
- *Madam Director-General of UNESCO,*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*
- *Dear colleagues,*

On behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, I would like to thank Madame Audrey Azoulay for her commitment, devotion and achievements during her mandate. Likewise, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. **Ahmet Altay Cengizer**, the newly elected President as chair of the Session of the 40th UNESCO Conference. With your leadership and guidance, we are confident that the General Conference will yield fruitful results and reach a successful conclusion.

It is my great pleasure to inform you that to construct the defences of peace in the minds of our young people and educate them for the future, the Royal Government of Cambodia is fully committed to the Sustainable Development Agenda and embarks on education reform the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals Framework 2016-2030 by 1) focusing on Improving the Quality of Education through the implementation and expansion of New Generation Schools (NGS) and equipping students with 21st Century skills, including hard and soft skills to become good national and global citizens; 2) focusing on Education Reform including Curriculum Review and inquiry teaching methods, Teacher Education and School-Based Management. Cambodia promotes Inclusive Education through the expansion of Multi-lingual programs for ethnic minorities, and

Special Education programs. Cambodia continues to improve equitable access for children with disability to education at all levels by expanding scholarship program, school meals to disadvantaged students and provision of dormitories to girls. Cambodia also promotes Life-Long Learning opportunities for all through online basic education for out of school students.

In the area of Higher Education, Cambodia launches Higher Education Reform focus on 1) Improving Teaching and Learning Capacity in STEM and agriculture; 2) Improving the quality and relevance of research and 3) Strengthening governance of higher education institutions to produce graduates equipped with transferable skills and knowledge, especially in STEM and agriculture.

To respond to the fast growing of globalization and technology in this digital age, Cambodia established a center for digital education to give our young people the opportunity to link up with the digital world by encouraging students to use technology to solve problems. To avoid skill mismatch, Cambodia embarks on teacher reform and introduce new teaching method to produce learning with 21st century skills.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

To provide a robust legislative framework to promote the rights to information and with supports from UNESCO and relevant stakeholders, Cambodia has drafted a Law on Access to Information and has commemorated the World Press Freedom Day and the International Day for Universal Access to Information. Cambodia is committed to foster freedom of expression, access to information and a vibrant media ecosystem through various initiatives, including combating fake news, hate speech and racial discrimination.

Cambodia is giving high-priority to culture conservation as a means to promote sustainable development by way of strengthening national identity and protecting traditional knowledge within the framework of the National Policy for Culture, developed in close cooperation with UNESCO.

The International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor) has invested over USD 300 million through UNESCO and bilateral cooperation between 1993 and 2018 with the participation from more than 30 countries.

The ICC-Angkor model is a unique forum of excellence and has also been successfully applied to other sites in Cambodia, including Preah Vihear and Sambor Prei Kuk temples.

As for intangible cultural heritage, in 2018, "LKHON KHOL" was able to be inscribed on the list of intangible cultural heritage.

I cannot conclude my speech without mentioning ANGKOR, the jewel of the World Heritage. We would like to convey gratitude to UNESCO and International Coordination Committee chaired by France and Japan, which for 25 years have been committed to its preservation with wisdom and dedication.

We look forward to further strengthening our close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh to jointly address challenges and capitalize on opportunities to promote sustainable development for the people of Cambodia and those of the globe.

Thank for your kind attention.