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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLENARY SESSION

DECISION

Pursuant to a proposal by Mr Étienne CLÉMENT, UNESCO Representative in Cambodia, with the full support of Senior Minister SOK An, the committee decided to have **the issue of the illicit trafficking in Cambodian cultural property included on the agenda of the Paris Conference**, so that this most fragile and vulnerable heritage also receive the attention of and generous assistance from the international community meeting on that occasion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended that the ICC secretariat, in consultation with agencies specializing in areas relating to the **water problem**, including JICA, the AFD, the EFEO and JSA, using as a basis their own studies as well as the UNESCO records and ZEMP documents, prepare a summary report under the coordination of the APSARA Authority and submit it to the Royal Government of Cambodia, in particular to its representative, Senior Minister SOK An.

The committee recommended that the Royal Government of Cambodia **strengthen the financial stability of the APSARA Authority** so that it can care for its obligations in the field of conservation, showcasing and development of the site. The committee also recommended that when the current ticket sales concession contract expires in 2005, the Royal Government of Cambodia ensure that receipts from entrance tickets accrue entirely to the benefit of the State and that the APSARA Authority receives maximum advantage from these financial inflows.

The committee recommended that the ICC secretariat, with its *ad hoc* group of experts and in liaison with the APSARA Authority, coordinate the formulation of directions for safeguarding and showcasing the Angkor monuments in order to unify and harmonize the **methodology for interventions on the Angkor site** as far as conservation and restoration principles are concerned, as well as for documentation and consultation.

RECORD OF THE DISCUSSIONS

I. OPENING SESSION

1. Statement by the Co-chairman for France, Ambassador André-Jean LIBOUREL

"Honorable Minister of State,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Japanese ambassador and I who are honored to co-chair this 10th session of the ICC hereby call the meeting to order. Our proceedings will take up the full day, with a few breaks. And one of the advantages of holding this meeting for the second time here in Siem Reap / Angkor is that the UNESCO secretariat has arranged for some of you to visit various work sites tomorrow. And about 1 p.m., it will be our pleasure to have you for lunch in this hotel.

A maximum of 45 minutes has been set aside for this opening session, and our schedule is such that we are going to have to make a real effort to stick to it. This first item on our agenda calls for opening speeches by each of the chairman, but since there is no lectern, I would rather think that we can call this some opening remarks by each of the co-chairmen. Since I have more seniority in this country, I will speak first and then give the floor to my friend and colleague, Ambassador Gotaro OGAWA of Japan. After we have finished with our introduction, HE Senior Minister SOK An will speak, followed in conclusion by Mr Étienne CLÉMENT, Representative of UNESCO in Cambodia.

Ten years ago in October the Intergovernmental Conference was held highlighting the will of the international community to respond to the appeal launched some years earlier by the man who would return as king of Cambodia, His Majesty NORODOM Sihanouk, to safeguard and develop the Angkor site. The Tokyo Conference was held subsequent to the conditional inclusion of the Angkor site on the World Heritage List and was the founding action for measures that had become absolutely indispensable and urgent for the safeguarding of the site.

Next November 14 and 15, France will have the honor of hosting in Paris a second intergovernmental conference as was decided last year. And as you know, Paris is home to the UNESCO headquarters. And that's a fine coincidence because it will enable a worthy tribute to be paid to the work done by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization over the last ten years on behalf of this site. This international conference will also be something very special in that it will be serene, peaceful and forward-looking, with no shame about the past. That isn't true of many international conferences, so that's another thing that we should be happy about.

The purpose of the conference will be to celebrate the work done since Tokyo and, more importantly, to map out the ways of the future, what we should be aiming for, let's say, during the next ten years. An international conference every ten years for something that works is also something quite remarkable. What a saving of means that is!

In ten years, Honorable Senior Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, what a long way we have come! In 1993, Cambodia had just held its first democratic elections. The United Nations through UNTAC—the United Nations Provisional Authority in Cambodia—had done a good job, but it was not all over in 1993. The country was not yet totally pacified, especially in some areas extremely close to Angkor. In 1993 there was the demining that had to be done, access roads to be put in, water to be supplied. Urgency was the watchword. Cambodians themselves did the rebuilding, became reconciled and worked to put in place the means for reconstruction. The wisdom of no small number of Cambodians, under the aegis of King SIHANOUK, is what has made the country into what it is today: a peaceful country, a reunified country and a country wide open to everyone. That wasn't yet the case before late 1998, for instance, was it? It was only true after late 1998. So let us not take the credit that is due to the Cambodian people. Rather, let's say that we, the ICC, made up of Cambodians first of all, the Cambodian government, of organizations such as APSARA, of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, have done a great job of supporting the reconstruction of Cambodia.

Here in Siem Reap, in just ten years, the sites have been totally reopened. There used to be landmines; now there are none. There were no roads to reach certain places. Now there are. Equipment was in short supply. Electricity and other such things have been restored. Thus, the sites have been fully opened. The increase in the number and involvement of participants on this committee is also one of our successes. It shows that it is a structure that is working, that is operating, that is appealing to those who are not members because they are coming to join it. The establishment of the APSARA Authority, whose successive chairmen have backed it very powerfully, has found its bearings in a wonderful way, with the corresponding development of human resources, realization of the necessary statutory measures, etc.

From 1993 to the present, this committee has been monitoring all of that, but additionally—and it's a weakness on our part to think so—it was coaching all of that. So let us celebrate the joy of success, not paying heed to those who say that it could have been better. I don't think that it could have been much better. As I said, mine clearance had to be done; equipment had to be brought in; approach areas had to be structured; intake facilities had to be put in. All of that has been done remarkably well, while the intellectuals, the scholars, the archaeologists, took advantage of the opportunity and the framework of this committee to meet each other and talk together to coordinate things although they could do so elsewhere, all of that in a peaceful manner with no one ever thinking of taking the credit for himself. That also is one of the benefits of the multilateralism of a peaceful, cultural international organization like UNESCO.

So we said and will say again, basically what it comes down to if we want to sum it all up, 1993 to 2003 was the decade of safeguarding. Actually, it was not just the decade of safeguarding, because safeguarding was accomplished and development had already gotten underway. What will the next decade bring? A decade of development no doubt. Thus, it is up to this structure, strengthened by more countries or organizations joining it, to coach this on-going development of the Angkor site. I think that the Paris Conference should provide the opportunity to think about that and fix in our minds a number of ideas on what this future should be. I think that is what we all would like.

This development that has already started, we will coach it. Last year, the first time that the ICC Plenary Session was held here in Siem Reap / Angkor, the participants were able to see just how active the town and sites had become, how busy things were, the enthusiasm of the visitors. I don't refer to those who come to see Angkor as tourists; to me, they're visitors; you're not a tourist when you're at Angkor, you're a visitor.

This year, how calm, how empty! This morning, in a big hotel that's a competitor with this one, there were just eight guests in five rooms. I was told that by the general manager.

What a disaster! No it isn't! It's not a disaster, it's a temporary down. There were the Iraq events and then SARS, atypical pneumonia, which hit tourist numbers the most. But we know that it will come to an end. This temporary down should not take our attention away from the fact that one of our key jobs in the next ten years will be to cope with the fast-track, super-strong growth of visitor numbers to the sites. That should be one of our main concerns. How can we deal with this inevitable growth in visitor numbers? It is inevitable but desirable, a much-wanted boon for Cambodia, because it is putting Cambodia on the map and also because tourism—and this time we are using the right word—is one of the pillars of its development and Angkor is one of its greatest assets. How can the Angkor miracle be turned into an essential, sustainable asset for the development of this country? How can the wishes of Cambodia be complied with at the same time? In this regard, one of the items that we should see to is putting other sites besides the Angkor site under the world heritage umbrella, if I can use that image. What should be done so that the experience gained, the know-how developed over ten years, can be used beyond the boundaries that have been set for the Angkor site and that define our jurisdiction? But everything can change.

I've gone on and on, please forgive me. I would simply like to tell you, Honorable Senior Minister, that this year in particular—last year we celebrated ten years of classification as world heritage—we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Tokyo Conference.

On my way here this morning, I came across processions of different political parties—happy, content, peaceful—on their way out to woo the voters, some on motorbikes, others in trucks, off to hold meetings. Well, that's the most encouraging sign we could see, this youthful enthusiasm joyfully displayed in the peaceful struggle for democracy in a reunified country while we foreigners here owe you Cambodians a big debt of gratitude for kindly letting us have access to your treasure and culture. Thank you very much."

2. Statement by the Co-chairman for Japan, Ambassador Gotaro OGAWA

"His Excellency the Senior Minister,
Honorable Co-chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to chair this 10th Plenary Session of the International Coordinating Committee with my colleague and dear friend, Mr André-Jean LIBOUREL, Ambassador of France.

As he aptly said, today's session is a special one. As the agenda suggests, it is an opportunity for all of us here to look back over what we have done during the last ten years and think about the future. The honorable co-chairman gave some background information about the Tokyo Conference. Since the Tokyo Conference in 1993, the committee successfully mobilized the international effort to safeguard and develop the historic site of Angkor. During these ten years, a great deal of restoration and rehabilitation work has been done. The participation of both government and private agencies has taken on a broad dimension. Efforts to provide training to young Khmer technicians and experts have been pursued, with positive and satisfying results, as was demonstrated during the site tour during last year's plenary session. We were able to see that the Royal Government of Cambodia has shown the ability to improve its management of the Angkor site through the establishment of the APSARA Authority and then restructuring it. I think that we can be proud of these results obtained over the past ten years.

Nevertheless, the job assigned to this committee remains huge and complex. Firstly, the need for preservation and rehabilitation remains just as gigantic. How can we keep on

mobilizing the human, technical and financial resources? That is a crucial point for the future of our activities. And over the last few years we have witnessed the continued growth of tourism. With one hotel going up right after the other nowadays, some of them massive at that, the problem of ground water, for instance, has become an issue that demands serious consideration. How can this situation be resolved, while maintaining an appropriate balance between tourism and economic development and the preservation of the priceless monuments of Angkor? That is an urgent matter.

There is an increase in the number of public, non-governmental participants and partners involved in our restoration efforts. That shows that the spirit of international solidarity for safeguarding world heritage is growing stronger. Their enthusiasm has led to new projects being undertaken as well. We are pleased with that, but it also calls for coordinating the various activities in a harmonious, efficient and complementary manner. In this context, I would like to state that the role played by the APSARA Authority is a crucial factor in facing this complex issue. So we have to look into ways of encouraging and supporting the APSARA Authority and strengthening its real authority, so that it can assume its obligations in such a way as to lead all of our efforts undertaken for the safeguarding and development of the Angkor site. This involves not only the Royal Government, but also the international community that this committee represents.

Those are some points for this committee to think about as it celebrates today its tenth anniversary and looks forward to the Paris intergovernmental conference being hosted there by the French government.

Excellencies, Honorable Co-chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to express my sincere wish that our plenary session today will be fruitful and produce major results so that the decade to come will be one of prosperity for our work.

I thank you for your attention."

3. Statement by the Head of the Cambodian Delegation, HE Senior Minister SOK An, Council of Ministers

"Honorable Co-chairmen,
Excellencies,
Professors,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are meeting together under favorable auspices since, after celebrating last year the tenth anniversary of the inclusion of Angkor on the World Heritage List, we are celebrating today a decade of activities, of achievements and of sustained international cooperation for this jewel of mankind's heritage.

I would first of all like to warmly greet your meeting, share with you the high esteem of HE the Prime Minister Samdech HUN Sen and convey to you an expression of sincere thanks from the Royal Government that he is leading.

Honorable Co-chairmen, Messrs LIBOUREL and OGAWA, this festive occasion for which we all share a feeling of joy and satisfaction, we owe it primarily to the two great countries that you represent—France and Japan.

As everyone knows, the good initiative taken by the government of Japan made it possible in October 1993, ten years ago, to hold in Tokyo an Intergovernmental Conference for the Conservation and Development of Angkor. That conference adopted a

solemn declaration that is a benchmark for all of us. It gave the signal for an action that has gone on unceasingly since then.

The result has been magnificent, one that the international community salutes with UNESCO, a result to be credited to the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC), chaired by France and Japan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the ICC:

Throughout the past ten years, the ICC, established in Phnom Penh back in December 1993, has carried out its demanding but exciting mission with unparalleled seriousness, careful attention to all of the problems, be they archaeological or technical, economic or social. Really, no item of concern to our Cambodian compatriots in the Siem Reap / Angkor region was overlooked by the ICC. Operations in the field, safeguarding the environment, one-off studies or in-depth analyses, statistics, forecasts, everything was designed to improve not just the conditions for visiting Angkor Park, but also the living conditions of the communities in it.

We will never thank you enough for that, and the Royal Government will remain beholden to you for having designed your programs in keeping with the poverty alleviation policy that Samdech HUN Sen is working hard to implement along with his team.

You were also able to coach with warmth and empathy the first steps taken by the APSARA Authority, and then go on to establish a genuine partnership with the representatives of this authority that is now fully playing its role as project owner for all aspects of Angkor Park.

Solemn thanks are expressed to all of the countries, international institutions, research institutes and groups that gave of themselves for and invested in the safeguarding and development of Angkor!

Honorable Representative of UNESCO, I wish to reserve a special mention for UNESCO which has provided the services of standing secretariat for this committee since the Tokyo Conference and throughout the past decade. As all appreciate, this job has been carried out with exemplary dedication, a strong attachment to this country and undisputed skill. I would like to ask you, Mr Clément, to express on our feeling of deep gratitude to the Director General of UNESCO, HE Mr Koichiro MATSUURA.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

After the Tokyo Conference, we will have the Paris Conference next November. We anticipate that the studies and forecasts, carefully prepared by your competent teams, will be in keeping with the tremendous challenge confronting us: that, without any social disequilibrium or damage to the environment, Angkor may be developed and Siem Reap will prove to be a great place to live for everyone! Thank you for your attention."

4. Statement by the Representative of UNESCO in Cambodia, Mr Étienne CLÉMENT

"Honorable Minister of State,
Honorable Co-chairmen,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Nearly ten years ago, in October 1993, at the conclusion of the Tokyo Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor, your international committee was formed. Its first meeting was held two months later, in December 1993, in Phnom Penh.

This tenth anniversary offers us a unique opportunity to review what was done in all areas linked to safeguarding and development of the site, to compare the results obtained with the expectations contained in the Tokyo Declaration and identify the prospects for the coming decade, taking into consideration the priority goals of the Royal Government with regard to development and poverty alleviation.

The Director General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro MATSUURA, asked me to convey on his behalf to HE Mr SOK An, Senior Minister and head of the Cambodian delegation at this meeting of the ICC, his full support for the efforts of the Royal Government and the APSARA Authority for the preservation and development of the Angkor site. He asked me to greet on his behalf the co-chairmen of the ICC, Mr André-Jean LIBOUREL, Ambassador of France, and Mr Gotaro OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan, wishing them all success in the proceedings of the ICC.

Furthermore, UNESCO would like to welcome the decision of the French government to host a second intergovernmental conference on Angkor in November 2003, ten years after the one in Tokyo. This will provide an opportunity to review of the results of the past decade, mark out the new challenges and propose improvements to the operations of this institution, which remains one of its kind but which is being used as a model in other countries, because an ICC was just formed in Afghanistan. It is therefore natural that a number of contributions made at this plenary session will pertain to preparing for the Paris Conference.

It has been a great honor for UNESCO to provide the services of standing secretariat to the ICC since its inception. Honorable Co-chairmen, please allow me, on behalf of all of my colleagues at headquarters as well as in the Phnom Penh office, to thank you for the confidence you place in us. In this regard, I would like to introduce my colleague, Ms Galia SAOUMA-FORERO, who has just been appointed by the Deputy General for Culture to supervise the team that handles the Angkor portfolio at UNESCO headquarters. She is here with us for the first time. It is also a particular pleasure to assure you, Honorable Minister of State, Honorable Co-chairmen, that your proceedings will continue to benefit from the erudition, authority and enthusiastic commitment of our friend, Mr Azedine BESCHAOUCH, member of the Institute [of France], Scientific Advisor in the UNESCO Culture Section, who will care for the presentation and scientific commentary of the various points on the ICC meeting agenda, under the co-chairmanship of France and Japan. I thank you."

Ambassador LIBOUREL welcomed the presence of Ms Galia SAOUMA-FORERO and congratulated her for having taken charge of such an interesting portfolio. He was pleased to note this evidence that the UNESCO team had been strengthened.

II. A DECADE OF GROWTH—OVERVIEW 1993 TO 2003

1. Activities Conducted by the APSARA Authority, by HE Mr BUN Narith, Chief Executive Officer of the APSARA Authority*

“Honorable Co-chairmen,
Excellency the Senior Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would first of all like to welcome all of you distinguished guests and participants at this 10th Plenary Session of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor. This year is marked by a very important date for this committee as it will celebrate its tenth anniversary, having been established at the conclusion of the Tokyo Conference in 1993. It was instrumental in the formation of the APSARA Authority in 1995.

The efforts put forth over the last ten years have not always been 100 percent successful. Nevertheless we can be proud of the accomplishments, even though they may not have been heralded or given a lot of attention in the media. Indeed, the results are there, visible on the site, and if any visitor, researcher or tourist, comes back after a few years, he or she can see the difference with regard to monument conservation and the development of tourism infrastructure. My fellow workers and I would like to say how proud we are to serve the Angkor site, symbol of the Khmer national identity. As Cambodians, we appreciate the privilege of making a modest contribution to its safeguarding and presentation.

None of the restoration and maintenance operations on the site could ever have been accomplished without the precious assistance of the donor countries. They have made available to the monuments their most skillful technicians—archaeologists, architects, engineers and others—who did not feel it was enough just to participate, but who enthusiastically rose to the challenge of the most demanding and difficult jobs. I would like to convey my deep gratitude to them.

The assistance of international experts in all areas has made it possible to implement a number of tourism development projects in Angkor Park and the town of Siem Reap, which has helped improve visitor intake. The work done encourages us to move ahead and prepare for the future with confidence, because broader prospects are possible and achievement of the goals is more than just a wish; it is a reality.

I sincerely believe that we will now have the means that are the measure of our ambitions to implement the policy advocated for the Angkor site, that is, to develop and preserve at the same time. I am not referring simply to financial and technical means, but I am convinced that the enthusiasm displayed by all of the experts from the countries that have decided to provide assistance to the cause of Khmer heritage as well as by my colleagues gives reason to hope for a long and fruitful collaboration.

The year 2003 is a historical date for the APSARA Authority and all countries, friends of Cambodia, that have put their confidence in this great Angkor site safeguarding project, especially Japan that organized the Tokyo Conference in 1993 and France who will be host for the tenth anniversary of the ICC in November in Paris. The two co-chairmen have vigorously fulfilled their role and also given a fresh impulse, reflecting the change in direction regarding the policy for safeguarding the temples: The site on which they are found is no longer considered to be in danger, but in prosperity.

* See APSARA Authority Activity Report, 1995 to June 2003, included as Annex I.

UNESCO has also been busy fulfilling its obligations by a steady provision of advice and assistance for all projects involving both restoration and investment. The APSARA Authority, as a permanent member and representative of the Royal Government of Cambodia, has been unsparing in its efforts to care for the missions assigned to it. This event will provide an opportunity for all participants to outline the achievements and exhibit future plans for monument conservation as well as for the economic and tourist development of Angkor Park. And I am sure that you will be interested in hearing the APSARA Authority's presentation of the outlook for the upcoming decade.

Your Excellency the Senior Minister, Honorable Co-chairmen, Distinguished Guests:

Thank you once again for being such faithful and dependable friends. Your support to the APSARA Authority and programs to showcase the Angkor temples will be more valuable than ever in the years to come. Let us win together this new battle that we have chosen to wage, making the Angkor site a model of international cooperation and a training school in the heritage trades which future generations can be proud of.

I thank you for your attention."

2. *Summary of the International Action, by Mr Azedine BESCHAOUCH, Scientific Secretary of the ICC (in liaison with each team and on its behalf)*

"His Excellency the Senior Minister,
Honorable Co-chairmen,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

In 1992, in the month of December at Sante Fe, the World Heritage Committee took urgent action when it listed a site in danger. Thus, right from the time this International Coordinating Committee was formed following the Tokyo Conference, the first challenge we had was, after the emergency stage, to put in place conditions for steady work, in serenity, in a spirit of international cooperation, in anticipation of the peaceful future that the Royal Government was working to promote throughout the country. We also had to see to it that the dangers threatening the site were gradually eliminated.

The first point that we can put on record on this long road covered, as our co-chairman, the Ambassador of France mentioned earlier, is that this committee took on the first danger, that of landmines, and it is important to pay tribute to all those who rallied around Colonel BILLAULT here present to see to it that the site was demined and that this first danger was eliminated in just a few years' time.

After the threat of landmines, we had to deal with another danger, one involving the theft of artifacts, illicit trafficking in and the movement of cultural property from the Angkor zone in Cambodia to other countries. Again, this International Coordinating Committee worked along with the Royal Government to put an effective measure in place that was fleshed out by the Heritage Police Unit with assistance from France and Japan in particular. This unit has helped crack down on these illegal activities. Its commander, Colonel Tan Chay, is here today and if you ask him, he can give you a report on the tremendous job that was done in this area. A little later on, my colleague and friend, the UNESCO Representative, will report specifically on the area of illicit trafficking prevention.

These dangers were very real at the time. I can attest to the fact that, from 1992 up to 97 or 98, it was difficult to go beyond just a few monuments. This is something to remind everybody of, and I think this is not only is a tribute to the Royal Government, but an inescapable fact. It is rare to see a country that experienced the horrors of which we are

all aware, be able in just a few years to eliminate the dangers so that we can now travel about in full security.

After these dangers we had to set up, as stated in the Tokyo Declaration, a policy for safeguarding, conservation, rehabilitation and, where necessary, restoration. That was the crux of the matter. We are now looking at the results and UNESCO has the privilege of comparing the great Nubian campaign, the Venice campaign, the Borobudur campaign and the one that I had the opportunity to conduct personally in my own country, the Carthage campaign, without any self-satisfaction, because it is a fact. We should be proud, as our two co-chairmen said, of the way we have come in these ten years.

An intense effort was put forth, intense because France, who has nearly a century of connections with Angkor and the Angkor zone—since 1907 through the *École française d'Extrême-Orient*—resumed work in 1992, immediately after the inclusion of the site on the World Heritage List, not simply picking up where it left off the site, but developing a safeguarding plan that started with the two large terraces, the Terrace of the Leper King and the Northern Perron of the Elephant Terrace. I was personally a witness to that, and it is backed up by the publications. I saw the total transformation of what those terraces looked like in just a few years. When we visit them now, sometimes we forget just how much work was done. They were covered in bramble bushes and trees. It was a real mess. It used to be just ruins, but now it is a testimony to a civilization.

Almost at the same time the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* team took up conservation, restoration and rehabilitation operations on another huge project, the Baphuon temple. You are familiar with the problems on that site, and how happy we are that a team, a school, a country, has been able to resume this work. It involves more than just the tragedy of the time lapse between the major initial work on the Baphuon. The site had to be abandoned because of the war and the lost archives had to be replaced by human archives. Let me pay tribute to the great architect Mr Jacques DUMARCAY, because thanks to his memory, thanks to him, our colleague and friend, Mr Pascal ROYÈRE, was able firstly with his help and now carrying the flame alone with his team, to see to it that the Baphuon can be restored in the best possible conditions.

I will mention the technical work very briefly. It is a very tough job, because the monument had to be both restored and rehabilitated. The most challenging thing was to decide how to deal with the states of the monument. Around the 16th century, it was completely redone with older components lifted from the first Hindu monument dating back to the 11th century. The Reclining Buddha entailed a disruption of the overall structure of the monument and the choice of the architects was dictated firstly by the need for safeguarding, but also by the desire to reflect the historical evolution. It will be one of the most remarkable achievements in this sense. If we have properly understood the choice made by France, the EFEO and its architect, they want to show us for the first time in a monument two totally unrelated historical stages that followed each other in time. In one way or another the visitor will be able to have a direct view of both its last state—the Reclining Buddha—as well as of its initial state that dates back to the 11th century.

In the same surroundings, in the center of the Royal Plaza and Angkor Thom, the second country chairing our committee, Japan, went to work opposite the Terrace of the Leper King and Elephant Terrace, seeing to the development of operations by a valiant team, the Japanese Government Team for Angkor, JSA, headed by Prof. NAKAGAWA. This team took on two major operations in the Angkor Thom enclosure. The first is the Prasat Suor Prat towers opposite the two terraces, the second a dual safeguarding operation, first an overall master plan for a famous monument, one of the most beautiful in all of the Angkor region, the Bayon, and the other, the restoration of the northern library in the enclosure of this monument.

This wonderful piece of work shows how France and Japan, who have held the chair for the past 10 years, have been the impetus for cooperative action both as co-chairmen and as the inspiration behind what we are doing. We congratulate our dear co-chairmen and we want them to know that thanks to their support, it is possible to work in ideal conditions. An exemplary spirit of cooperation has developed between the French and Japanese teams as they work side by side, something to which I can personally testify.

Immediately after those operations got underway, another Japanese team with a very old affiliation—I am referring to the Sophia University team led by Prof. ISHIZAWA and his colleagues—began working back in 1991 on a lengthy operation. I will get back to it when we talk about research, 'Research on Khmer Culture and the Foundations of Khmer Civilization'. Prof. ISHIZAWA and his team also resumed restoration, conservation and rehabilitation work at Banteay Kdei.

Rather than review all of the techniques, I will describe them very briefly, because that is what enables us to say that we are linked at Angkor by a methodology, one that we are trying to fine-tune and which has become our common denominator. At Angkor, we are working on the initial problem facing all of us, the problem of monument distress originating essentially from water seepage and problems from the action of water on the monuments. The water problem is not just from rain, infiltration. It is also due to the fact that the drainage system has been completely disrupted due to the historic abandoning of the site and a lack of upkeep, particularly during the dark period before peace was restored to this country. All of that has resulted in the distress for the monuments. Everyone got busy to see to it that these situations were addressed using a specific methodology.

Another point was seeing to it that the anastylosis method of restoration was used only when there was no other means, when the structural stability of a monument was at stake. Otherwise, we try to conserve the monuments in the best possible way, preserving their history, their authenticity, what history has done to them, so that they can be open for visiting in a way that visitors will find enjoyable. That is what we are striving to do with the APSARA Authority.

We have among us here Mr John SANDAY, one of the old-timers of this international action with the World Monuments Fund team. He was out working on the site when things were just getting going. They began with Preah Khan, a major monument which, unlike the many mountain temples with their usual problems, has its own set of special challenges. Its enclosure walls have a unique feature, the *garudas*. Starting from the first enclosure they are the main feature of architectural decoration on this temple. The World Monuments Fund did a successful job on this particular problem, although there is still a lot to do at Preah Khan. But we congratulate the World Monuments Fund for spending ten years on this tremendous operation. The WMF has gone on to care for another temple, Ta Som, in collaboration with APSARA.

Having looked at those operations, let us now move on to another one just as important in which the studies and interventions undertaken have already enabled the safeguarding of the major part of what we can call the most beautiful architectural decoration of the site, the *apsara* and *devata* carvings that adorn the monuments, Angkor Wat in particular, adding beauty and splendor to them. We are referring to the German team led by Prof. Hans LEISEN. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to pay tribute to them on behalf of all of us, for we have learned a great deal through this methodology, through what they have brought to this site, especially in the Angkor Wat enclosure.

However, the German team did not confine its efforts to Angkor Wat alone. The Royal Angkor Foundation that was set up in Budapest, Hungary, started with German funding on

Preah Ko, in the Roluos area. It was unable to complete the work due to a funding shortfall, and again Germany generously picked up the flame and made an official request with the support of APSARA to have Prof. LEISEN's team come and finish the work on Preah Ko. The stucco decorations on this temple were safeguarded as a result of it.

Finally, with your permission, I would like to pay tribute to Italy, because this country took on a remarkable and challenging operation indeed with Dr Valter-Maria SANTORO and his team on the Pre Rup temple. Pre Rup is one of the most unique monuments because it is the only one that has a dated inscription naming the builder. Of course, all of these prestigious monuments had builders, but for the Eastern Mebon temple not far away and in the same style as the Pre Rup we have the name of a builder and a precise date. It is a monument on which the three main building materials at Angkor—laterite, sandstone and brick—are combined, thus adding substantially to the complexity of the monument. The Italian team with financial assistance from the Italian government via UNESCO has been working on it since 1995 and has now reached a third restoration phase.

While on the subject of the Italian team's work, I am taking the opportunity to draw your attention to the evolution of the international action promoted by the ICC. We came to realize that we could unite our efforts among the teams to help APSARA do emergency safeguarding. For example, at one point we had to do something about a situation that could have turned out to be disastrous. That was when there had been some exceptionally heavy rainfall in 1997-98. The site had been abandoned years earlier and had not been maintained. The retaining wall of the moat beside the Angkor Wat entrance causeway collapsed. We had to intervene. We did not have to search world over to find a team. We invited the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* to kindly look into it. It did part of the study and turned it over to us, which was something extremely valuable. We will be eternally grateful to the *École française d'Extrême-Orient*. It had made a thorough photographic study of the site, with back-up copies in the EFEO's documentation center, at the Museum of Phnom Penh and in Paris. We are fortunate that in these three locations, anyone can consult this rich and indispensable documentation, the photographic and documentary memory of the site, and many researchers here present have done so. Thus, thanks to the EFEO archives, we were able to understand precisely the nature of the problem that had occurred and the situation that existed prior to the collapse. We then invited the Italian team to take care of it, which it kindly did with joint funding from UNESCO via the World Heritage Fund and funds from APSARA. Thus, the day before yesterday, we were able to go and see the wonderful job that has been done, which is nearly finished now, along with all of the researchers, architects, archaeologists and engineers.

Similarly, before the war, the *École française d'Extrême-Orient*, in liaison the Angkor Conservation Office, was able to start restoration work on the southern lane of the causeway-dike, the right-hand lane when you enter Angkor Wat. The work site had to be abandoned because of the war. When work resumed, the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* couldn't do everything. The lane that was in better condition would some day have to be worked on to bring it into harmony with the earlier work, so a safeguarding operation was called for. I invite you to pay tribute to the Sophia team, to Prof. ISHIZAWA, that has used Japanese funds topped up by APSARA to carry out work on the Angkor Wat causeway-dike.

So it is that through our ICC, bilateral, triangular cooperation arrangements were gradually established and are indeed continuing to be established. I will conclude on this juncture in conservation with something wonderful. We just held the first technical and scientific workshop on Angkor Wat organized by the APSARA Authority as project owner. This first scientific and technical event shows that APSARA has grown up and is now not only a partner but also a project owner, a coordinator. APSARA brought us together under

a theme that is proof that the ICC, over a ten-year period, has built up a cooperation arrangement focusing on a monument that is also exemplary. The EFEO, Sophia University, Italy, the JSA team, Germany, the World Monuments Fund and finally India who has returned to our midst with the Archaeological Survey of India, now under the coordination of APSARA, are involved in a joint safeguarding operation with a methodology of which the main points are shared by us and that we will try to fine-tune from year to year so that this emblematic monument, the symbol of Khmer civilization and its key reference, can be rehabilitated and conserved in keeping with its value and this reference for civilization and culture. To achieve this, it is necessary that we all learn to work with the APSARA Authority.

We will now move on. I am finishing up this point and see that I still have the ten minutes allotted to me on the agenda. I won't go overtime because I have not forgotten and I thank my colleagues for telling me that there is a second section, about research. I was first of all to talk about rehabilitation and conservation and then research. I have given so many lectures in my life that I should surely not forget the crux of the matter. I made mention of France, Japan, the World Monuments Fund, Italy, Germany and India, and on this long road there still some distance to go—I am drifting little by little, I am also following a geographic order, not just chronological. When heading out to Banteay Srei, we come to a remarkable monument, Chau Sey Tevoda, where the team that has joined us and is now one of the main teams as well, the team from the People's Republic of China, is working. Chau Sey Tevoda has the same structural problems and the same deformations. There again, we came to appreciate that our Chinese friends and colleagues are working in harmony with the main principles governing our actions.

We eventually reach the edge of the site towards the Kulen foothills where we encounter Banteay Srei, a jewel of the Angkor world heritage site. A joint undertaking between the Swiss team which joined us last year and APSARA saw work get underway and sophisticated conservation principles based on in-depth research are being followed.

There is an additional point to be added to this section about restoration. This site was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger. At Tokyo, we were invited to eliminate the dangers, prepare for the future and see to it that the important consideration in this international operation was the overall design plan involved when taking on a site, i.e. safeguarding it and increasing knowledge, not only technological, but scientific as well. Thus, scientific research is the second pillar of the ICC's action. Let me say that this ten-year campaign at Angkor has done much more in terms of analytical work on restoration techniques than the other campaigns. We can say so because of the outstanding symposium that Japan has been organizing for seven years now, more precisely JSA under the direction of Prof. NAKAGAWA, with the participation of all of us. It has become an international symposium, highlighting various case studies such as the Cologne Cathedral and the Strasbourg Cathedral. What does the Strasbourg Cathedral have to do with the Bayon? The very same problems of stone failure have been encountered in both of them, dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries. You see then how scientific analysis has been extended world wide thanks to the Angkor site. It is a substantial contribution to the technical know-how of conservation and restoration.

However, there is more to it than conservation techniques. There is the specific field of study of Angkorian history and Khmer civilization. Research has been conducted on this point as well, on three fronts in Angkor territory, mainly by the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* and Dr Christophe POTTIER. In order to illustrate how new light is being shed even internationally, let me say that at this very moment, Dr Christophe POTTIER and Prof. Roland FLETCHER of Sydney University are both in Washington attending the convention of the World Archaeological Society, which explains why they are not here. They are going to talk about Angkor, to share the findings resulting from the tremendous work they have been doing. Archaeology, archival research, cartography, aerial

photography and remote sensing have expanded our knowledge of the Angkorian space. Why, the day may come when there will be a basis to say that Angkor, at the zenith of its prosperity, undoubtedly ranked as one of the three or four greatest cities in the world—not just in Asia, but in the world! It was not just 40,000 hectares, with the Kulens on one side and stretching beyond Roluos. That explains why the Angkorian civilization gave primary attention to solving the water problems, something that we will get back to later, because the same problem is being encountered in Siem Reap and throughout Cambodia today.

Obviously, research was not to be limited to Angkorian territory but was to be extended to urban structure, urban morphology. This brings us to an area where tribute must be paid to Prof. Jacques GAUCHER who, with the EFEO, took on the job of studying the structure of the main city, Angkor Thom, an area of 9 square kilometers, in which he is currently working. It has been discovered that the city has a truly remarkable spatial organization. He gave us some insight on this already and plans over the months and years to come to fine-tune this knowledge. But he has found that the street networks, as well as the water storage, entrapment and drainage networks are the fruit of a precise, well-thought-out engineering approach. We have an example, thanks to his research, of what a Khmer city was, how it was organized in a space, in order both to ensure a water supply for its population, as well as to avoid problems caused by water that was not drained away. That is a concern facing every modern city. We are discovering that the Khmer people had dealt with this so many centuries ago.

A third aspect is also to find out how this space could have been organized, and this is where a cooperation arrangement took shape with the French on one side and the Japanese on the other, in the same space. Just yesterday, one of the staff working with Prof. NAKAGAWA, Ms IGUCHI, gave us a very fine presentation in which she showed how things were organized from her standpoint as an urban planning architect. She applied GPS measuring methods. I think that the work done by Prof. GAUCHER along with that of the Japanese, in particular that conducted by Prof. NAKAGAWA and his team and Ms IGUCHI, will give us a greater insight into just what this organization involved through this example.

If I had to review everything, I would go overtime, because there is so much being done in the field of research. Inventories deserve mention. The EFEO did a tremendous job of inventorying the Angkor Conservation Office artifacts. This has yielded a comprehensive inventory of all the sculptures on paper, on CD-ROM and in book form. This is not merely a matter of science, but also one of safeguarding, because now we know very precisely what is available for future museums, future exhibitions right at the Angkor Conservation Office. We have the work done by Dr Bruno BRUGUIER from the EFEO, an archaeological inventory that will cover all of Cambodia and highlight its treasures. And you can see from this that research, as always, goes beyond the time and space of Angkor as it seeks to gain a better understanding of Khmer civilization and its roots.

But what sustainable activities should be undertaken in this zone, for it to last? Safeguarding alone is not enough. Neither is research. Training must be provided so that—and this is the third major segment of the ICC's program with the Royal Government, with its representative the APSARA Authority—so that the torch is one day carried by our friends from APSARA, young Cambodians. On this point also, training operations have been carried out actively and on an ongoing basis. We have never lost sight of this vital component. This has been a matter of concern for all: the EFEO, JSA and now on every team. Go and check out what the World Monuments Fund is doing and you will find Cambodian architects and archaeologists involved. It's not only true of the Japanese or EFEO teams, but also with the Chinese, the Italians. Everyone is providing training, and this training is being given at the Faculties of Archaeology and Architecture which were supported up to last year by the Japanese government via UNESCO. Thanks

to field work, the takeover is now being ensured. Allow me to say publicly that we are indebted to Senior Minister SOK An for his decisive support. Her Royal Highness the Minister of Culture, asked UNESCO and in particular my colleague, Mr Teruo JINNAI and I, with the support and ongoing follow-up of the UNESCO Representative, Mr CLÉMENT, to put in place a curriculum reform for archaeology and architecture. We received pedagogical support from France, both here and in Paris, from architecture academies in Germany, from Italy, from scholars here present. We successfully implemented the reform and hope that the training will be carried out in cooperation between the two institutions, architecture on the one hand and archaeology on the other, along with the Royal Academy of Cambodia and hands-on training.

So there you have an overview of what we have done up to the present, that is, with regard to conservation, rehabilitation and restoration, research, both technical and scientific, and training. Obviously, it is good that a progress report leaves everything open-ended. The co-chairman for France, Ambassador LIBOUREL, exclaimed 'what a long way we have come, but how much farther we still have to go'. Progress is not going to stop here. Other training activities must be mentioned as well. Mr Bertrand PORTE, who I see here, is providing training in a museum context, and this is remarkable because it is training people who will be safeguarding archaeological artifacts. The person next to him, Mr Michel VERROT, is also providing training in a specific area. France, through its *Fonds de solidarité prioritaire* (FSP – Priority Solidarity Fund), is giving training within APSARA itself, which is another form of cooperation that I would refer to as endogenous, because it is within the institution. Yesterday, the representatives of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs were able to see first hand how this training is being carried.

I will conclude on that note, quoting the Tokyo Declaration: "It is up to Cambodians first of all to safeguard the testimony of Khmer history."

The international community has come, as our two co-chairmen said, to support this action. The best support of this action is that it continue, that it continue based on the Paris Conference, and that our three major pillars: safeguarding, rehabilitation, research and training, that it continue in order to achieve that which Prime Minister Samdech HUN Sen said last year: 'Angkor is for us the great reference for the past and our main inspiration for the future.' To ensure that future, we need time. Just as Angkor was built stone by stone, we are building one stone at a time. So long live our two co-chairman, long live the Royal Government that is supporting us and long live APSARA! With all of you, we will be able to carry on."

Ambassador LIBOUREL thanked Mr BESCHAOUCH, adding that this was the fourth conference that he was honored to attend and hear him speak and each time he was just amazed by his eloquence, but especially by the great depth of his knowledge of matters and also by the fact that Mr BESCHAOUCH put love and passion for his work in his presentation, the passion and love that are needed to get things moving. Mr LIBOUREL described Mr BESCHAOUCH as the "soul" of the ICC.

The participants at the meeting were then invited to enjoy a coffee break and to reconvene for a discussion of the first two items on the agenda.

After the coffee break, there were no comments forthcoming, so the co-chairman for France stated that the discussion would take place as the session unfolded.

III. A DECADE OF PROSPERITY—OUTLOOK 2004-2013

1. Wishes and Suggestions from the Royal Government, by Senior Minister SOK An, Council of Ministers

“Honorable Co-chairmen,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The decade that is concluding saw the achievement of most of the wishes expressed at the Tokyo Intergovernmental Conference for the Safeguarding and Development of Angkor, held in October 1993.

The outstanding work done since then under the aegis of the ICC and in partnership with the APSARA Authority is praiseworthy indeed and it is my pleasure to convey to all the teams active at Angkor, on behalf of the Royal Government, Prime Minister Samdech HUN Sen and his team an expression of satisfaction and sincere thanks.

For the future, our wish is that the work not be interrupted while things are going along so well and that the period of consolidation, upgrading and growth will give way to an era of prosperity.

We will speak in more detail at the Intergovernmental Conference for Angkor that France is hosting in Paris next November. But I would now like to share with you the key points that the Royal Government would like to see:

- *Institutionally*, we would like the ICC to take note of the essential role now being played by the APSARA Authority. It is not only the guardian of the Angkorian heritage and project owner for the park included on the list of mankind’s heritage, but is also, and most importantly, the project owner regarding the government’s policy for safeguarding the Angkor monuments, presenting them to visitors and inserting them into national and regional development by means of cultural tourism. *Taking note of this role means, as we would like to see it, to have the APSARA Authority associated in the near future with the responsibilities and operations of the ICC’s standing secretariat*, which, as all appreciate, has been the backbone of the international cooperation undertaken at Angkor over the last ten years.
- *Regarding conservation programs*, we would like to emphasize again the importance of the training and scientific and technical development of young Cambodians with regard to heritage trades and arts.

In this regard, I would like to point out that we are soon going to be implementing a reform of the management, level of study and curriculum in both Faculties: Archaeology and Ethnology on the one hand and Architecture and Urban Planning on the other. This reform, with the support and financial contribution of Japan, as we hope, is expected to enable specialization in ideal conditions for a greater number of young cultural heritage architects, archaeologists, urban planners and conservators. In this way, the APSARA Authority will have skilled management personnel available and the international teams operating at Angkor will be able to associate more Cambodians in the implementation of their projects.

I would like to share with you the firm commitment made by the Royal Government in taking timely and appropriate measures for the preservation and conservation of the Angkor site, with social balance and without environmental damage, in keeping with

the provisions of Governmental Circular No. 1 dated May 6, 2003 on the control of anarchistic and disorderly activities on the site.

- *Regarding development programs*, allow me to restate forcefully that poverty alleviation is the watchword in the policy of HE Samdech HUN Sen and the government he heads. We are therefore emphasizing the need to direct efforts in keeping with this elemental goal:
 1. *Design projects* to improve living conditions in the Siem Reap / Angkor region, firstly at the material level, with an adequate water supply for all, with appropriate thoroughfares for both urban and rural areas;
 2. *Furthermore, develop culture and leisure projects*, so that both the town of Siem Reap and the province are a nice place to live, not just for tourists, but also for our compatriots, in particular for the destitute; and
 3. *Plan for sustainable tourism* which ensures the balance between preservation of the national and regional resources and potentialities on the one hand and the non-consumptive utilization of those resources on the other.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

You can see that our ambitions are substantial. But they are assuredly equal to the great challenges that the Royal Government has to meet in the coming decade. We are aware of how limited our means are, but we know that we can count on the true friends of our country, on your understanding and your sustainable commitment within the ICC.

Let us therefore prepare this future of prosperity together! Thank you.”

The French co-chairman remarked on the depth of the Senior Minister’s contribution that expressed the wishes and intentions of the Cambodian government, taking due note of his wish that the APSARA Authority be associated more closely with the work of the ICC secretariat. Ambassador LIBOUREL pointed out that such an association was indeed necessary, that it was no doubt already a routine matter, but he clearly understood that an institutionalization of it was desired, the procedures for which would have to be discussed with the co-chairman for Japan, Mr BESCHAOUCH and Mr CLÉMENT. Obviously, to the extent that APSARA is the arm of the Cambodian government, it is up to the Cambodian government to determine the way in which it would be associated with the proceedings of the ICC. In conclusion, the French co-chairman welcomed this desire to be closer to the routine inner workings.

HE Mr BUN Narith invited HE Mr ROS Borath, Deputy General Director in charge of the Department of Monuments and Archaeology, and HE Mr TEP Henn, Deputy General Director in charge of the Department of Tourism Development to take the floor on the item of showcasing Angkor Archaeological Park.

2. *Showcasing Angkor Park, by HE Mr ROS Borath, Deputy General Director, APSARA Authority*

“Honorable Co-chairmen,
Your Excellency the Senior Minister,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Department of Monuments and Archaeology was formed in 2001. Its terms of reference are to protect, preserve, conserve and showcase the archaeological, cultural and eco-historical Angkor Park, a world heritage site. It is made up of three units with responsibility for monument conservation, perimeter area management and

archaeological surveying. For the upcoming decade, I would like to share with you the major issues facing this department and the main projects it has on the drawing board.

The first issue concerns *water and heritage*. On the Angkor site, features relating to water management also relate to heritage: rivers, canals, *barays*, *trapeangs*, causeways and dikes are an integral part of the site. Urban development and facilities are threatening this heritage, and protecting it must also take into consideration the economic development of the region.

The *forest* is a second major issue in this regard. It too is an integral part of the site, although not constituting per se an archaeological heritage. Deficient forestry management leads to serious problems from three different angles: a) from the standpoint of ecology, uncontrolled deforestation and artificial planting are liable to upset the ecological system to varying degrees; b) from the standpoint of sanitation cutting, if there is no management plan, there is an immediate danger for the monuments and eventually for the forest itself; and c) environmentally, the effects of unauthorized occupation due to the lack of a balanced management of all the components are directly measurable.

The final substantial issue involves the *communities*. One of the assets of the Angkor region archaeological site is its inhabited, living character. Exclusion of this parameter is liable to result in an unbalancing effect, a major risk for socio-economic development.

We must act very quickly in the face of these major issues by carrying out appropriate studies with a high level of expertise, by implementing structuring and rehabilitation projects, by formulating recommendations and specifications, by putting into operation environment and heritage awareness-raising and training programs for the communities, the occupants and managers.

In the light of these issues, the APSARA Authority has been led to envision right now a number of *major projects*:

- In the area of conservation, Phnom Bakheng is the first one to be worked on. This monument is threatened because of various failures in the rocky base;
- Similarly, the Angkor Thom ramparts require work in connection with the development of tour itineraries;
- The bridges on National Road No. 6 between Roluos and Kompong Kdei need to be restored in order to showcase a little-known aspect of the Angkorian heritage and thereby diversify the tourism product and develop outlying communities.

Recently, the non-monumental archaeological heritage which includes mounds (some of which have temples on them), *trapeangs*, dikes or canals is being threatened by urban development and land occupancy pressure. It is important to put in place a specialized archaeological unit with an adequate documentary mechanism so that these structures are conserved as development work proceeds.

Also, in the area of development and archaeology, a number of major work sites relating to the water problem demand attention, such as refilling the Western Baray, as well as the Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat moats. The Siem Reap River must also be studied and developed.

Finally, a major archaeological work site, the future Siem Reap port at Phnom Krom, must be given attention. This means putting in gear a program to research the archaeological heritage in the subaqueous environment of Angkor. I thank you."

3. Showcasing Angkor Park, by HE Mr TEP Henn, Deputy Director General, APSARA Authority

“Honorable Co-chairmen,
Honorable Senior Minister,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Angkor, a world heritage site, one of the wonders of the world, home to the civilization and art of the Khmer people. Angkor, located in what is now the province of Siem Reap, is 400 square kilometers or 40,000 hectares in area and includes the Angkor Archaeological Park, the Roluos group and Banteay Srei temple. Angkor contains over a thousand archaeological sites, of which 60 are considered to be major monuments. Situated 380 kilometers northwest of the capital Phnom Penh, Siem Reap province receives daily direct flights from leading cities in the region, such as Bangkok, Thailand; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Yangon, Myanmar; Singapore, etc. Domestic flights are handled by airlines flying between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. National Road No. 5 links Siem Reap and the Thai-Cambodian international border crossing at Poipet. From Phnom Penh, Siem Reap can also be reached by National Road No. 6 or by the Tonle Sap waterway regardless of the season.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

For Cambodia, tourism is an area of special consideration in the rehabilitation and development policy of the country advocated by the government. In recent years, the number of paying visitors to the Angkor site has increased from 25 to 30 percent each year. In 2002, gross receipts totaled US\$ 9,124,240, with 315,697 foreign visitors coming to Siem Reap / Angkor, which amounts to 617,454 visit days. This shows the preponderant share of tourism receipts going to the State budget, as well as the major role of this sector in job creation for the people and in poverty alleviation.

In early 2003, the outbreak of SARS was seen as a major obstacle to tourism development both globally and regionally, with the onslaught also felt in Cambodia. At the meeting of health ministers from ASEAN countries last April 29, the will to eradicate the SARS epidemic from the region was reiterated. Fortunately, thanks to the effort of the Royal Government and the Ministry of Public Health, Cambodia was spared from this infection.

We hope that tourist flows will gradually increase from now to the end of the year and even that the figure for the year 2003 will not be less than in 2002. Furthermore, the potential for growth of the site and opening up the region internationally subsequent to the “open skies” policy implemented by the Samdech HUN Sen government, give reason to believe in a decade of tourism development.

Allow me therefore to present to the session a report giving statistics on the one hand and the outlook on the other for 1) ticket sales patterns in Siem Reap / Angkor based on the nationality of visitors and 2) a decade of prosperity for tourism in the Siem Reap / Angkor region (2004-2014).

1. Ticket sales patterns in Siem Reap / Angkor based on the nationality of visitors:

It must be borne in mind that it was only back in January 1999 that the APSARA Authority was given the right to collect receipts from ticket sales to visitors. As for *receipts and the number of foreign paying visitors from 1999*, the graph in the discussion paper shows the number of tickets sold (1-day, 2-day and 7-day). A 1-day ticket is \$20, a 2-day ticket is

\$40 and one for over three days is \$60. From April 2002 to April 2003, 300,000 tickets were sold, which corresponds to 650,000 visit days.

The tourist year is not the same as the calendar year. We start it in May, at the start of the low season and end it in April of the following year, at the end of the high season. The trends since 1999 are as follows:

- Visitor numbers really took off in 2000/2001, in excess of 65 percent compared to the previous year. The high season lasted from November to March. There was a monthly peak throughout the year, even during the low season;
- Since then, peak figures have grown strongly (over 32 percent in 2001/2002, over 18 percent in 2002/2003 despite the SARS epidemic);
- In recent months, visitor numbers have declined as a result of SARS, cutting short the last high season that looked like it would be excellent (drop off starting in March 2003).

Counting on a return to the 2002 levels by July-August, we can still hope that the annual peak for 2003 will not be less than last year.

Now looking at *international arrivals at Siem Reap by country of residence and by month in 2002*, we have the figures supplied by the Ministry of Tourism. Please see the table in the discussion paper that shows peaks of foreign visitors in 2002 according to their origin.

As for the *average daily peak for groups of visitors by month and according to origin*, a study of visitor origin reveals good prospects for future growth. In 2002, more than one visitor out of two was from Asia (outside ASEAN). This contingent was made up mainly of Japanese, i.e. 60 percent of visitors from North Asia, but there were increasing numbers of South Koreans and Chinese. The countries of ASEAN, with Thailand in the lead, are supplying an as yet rather modest visitor contingent, most of whom come on group tours. There is an exponential increase in visitors from Asia, but this fell as a result of the sharp decline in tourism activity in recent months (January 29 events, SARS). Yet the growth potential of that bracket seems to be very good.

However, visitors from Europe have come in more limited numbers, although still very good. One visitor out of four is European, usually from France or Germany. There is some increase in the number from Great Britain, although it remains surprisingly low. We might also wonder why only a relatively small number of visitors come from America, notably on organized tours (6 percent of the total for group tours).

There seems to be a good potential for continued increase in the number of Asian visitors. A sustainable tourism development policy would be the key to a decade of prosperity.

2. A decade of prosperity for tourism in the Siem Reap / Angkor region (2004-2014):

To sustain growth, tourism development must necessarily go hand in hand with monument preservation and safeguarding. Strategies such as the "open skies" policy that put Angkor in the core of tourism development in Cambodia are needed. Numerous expert studies provide a comprehensive overview of what the decade of prosperity will entail.

As the last few months have shown, tourism development is affected by various imponderables. Yet, a foremost consideration is the quality of the intake and visiting conditions. To further enhance these conditions, the goals to be achieved are a) quantitative: construct between 8,000 and 10,000 international standard hotel rooms to handle up to 1 million foreign visitors; spare no effort to create at least 50,000 jobs; develop incentives to encourage tourists to stay longer; and b) qualitative: give Cambodia a new image, that of a country that cares about its cultural, environmental and social

heritage; offer visitors a tourist experience up to their expectations with regard to security, comfort, culture, relaxation and leisure.

The APSARA Authority is responsible for 'planning and directing the management and tourism development of the Angkor region'. In this capacity and to achieve our goals, the planners have devised programs for both: 1) the world heritage site of ANGKOR, its monuments and landscapes; the TOWN of SIEM REAP, with its tourism axis (the river) and economic axis (National Road No. 6 to Phnom Penh); the new tourism and hotel zone provisionally called 'The GATES of ANGKOR'.

With regard to the *Angkor site program*, Angkor must be given the capacity to handle greater numbers of visitors over a longer period by offering a tourist product of international caliber combining culture, discovery and leisure. This means diversifying the content of the visit (itineraries suited to the length of the stay and quality of the visitors); new tourist activities; improvement in traffic conditions (control of traffic in Angkor Thom and implementation of shuttle services); improved response to the visitors' quest for information (landscape map, information center, museum); standardization of the overall touring conditions (upgrading of tour guides, facilities for sellers).

As for the *Siem Reap town program*, this crossroads between tradition and modernity is to continue developing around two pillars: safeguarding and showcasing the urban core with its Khmer tradition and colonial touch along with controlled development of its intake services to be rounded out by culture, art and leisure facilities.

As for the *tourist and hotel zone project*, the idea is to put in an accommodation, culture, sports and leisure complex conforming to international standards of quality.

Honorable Co-chairmen, Honorable Senior Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The tourism sector is destined to continue its role as the engine of Cambodia's economy in the years to come. In 2002, Angkor Park receipts reached some US\$ 10 million, and SARS notwithstanding, prospects for the next decade are excellent.

To achieve sustainable growth of the tourist industry, an overarching policy for preservation and development requires close cooperation between the national and local authorities, between the public and private sectors.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude and respects to the Royal Government headed by Prime Minister Samdech HUN Sen, which has given special importance to the protection, preservation and development of the Siem Reap / Angkor region so as to promote tourism, because Angkor is the heart of cultural tourism development for Cambodia.

My respects and gratitude are addressed to HE Mr SOK An, Senior Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the National Tourism Commission, for kindly coming to attend this session and who has unceasingly supported the APSARA Authority despite his heavy responsibilities.

My deep appreciation is also expressed to UNESCO for what it has done up to the present to promote the safeguarding of the Angkor monuments and have the site recognized as mankind's heritage. My deep gratitude is also extended to the countries, organizations and foundations that, even in the face of adversity, have taken and continue to take measures to prevent the degradation of the monuments and to perform restoration operations on the Angkor site.

My respects and deep appreciation are conveyed to the co-chairmen, for everything that has been done for the preservation and tourism development of Angkor.

To the distinguished delegates here present, may you have great success and enjoy your stay in Angkor territory! I thank you."

4. *The Water Resources Issue, by Mr Kenji TANAYAGI, JICA Consultant*

"Honorable Co-chairmen,
His Excellency,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Kenji Tanayagi. I am associated with the JICA basic design study team for the Siem Reap Water Supply Project. My presentation is entitled 'Status of the Projects for Improvement of Water Supply Systems in Siem Reap Town'.

This map shows the Siem Reap study area. The key sites under consideration are as follows: the Angkor Wat monument, the Angkor Thom enclosure, National Road No. 6, Siem Reap River, Siem Reap Town and Siem Reap Airport, the Western Baray reservoir.

In response to the request of the Cambodian government, JICA conducted the Basic Design Project from February 2003 to the present, with completion slated for November 2003. The objective of the project is to establish a new water supply system for the residents of Siem Reap town in Cambodia. Sources for water supply are being proposed to develop groundwater at the southern area of the Western Baray along National Road No. 6.

Prior to this project, JICA previously carried out a Master Plan Study from 1996 to 2000, in which sources for the Siem Reap town water supply system were evaluated, including groundwater and the water of the Western Baray reservoir, the Siem Reap River and the Tonle Sap Lake.

A computer simulation was used to evaluate the groundwater potential, estimating the influence of the drawdown of the water level in Angkor as a result of developing groundwater pumping. A comparative study of the investment cost, operation and maintenance, was included in the Master Plan Study. Further areas of investigation included reliability of the water source and stability of the water quality. An overriding consideration was the need for any water supply system to have the least possible impact on the Angkor site.

Additionally, the Master Plan Study actually constructed 8 monitoring facilities to observe the groundwater level and land subsidence in the Siem Reap / Angkor region.

As a result of our computer simulations and data gathered from the monitoring wells, the influence of drawdown of the groundwater level and land subsidence as a result of pumping was shown to be negligible.

The Basic Design Study follows closely the results of the Master Plan Study, with a projected groundwater volume of 8,000 cubic meters per day. The planned volume is less than the parameters chosen for the Master Plan Study (14,000 m³/day and 12,000 m³/day) in order to stay on the safe side and minimize any impact on the Angkor site.

The Basic Design Plan has set 2008 as the tentative target, serving a population of about 26,000 (4,600 households) with grouped wells, a purification plant and distribution pipelines.”

Mr BESCHAOUCH then asked permission from the Co-chairmen to insert a contribution requested by the Senior Minister, given the urgency of the water issue.

Contribution from HE Mr SOK An: “We were most interested in the presentation made by the JICA representative who outlined what the Japanese government has in mind. The Royal Government of Cambodia asked the Japanese government for assistance regarding the use of ground water in developing the Siem Reap / Angkor region. I feel that the problem of water is of utmost importance for developing this region.

I would like to inform the co-chairmen of this session that studies indicate that there are three water sources that we can use in the Siem Reap / Angkor region: water from the Tonle Sap; water from the Western Baray, a large water reservoir measuring 8 kilometers long and 2 kilometers wide; and ground water. The possibility of using ground water was already raised by the distinguished JICA representative at the request of the Royal Government.

We have given thought to these three sources. But according to the opinions given, if I am not mistaken, using water from the Tonle Sap would be very costly. So there are still the two other sources: water from the Western Baray and ground water. The Royal Government also asked the government of India for assistance to develop irrigation with water from the Western Baray. We have already signed our agreement for a concessionary loan of \$ 10 million, \$ 5 million for another project and \$ 5 million for an irrigation project using water from the Western Baray.

According to our Cambodian experts, we know that there is a problem of sedimentation in the Baray and the water level in it is very low. According to early opinions, the Baray water would not be sufficient for both irrigation and drinking water needs. So we have thought of using ground water, but in the long term, in the perspective of developing upscale tourism in the Siem Reap / Angkor region in the future, the use of this source has limits. Early studies indicate that excessive use of ground water may affect the overall situation of the water table. And a change in the level of the water table may have an impact on the stability of the monuments, our historic temples—our priceless heritage.

Given these circumstances, we welcome the studies done by JICA. They are of great immediate value; however, in the long run, given the growing demand for water for social and commercial purposes—water consumption by the hotels, for instance, because tourism requires a lot of water—we will need a very considerable supply. I therefore think that a further study of water usage with a view to finding a sustainable solution is a matter of primary importance.

I have an idea that I have already shared with the Ambassador for India. We have already agreed on a \$ 5-million funding package for irrigation. But given the current level of water in the Western Baray, irrigation operations must go hand in hand with the dredging of the Baray. So I wanted to share with the co-chairmen and our session here, in particular our great expert, Mr BESCHAOUCH of UNESCO, a more in-depth, far-reaching thought about the water use problem. How can the water problem be resolved for the sustainable development of the Siem Reap / Angkor region? If we take a detailed look at the historical development of this region, the water problem was also a very big issue and was the basis for the development of the Angkorian civilization. Angkor has often been called a hydraulic city. In other words, our ancestors in Angkor were successful in handling the water problem. The experts who have studied the matter say how impressed they are with the ability of our predecessors in Angkor to manage water. So now we today who are

offshoots of the Khmer Empire have to address this problem and address it in its overall scope.”

Mr LIBOUREL confirmed the unanimous awareness of the water problem and opened the floor to a discussion on the subject.

Prof. Giorgio CROCI, one of the *ad hoc* experts, felt the need to stress that an issue as important and thorny really deserved to be discussed in much greater depth. However, he called for great caution to be exercised in looking for a solution and most importantly to keep in mind that theoretical models do not always fit the reality. All of the well-known problems encountered at the Tower of Pisa have taken centuries to resolve and are linked to ground water that was gradually exhausted over time. Thus, great caution is the watchword when dealing with ground water.

Mr BESCHAOUCH pointed out that last year the secretariat had been assigned to gather all the necessary documentation to deal with this crucial point in the development of Angkor and of concern to the Royal Government. He proposed that the matter be brought up again when presenting the ICC’s recommendations, because a series of them dealing with the water problem has been prepared. He expressed the hope that the recommendations would be in harmony with the government’s wishes expressed by the Senior Minister. This would result in a time gain for the meeting and the open discussion could cover all of the recommendations.

After making this first proposal, Mr BESCHAOUCH asked the co-chairmen for permission to present the next point on the agenda, that being the summary of the study that had been done with funding from the *Agence française de développement* (AFD) for APSARA, but coordinated by UNESCO, in particular by himself, in the framework of a submission to the Paris Conference. Both he and Mr Bertrand BOISSELET of the AFD felt that this would be more logical, as they planned to talk about future prospects. Thus, the proposal was to move directly to the major item, a review of the decisions of the Tokyo Conference.

The co-chairman for France accepted the two proposals and assured the Senior Minister that the water issue would be given the very special attention it merited during the afternoon session.

IV. THE NOVEMBER 2003 PARIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANGKOR

1. *Review of the Decisions of the Tokyo Conference, by Ms Setsuko KAWAHARA, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

“His Excellency,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to have an opportunity to look back at the Intergovernmental Conference for the Development of Angkor that was held in Tokyo ten years ago. It may be interesting for all of us to stop for a while and take stock of what the international community, including Cambodia, achieved during these ten years. When we overview the achievement in the restoration work on the Angkor monuments as well as the dramatic development of Cambodia, the passing of these ten years seems to be of historical importance.

After long turmoil and armed conflict, the international community strongly hoped for peace and stability, as well as the reconstruction of Cambodia. Japan, as one of the countries of Asia, decided to play an active role in the efforts to reconstruct a new Cambodia. We believed that in order to do so, the symbol of the country and the identity of its people, namely the Angkor heritage, needed to be safeguarded and to remain as a basis of national unity and pride. Our government therefore started to work toward this aim, hand in hand with France, our neighbor of today, which has a long experience and deep knowledge in research and safeguarding activities for Angkor heritage.

At the Tokyo Conference, as many as 30 countries and seven international organizations participated in drafting and adopting the Tokyo Declaration, which consists of the following elements:

1. The importance of the Angkor monuments and the necessity of international cooperation to safeguard them, taking into account their cultural, socio-economic and ecological dimensions;
2. The establishment of the international ambassadorial-level committee, namely the ICC, co-chaired by Japan and France, with a view to coordinating international assistance;
3. The sovereignty over and primary responsibility of the people of Cambodia for the safeguarding and development of the historic area of Angkor;
4. The significant role played by UNESCO and various NGOs that have experience in the field of world heritage preservation.

At this conference, all of the partners expressed their commitment to assist Cambodia in restoring its heritage and the concrete measures to be provided by each country and organization were explained. The government of Japan, for its part, expressed its readiness to conduct restoration activities on the places requiring urgent measures in Angkor Wat, the Bayon temple as well as the Royal Plaza. In addition, our government committed to assist the capacity building of Cambodian experts so that the Cambodian people can preserve their own heritage in the future. With this in mind, we started support programs for the training of students in the Faculties of Archeology and Architecture of the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. As a result of this program, 460 students have benefited since then and 30 among them are now actually working as experts for the safeguarding of Angkor sites.

Ten years after the Intergovernmental Conference in Tokyo, Cambodia has been developing very rapidly and has gained its stability. As is clearly stated in the Tokyo Declaration, the Angkor monuments are, without doubt, one of the world's most valuable cultural heritages. They have also become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, and the number of tourists is reported to have reached 600,000.

Another welcome aspect is the unchanged commitment of the international community. A lot of countries have sent their restoration teams to various monuments, and as a result, the Angkor site is often referred to as the Olympics of the heritage restoration activities. In addition, the exchanges of experiences and knowledge among international restoration teams are expanding, contributing to identifying more effective and adequate ways of conservation. One good example is the Bayon Symposium, which provides a venue for frank discussion and information sharing on research and restoration activities among international experts. Another new example is the Angkor Wat Study Workshop that was organized by APSARA for the first time just a few days ago. This is a unique and ideal way of international cooperation to safeguard world heritage.

It would be an error on my part if I did not mention the increased efforts of the Cambodian side when we overview the development on Angkor sites. Since its establishment, APSARA has been conducting a large range of activities from restoration and security of the monuments to the construction of infrastructure. We welcome the fact that the Cambodian side recognizes its own responsibility and is prepared to play a more and more active role. We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to its efforts and to encourage it to promote its work.

Despite these highly positive developments, it is also true that we face new challenges. One big challenge is the rapid increase of tourists. We cannot deny that tourism is inevitable for the economic development of Cambodia as well as ensuring financial resources to safeguard the Angkor heritage. On the other hand, it is widely recognized that the expansion of tourism is detrimental to the monuments. We need to strike a balance between these two requirements, which will not be an easy task.

The other challenge is the increase of the number of the international teams working on the Angkor monuments in recent years. The participation of new international teams is highly appreciated and welcome, and we need to make further efforts to continue the effective coordination among restoration teams.

Having these new challenges in mind, we believe that there is a great and increasing need for international coordination. And the government of Japan is ready to fully and actively cooperate with France, Cambodia and UNESCO, with a view to ensuring coordination and possible problem-solving through the ICC meetings. We strongly hope that the ICC continues to be utilized and vitalized, with the cooperation of all the countries and organizations participating in it.

In the context, we welcome the initiative of France in hosting the 10th anniversary conference in Paris this year. This will be a wonderful occasion to look back as well as forward. In the conference, the international community will be able to take stock of what has been achieved and analyze how to tackle the new challenges. We also hope that the international community can express its renewed and unified commitment to safeguard the Angkor monuments, which are part of mankind's heritage. I thank you very much."

Ambassador LIBOUREL thanked Ms KAWAHARA for her meaningful report and the wishes she expressed for the success of the Paris Conference. He formulated the thought that it would be an opportunity for all concerned parties to refocus and give renewed impetus to the international cooperation that he felt was exemplary. In this context, he again emphasized the role played by UNESCO as it facilitates harmonious international cooperation.

2. *The Paris Conference—Preparations, Agenda and Wishes, by Mr Philippe GEORGEAIS, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

"Honorable Co-chairmen,
His Excellency the Senior Minister,
Excellencies,
Dear Friends:

I will make my comments brief inasmuch as a number of things regarding preparation of the Paris Conference were already stated this morning. I would simply like to add that at our meeting last year in Siem Reap, you requested or proposed that this conference be held in Paris. France therefore decided to go along with this, and the conference will be held in mid-November in Paris. It will be opened by the President of France, Jacques CHIRAC, who has already sent out a number of invitations so that all of the countries that

were at Tokyo ten years ago could meet together again in Paris in the framework of a conference, the significance of which was emphasized by our friend Mr BESCHAOUCH a short time ago.

I would like to give you some information on the progress of the work with our friends at UNESCO, since we are working closely with it to prepare this conference, as well as to outline the major issues it will deal with, in agreement with the Senior Minister who alluded to the importance of this gathering.

First, as far as preparation is concerned, various participants have been asked to do a number of things for this important multilateral and exemplary undertaking, as stated by the French Ambassador. I would say incidentally that the secretariat, I believe, and the organizers, are expecting that all the items that have been requested, such as progress reports, will be submitted as quickly as possible so that the compilation work going on right now in Paris can be completed in the best possible conditions. At the conference, we will have some publications that we are working on with UNESCO, also a film, which we will talk about again a little later, as well as an exhibition. All of this work that will be presented at the conference will of course be enriched by your contributions. Please accept my thanks in advance for sending them in as quickly as possible, because mid-November will be here almost overnight.

This upcoming conference will give us the opportunity to zero in on the magnitude of everything that has been done in ten years' time, as Mr BESCHAOUCH pointed out a few minutes ago. But most importantly, it will be an opportunity to prepare for the future. Ten years ago we had the Tokyo Declaration. We hope that there will be a Paris Declaration. There was the time for conservation, preservation and recovery. Now is the time for development, sustainable development, as the Senior Minister mentioned, with issues that go beyond heritage—issues such as development, socio-economics, as well as culture. And I would say, as far as the French delegation is concerned, in today's world, we consider these matters of culture, of diversity, of ownership, as well as of multilateral cooperation to be of the highest importance.

The Paris Conference is taking place at a point in time and in a context that overarches the Cambodian moment in time. It is a time in the history of the world. It will therefore be, we hope, a significant time for the participants in Angkor projects, but also, more broadly, a time in our evolution, our development wherein economics and heritage are blended together.

So that gives you a basic, quite brief outline, as the our Co-chairman, the Ambassador for France requested, of what I wanted to tell you, adding that as far as the agenda is concerned, it has not yet been finalized. We are working on it, but there you have the goals of an ambitious conference which will hopefully yield a basic blueprint of the operations and actions that will be undertaken so that we move even further ahead during the next ten years, as all of the speakers this morning urged us to do. I thank you."

The Japanese Co-chairman, Ambassador OGAWA, took the chair for the afternoon's session and invited the participants to table questions and comments on the business handled at the conclusion of the previous session.

Contribution from Mr Robert HAGEMANN, Representative of the International Monetary Fund: "Honorable Co-chairman, Excellency Mr SOK An, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: I was inspired this morning by the presentation on visitor arrivals and receipts and simply wanted to say, as some of you who were here last December are aware, I had made a few remarks on the satisfaction felt on, our part at least, regarding the renegotiation of the contract for sharing the receipts from entrance ticket sales. I would simply like to repeat that the government is to be commended for this

renegotiation of the contract which has visibly improved the share or entitlement of the government.

At the same time, all of us, but certainly we at the International Monetary Fund, and the State itself I think, would have wished, given the challenge of negotiating a contract—it's not something you do every year—just the same it is a little disappointing that it wasn't a bit more in favor of the State. But having said this, compared to many other contracts, receipts are improving, and that is obvious. Comparing the number of visitors with the amount of receipts taken in on the basis of the old contract and what is being collected under the new contract, it indeed seems to be working.

I made a very simple calculation, but it may be helpful (although of course subject to verification): If we take the receipts collected by the State last year and divide that figure by the number of visitors, we come to an average price or receipt of somewhat over \$15 in 2001 compared to \$17.40 in 2002. That's indeed an improvement and I think that that is a good thing. I would nevertheless like to take this opportunity to encourage the government, when the current contract expires in the year 2005, to make a greater effort in the interest of those paying taxes, the people of Cambodia. Thank you."

The Japanese Co-chairman thanked Mr HAGEMANN for bringing up this item that had been discussed at previous meetings.

HE Mr Michel TRANET, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, took the floor on behalf of his ministry to make the point that it had been instrumental in having the heritage protection law adopted, as well as the implementation subdecree for that law.

Ms KAWAHARA stated that she would like to support the comment made just now, affirming that the Japanese side believes that for the sustainable development and conservation of the Angkor heritage, it is not only desirable, but also necessary that the government of Cambodia gain full ownership and ability for the conservation of the Angkor monuments. She stressed that when she said ability, she meant not only technical ability, but also financial ability. This means having stable and solid financial resources. The entrance fee is the core of the financial resources, and she understands that the contract on the allocation of the income from entrance fees will end in 2005, and when the Cambodian government renegotiates the content or the amount of the income from the entrance fees, she would like to encourage the Cambodian government to give a greater part of the entrance fees to the APSARA Authority so that it can continue to conserve and preserve the Angkor heritage in the future. It might not only be an economic problem, but also a political problem. Ms KAWAHARA fully shares the difficulties of the decision, but she would like to stress the reality of the necessity and would like to count on the political courage of the Cambodian government.

Contribution from HE Mr Helmut OLRAUN, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany: "I would like to second what has just been said. The position of the German government was that APSARA should be given as much authority, as much independence as possible, and this applies to various fields in terms of its institutional independence and also in terms of its financial basis. So I think we would support any efforts in the future to strengthen APSARA's role as an institution, in terms of its financial basis. I think this falls into the line of our overall policy that ownership is an extremely important element in our cooperation. Ownership, in this case, means ownership by APSARA basically, so this principle should be implemented to the best extent possible, and this would, I suppose, take into account the concerns of the Royal Government that APSARA should play a more prominent role within the ICC. So I think if ways and means could be found to improve the independence and the financial basis of APSARA, we would certainly support that. Thank you."

Clarification by Mr Étienne CLÉMENT, Representative of UNESCO in Cambodia: "Just one point about the Paris Conference. In his presentation about the Paris Conference, Mr GEORGEAIS mentioned the working contacts already underway with the UNESCO secretariat, in particular for discussion papers, the compilation and summarizing of these documents. I would like to let you know, Mr Co-chairmen, members of the ICC and the Royal Government, that special arrangements have been made in Paris to help the secretariat meet its obligations in this regard. Our colleagues in Paris will be more involved in the compilation work, preparing the documents. Mr BESCHAOUCH, of course, will be working on this, as well as my colleague, Ms Galia SAOUMA-FORERO and our colleague, Ms Anne LEMAISTRE, also here present."

Ambassador OGAWA thanked Mr CLÉMENT for this information and went on to make some comments in his capacity as co-chairman of the ICC as well as the Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia.

Comments by Ambassador OGAWA: "Firstly, I would like to say how much I appreciated the contribution by Senior Minister SOK An, who outlined the main points of action for the future. I would like to say along these lines that my government and I are in complete agreement that the APSARA Authority play a key role. That is precisely the direction indicated in the Tokyo Declaration. I think that there is a consensus for strengthening the powers of the APSARA Authority.

Secondly, the Senior Minister mentioned training at the Royal University of Fine Arts. On this I would like to underscore the effort put forth by UNESCO who brought about an improvement to and strengthening of the structure of this university. I would also like to pay tribute to the political will of the Royal Government of Cambodia to strengthen our training work provided within this establishment.

A third point, Senior Minister Mr SOK An mentioned the efforts of the government with regard to poverty alleviation. In this respect, I would like to stress that the government of Japan is also endeavoring to provide assistance for poverty reduction in the Siem Reap region. We have completed work on National Road No. 6, the stretch between Siem Reap and Roluos, and a few weeks ago we started electrification work for people living in this region. And also in the future, it is probable that my government will consider the possibility of supplying water to the inhabitants this region. Thus, in the area of economic cooperation, my government is trying to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the communities in this region."

V. POTENTIAL PARTNERS

1. Remarks by HE Mr Charles RAY, Ambassador of the United States of America

“Honorable Co-chairmen,
HE Senior Minister, Mr SOK An,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It’s really a great, great honor for me to be here with you this afternoon, as I join the ICC activities for the first time. Having arrived in Cambodia only six months ago, I am particularly pleased to have this opportunity to learn more about the various initiatives and programs being pursued by each of the groups represented here today. It is an honor to meet with so many individuals and organizations that possess such a passion for preserving the cultural heritage of Cambodia.

Like many of you, I was enchanted by the accomplishments of the ancient Khmer kingdoms during my first visit to the impressive temples of Angkor. The unparalleled achievements in art and architecture demonstrated in the Angkor complex and surrounding temples remind us of humankind’s awesome potential when focused on a specific goal. What remains today is not only an eloquent architectural triumph in the Indo-Khmer style, but also the national cultural symbol of modern-day Cambodia.

As we collectively seek to protect the monuments of Angkor, we must never forget that culture is the soul of life. Culture is what gives us roots, gives our lives meaning and binds us to each other.

And so, we are obligated to forge ahead in the monumental effort of protecting our cultural heritage. On behalf of the U.S. Government, I am pleased to see this objective being approached in a number of ways. First and foremost, as a symbol of my Government’s commitment to upholding fundamental human rights, the free flow of ideas and information, scientific and cultural cooperation, and educational opportunity for all, the United States will return to UNESCO. This organization has been reformed, and the U.S. Government will participate fully in its mission to advance human rights, tolerance and learning.

In Cambodia, I look forward to continued collaboration with our locally based UNESCO partners, as well as the Royal Government of Cambodia and the APSARA Authority. I am pleased to share with you the news that next month, the United States will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cambodian government for the protection of cultural property. This initiative outlines cooperative measures to halt the trafficking of Angkorian artifacts and to return recovered artifacts to their rightful home. This important step is a concrete example of our commitment to the protection of Cambodia’s heritage and the world’s heritage.

American support for cultural preservation—both physical and intellectual—is also carried through the work of dedicated non-governmental organizations such as the World Monuments Fund and the Center for Khmer Studies.

The World Monuments Fund has made tremendous achievements in its cultural preservation efforts at Preah Khan, Ta Som, and the Churning of the Sea of Milk Gallery at Angkor Wat. Since 1993, this organization has focused on ensuring that the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out this important work will remain in Cambodia. It has provided training for a current workforce of more than 80 very talented Cambodian nationals. At the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, we are proud to support this effort by

collaborating to send Khmer preservationists on programs overseas designed to further their expertise in architecture and conservation.

This year, we also hope to embark on a partnership with the World Monuments Fund that will afford them access to the expertise of the U.S. Park Service. This collaboration is aimed at providing the technical advice necessary to design an environmental management plan to address the trees that are currently threatening the collapse of historic structures at Preah Khan.

The Khmer Studies Center has made great strides in revitalizing the study of Khmer cultural heritage. I would like to congratulate Philippe PEYCAM and Lois DE MENIL of the Center for Khmer Studies on the center's recent acceptance into the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), an international, membership-based consortium of 18 universities, institutions and organizations that will contribute to the continual improvement of higher education in Cambodia.

In addition, the University of Chicago has recently entered into a formal affiliation with the Center for Khmer Studies, which promises to allow for a program of exciting academic and field research. This collaboration will significantly rehabilitate the field of Khmer studies following years of civil war and the destruction inflicted upon the Cambodian people, and particularly upon its educated classes, by the Khmer Rouge regime. Under this linkage, the Center for Khmer Studies and the University of Chicago will promote collaboration between their respective libraries, which will enable the Center for Khmer Studies to obtain access to training in special research fields for its staff and Cambodian members, and identify appropriate opportunities for advanced research and study.

The American writer William Faulkner once said, "The past is never dead. It is not even past." As you visit Cambodia, a country so rich in ancient traditions and explore the Angkor monuments, it's easy to see that it is not past. It is around us, it is part of our present, and if we pay attention and listen to its lessons, it can also be part of our future.

The task of preserving the temples of Angkor often seems more monumental than the complex itself. But with the benefit of history and armed with modern technology, I am confident that we can focus our creative energies today with the same success as was enjoyed by those who built the temples so long ago in order to ensure they will be studied, revered and enjoyed by generations to come.

I commend the efforts of all parties present today to save these important artistic and cultural treasures from neglect and destruction. Your work on the monuments of Angkor speaks for itself. I look forward to supporting the efforts of the World Monuments Fund, the Center for Khmer Studies, and the University of Chicago field projects, as well as future collaborative efforts between U.S.-based organizations and foreign partners. After all, it's not only the blood, but it's the experiences and hopes of our ancestors that course through our veins. And only through their still-living monuments and still-living traditions can we understand who we are, where we came from, and what it is we wish to be. Thank you very much and good luck in your workshop."

2. Remarks by HE Mr P.K. KAPUR, Ambassador of India

"Excellency SOK An, Senior Minister,
Honorable Co-chairmen,
Friends, colleagues,

We have had very fruitful rounds of discussions in the last two days with our colleagues and counterparts from the various organizations. I wish to particularly highlight and second what some of the preceding speakers have mentioned, including

Mr BESCHAOUCH. We wish to felicitate the APSARA Authority in particular for this sod-breaking activity of organizing the Angkor Wat Study Workshop with this great sense of ownership and this great sense of pride. We view this as a paradigm shift for the organization and it is indeed a landmark even for Cambodia. We are particularly happy because we have signed an agreement for further collaboration with APSARA for the conservation of Ta Prohm. We look forward to organizing the first Ta Prohm symposium. I have the concurrence of my colleagues, the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), to say that. She would be able to elaborate on that in due course. We propose to hold this during the next meeting of the Technical Committee, whether it is in December or January. We also look forward to participating in the November meeting in Paris.

I wish to thank the honorable Senior Minister for the suggestion about the water resource situation of the Siem Reap / Angkor region. This is indeed a critical area that definitely needs a lot of attention. I am raising this issue at this point because I have to travel on the same flight as the American ambassador very soon, so I shall also be leaving shortly. We have already entered into discussions with the Royal Government of Cambodia for the Baray irrigation project. We now are having discussions with the Senior Minister. We propose to change the terms of reference and include the aspect about how some rehabilitation, some dredging also, can be included so that the baray reservoir becomes a live reservoir of water, which is able to support the Angkor area in the medium term until the area master plan is drawn up for the water supply, for the water resource generation, for the water recycling, for water harvesting. We will be getting a team of experts from India, from Water and Power Corporation and Supply (WAPCOS), which is a governmental agency that will do a detailed study and project report in this regard. We hope to work closely with the concerned authorities in this regard. Thank you very much."

Comments by Mr Azedine BESCHAOUCH: "As you know, the secretariat at UNESCO considers that it has a duty to do promotion and in particular to continue to promote our international action. In this capacity, I was asked by the General Directorate of UNESCO to make several trips to Belgium for meetings both in Wallonia and Flanders. I felt there was an evident interest in working along with us in a framework to be negotiated first, of course, with APSARA and then submitted to our two co-chairmen at a future meeting. I would like to say that on the Walloon side I received a great deal of assistance from Prof. Jean BARTHÉLÉMY at one of the meetings with the Minister of Culture for Wallonia, as he will recall. He is here as one of the UNESCO appraisers. Prof. BARTHÉLÉMY is chairman of ICOMOS Belgium-Wallonia and at the same time is an international expert approved by UNESCO and the Counsel of Europe. I can say that we very hopeful of having a new partner with the new government of Wallonia (in Belgium they have a system wherein both regions work individually in the area of culture, even internationally). I went to visit the Royal Embassy of Belgium in Phnom Penh to let them know of our contacts. We know that the embassy will also help us in this matter. I wanted to let you know that we will undoubtedly be favored with the participation of Belgium as soon as these contacts go full circle and a decision is arrived at."

3. *Synthesis of the Aggregate APSARA/AFD Study with Assistance from UNESCO, by Mr Bertrand BOISSELET, AFD Phnom Penh, and Mr Azedine BESCHAOUCH, Scientific Secretary of the ICC*

Mr BOISSELET: "I would like to spend a few minutes outlining what the AFD has done and what it could do in the future.

The *Agence française de développement* has been working since 1993 in the framework of French cooperation for the safeguarding of the Angkor site and urban development of the town of Siem Reap. The funding packages that we have put in place have been used in

various ways, such as to carry out numerous studies on the management of the archaeological park, on urban management, urban regulations and many other areas. We have also provided constant support first for the establishment, then for the development of the APSARA Authority. In the assistance we have given to APSARA, we have also helped to get the tourist and hotel development zone up and running, which we will talk about again later on. Presently, we are financing a new access road to the temples on the left side of the river, which is 90 percent finished and is expected to be opened in the next few months. Since 1993, we have made grant assistance available to the tune of nearly € 5 million.

The recent studies that we funded, carried out in 2002 and completed about six months ago, contain a body of data and concrete proposals regarding social and economic development, as well as the urban development induced by the Angkor site, with a focus on the project referred to as 'The Gates of Angkor'. No doubt Mr BESCHAOUCH will speak about that in a few minutes' time. These studies, we feel, are a basis for preparing for the future, in particular as far as the AFD is concerned. What I can say today is that the AFD is going to continue its work and is preparing to set up a new project that may lead to a funding package decision amounting to about € 4 million in early 2004.

We have a dual approach for this new project, an operational one and an institutional one that we are currently identifying with APSARA and the Cambodian authorities. As for the operational approach, the idea is to fund the projects. On the one hand, it could be an environmental and heritage showcasing of the historical axes of Siem Reap. That includes such things as National Road No. 6, a complete package for the perimeter areas, the ancient canals that have been fully or partially filled in by different constructions, the banks of the river, as well as the historical city near the Old Market, with a focus on promoting integrated development of proximity economic activities.

The second operational axis is the water sector, and on this point I would like to say, as was said by the Senior Minister this morning as well as by Mr ROS Borath and supported by the Ambassador of India, that we are very, very concerned about the water problems in the Siem Reap region. We are therefore prepared to look into projects to rehabilitate and extend water supply systems and drainage in the eastern section of Siem Reap town, in coordination—which is very important—with projects already being funded or for which funding is under advisement by the Asian Development Bank and JICA.

The second approach that we intend to continue, since we are already involved in it, is an institutional approach, giving support to the municipal and provincial technical departments of Siem Reap as well as to APSARA. We are going to continue supporting APSARA. In agreement with what many contributors have stated, we also want to see it gain greater strength and develop its skills, especially in some of its departments, such as the Urban Development Department, the Tourism Development Department and the Finance Department.

I will turn the floor over to Mr BESCHAOUCH who will present a summary of this aggregate APSARA / AFD study, as it is called in the agenda. As for us, the AFD, we refer to it as the 'APSARA / UNESCO study', because UNESCO was the principal contractor so to speak for the study. I thank you."

Mr BESCHAOUCH: "To answer kindness with kindness, we normally call it the 'APSARA / AFD / UNESCO study', because it was the AFD that funded the study and as for me, upon the proposal of the UNESCO office in Phnom Penh, you at AFD and APSARA wanted me to coordinate an aggregate study. So here very briefly are the results of this open-ended operation:

At the request of yourselves and APSARA, we felt that it was important to prepare a comprehensive expert report on the three mainstays of this great world heritage region and its surroundings in Angkor / Siem Reap.

A. We started with Angkor, focusing on the improvement of visiting conditions on the site:

- As for *traffic flow*, we worked with APSARA on our study and came up with the idea of two bypass roads to eliminate truck traffic through Angkor Thom, which unfortunately has been the only route available for years, with all the material damage and pollution of the environment that goes along with it. So we put that idea forward and are pleased to learn that the APSARA Authority has already prepared and is to submit to the government, in particular to HE the Senior Minister, a proposal map backed up by this study.
- The existing *tour routes* are a legacy of the old itineraries that had their value when you had 5,000 visitors to the site, the 'petit circuit' and 'grand circuit', going back to when there even used to be a hotel on the site, reputed to have been very charming. Despite my age, I never had the opportunity of staying in it. It was opposite Angkor Wat, and its windows offered a view of the temple. That was back when just a few monuments made up the Angkor site. Now the site has 40,000 hectares and is on the World Heritage List. While the terms 'petit' and 'grand' have been retained, we proposed new routes. APSARA's two key departments that look after this matter, Archaeology and Monuments along with Tourism Development, approved this study. So we have new tour routes that will be submitted to the government for decision in the next few months, in particular, to the line authority of APSARA.
- Another necessary item was *signage* for the roads, monument perimeter areas and within the monuments themselves, in order to provide an explanation in the major languages spoken by visitors. A French expert from the DÉTENTE Group who has experience with tour routes came to our aid. Another who had worked in seven different regions in France and who had won prizes for his proposals implemented in large administrative districts and regions of France, helped us put together a signage proposal submitted to the APSARA Authority. I am pleased to inform you that this operation has already gotten underway in liaison, of course, with the regional authority in charge of public works and land management, because traffic flow and road signs go beyond the scope of foreign visitors alone.

B. After the site we looked at what is being called for now 'The Gates of Angkor'. 'Angkor City-Garden' is another name that has been proposed. We will see. It's up to the government to decide. But what we have proposed is that the approximately 300 hectares, which will be expanded to 500 or more in upcoming months, which the government acquired through an expropriation and compensation process and generously made available to APSARA, will become a top-tier hotel zone, with a cultural center, intake centers, museums, interpretation centers, leisure and sports facilities, all of which will make it into a focal point. This will enable all visitors to Angkor in the future to enjoy quality tourism and tourism linked to culture and leisure. We made a number of proposals.

I am pleased to inform you that in keeping with this program proposed by the AFD and APSARA, the French experts who worked with us, in particular Group 8 which had already prepared the Angkor management plan in 1994-95, have submitted a general layout plan for this zone. APSARA informed us that HE the Senior Minister has given instructions for APSARA's future headquarters to be located in this zone. In this way, visitors will find the APSARA Authority with responsibility for the overall world heritage site in addition to the intake and interpretation centers. Furthermore, plans call for upscale boutiques for local handicrafts and jewelry as well as venues to present various activities linked to the Angkorian cultural heritage.

A French expert who worked in North Africa, in the Caribbean and in Arabic countries in the Orient provided us with a study showing that a golf course would be one thing that would be very profitable in this zone. He studied it out and proposed it. He had found out when surveying hotels that they wanted one but did not have enough land area to put one in.

Thus you can see that we went much further than culture. We came up with something that really combines culture and relaxation.

C. Finally we gave attention to the town, as our aggregate plan was drawn up between APSARA and the AFD (AFD is not only concerned with funding but also design planning). During the meetings in which we started finalizing things, it was said that you had to leave the airport to go to the site and from the site to the airport, which led us to look at things starting from the site, the garden city / hotel city, moving to the town, and finally getting to the airport which is managed by a French company.

For the town of Siem Reap, we considered two points:

- First, the major axis delineated by National Road No. 6 that is being rehabilitated by JICA and the World Bank (work ongoing). I would like to mention that this road is unique in that it has at least ten extremely important historic bridges, one of which is the most beautiful in all of this part of Southeast Asia. Happily this bridge is still standing. Some refer to it as Cambodia's 'Pont du Gard'¹. It is a very beautiful structure and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* which enabled us to use all of the studies it had done. I asked the experts, Prof. CROCI in particular, chairman of the ICOMOS committee for structures and monument stability, here present, and Prof. SUZUKI who had to leave, to go with me in the field with the World Bank, covering the whole stretch. What a joy it is for us archaeologists and architects to have succeeded in convincing the World Bank to change the plan and to accommodate the historic bridges by linking them with modern ones so that vehicles can go over both of them. We were told that modern technology made this possible. With the support of the Senior Minister, the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Land Management, we won our case.
- Development of the Siem Reap River, with the possibility of cleaning it up, putting walking trails and planting flower beds along its banks. We worked with APSARA to prepare a plan that has been accepted.

You can see then that this study includes two components already underway. We will be preparing project sheets for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs that will be included in the document to be released in Paris. The project sheets will show the cost of cleaning up the river, the cost of landscaping the banks. This will enable the governments and institutions in attendance at the Paris Conference to formulate expressions of interest and perhaps make a commitment to take on such and such a project at the request of the Royal Government. I thank you for your attention."

4. *The Nginn Karet Foundation for Cambodia, by Ms Ravyn KARET-COXEN, Founder and Chairperson*

"Honorable Co-chairmen,
His Excellency Mr SOK An, Senior Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers,
Honorable Ambassadors,
Honorable Representative of UNESCO,

¹ A famous Roman aqueduct near Nîmes, France.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Last year, during the 9th Plenary Session of the ICC for Angkor, the Ambassador of France, Mr André-Jean LIBOUREL, and the Ambassador of Japan, Mr Gotaro OGAWA, most kindly gave me permission to introduce the activities of the Nginn Karet Foundation for Cambodia (NKFC).

With the gracious permission of the Honorable Co-chairmen, I would like to show you a short film, three minutes in length, to give you an idea of the work done by the foundation. We are an international charitable non-governmental organization with headquarters in London. Its programs and projects are implemented exclusively in the Kingdom of Cambodia, my homeland.

[*Film*]

Our action focuses primarily on assisting underprivileged children and the poorest of the poor, which includes education and literacy training, health protection and prevention of early childhood diseases and an introduction to agricultural practices.

Up to the present, our action has focused on six villages in Banteay Srei district, Siem Reap province, on the fringe of the UNESCO world heritage site, namely Kom Proum, Chouk Sar, Toul Kralanh, Rohall, Prei Thmey and Ta Koh. A total of 1,037 families or more precisely 5,995 persons have benefited from our work. Obviously, despite the success we realize that more has to be done. To assist other villages, we need to raise funds and appeal to the generosity of sponsors and goodhearted people throughout the world. As requested by the regional authorities, plans call for us to include the villages of Tmat Pong, Sre Chamhot, Taek, Tnorl, Ta Nee, Chey and Run also in Banteay Srei district, i.e. 1,154 families or 6,645 persons.

With this prospect ahead of us, our foundation has worked long and hard. I am very pleased to inform you that we have received a commitment from the grand maestro Mstislav ROSTROPOVICH, the gifted violoncellist and UNESCO goodwill ambassador, to put on an exclusive concert at Angkor, with the proceeds going to our foundation and the villages that I listed.

This truly grandiose event will take place in the Angkor Wat enclosure on December 14, 2003, six months from now.

Honorable Co-chairmen, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Her Majesty the Queen has very graciously given us the great honor of her patronage and we have also been fortunate to receive the full support of HE Prime Minister Samdech HUN Sen and the national and local governments. UNESCO has once more given us their very important support. These are all honors that we are very conscious of and grateful for.

We have managed to obtain the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kees BAKELS, the members of which have agreed to accompany the maestro. As you know, they are a dedicated orchestra with a great reputation and have agreed to play as a gift to our charity, having already visited us in the field and seen the work in progress for which we are so humbly grateful.

We are also, on the agreement by Her Royal Highness Princess BUPPHA DEVI, the Minister of Culture, to be graced by a spectacular performance by the Cambodian Royal Ballet, a Cambodian tradition of which we are all very proud, and we at NKFC would also like to humbly thank Her Royal Highness.

We have the services of the established organizer, Starcom, who, as you may remember, produced such a successful concert last year for Jose CARRERAS. They are also supporting our charity by charging a nominal fee, for which we are again humbly grateful.

Our NKFC offices in mainland Europe and the United States have been busy approaching private and corporate sponsors with the help of some of the best-known public relations companies in the world. All of these services are generously contributed. In New York (Quinto & Co.), London (Eligo) and Paris (JY GOARD/P MUSSARD), plus the support of UNESCO (Alice de Jenlis) and the office of the maestro at his kind recommendation.

So, as you can see, from an organizational point of view, we have everything in place. However, those potential international sponsors who were so enthusiastic in March are now dragging their feet and citing reluctance to travel, which you can see evidenced all around you. With empty hotels in Asia and empty planes, they are clearly not alone in worrying about SARS, the Middle Eastern situation, terrorist attacks and the financial effects of the stock market collapse.

We are running out of time, and as a very small charity, we are now finding we cannot on our own push water uphill. I would like to personally ask you to help me and advise me on what is best. This concert is not a concert for us, but a concert to bring hope, health and education and thereby a future to the villagers of Siem Reap.

With sponsors who are so clearly shell-shocked by recent events, the world of charity has changed inexorably in the last few months. What looked like it would be one of the world's most prestigious cultural events no longer holds the same appeal in these troubled times. We, who are working in the field, have to continue our work and have to secure the funds to be able to bring the desperately needed respite to the very poorest of the poor.

This concert is a means to this end and with every moment of my working day, I am determined that it will succeed in its aims—to secure a better future for our villagers, to be a catalyst to regenerate the faltering tourist industry, to raise awareness of the majesty of our Khmer past and to show the potential for our future.

Honorable Co-chairmen, Honorable Senior Minister, Honorable Representative of UNESCO, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for your attention. Allow me in conclusion to make an urgent appeal. The concert planned for next December 14 must be a success. With the patronage made available to it, it will need strong support. I am therefore counting on your support."

5. *Center for Khmer Studies, by Ms Lois DE MENIL, President of the Center*

"Excellencies,
Honorable Co-chairmen,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues:

My name is Lois DE MENIL. I have the honor of being president of the Center for Khmer Studies. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be with you today for the first time. Many of you know Dr Philippe PEYCAM, our director, here beside me. The Center for Khmer Studies has just celebrated its fourth anniversary. The center is an NGO headquartered, as you

perhaps are aware, in Wat Damnak, in the heart of Siem Reap. We are both young and ambitious.

This afternoon I will outline for you our terms of reference and program before concluding with new projects that involve the Angkor site, which is the reason for this presentation.

First, regarding our terms of reference and the programs that back it up, we have three key goals:

- 1) Promote international research and exchanges in the field of the study of Khmer civilization, on the one hand through a research fellowship program and on the other by initiating our own pluridisciplinary and multinational projects;
- 2) Contribute to leading young Khmer students and scholars to an international level through a training program conducted by professors representing our consortium of universities and by granting scholarships to the best students to help them continue their studies in international universities such as the National University of Singapore, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and the University of Geneva. More than 600 Khmer students have already been through our programs;
- 3) Support the upgrading of the higher education sector in various ways, such as translating into the Khmer language school books and essential references that are only available in English, French or Japanese, as well as by enabling Khmers to publish the results of their research on our Web site or in our trilingual annual bulletin *Siks@cakr*.

Through all of these means, we are seeking to serve as a crossroads and transition for Khmer studies, a true center, radically open to all, international and non-governmental by vocation.

The reason for my presentation today is because we are planning our first step towards Angkor, this site so rich in history and home to many teams here present and working actively in the field of monument preservation. Since we are introducing to you our partnership project with the University of Chicago, in the United States, I am taking the liberty now to continue my presentation in the English language.

Since launching our research activities following a January 2001 International Conference on Khmer Studies, CKS has emphasized in the research projects. We support a multidisciplinary approach aimed at bringing together different methods of investigation and social sciences. We are currently administering three specific projects in anthropology, on youth culture in Phnom Penh, on pre-Angkorian archaeological research at various sites in the country and the study of contemporary Cambodian vernacular architecture. And also, more recently, a research training project for young Cambodian scholars whose focus is village study. We hope now to carry this approach a step further by supporting an over-arching research project that will bring together archaeologists, linguists, environmentalists, anthropologists and others.

The University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology, among the best by reputation in the United States, shares our interest in multidisciplinary study. And it is therefore quite natural that CKS and this university have decided to work together. In collaboration with Prof. Alan Kolata, chairman of the university's anthropology department, and with Dr. Anne Cunningham, a Ph.D. graduate of that department who has lived in Cambodia for the past two years and is here with us today, CKS has joined in developing a multifaceted research project focusing on the Tonle Sap, including its ecological, agricultural and human implications. This framework includes, of course, the historical site of Angkor, along with other ancient and modern sites of human settlement and activities surrounding the Tonle Sap. Alongside CKS and the University of Chicago, the center will encourage collaborative work with individual scholars and other institutions, as it has always done in its other projects. Prof. Bion GRIFFIN, at the University of Hawaii, has already expressed interest in linking his university's traditional interest in pre-Angkorian

history within the research framework of the Tonle Sap project. Prof. John MIKSIC, at the National University of Singapore, is also interested in pursuing data analysis on the archaeological findings.

We hope of course that other teams and institutions, some of them present here today, will join us in this exciting enterprise. I would like to emphasize above all the fundamental commitment of the CKS to working collaboratively with all the teams doing research in Angkor as well as with our Cambodian partners, particularly APSARA, and the universities in Phnom Penh.

I shall end this presentation by restating what has been one of the center's primary goals since its inception—to enhance opportunities for Cambodian students and scholars to pursue research in and on their own country. Together with our institutional partners, we will seek in every way especially to associate Cambodian students, scholars and institutions in all our programs, to disseminate as widely as possible their research findings to the Cambodian public as well as to international scholars in the field.

This has been a very brief presentation, as is appropriate at this time. We are actively working to refine our research plan and strategy. As we are a consortium-based institution, we will need to proceed to further discussion preliminary to our agreement. I very much hope that we will present a solid first strategic proposal to you at the December ICC Technical Meeting.

Your Excellencies, Honorable Co-chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Colleagues, thank you for your attention."

Comment by Mr BESCHAOUCH: "Obviously this point of information does not require any comment, but with your permission, I would simply like to remind you of the procedure.

This is the second time that you have agreed to have a representative of the Center for Khmer Studies come to introduce programs to us. We have come to realize that this center can be a window to the world, so to speak, for young Khmers, because the centre can use its means either locally or by means of scholarships and sending, as we just heard, and link them with research institutions in the United States, France, Japan, India and in many other countries.

I feel that this chain of solidarity has its value and therefore, with your permission, I will restate the procedure. What we just heard from the president needs to be put in document form. We can help her, if she likes, using the speech material that she presented so clearly, for submission to the next Technical Committee meeting, as she herself stated. An opinion will be formulated prior to decision at the Plenary Session. So we are making note of it in our capacity as secretariat and we expect that some concrete proposals can be submitted to you."

Ambassador OGAWA approved the proposal made by Mr BESCHAOUCH.

VI. POINTS OF INFORMATION

1. *Prevention of Looting and Illicit Trafficking— Record of Successes and Ongoing Concerns, by Mr Étienne CLÉMENT, Representative of UNESCO in Cambodia*

"In keeping with the theme of assessment reports, I would now like to mention some of the issues that have been and that continue to be one of the primary concerns of all of

Cambodia's partners in the area of cultural property protection, that being the theft, looting and illegal exporting of cultural property.

The matter has been brought up each year, and obviously we have to recognize that the situation of Cambodia today is vastly different from what it was ten years ago. Back then, the Angkor zone was being looted intensively. Even the Angkor Conservation Office was attacked!

Measures for physical protection and the legal arsenal rated zero. The degree of urgency was so great that a solemn appeal to stop the looting was launched by His Majesty the King, and it was met with a response from UNESCO, the International Council of Museums and even INTERPOL. Protective measures were gradually implemented at all levels. The Angkor site was made secure with the Heritage Police Unit. Cambodia became party to a very important body of legal rules with Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America. Cooperation projects were set up, and many other measures were taken.

This meant that Cambodia has become extremely well armed to deal with this type of trafficking. Let me cite just one example. A few months ago, we were informed that Thailand had submitted a request for the necessary documents to enable it to return no less than 45 items that had been confiscated on its territory. Now that's a real international cooperation arrangement that was put in place and that's working!

Cambodia thus benefited from a major effort to protect its heritage in a relatively short time, something unprecedented in the world. Indeed, theft has virtually stopped at Angkor, artifacts have been returned by museums and galleries from around the world, and even private collectors have got on the bandwagon, something that is hardly ever seen. The case of Cambodia is becoming a textbook example, a model for other countries experiencing particularly dramatic circumstances, such as the looting of the museums of Kabul and Baghdad, in response to which museum circles have mobilized the scientific community and INTERPOL in an attempt to get back priceless objects scattered throughout the art market.

It is no coincidence that an item of promotional material was handed out to you that Mr BESCHAOUCH—always on the lookout for publications and promotional material at UNESCO—brought here with him, because it serves to show how a heritage can be mutilated and the need to get this heritage back if it can be located.

The current situation in Cambodia has changed, but not necessarily for the better in all respects:

- Firstly, it is observed that the demand for cultural property has moved to more remote monuments. The Beng Melea temple has been completely stripped of its statues, and that's not the only example.
- Secondly, looters are giving more attention to underground archaeological sites where they can find bronzes or ceramics, as illustrated by the sad case of Phum Snay where items of great historical value were lost soon after they were discovered by a team from the Royal University of Fine Arts, depriving the archaeologists of the opportunity of studying them. Unfortunately, we are aware that other archaeological sites are now being looted. A project by the Ministry of Culture, supported by the Royal University of Fine Arts and UNESCO, has taken shape. Its purpose is to involve the local communities in the conservation of this type of site. It is my hope that we will be able to present some results of this initiative at a future session.
- Finally, the slow disappearance of a particularly fragile heritage is being observed—the wooden furnishings of pagodas as well as architectural components of wood such as doors, shutters and pediments. Obviously, they fetch a lower price than stone statues, but they are nevertheless significant heritage elements relating to the history of the country.

So, ten years after Tokyo, we are faced with two paradoxes:

- On the one hand, considerable means have been set aside for the monuments of Angkor that are no longer threatened by looting, while almost no funding exists for the most vulnerable heritage. UNESCO can only appeal to donor governments to look into the possibility of offering support for the protection of the remote sites and archaeological sites, just as they are doing at Angkor. The recent initiatives of the World Monuments Fund and UNESCO for Banteay Chhmar could be used as a model for this type of support, which is generally not very costly.
- Another paradox is the fact that Cambodia has a comprehensive, even state-of-the-art legal arsenal but which is weakly enforced. Cambodia is a leader in this area. But the weakness is with the implementation of these legal instruments. The law states that the theft or illegal exporting of cultural property is an offence subject to a fine and imprisonment. As far as I know, these provisions have never once been enforced, no doubt because of a lack of information and training on the part of the law enforcement personnel. Looking at the precedents for pirating, it might be quite possible for the Ministry of Culture to take preventive actions, followed by a crackdown in these areas in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. For instance, it may be appropriate to enforce the law with regard to businesspeople who act with impunity in continuing to facilitate the export of heritage artifacts, although the removal thereof from national territory has clearly been an indictable offence since 1996. In this regard, the intention of the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO to hold a training seminar in this area is an initiative that is worthy of support.

I would like to report on an interesting initiative. Yesterday, we were in the plane flying from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. The airline's in-flight magazine had a feature article intended for tourists, explaining to people visiting Angkor that it was probably more ethical to purchase copies from institutions like *Artisans d'Angkor* than to look around the Siem Reap market for artifacts that originated from illegal diggings.

A final point as a reminder regarding the inventories: it is commonly said that it is useless to try to fight trafficking, that it is virtually impossible to hope some day to find a stolen object, if you don't have inventories. In this regard I would like to respond by saying that we have had many private conversations with civil servants, high-ranking officials in the Ministry of Culture, as well as with individuals, experts working here. These inventories must be made systematically. Some efforts have been made and are mentioned here. I would like to welcome France's initiative to support the efforts of the Ministry of Culture to make a photographic inventory of the fragile components of monuments and archaeological sites in Cambodia in liaison with the Ministry of the Interior.

The problem of illicit trafficking has changed in nature in the last ten years, but it nevertheless remains crucial. I hope that it will be on the agenda at the Paris Conference as it was in Tokyo so that the most fragile and vulnerable heritage can also be drawn to the attention of the international community meeting on this occasion and be considered for generous assistance.

I thank you for your attention."

2. *APSARA Authority Publication, by Ms CHAU SUN Kérya, Director of the Tourism Development Department*

"Honorable Senior Minister,
Honorable Co-chairmen,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since the Tourism Development Department was set up, priorities involving the statutory framework and tourist amenities left no room for the APSARA Authority to work on the production of official documents for site visits. Numerous maps of the Angkor site were put out by the Ministry of Tourism and the private sector, funded by advertising. I therefore came upon the idea of submitting a project to the President Director General, who gave it his approval forthwith and we turned to Mr BESCHAOUCH and UNESCO for assistance in identifying an illustrator specializing in landscape maps. We then applied for funding for an expert mission to do an illustrated map in watercolor worthy of the Angkor site, with financial assistance from the *Agence française de développement* to the APSARA Authority. The expert spent a week visiting all of the Angkor monuments and consulted Prof. ANG Choulean in order to grasp the cultural spirit of the site.

At the same time, Messrs BESCHAOUCH and Sébastien CAVALIER from UNESCO and I wrote up a commentary based on what history books say about Angkor along with the authoritative advice of Prof. ANG Choulean. We beg the Angkor specialists to kindly overlook the poor scientific quality of the historical information about the monuments, but we thought it would be better to give greater emphasis to anecdotal information that visitors appreciate, thus making it more accessible to the general public.

The map was designed in France by a Khmer artist. The cartography fund of JICA provided the means to do the watercolor of the Angkor site to illustrate the map. We excluded all advertising, displaying only the logos of the APSARA Authority and UNESCO. In addition to cultural information, we included key recommendations for visitors and other practical information. Also, for the first time, in response to the many questions that have been asked of us regarding the tourism revenue of the APSARA Authority, we provided information regarding the use of the income from ticket sales and the proceeds from the sale of this map.

This map is a first revenue-generating spin-off product for the Angkor Tourism Development Department of the APSARA Authority. After making a small survey of the public in France, it was decided to charge US\$ 3 for the map. However, after discussion with the Director General, the price was lowered to \$ 2. The APSARA Authority allows a 50-cent commission to the seller. The sale of these landscape maps will be the start of a new source of income for the Authority in addition to entrance ticket sales. Distribution will be cared for by the Tourism Development Department. I am sorry that I do not have one for everybody as we received only a small quantity, thus only a few officials were able to get a copy. The first edition had a printing of 90,000 copies, 30,000 in French and 60,000 in English. The next edition will come out in Khmer and be sold for \$ 1 in order to expand the market to all national visitors. Then it will be published in Japanese, Korean and Chinese, depending on the demand from each country. The printing of this landscape map received financial assistance from the American Express Foundation, UNESCO, the AFD and the APSARA Authority.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all who helped us in this long and demanding task that was started in February 2002. If this map is well received by the public, we are prepared to develop other products. I thank you for your attention."

Mr BESCHAOUCH: "Allow me to say that this map is really a 'quadripartite' map. It is the first time outside of Europe that we have a landscape map of this quality for a site. It was done by a French specialist, Mr Jean-Pierre VILLAUME, who has made maps for Paris and seven world heritage sites in France. I have to pay tribute to him publicly because he did not ask for his work to be copyrighted. So we have a French watercolor landscape artist, a young Cambodian who did a great job of the color graphics work, the APSARA Authority, UNESCO and a JICA cartography fund that was generously made available to the APSARA

Authority. Thus, with France, Japan, your secretariat UNESCO and APSARA, we can truly say that it was a quadripartite undertaking.”

3. Publications Released in the Framework of the ICC, by Mr Azedine BESCHAOUCH

“I am pleased to release two publications very briefly. First, we have the annual report by the Japanese Government Team, JSA, along with Waseda University which has now become annual in the full meaning of the term, very impressive indeed. This volume for 2002 first of all provides a report on the work done in implementation of the program funded by the Japanese government, that is, the archaeological studies and restoration operations on Prasat Suor Prat and the Bayon. A major innovation: you will find it contains other studies, for example, one on urban morphology, another on sculpture, bronzes, in particular those in the National Museum of Phnom Penh, which is an outstanding piece of work. Another innovation for which I thank Prof. NAKAGAWA and his team is a summary in the Khmer language, not to mention an increasing use of color illustrations. We congratulate JSA for making this publication available.

The second one, we now have a book on Angkor Wat. I thank the team from the Archaeological Survey of India. Upon our request, they are giving us an initial volume, an important one, which presents the scientific analysis through a combination of layout plans, sectional diagrams and photographs. We are informed that the technical analysis documents, of documentary interest to APSARA of course, will appear in a future volume, similar to the way these have been provided by the EFEO, JSA, Germany and Italy. However, this first volume is an attractive book, an art book. We express our congratulations to the Director General of the Archeological Survey of India and convey to her our great interest in receiving the analyses that are announced in this volume.

In conclusion, last year you authorized UNESCO to release the first volume that we did on Angkor, ‘Angkor—A Living Museum’ in English. We announced that it would be forthcoming in French, and that edition has now just come out. Now we are distributing it in French. However, the National Commission chaired, as you know, by Senior Minister SOK An, and thanks to the bonds of friendship between the UNESCO Office and its Executive Secretary, Ms TAN Theany, we were able to obtain the means from our Director General to have it for the first time in a language not only apart from those used officially by UNESCO. So we now have a Khmer edition for distribution in the country. I am pleased to submit it to show that your secretariat, through the good graces of our Director General, can do such things that are important for the strengthening of cultures in the world.

4. Outline of the ISO 14001 Environmental Protection Program, by Mr UN Moninita, APSARA Authority

“Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, UN Moninita, and my colleague, Ms SENG Sotheara. We are both members of the promotion team of this Cambodia-Japan project for the Angkor environmental management work, established in May this year by the APSARA Authority and the Japanese joint organization and with the strong support of the Royal government of Cambodia. The two parties signed a memorandum of understanding on May 23, 2003 in Phnom Penh presided by HE Mr SOK An.

In view of the great increase in tourists from year to year, as we can see in this chart, we hope to reach the figure of one million visitors to the country as tourists by the year 2005.

The increase in the field of tourism is creating a boom in hotel construction, restaurants, souvenir shops, food stalls, etc. This remarkable rise is creating grave concern about environmental deterioration in the form of material consumption and production of an enormous amount of garbage, air pollution, water quality deterioration in the Siem Reap River, also a decaying of the historical landscape.

Here is a photo of Siem Reap River. There are dwellings along the riverbanks with rubbish and contaminated water, as well as toilet construction over the river. Floating waste is choking the river, and a large build-up of it is shown here.

An environmental system management is required to meet the following objectives:

- Environmental protection of Angkor and its periphery, including environmental improvement responsive to the increasing numbers of tourists;
- Better living standards for residents;
- A model case of environmental education in Cambodia.

In order to achieve two of these objectives, the APSARA Authority developed the environmental management system based on the ISO 14001 program and created an organization for its operation and human resources development.

The scope of the project is to cover first and foremost Zone 1, monumental sites, where the Angkor historical structures are found. It is controlled by the APSARA Authority. When the first step is successful, then we will enlarge the project areas already defined, such as Zone 2, protected archaeological reserve, Zone 3, protected cultural landscape, the zone along the river and sand roads.

The APSARA Authority is unable to fulfill this work alone, so we have to collaborate with the provincial government and its agencies and other parties, including restoration teams, tour guides, local residents, local parties and monks.

To meet the requirements of ISO 14001, it was necessary to form a project promotion team consisting of environmental management representatives, working groups of three members. This team is under the direct supervision of the President-Director General of the authority, with assistance from the Japanese project support team. The working group will work closely with every department under the APSARA Authority.

The Japanese project support arrangement includes a team leader, a current conditions survey group, a consulting group and a seminar group, with their own office located in the Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development, in Siem Reap. This team is linked with the promotion team in APSARA, which carries out environmental surveys, building the environmental management system, getting it operational and developing human resources. This team has its own office inside the APSARA Angkor International Documentation Center in Siem Reap.

Let me explain the project implementation process. Before building the system, we have to investigate waste issues, water quality in the river, air pollution, and so on. Then we raise the awareness of the APSARA staff by understanding the reason for the introduction of the environmental management system by initiating small model projects. Then we will build up the system by identifying problems and priorities for significant environmental aspects. Then the President-Director General will set an environmental policy. We will set specific objectives and prepare an environmental management program. The system will go into operation by instilling environment policy and educating staff. We need the

participation of local residents and other relevant parties in the areas in order to take action to reach our goal.

Finally, we will run an audit in order to check the actual situation. If we cannot achieve the target, we will correct our program and management system.

Model projects are created to achieve two goals. One is to understand the waste issue and then to understand the environmental management system as a whole. We will implement model projects as a part of this to address the waste issue, to help the staff of the APSARA Authority, the provincial government and local residents to have a better understanding of the system. Therefore, we will run a survey on the current state of waste disposal. For example, we will perform a survey on the source, the volume and location of the waste. We will then set the target and prepare the program. For example, we will set up a system to reduce the volume of waste. This translates as "P" – PLAN. When we have the plan, we will start to implement and operation the program. For example, we will educate the local residents, tourist guides and other relevant authorities in the area. This translates as "D" – DO. Meanwhile, we have to check the actual volume in comparison with our target. We have to find out how the system is working. For example, we will check changes in the volume of waste. This translates as "C" – CHECK. Then we will revise the program, which translates as "A" – ACTION. We will work on the P-D-C-A cycle again and again to improve the environment. This is called continual improvement of the environmental management system.

Here is the project implementation schedule for three years. As you can see, the various columns cover a period of our activities. We do a survey of the current condition of the environment each year and will educate the staff and raise their awareness during the first and second years. Meanwhile, we will also study the model projects implemented the first year until the third year. During this time, we will start mixed projects of the environmental management system during the first and second year. After that, we will operate the environmental management system from the second year up until the conclusion of our project.

The APSARA Authority views this project as a great success and totally supports the drive of its participants. Thank you very much for your attention."

Mr. OGAWA expressed his satisfaction at seeing that many young Cambodians are now taking on management responsibilities. Moreover, he commented on the nature of this cooperation coming from a group of private individuals headed by Prof. ISHIZAWA. The Ambassador asked the professor for the name of the company.

Professor ISHIZAWA listed all the partners involved as follows: an offshoot of the Japanese Ministry of Industry, the Quality Assurance Institute (JQI), a foundation, the Quality Assurance Organization (JQA) along with the International Standards Research Institute (ISRI), and finally Sophia University.

5. *Audiovisual Documentary with the Financial Contribution of France and Japan and Assistance from UNESCO, by Ms Anne LEMAISTRE, UNESCO Paris*

"Honorable Co-chairmen,
Honorable Senior Minister,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

As was announced by Mr GEORGEAIS this morning, among the products that will be presented during the upcoming Paris intergovernmental conference in November 2003, it

was proposed, in accord with the chairmen of the ICC, to present a film synthesis of the ICC's work in order to put faces on this human venture being undertaken at Angkor.

This documentary film to be 26 minutes in length has been made possible through co-funding from France and Japan and is being produced with assistance from UNESCO. Its purpose is to help present an overall picture of the international action for Angkor in another medium, as well as to show the perspective in which this action is taking place. Thus, it will cover all the institutional aspects that Mr BESCHAOUCH brought out in his summary report this morning.

The film will come out in four languages: English, French, Japanese and Khmer. I would like to thank APSARA in advance for its assistance in producing the Khmer version of this film. The CARRÉ Company of France has been selected to do this film, and Mr Antoine ROULET is the producer. He is taking on the challenging task of summarizing ten years of international activity in just 26 minutes, for which I thank him.

You can appreciate that one needs a strong ability to see the overall picture in this case. You saw Mr ROULET last December at the meeting of the Technical Committee. He was back again in April in order to get some pictures of the site during the Khmer New Year's festivities, so that the documentary would also reflect life on the site, in the local communities in particular. He has come back for the third time to attend this meeting of the ICC, given that it is a highlight in our activities. I thank our co-chairmen and members of the Royal Government for agreeing to have their comments recorded.

For your information, the production schedule calls for the shooting to be completed by the end of this ICC meeting, for the editing to be done this summer, and with the post-production and language versions being completed in September. We are now thinking about a title for this 26-minute film, along with Ms d'ORGEVAL among others. Nevertheless, I invite you to help us out. I thank the various players in the ICC for kindly agreeing to be interviewed and now I encourage the next persons to be interviewed to express themselves wholeheartedly. I thank you for your attention."

6. Overview of Tourist and Animation Projects, by Mr Azedine BESCHAOUCH

"Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. First, I have to report on the proposal to build a moving stairway on Phnom Bakheng that was submitted to this committee two years ago and that was looked into at the time by the *ad hoc* experts here present. The moving stairway on Phnom Bakheng was rejected and properly so, but I wanted to let you know that at the request of the Royal Government, APSARA has done a remarkable job. It has put up, as in a number of locations including the Bayon and Angkor Wat, wooden stairways that now make it possible for everyone to have access. Those who cannot make it up by any other means take the wooden stairway. Some go by elephant, while others with a more athletic inclination do a little mountain climbing. I would like to reassure everyone that the solution chosen makes it possible to visit Phnom Bakheng in ideal conditions.

Two other projects were considered by the Technical Committee. One is the Vision Heritage project, a company headed by Mr CHABERT. It was a sound-and-light project inside Angkor Wat. At the technical committee level, we suggested that this could not be done there and that he propose a location outside of Angkor Wat. He agreed. I must say, and it is the truth, that we have rarely seen such patience. We have approved that and now with APSARA we are looking for some way to give approval to his proposal, a very nice show, but in another location where no harm will result, and most importantly, not contiguous to any fragile monuments.

The second project is by ExtraMundi, under the direction of Mr CÉRÉZALES, a Frenchman who initially worked with the EFEO team back in 1995 on the restoration and rehabilitation of a very challenging monument, the Baphuon, as I mentioned earlier. He used computer tools to make a preliminary restitution of the Baphuon. Now, after having produced a beautiful entertainment CD-ROM on Angkor, he is working on sound-and-light shows. He has proposed something that was approved firstly by the experts and then by the Technical Committee, that is a nocturnal visit of Angkor without entering the site, seated in electric cars that move from one monument to the next, with a recorded commentary and music. The music is Khmer and the commentary has been recorded in several languages: English, French, Khmer and Japanese, with other languages in the offing. The main monuments will be illuminated for the 'remote' visit. It's something quite novel and we felt that this approach was worthy of being promoted, as it highlights the site by a trip at night but without entering the monuments. The Technical Committee has approved this project and, in compliance with the procedure, I am announcing it to the Plenary Session."

VII. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ICC

1. Contribution by Mr BESCHAOUCH, ICC Scientific Secretary

"The water issue:

As was announced during this morning's session, our first recommendation is to promote an in-depth analysis in order to find a long-term, effective solution to the problems of water management in the Siem Reap region (supply, drainage, recycling, consumption and quality control). Given the growth of the tourist industry, the water problem has become a matter of concern for the Royal Government, as explained by Senior Minister SOK An a short while ago.

A simple review of the documents submitted and discussed at the various meetings of the ICC enables us to draw up a list of experts, as well as the studies they have conducted regarding the water problem in all its complexity, including:

- JICA, the key player in this in-depth analysis, since it performed an overall study of the water supply;
- The EFEO with the study conducted in cooperation with UNESCO in the framework of the 'Angkor and Water' symposium, as well as with the subsequent publication;
- Discoveries made by Prof. GAUCHER in Angkor Thom on the water networks of the time—to both collect and drain water—that are extremely important and can provide greater insight into the water problem at Angkor by going back to a historical situation by means of archaeological investigation;
- All of the expert studies done in the framework of the ZEMP undertaking, a master plan for the zoning and environment of the site, that provided the starting point, with funding from the UNDP, UNESCO and the ICC;
- The AFD studies conducted in this field.

In these circumstances, I propose that we submit to the approval of our co-chairmen the following:

In consultation with agencies specializing in areas relating to the water problem, such as JICA, the AFD, the EFEO and JSA, using as a basis their own studies as well as the UNESCO records including ZEMP, prepare a summary report under the coordination of the APSARA Authority and to submit it to the Royal Government of Cambodia, in particular to its representative, Senior Minister SOK An.

This report may then be used at the Paris Conference.

Strengthening the APSARA Authority

A second recommendation pinpointed by the IMF representative, reflects a concern shared by many countries. I understand that Japan, Germany and France would like to insist upon the following recommendation:

We wish to see the APSARA Authority strengthened and given more means to care for its obligations in the areas of conservation, showcasing and developing the monuments. It is recommended that the government revise as soon as possible the terms of the current commercial concession contract for ticket sales, so that maximum benefits from the financial inflow accrue to the benefit of APSARA.

Methodology for interventions on the Angkor site

The third recommendation is of a technical nature concerning safeguarding methodology. As a group of experts, we met at the workshop under the aegis of APSARA. During the meeting, a general wish was manifested by all of the team leaders here present to develop an ongoing exchange of know-how and scientific research findings among the partners, international partners and national players, in keeping with ethical principles and best practices for sustainable heritage conservation.

Prof. Giorgio CROCI chairs the monument structures and stability committee within ICOMOS and is at the same time a member of the *ad hoc* group of experts for the ICC. He made a preliminary summary that was distributed to all of the teams. We discussed several points from this document, but it is open-ended and any further observations and conclusions resulting from consultation of all concerned parties can still be included. The proposed recommendation is therefore as follows:

It is recommended that the ICC secretariat with its ad hoc group of experts and in liaison with the APSARA Authority, coordinate the setting of directions for safeguarding and showcasing the Angkor monuments so as to unify and harmonize our methodology with regard to the principles of conservation and restoration as well as for documentation and cooperation.

This will be a contribution from Cambodia, APSARA and the ICC to the ethics and practice of heritage safeguarding. I thank you."

2. Discussion

Remarks by Mr Robert HAGEMANN, IMF Representative: "I just wanted to make one clarification. Surely we are all in favor of strengthening the mechanism for making the necessary financial resources available to the APSARA Authority, just as we are for all ministries and authorities. Therefore I confirm this and the way in which this is done is to be discussed, perhaps in time. However, I wanted to make a distinction between this aspect of my comments—I perhaps should have spoken in English to be perfectly clear—on the one hand, and the eventual renegotiation of a contract in favor of Cambodia as a whole. The contract in question expires in 2005. We do not feel it would be good to renegotiate in the meantime, as the contract provides for renegotiation by such and such a date. Thus, the contract is in effect and must be complied with and honored by the two parties. Nevertheless, at its expiration, what needs to be done is to see to it that the full amount of receipts from ticket sales at Angkor and all other receipts coming from the site go to the National Treasury. The allocation is something that also requires attention, so as not to assign all of the receipts to one use, given the need that all of Cambodia's poverty alleviation programs have for funding."

Remarks by Ms Setsuko KAWAHARA, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "My remarks also concerned the second point made by Mr Beschaouch. I would like to strongly state

that the issue of the financial empowerment and stability of the APSARA Authority be included in the recommendation. We had a brief discussion of this issue earlier this morning, and I will not repeat the position of my government at this moment. But having heard the remarks made by the representative of IMF and the German ambassador, I sense that the necessity of increased budget for APSARA through a larger share of the entrance fees collected is widely shared among the participants of the ICC. Therefore I hope that this point is included in the recommendation and will be realized by the Cambodian authorities in due course."

Remarks by Mr Michel JANTZEN, Ad Hoc Expert: "As an *ad hoc* adviser, I just wanted to go back to a point of information we heard, since Mr BESCHACOUH talked about solving the water problem. I simply wanted to state that golf courses are facilities that require huge volumes of water and that, at any rate, it would not be advisable to start thinking about putting one in before the water supply problem is resolved.

If you allow, Mr Co-chairman, I would like to comment on another point more in the area of philosophy, but also somewhat technical, and that is the nocturnal viewing of the temples. I am sometimes quite surprised to see the use that is made of the night in western Europe, so much so that it begs the question if UNESCO shouldn't list the night as a world cultural property on the list of heritage in danger. I think that that's an area in which extreme caution is advised. Satellite pictures are very revealing in this regard. Electricity is a precious, expensive form of energy. It's not that I would personally be opposed—I don't have the authority—to nocturnal illuminations, but I think that it's an area in which, somewhat paradoxically, discretion sometimes yields greater dividends than an excess of good. So I just wanted to make this remark. I feel that the Khmer temples under the light of the moon and stars are something irreplaceable. Personally I would be a little upset if the quality of this presentation was lost."

Mr BESCHACOUH took advantage of the opportunity to introduce Mr Michel JANTZEN to the meeting. He is a senior architect and general inspector of monuments and at one time served as chairman of ICOMOS France.

Remarks by Mr Kenji TAKAYANAGI, JICA: "I want to add a word to my explanation, my presentation. The number of tourists is increasing yearly in Siem Reap town, and many hotels have been and are being constructed. The groundwater uptake has increased now. Of course, I know the conservation of the Angkor monuments is very important. I consider that harmonization between development and conservation of the temples is very important. For that reason, we are starting out scientifically and technically to study the influence of groundwater uptake. In addition to that, I already explained the monitoring wells. These wells are very important. One of them is located in front of the Angkor Wat monument. In the future, that monitoring well will become very important to observe the influence that groundwater uptake has. If there is any influence, we will know it thanks to that monitoring well. For that reason, I think that those wells were distributed."

Remarks by Prof. Takeshi NAKAGAWA, JSA Director General: "In this morning's session, I also recognized that HE Mr Sok An share with us a very important principle about the use of water resources. We at JSA would also like to cooperate with JICA and the Cambodian government's Ministry of Water Resources. JSA has been working on the hydraulic system of the Bayon for a long time and is also doing research on the amount of water, including rainfall, which flows in and out of Angkor Thom. From this research, we find that it is important also to focus on the overall Angkor region. For example, the amount of rainfall in the Kulen area that flows into the Siem Reap River, from our research results, we see that about 20 percent of this water comes into Siem Reap town. If we could improve this situation and increase the amount of the flow into the town to 70 or 80 percent, we could utilize this for agriculture, preservation of the environment, monument conservation and

water works. Utilizing underground water may be necessary, but we also need to think about using other water resources. We at JSA will work together with JICA and survey what kind of possibilities we have and then would like to make a proposal to the Cambodian government. Thank you."

Remarks by Mr TAN Boun Suy: "Mr Co-chairmen, Honorable Senior Minister, kindly allow me to introduce myself. My name is TAN Boun Suy. I hold a government doctorate degree and lecture at the University of Besançon, France. Thank you for allowing me to have the floor and to comment on the critical water problem in Siem Reap / Angkor.

This morning the Senior Minister acknowledged the overriding importance of the water table, ground water, as a water supply source. JICA has done a remarkable job of studying changes in the water table. This year it is at an alarming level. A relevant question then is, How is the water table fed? Everyone knows that Phnom Kulen at one time was a water tower enabling the Khmer civilization to settle on the Angkor site. Phnom Kulen is not only the headwaters of the Siem Reap, Roluos and Puok Rivers, as far as surface water is concerned, but it also feeds the water table of the region. In a natural environment, that is a wooded environment, when it rains at Phnom Kulen, the trees act like a sponge and inhibit the water flow. Water has time to seep down, especially at the lower slope of the *phnom*, where the presence of coarse sand promotes the infiltration process. With the removal of trees, the water runs straight off the slope, forming surface streams of no value whatsoever. And little water or none at all reaches the water table.

To achieve sustainable management of the water table supply, every effort must be made to avoid deforestation. If the forest is replaced by fruit trees, as is the case right now, then steps must be taken so that the soil is not left bare, in other words put in cover plants which, although not ensuring as much protection as the forest, at least cut down on streaming and promote infiltration. Thank you for your attention."

Remarks by HE Mr UK Someth, Deputy Director General, APSARA Authority: "I would like to say something about the water problem that, as everyone recognizes, is extremely important. I think that APSARA has given considerable thought to this problem. As far as we are concerned, this problem must not be handled one small piece at a time, but in its overall scope. Water is a cycle. It is drawn up from a well, treated, used and then returned to where it came from. I think that everyone has been talking about borrowing water: well water, surface water and ground water. But water must first of all be there. And for it to be there, the project has to be at the source, in other words, the Western and Eastern Baray reservoirs, that in olden times were fed by canals that collected rainwater and underground spring water. Now, because of deforestation, changes in the topography, most of the canals of the hydraulic reservoir have been filled in or leveled.

As the JSA representative mentioned a short while ago, Siem Reap River is only getting 20 percent of the rainwater from the Kulens, while it should actually be getting between 70 and 80 percent. At the present time, because of modifications to the canal structure due to such things as deforestation, the water that should be flowing into it is going somewhere else. You just have to look every time it rains hard, that water flows into the *barays*, but all kinds of water floods the town, which is something quite paradoxical. So in my view, we have to resolve this water problem upstream first, then downstream. This water problem must be resolved in its own cycle. The water has to be available first. If you don't have water, how are you going to pump water? Right now, the baray only has 68 million cubic meters on the average.

Water is used for two things: agriculture or irrigation and supplying the town with drinking water. The town is growing quite rapidly at an average rate of 5.2 percent due to natural growth and immigration, not just because of the increase in tourist numbers. Thus, the use of water must also be managed in its overall scope. It must be remembered

that the growth of the town is accompanied by an increased demand for agricultural produce. If there is no agricultural produce and it has to be imported, where is the increased value of all the receipts? The town development must make provision for an area for gardening in order to supply the town with local produce.

Therefore, from APSARA's point of view, the water problem must also be addressed overall. It is a colossal project. Nothing is preventing us from implementing an emergency project, but we must not overlook the overall scope of the issue. Thank you."

Mr BESCHAOUCH took the floor to state briefly that this year was declared the "International Year for Drinking Water" by the United Nations and that a country rated as one of the least developed could perhaps benefit from the United Nations fund earmarked for this nagging problem.

The Japanese Co-chairman pointed out that a number of opinions had been expressed on the three points mentioned by the Scientific Secretary of the ICC and that overall they were not conflicting. With the agreement of his colleague, the French Co-chairman, he asked the secretariat to prepare a summary of these recommendations, which he felt would be points to ponder for the future proceedings of the ICC, including the Paris Conference and the next meeting of the technical committee.

VIII. CLOSING SESSION

1. Statement by the French Co-chairman, Ambassador André-Jean LIBOUREL

"This is the fifth time that I have shared in this exercise and usually you are extremely tired by the end and say very little. That is what I intend to do. Besides, we have other things to do after the conclusion.

I would first of all like to express some words of thanks: to HE Mr SOK An who, despite his very demanding schedule, despite the fact that he has been campaigning in his constituency since this morning, kindly spent the whole day with us. I would also like to thank the APSARA Authority and say how impressed I was with the quality, the relevance and the quantity of its contributions. This backs up what HE Mr SOK An said this morning when he expressed the wish that the APSARA Authority be associated more closely with the work of the ICC secretariat. I think that we all agree on this point and that, if my colleague Ambassador OGAWA agrees, we can perhaps ask the secretariat to give us a report at our next meeting about what has been done or what is being planned in response to that wish. I also wish to thank all of you, UNESCO first of all, of course, and all of the participants for the valuable assistance you gave to the French delegation for the organization of the November conference, because this session has enabled my colleagues here to better identify the themes, the guiding principles of the Paris meeting, and for that I would like to thank you and thank UNESCO.

I would like to take this opportunity to say something of my own volition—and have included in the minutes—about just how essential we consider the physical presence of UNESCO in Cambodia to be. How extraordinary it would be to have this presence lessened or even for it to lessen. I imagine that UNESCO is one of the greatest success stories of the United Nations. UNESCO stayed on after UNTAC left and UNESCO has done an undeniable job, an outstanding one, and I have never heard any Cambodian complain about UNESCO's work, of UNESCO's arrogance, of the unsuitableness of UNESCO's solutions to local needs, although this type of criticism is quite commonly heard about other players on the international scene.

So the presence of UNESCO in Cambodia is more legitimate than anywhere else. Angkor is part of world heritage and is one of the major elements of world heritage; it is a fragile component. I heard that there was maybe some thought given to shaking things up a little bit. My message to the Director General of UNESCO is as follows: Your people in Cambodia have been doing a great job since 1993 and UNESCO must remain an essential player in the international action in Cambodia. What would we do after all? How could this coordinating committee operate, this committee that everyone agrees is so beneficial and so effective, if UNESCO did not provide the services of secretariat? Secretariat is a very technical and modest term that in reality covers a lot of grey matter, understanding and knowledge. So those were my remarks.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to welcome you in advance to Paris in mid-November for this second conference on Angkor, at which time we will close off the decade of urgency and open up the decade of development. We can already see it, and I am impressed with the way in which the issue of water was debated after HE Mr SOK An raised the point this morning, so much so that it's now raining! There's water waiting for us outside. Of course that's simply said in jest, but I am impressed to see how development, visitor flows, that give rise to a number of problems, will dictate the main themes of our thinking in the coming decade, beyond the conventional issues, because a lot is being said about archaeology in this meeting and that's something that's needed.

I thank you for your attention. See you soon in Paris."

2. Statement by the Japanese Co-chairman, Ambassador Gotaro OGAWA

"I too would like to state quickly my impressions regarding today's discussion. I think that during this morning's session, we reviewed the long road covered over the last ten years. Mr Beschaouch's eloquent comments gave us an overall picture of the work we have done over the decade. I think that everyone agrees that we have achieved very positive results. Most importantly, we noted that the power of the APSARA Authority has been greatly enhanced and that now APSARA is doing a good job on the technical points as well as with regard to the proceedings of this committee. We are seeing an increased and increasing autonomy on the part of the APSARA Authority and we are happy about that.

I also noted through the discussions we had that we now sense a spirit of solidarity and enthusiasm for the next decade. Thus we are moving along in the direction highlighted in the Tokyo Declaration back in 1993.

In conclusion, I am in complete agreement with what the Ambassador for France, Mr André-Jean Libourel just said about the important role played by UNESCO. We are very grateful for the secretariat services provided by UNESCO. Without the support of the secretariat, the proceedings of our committee could not achieve the success that we have enjoyed.

I hope that we will see each other again in November in Paris. Thank you."

3. Statement by the Head of the Cambodian Delegation, HE Mr SOK An, Senior Minister, Council of Ministers

"At the conclusion of our proceedings, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Royal Government, to say again how grateful we are to all of the ICC members, to the governments and institutions that they represent, as well as to UNESCO. We are satisfied

with the way things have gone and we have good reason to be optimistic about the future.

Allow me to state again that we have high expectations for the Paris international conference. Just as the Tokyo Conference was a foundation and incentive, may Paris mark the time of consolidation and guide Angkor along the way to prosperity!

In this regard, it seems reasonable to us to think that our discussions next November will be placed under the sign of sustainable development, so as to ensure a balance between the necessary conservation work and socio-economic growth, of vital importance for all.

On behalf of Prime Minister Samdech HUN Sen and the Royal Government that he heads, I wanted to give special consideration to the water issue in the Siem Reap / Angkor region. I did so because water supply is a central issue. On it hinges the required balance between economic and social usage.

Obviously, many other matters are of concern to the Royal Government and have been considered by the ICC. In this regard, let me make special mention of the prevention of illicit trafficking in cultural property. Yes, we have been successful in ending trafficking in the Angkor zone with the help of the Heritage Police Unit, UNESCO and the ICC's policy. But the evil has spread elsewhere, into other areas of the Kingdom of Cambodia. We have the legal means at our disposal. We also have the governmental will to protect national heritage through the country. Our priority need is for human resources. I therefore launch an appeal to the ICC. I suggest, as Mr Étienne CLÉMENT has proposed, to have this issue put on the agenda of the Paris Conference. I urge you to support us in this fight both here in Cambodia and in your home countries.

I would now like to mention economic cooperation. We are counting on your committee, the expertise of the governments, the institutions and UNESCO, so that studies are done on all of these issues, leading to the development of project sheets to request funding and investment assistance.

Allow me now to salute the commitment from the United States of America and the decision of this country to join us with the presence of HE Ambassador Charles RAY. Its participation is already very much appreciated.

Messrs Co-chairmen, in conclusion I would like to speak personally to you and commend you for the courteous, efficient and serene way in which you conducted the proceedings of this 10th session. I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of everyone when I say that it is a pleasure to work with you as co-chairmen. I thank you for your attention."

Ambassador OGAWA thanked the Senior Minister for his most timely remarks and assured him that note had been duly made of his suggestion to go back to the international community for assistance in the prevention of illicit trafficking in cultural property and especially of his desire to have this point included on the agenda of the Paris Conference.

4. Statement by the UNESCO Representative in Cambodia, Mr Étienne CLÉMENT

"I would like to simply express a few words of thanks and gratitude on behalf of the secretariat and UNESCO. I would like to thank you co-chairmen, first of all for your confidence, the confidence that you have in the UNESCO mechanism which serves your committee as its secretariat, and your confidence in our team both in Paris and Phnom Penh. Our thanks go to Messrs DORDAIN, SHINOHARA and IKEDA, with whom my colleagues have had almost daily contact in preparing for this session.

I would like to assure you that my colleagues both in Paris and here in Phnom Penh are always available to you between sessions and will be making the most accurate report possible of your deliberations and, more importantly, as you wished, preparing comprehensive summary documents and recommendations, with options to be submitted for the Paris conference, so that our team both in Paris and Phnom Penh can get working on them right away.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude, on behalf of the secretariat, to HE Senior Minister SOK An, for his unwavering support and say how happy we are with the fine collaboration that has developed between the UNESCO office and the APSARA Authority chaired by HE Mr BUN Narith, and the Cambodian National Commission whose executive secretary, Ms TAN Theany, is also present. Thank you."

Before closing the proceedings of this 10th Plenary Session of the ICC, HE Mr OGAWA asked the participants for any comments regarding the date of the next meeting of the technical committee.

Having taken a survey of a number of people and teams, Mr BESCHAOUCH put to the decision of the co-chairmen a recommendation that the next technical committee meeting be scheduled during the first two weeks of February 2004 in Siem Reap / Angkor. This is a change from the usual pattern of holding the technical committee meeting in December, but is called for due to the fact that the Paris Conference will take place in mid-November. For practical and financial reasons it would be difficult to have a meeting just two or three weeks later. A number of persons would not be in a position to attend. However, an interval of two months would enable a more substantial agenda to be developed for the technical session. Mr BESCHAOUCH informed the meeting participants that Prof. NAKAGAWA had kindly agreed to hold the next Bayon Symposium also in February 2004.

Since no other ideas were put forward regarding the dates of the next technical committee meeting, the Japanese Co-chairman approved the proposal that it be held some time during first two weeks in February 2004 in Siem Reap, after which he declared the session closed.

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