

The 16th Plenary Session of ICC Mainly Focuses on Reviewing New Aid and the Management of Monuments

H.E. Dr. SOK AN, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of APSARA Authority presided over the 16th plenary session of International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC) which was held on 15 December 2009 in Siem Reap Province.

The 16th Session was co-chaired by H.E. Masafumi Kuroki, Japanese Ambassador, and H.E. Jean-Francois Desmasirees, French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia. This session was participated by about 300 national and international guests including ICC members of 15 nations, representatives of the diplomatic corps of 10 foreign countries accredited to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and national and international taskforces as well as 31 institutions.

The 16th plenary session of ICC mainly focuses on reviewing new aid in addition to the previous one and reviewing the management of temple reparation including the various impacts caused by Typhoon Ketsana at the end of last September. The ICC's session also focuses on the quantity of water within the Angkor area.

Speaking on that occasion, H.E. Dr. SOK AN stressed that with the supports of France, New Zealand, Australia, Korea and Germany, the ICC's work has achieved a sustainable development within the world heritage site in order to ensure the conservation of Angkor by UNESCO in the context of good management, and the smooth overall project making as well as various activities based on sound data and good package management for the people living in the historical ecology of Angkor.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also recalled that the settlements within the premise of Angkor are complicated issues that the Royal Government of Cambodia under the leadership of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN has never ignored. Regarding this issue, Samdech Techo always reminds officials of the concerned ministries to pay more attention on protecting the values of cultural properties than building houses in the Angkor area in order to contribute to the conservation and development in line with the consciousness of preserving national heritage and constant concentration on current socio and economic situation.

H.E. Dr. SOK AN added that “We think we should not allow the historical ecology and archeological site of Angkor and Angkor tourism to become a pressure one”.

In addition, H.E. Masafumi KUROKI, Japanese Ambassador, who is a co-chairman of ICC Meeting had appreciated Cambodia for being active in the conservation and development through the experiences of ICC. H.E. Mrs. Francoise Riviere, Deputy Secretary-General of UNESCO for Culture had expressed her great satisfaction on Cambodia's good work which has been inscribed in the ICC.

She also raised that the success in Angkor region depends on the willingness of cooperation between international community and the state parties. She also added that “Angkor-Siem Reap, the whole city, gets attraction and impression and the ICC needs to evolve on a good track in line with the current need. Political and technical tasks are very important works which generate my satisfaction.

(Press and Quick Reaction Unit)