

A Meeting between H.E. Dr. Sok An and Ambassadors and UNESCO Representative in Phnom Penh on Conservation and Development of the Temple of Preah Vihear Site

On 03 February 2009, at the Office of the Council of Ministers, **H.E. Dr. Sok An**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, held a meeting with the Ambassadors and the UNESCO representative to the Kingdom of Cambodia to discuss the Report on the Conservation and Development Plan of the Temple of Preah Vihear which is a national cultural property and heritage and was officially inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2008 at the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Quebec, Canada.

The purpose of the meeting was to share related experiences and information about the final report, which had been scrutinized and submitted by the Royal Government of Cambodia to the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO in Paris on 01 January 2010. This is the obligation carried out by Cambodia in accordance with the recommendations of the WHC in its statement announcing the Temple of Preah Vihear done listed as a World Heritage in Quebec, Canada, which requires Cambodia to submit to the Committee the Master Plan to develop and conserve the Temple. It is worth recalling that Cambodia submitted the Primary Report on Conservation Plan in February 2008, Report on Development Plan in 2009, and the Final Report on Conservation and Development Plan in 2010, which have been prepared by the Committee on Conservation of the Temple of Preah Vihear to illustrate the activities in conserving and preserving the Temple. H.E. Chuch Phoeurn, Chairman of the National Preah Vihear Authority, and H.E. Suos Yara, Undersecretary of State and Permanent Deputy Chairman of National Special Taskforce for Preah Vihear Site, presented to the meeting through the projection of slides on the report and development activities including the construction of pavement and staircase to the Temple of Preah Vihear, the establishment of natural village, Samdech Techo Museum, establishment of new settlement for the people living in the Temple of Preah Vihear area and the conservation of water reservoir (the Baray).

The Ambassadors of Australia, Belgium, France, Japan, India, the United State, representative of the Ambassador of China, and the UNESCO representative who attended the meeting were highly impressed by the comprehensive report prepared by the Committee on Conservation of the Temple of Preah Vihear. H.E. Madam Australian Ambassador said, "I am highly impressed by the excellent report. All of the Ambassadors congratulate and appreciate the effort."

In response, H.E. Dr. Sok An expressed his gratitude to the delegates attending the meeting and stressed that these achievements have been realized owing to good cooperation from the people, historians and experts in the field of national and international cultures.