



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIANS ACT TO PRESERVE ANCIENT
CAMBODIAN TEXTILE HERITAGE**

The Minister for Culture HE Him Chhem and Australian Ambassador Margaret Adamson launched the publication of “*Pictorial Cambodian Textiles: Windows into Cambodian Cultural History*” at the National Museum today, in the presence of the author Ms Gill Green.

“I hope that through Gill Green’s book more people will come to know and appreciate the marvellous creativity and skill demonstrated by Cambodian weavers,” said Australian Ambassador Margaret Adamson. “Like Angkor Wat, Cambodia’s living heritage also deserves to be preserved and studied for all to understand and enjoy”.

Ms Green is a renowned authority on the subject of Cambodian textiles. She has studied the Cambodian textile and weaving tradition for the past 15 years and has lectured and published widely on this subject. Her first book, “*Traditional Cambodian Textiles*”, was awarded the 2004 RL Shep prize by the Textile Society of America.

The new book contains a comprehensive collection of images of rare silk hangings, many of which are part of the National Museum’s own collection. Ms Green analyses the meanings of the detailed narratives represented on the cloths, including colourful motifs of ships, birds, animals and trees. She also explains the intricate techniques used by Cambodian weavers to produce the highly realistic images.

Manton Donation to the National Museum

Speaking at the book launch, Ambassador Adamson commended the generous donation of Cambodian textiles to the National Museum collection by former Australian diplomat Neil Manton. Several of the donated textiles were on display during the launch.

Mr Manton collected traditional textiles during a posting to Phnom Penh in the 1960s and early 1970s. Many designs easily available then have since disappeared. By returning these textiles to the National Museum, Mr Manton has helped preserve another fragile part of Cambodia’s precious heritage for future generations.

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