



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PHNOM PENH**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CELEBRATING A DECADE OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AT ANGKOR**

The University of Sydney will mark 10 years of successful collaborative research at Angkor with an Anniversary Dinner to be held on the evening of 15 December 2009 at the Bayon temple at Angkor, under the patronage of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni.

The dinner will be co-hosted by the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia HE Margaret Adamson and the Vice Chancellor and Principal of Sydney University Dr Michael Spence. HRH Samdech Norodom Sirivudh will represent His Majesty the King. Guest of Honour Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the APSARA Authority HE Sok An will be accompanied by around 100 senior staff of APSARA and UNESCO, eminent Cambodian and international scholars, as well as diplomatic representatives attending the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee plenary meeting in Siem Reap.

The Anniversary Dinner will showcase premium Australian food and award-winning beverages throughout, prepared by renowned Australian chef and food and wine ambassador Don Hancey. Mr Hancey will be assisted by Stuart Walsh, David Gilmour, Daniel Sharp and staff and students from the Paul Du Brule School of Hospitality and Tourism in Siem Reap.

The University of Sydney is a world leader in innovative and ground-breaking archaeological research at Angkor in Cambodia. International multidisciplinary research programs under its leadership have shown the world the true extent and influence of mediaeval Khmer civilisation.

It recently received new Australian Research Council funding of A\$1.25 million for the period 2010-2015 for two research projects in Cambodia. One, in partnership with APSARA, is a continuation of the Greater Angkor Project studying the economy and abandonment of Angkor. The other will study paleo-environmental change over the past 800,000 years in North East Cambodia.

The University of Sydney has an active program of cooperation in the humanities, the sciences, education, health and heritage in Cambodia.

For more information on the Greater Angkor Project, please visit:

<http://acl.arts.usyd.edu.au/angkor/gap>

***Media Enquiries: Fiona Cochaud, DHOM, 023 213 470***  
**Australian Embassy Phnom Penh**  
**15 December 2009**