



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA CONCLUDES HERITAGE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK WITH
CAMBODIA**

Today Australia concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO and the Royal Government of Cambodia's national heritage authority, APSARA, to commence implementation of the Angkor Heritage Management Framework (HMF) project.

Australia has committed A\$1.13 million towards implementing the plan. Australia also welcomes the Royal Government of Cambodia's contribution of over USD\$600,000 towards the project.

"The HMF project will assist in conserving the universal heritage values of Angkor while improving governance and helping to reduce rural poverty," Australian Ambassador, Margaret Adamson said.

"The HMF project will also contribute to more sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Siem Reap Province, one of the poorest provinces in Cambodia, by helping the local community to share in the cultural and economic benefits arising from tourism at Angkor."

"Lessons learned from the HMF about the management of complex cultural sites, local communities and growing tourism will benefit other sensitive heritage sites in the future, in Cambodia and globally," Ambassador Adamson said.

The HMF project draws upon many years of successful collaboration between experts from APSARA, UNESCO and the University of Sydney. These organisations have integrated research, management and governance to create a new form of a heritage monitoring system based on community values, national policies and international heritage best-practice.

This long-standing partnership will be recognised at a formal dinner hosted by the University of Sydney and the Australian Embassy at the Bayon temple on 15 December 2009.

Australia's innovative and effective heritage conservation approach has been adapted by other nations with the help of Australian expertise. The Burra Charter – which outlines the Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) heritage conservation philosophy and methodology – is internationally recognised as world best-practice.

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