Cambodia will seek the dispatch as soon as possible of UNESCO technical team to assess the impacts and damages to Preah Vihear Temple due to Thailand's artillery shelling in a recent border clash with Cambodia.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Council of Ministers H.E. Sok An told reporters yesterday evening at Phnom Penh International Airport before leaving for the UNESCO's headquarters in Paris for a meeting with Thailand over the Preah Vihear Temple's management plan proposal.

H.E. Sok An, also Chairman of the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO, said on May 25, he will meet with Thai Minister in charge of heritage affairs Suwit Khunkitti in the presence of UNESCO's leaders.

This UNESCO-organized meeting is held following the visit of UNESCO Special Envoy Mr. Koichiro Matsuura to Phnom Penh and Bangkok in late February 2011.

The Cambodian deputy prime minister further rejected Mr. Khunkitti's statement regarding the Cambodian management plan for Preah Vihear.

The Cambodian management plan for Preah Vihear was duly submitted to the World Heritage Centre before the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Brasilia in July-August 2010 and made available to all members of the World Heritage Committee, of course including Thailand which was then the vice-chairperson of the Committee, he explained, asking "Why Thailand said it did not know?"

This is a lie when the Thai side said this management plan trespasses into Thai territory, said H.E. Sok An. The Graphic Plan of the Property of the management plan shows clearly that the area covered by the plan is totally situated well inside the Cambodian territory.

"We develop only the areas inside the Cambodian territory such as the construction of Samdech

Techo Natural Village and the Eco Global Museum, which are located some 20 and 10 kilometers from the Cambodian-Thai border line respectively," he stressed.

H.E. Sok An said the Cambodian management plan has been highly valued by UNESCO experts as well as those from the U.S., India, France and Belgium.

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