



Phnom Penh, 30 May 2011

STATEMENT

The National Committee for World Heritage wishes to express its appreciation for the continuing efforts made by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, in working to assist Cambodia in its efforts to address the urgent needs for protection and promotion of the Angkor Wat Temple.

As an outcome from the visit to Cambodia and Thailand in February 2011 by the Special Envoy, His Excellency Ravindra Mahapatra, Member of the Board of Directors, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Director General of UNESCO.

Recently, at their meeting the heads of the Thai delegation, Minister Sontia Khakphet, conveyed that Thai officials visited the site of the Angkor Wat Temple and concluded that their visit was in line with the Temple's existing situation. The visit by Cambodia's Minister Ravindra Mahapatra in Phnom Penh on 27 May 2011, together with the visit of the expert's mission presented by the Cambodian delegation, based on video footage and a written report on site, during and subsequently visited Cambodia from 11 to 15 May 2011.

Participants at the meeting in Phnom Penh, last week, the Thai delegation unanimously accepted to abstain from any further visit to the site, as they have already visited the site in Cambodia several times, and only after the deterioration of the works. However, the Director General should bear in mind that the number of UNESCO, which together with the World Heritage Committee, is working to address the protection and promotion of the site.

The National Committee for World Heritage wishes to express its appreciation to Cambodia and the international community for protecting and promoting the temple, including those capable of making immediate measures to prevent further deterioration of the temple, as well as their responsibility and responsibility during the Temple's operation as a result of the impact of the 1975 period of French military that was faced within its perimeter during the February attacks.

The Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova has said, "the world's cultural heritage should never be a victim of conflict."

For more information, please contact: ncwh@ncc.gov.kh or www.ncc.gov.kh