

# In Focus

The Center for Khmer Studies

No.6, 2008-2009

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## Mission Statement

The Center for Khmer Studies promotes research, teaching and public service in the social sciences, arts and humanities in Cambodia and the Mekong region.

### CKS seeks to:

- Promote research and international scholarly exchange by programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region,
- Strengthen Cambodia's cultural and educational structures, and integrate Cambodian scholars in regional and international exchange,
- Promote a vigorous civil society.

CKS is a private American Overseas Research Center supported by a consortium of educational institutions, scholars and individuals. It is incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA. It receives partial support for overhead and American fellowships from the US Government. Its programs are privately funded.

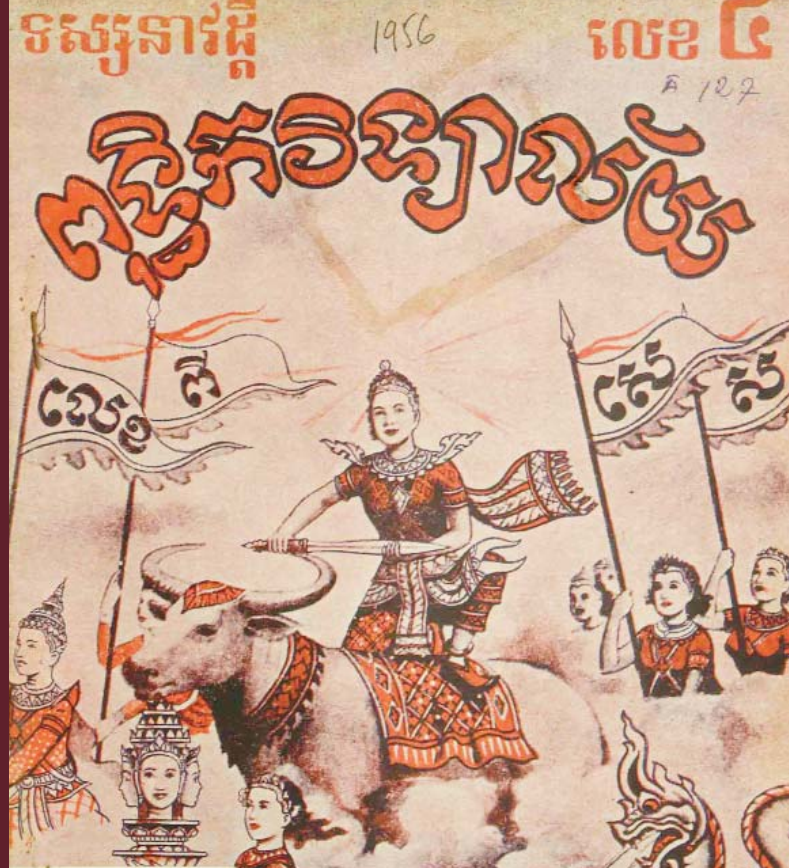
CKS is the sole member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in Southeast Asia.

CKS's programs are administered from its headquarters in Siem Reap and from Phnom Penh. It maintains a small administrative office in New York and a support office in Paris, Les Amis du Centre d'Études Khmeres.

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One of the fragile rare books, in digital format, at CKS's library in Siem Reap and the National Library in Phnom Penh.

H.M. King Sihamoni of Cambodia is the royal patron of CKS's library. At an audience in July with our Director and board member H.E. Son Soubert, H.M. King Sihamoni expressed his enthusiastic support of the plans and model for our new library by making the very first Cambodian donation to its construction.



A Wat Damnak monk in front of CKS Library



# WELCOME TO CKS!



CKS President Lois de Menil

"What is the Center for Khmer Studies?" The second question people put to me after the first, often elliptical one: "What do you do?" "Well," I reply, "I... and I am the President of the Center for Khmer Studies." "Khmer" means Cambodian. And "Khmer" is also their language, inherited

from those who built the vast empire that once stretched across the Mekong watershed into modern Thailand, Laos and Southern Vietnam as well as Cambodia.

CKS is an American Overseas Research Center. Our doors are open to scholars from around the world. We are privately funded, but also receive support for fellowships from the U.S. State Department and partial support for operations from the U.S. Department of Education. Our program also addresses our host country, Cambodia, and increasingly, the Mekong region. We use the synergy of our international scholars' presence to run training programs for junior faculty at Cambodian universities—to teach them the tools of scholarship that enable them to teach better, to pursue research, to participate in workshops and conferences that we sponsor—in short, to do what scholars do. Our translation program makes available texts in Khmer to use in their classrooms.

We are training young archaeologists at the first Cambodian-led archaeological field project ever, at Sre Ampil, a pre-Angkor site southeast of Phnom Penh. Other programs address the world of today—urbanization, minorities, economic development. In the arts, we are helping to document and catalogue the National Museum collection; and archiving Khmer traditional dance. All of these Cambodian programs are privately funded by our contributors.

Another face of CKS is our research library in Siem Reap. From the first, in order to promote reading culture, we opened our reading room to the public. Then extended its hours, then made it six days a week. We love our reading room, filled with kids in

local high school uniforms—future leaders? It is quiet, busy and orderly in our library. Everyone is reading—and now they fill the terraces and the lawn, too. We are swamped with books, and with readers. It's a delightful conundrum.

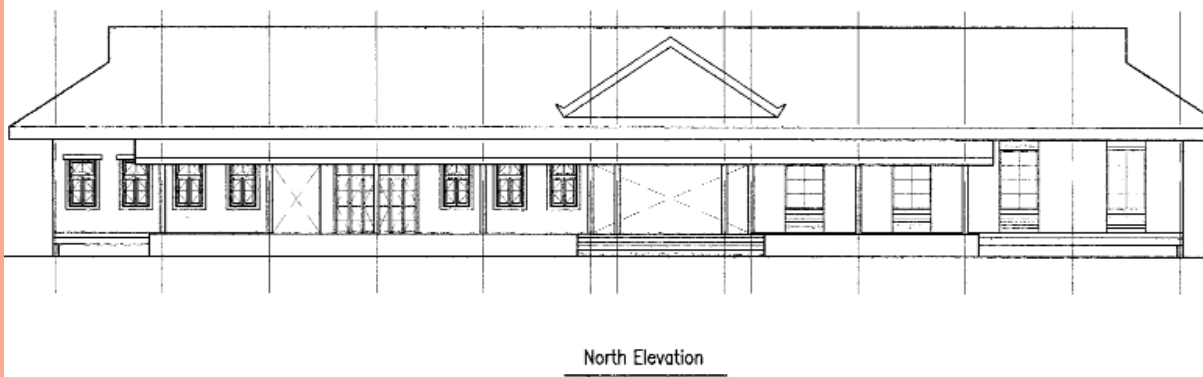
I have just returned from a June trip to Siem Reap to complete plans for our expanded library, already two years in the planning. As I arrived one morning, a young girl, who had not found a seat inside, was collecting frangipani blossoms for a design on the lawn: "CKS" on the top, and 3 hearts underneath! I reached for my camera, but in shyness, she blew it away. And smiled. It was a wonderful, if transient moment that said more than a thousand words.

Our new library will respect the natural environment, circulating air flow beneath a high overhanging roof to protect books from mold and direct light. Electricity will be generated by donated solar panels on the south-facing rear roof. (Electricity, from Thailand, costs more than in New York City.) The old building will now be expanded for wider use by the local community. It will be more spacious, and will have more public computers with free Internet access.

The new research center behind it will provide extensive digital resources, much-needed book storage, carrels for scholars and a seminar room. Two local architects will oversee its construction—our CKS architect, Chhim Phet, and Yoko Koide, a talented young Japanese woman, who trained with Tanaguchi, came to Siem Reap to design a building for the Japanese Government, and married a Khmer.

Well, we need your help again! Especially now. At every step of our ambitions, there were those who said we could not possibly do all that. And we did. CKS has seen its role as providing both hope and skills. I think of that young girl making her frangipani hearts on our lawn, and I know we will build our new library. Please help us.

**Lois de Menil, Ph.D.**  
**President**



# Director's Note



CKS Senior Scholar Prof. Alan Kolata and Philippe Peycam at the 2008 conference on Higher Education

IN SEPTEMBER 2007, CKS received good news from the U.S. Department of Education that our grant application to its American Overseas Research Centers Program – ‘Title 6’ – had met with success. This four-year grant was the result of a very competitive application process involving everyone at CKS, from our senior staff to academics on our board and our chairman, to our program assistants, and it kept us intermittently engaged for the better part of a year. This teamwork is a hallmark of CKS and is a source of pride in our collective accomplishments.

The Title 6 grant is important because it provides partial support for many ‘core’ program activities, like the library, our journal *Siksacakr*, our conferences, and a program to train Khmer language instructors for English speakers. It will also contribute to broadening CKS’s reach as the only American Overseas Research Center (AORC) in all of Southeast Asia, allowing us to begin providing support that links American and regional scholars and institutions. Title 6 will shift the programmatic scope of CKS, slowly moving it from its primary emphasis on running training programs in Cambodia to



Model of new library building





*2008 Summer Junior Fellows in front of CKS Library.*



*Professor Frank Smith at Training Seminar*

a new focus that places broader emphasis on scholarship in the Mekong region.

CKS nonetheless remains committed more than ever to the academic and social development of Cambodia, our host country – our current plan to expand the library facilities at Wat Damnak is an example of that enduring commitment. We will now begin to include support of research and teaching-based activities throughout the whole Greater Mekong region in our scope, including Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Southwest China, Burma and Vietnam. Our capacity to impact scholarly activities in these countries will be, at the outset, limited to promoting comparative perspectives similar to what we currently support in Cambodia. It will mean inviting scholars specializing in these countries to participate in our programs. We will ensure that the highest standards will continue to apply to the selection of participants in our regional fellowship programs, the peer-reviewed papers for our conferences, and evaluation of all our programs, to the benefit of all our partner institutions.

In the future, CKS will forge connections with a number of regional partners, especially in the immediate neighboring countries of Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. Discussions are already underway with potential new American partners and funders whose

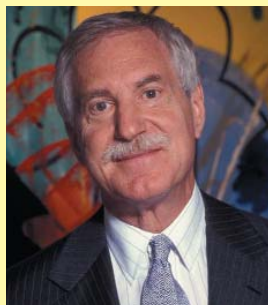
focus is regional, like the Council on International Education Exchange's Vietnam office, the Harvard-Yenching Institute and the Rockefeller Foundation, with its new regional focus. We hope that these initial discussions will lay the foundations for a stronger American scholarly presence in the Mekong region.

Closer to home, the Title 6 grant has enabled CKS to free our existing resources to move forward a number of important tasks high on our agenda, such as the expansion of our library facilities at Wat Damnak and the construction of a new office and research spaces there. It also encourages us to project more field-based, applied, scholarly initiatives between dynamic U.S. universities and institutions in the region. The upcoming international roundtable on the urban development of Siem Reap, In the Shadow of Angkor, in partnership with the University of Southern California Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development and the Getty Conservation Institute, attests to this new level of pro-active applied scholarly involvement in the social, cultural and economic development of the region.

**Philippe Peycam, Ph.D.**  
Director

# Members and Benefactors

## Olivier Bernier, Vice President



Young men and women, monks in search of learning, guides who need to know more about the great temples of Angkor, and a few visiting scholars: when we see the readers who use the CKS Library, we are also looking at one of the real hopes for the future of Cambodia. In the few schools scattered in the countryside, the level of teaching is too often pitiful. The universal destruction –of people, learning and buildings- carried out by the Khmer Rouge has yet to be overcome. There is one hope on which all agree: education is where the future lies. And what we see in the Library, every day, is a population seizing a chance to educate itself.

Education, the building of intellectual capacity, is what we are all about. Of course, our efforts take many forms. We offer extremely well-attended courses to junior faculty so as to improve the quality of their teaching; we send Khmer students to universities in Thailand, Singapore and India so that they may study at first-rate institutions –there is still not a single accredited

university in Cambodia. We offer fellowships to Khmer, American and French students; we hold conferences in which important cultural and social issues are discussed; and finally we have a publication program so as to bring to all literate persons the kind of informative texts which are otherwise wholly missing.

All this requires funding. While certain programs are financed by eminent foundations, we must still take care of the Center's daily functioning. Just how successful we have been is shown by our need for an additional Library building. There is no longer enough room for the books or the readers. Naturally, that is good news; but it also means that we need you more than ever. When you help us, you are also giving young men and young women a chance to educate themselves, and thus build a better life for themselves and their country. You may also be sure that the tax-deductible contributions you make to the Center are not squandered: we watch every dollar with the utmost care.

We know that life is difficult everywhere, but here is a case where even small sums go a long way. Won't you help us help the young people of Cambodia?

## Join CKS!

Participate in our growth and development by becoming a member. Your contribution is essential for sustaining our program:

- Support CKS's Library Fund: our library's expansion and new building; acquisition of books, equipment and computers, and the training of our librarians
- Support important public services: free lectures, publications on contemporary and historical subjects, and translation of essential educational materials into Khmer
- Help us train junior faculty at the universities, to rebuild a country where the entire higher education sector still bears the effect of a vicious civil war.

### Annual Membership categories:

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# We Need You!

**Support our Library (\$10,000)**

CKS's Library is the largest public library in all of Cambodia outside Phnom Penh. Our major initiative this year is breaking ground on a new library building to store books and fragile materials, such as rare books, expanding the public reading room to allow more space for browsing the shelves, reading and using the computers.

**Sponsor the Translation of Educational Texts (\$5,000)**

In the absence of essential books in the Cambodian language (Khmer), CKS is actively involved in translation and publishing. A donation of \$5,000 or more will defray costs for an average 300-page book and will be acknowledged in the publication.

**Donate** a new computer to our library (\$1,500)

**Connect** the CKS Library to the worldwide web for one year (\$2,000)

**Digitize** a collection of books from a major Southeast Asian library (\$5,000)

**Place** your name on a bookshelf containing approximately 400 titles (\$8,000)

**Join** the Director's Circle and place your name on a plaque in the new library (\$20,000)

**Thank You for Your Support!**



# The CKS Library : Under the High Patronage

## You can find Det Chanden, 18, at the CKS Library in Siem Reap almost every day...

Dressed in the regulation school uniform of blue pants and a crisp white shirt, he sits quietly reading, hunched over a book or perched on the terrace at the back of the library if there are no seats inside. No noise seems to pierce his keen concentration on the book in front of him. Whenever he has free time, Chanden will devour anything from dictionaries to novels to newspapers; he says he learns things from these books that he “cannot find or cannot learn at school, but [he] can learn at CKS”.

Chanden wants to be a teacher when he grows up and he has been coming to the CKS Library since last year, when his friends told him about it. Chanden studies at Hun Sen Wat Svay High School, not far from Wat Damnak, but he keeps coming back to the CKS Library to learn about those things that aren't covered in school, like history and culture and general knowledge from books and current events and news about society in the newspapers.

The only thing he didn't like? Chanden says that he wishes the library had more seats, because, as more readers come to the CKS Library, sometimes there is nowhere to sit.



Det Chanden reading in CKS's library

Since CKS's library opened its doors 8 years ago, our staff, scholars, patrons and its many daily visitors have watched its collection grow from two shelves in one bookcase to a whole reading room lined with bookcases containing over 5,000 books, monographs, theses, journals, dictionaries, maps and guidebooks covering the history, literature, archaeology, arts and architecture, religion and politics of Cambodia and Southeast Asia. Our collection continues to grow rapidly both through generous donations of collections and an active acquisition policy. Newspapers in Khmer, English and French are delivered daily, and are bound and archived, preserving a first-hand record of contemporary Cambodia. Our library holds the largest collection outside the capital, Phnom Penh.

Not only is the book collection growing, but our digital resources are growing as well. Currently, CKS has three public computers – two are equipped with free internet access, and the third is the Performing Arts Music Station, which features an important collection of Cambodian traditional music from the archives of our partner, Cambodia Living Arts. Our library catalogue is online and is fully searchable through our website. This year, we are especially pleased to announce that our Library now offers access to JSTOR, the essential online archive of over one thousand academic journals in the humanities, social sciences and sciences. JSTOR is the scholar's most valuable research resource. This costly subscription is made possible by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). This year, our consortium member Cornell University will digitize its Southeast Asian collection for CKS, and we will add the invaluable digitized resources of that extraordinary library collection to our own.

CKS has also been partnering with the National Library of Cambodia, in a project to digitize endangered rare documents housed in the National Library. The most fragile materials were digitized by KhmerDev, who also developed a search engine for digitized Khmer materials in Khmer, English and French. Both the search engine and the digitized materials are now available on computers in the CKS Library, enabling users to access these historical materials with a stroke of the keyboard.



# Age of H.M. King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia

Our public is growing too. Eight hours a day, six days a week, the CKS Library is open to the public, who are free to browse its collection. In addition to our research scholars, over 40 students per day pour into the library, from its opening at 8am until closing at 5:30, and many more spill over onto chairs on the back terrace, when there is no more room inside- and even into the shade under the frangipani trees on our campus lawn.

Our Library's most pressing challenge? Not surprisingly, space for our growing collections and our increasing number of users! CKS will be breaking ground this year on a much anticipated spacious new library facility, just behind our current one, to house our collections. This has been 2 years in the planning, and we hope it will be completed by summer 2009. We will then renovate and expand the reading room of our current library to provide more room for our regulars, young and old, whom we hope will continue to grow with CKS, and continue to fill our study tables and cluster around our computers to discover the world beyond Siem Reap, as they browse our materials in Khmer and English, exploring the past history and grandeur of their own country.



*Students reading books outside the library*

## Wat Damnak Celebrates Gift of Buddha Relics

Cambodia's many pagodas reflect the social and religious influences of Buddhism, so deeply embedded in Khmer culture. Wat Damnak is one such place. Visitors are immediately struck by the serenity and the beauty of the monastery: the main prayer hall soars gracefully toward the sky; simple cement buildings house the monks; cylindrical *stupas* –shrines that are a tribute to ancestors – are looked after regularly by caring families; students sit on the grass under the frangipani trees, reading, talking and playing games. CKS is honored to share a corner of Wat Damnak.

A recent addition to Wat Damnak is a new three-story cement *Stupa*, richly gilded, decorated with flowers and treated with reverence by passersby that draws one's attention immediately. We asked the Venerable Chhun Choeurn, First Deputy Head Monk of Wat Damnak, to explain to us the importance of this new building: "Dharma, the cosmic law of existence, inspires faith in karma, an individual's ethical destiny. The power of karma is generated by a person's dutiful actions, for example, doing good will return good. Dharma is the cosmic force which protects them, inspiring them to avoid sin."

Wat Damnak's commitment to Buddhism, education and the community recently resulted in a great honor. The new *Stupa*, is home to relics of the Buddha obtained from Sri Lanka. Housed in two safes on the top floor of the *Stupa* flanking a beautiful image of the Buddha crafted out of silver and decorated with golden cloth and two eyes of diamonds. The Buddha relics, *Sari Rak Theat*, are an auspicious and holy addition to Wat Damnak and a source of great pride and excitement.

Thousands of people from all over Cambodia attended the three-day inauguration ceremony, *Bon Chlarng Preah Kunkouet*, that began on March 30, 2008. The ceremony featured a procession through the town of Siem Reap by 300 monks, Buddhist scholars, thousands of lay people and elephants decorated in silks of red and gold. During the night, flowers and other offerings were laid before the statues of the Buddha. The third day of the ceremony found monks and laypeople chanting Sanskrit and Pali verses as the 300 monks filed past a line of laypeople dressed in their best, and eager to fill the begging bowls of the monks with money, rice, water, fruit, and vegetables.

## The Khmer Dance Project

Accompanied by the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, King Sisowath of Cambodia went on a trip to France in 1906, two years after ascending the throne. France responded warmly to the exotic beauty of the dancers in the king's entourage. The famous sculptor Rodin was so enchanted by the dancers that he drew numerous sketches of their fluid, graceful movements, and followed them to Marseilles. Lamenting their inevitable departure, a moved Rodin wrote, "What an emptiness they left me with."



*Apsaras dancing at an Angkor temple*

I thought they had taken away the beauty of the world. I followed them to Marseilles; I would have followed them all the way to Cairo."

Khmer Classical Dance is now known worldwide. However, no systematic inventory of Khmer dance has ever been undertaken that includes its history, its masters, its music, gestures and costumes. The opportunity to inventory this information is fast fading as the old masters and their vast reservoirs of knowledge are disappearing.

Dance culture was transmitted orally, from master to pupil for generations. Under the Khmer Rouge regime, from 1975 to 1979, Khmer Classical Dance was banned in Cambodia. Artists were executed, or died from malnutrition, illness and starvation. By the collapse of the regime in 1979, Khmer Classical Dance had almost entirely disappeared, with only a very few survivors left. Since this brutal period, old masters have worked to revive the memory of their art form, including the gestures, music, and all the crafts that make Khmer Classical Dance so unique. Their efforts were finally rewarded, when UNESCO designated Khmer Classical Dance as part of the World's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Khmer Classical Dance is now facing a new challenge. Cambodian society is undergoing huge transformation. Institutions that formerly supported the traditional performing arts, such as the formal royal court, are no longer functioning. At the same time, the impact of globalization and Western culture is undermining the value accorded to traditional arts. Pop culture is increasingly taking precedence over this graceful traditional art that inspired Rodin to drop everything, and travel



from Paris to Marseilles to make 150 of his most famous drawings. Preserving a record of traditional Khmer dance is therefore urgent.

The prospect that Khmer Classical Dance's tradition is now at risk of being lost led CKS to initiate a project to repertory the history and practice of this extraordinary art form to document it for generations to come. In collaboration with the Dance Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and with funding by the Anne Hendricks Bass Foundation, the KDP will amass a comprehensive archive on Khmer Royal Dance, with the ambition of making this information publicly available to dancers, scholars and the wide circle of those interested in this art form. A comprehensive database will be created and preserved— the first ever — featuring written documents, letters and notes, photos, costumes, videos and music. This material will be digitized for the widest possible accessibility.

## CKS/National Museum of Cambodia Inventory Project

CKS's National Museum of Cambodia Inventory Project, funded by the Leon Levy Foundation, has almost completed an enormous in-depth study of museum holdings that have been recorded, photographed and located.

Over four years, the project digitally photographed and documented all metal objects (8,390), wood (555), ceramics (4,714), horn & bone (55), plastic (12) and manuscripts (22) in the museum's collection. Currently under study is the last part of the collection-- its sandstone objects. To date, 1,633 stone objects (just over half) have been recorded.

The project has also examined old documents, such as old register cards (first used by George Groslier and then later re-catalogued by Jean Boisselier); and old photographs related to the museum's history-- both the museum building and the history of its works of art.

In 2007, a team under the direction of Mr. Hab Touch, the Museum's new director, was created to work on the descriptions, measurements, and documentation of each piece of the collection, beginning with the metal objects. All information concerning these objects has been computerized.

This CKS project is of enormous importance to the Museum and its collections. Staff can now access the objects easily. In the past, it sometimes took a week to find one object in the storeroom. Now, just one click on the computer allows staff to locate the object and all of its documentation. The inventory project also provided invaluable support for the metal and stone conservation laboratories. A ceramic laboratory will be opened in the near future. Staff can now easily locate pieces and check them for condition surveys. Students and scholars, both national and international, can also now access and search the collection for their research.



*Shrine with Hevajra (maṇḍala)  
Angkor period, Bayon style, late 12th-early 13th C.*



*National Museum of Cambodia*

## CKS Conference Stipends

CKS conferences, workshops and symposia provide a unique opportunity for all scholars of Southeast Asian studies to present the results of their research, to meet new colleagues and discuss partnerships and new directions in the field. Part of CKS's mission is to increase the opportunity for exchange between American scholars and Cambodian and international scholars. This year, with support from the U.S. Department of Education, American Overseas Research Centers Program (Title VI), CKS is now able to ensure American participation at our conferences in Cambodia by offering American scholars and students a small stipend to cover travel and accommodation for their trip from the United States. Speaker stipends are provided on an individual basis and selected by the steering committee of each conference. We look forward to introducing new academics to CKS and Cambodia through this program!

## Higher Education in SE Asia: Global Challenges 10-11 January 2008

Building human resources is essential to economic and social development. Whatever the stage of their development, each Southeast Asian country has tried to address this fundamental issue by improving their system of higher education. Retaining skilled human resources then presents yet another challenge in the context of global competition for highly



Board member Prof. Rethy Chhem, M.D., at 2008 Conference on Higher Education.

qualified human resources.

This conference offered a platform for experts from Southeast Asian institutions of higher education to explore three major themes. The first addressed faculty development, the key human resource for any educational institution that wishes to provide students with the best learning experience. The second theme included the analysis and evaluation of the role of information technology in the enhancement of teaching and learning. Finally, the issue of transnational higher education explored how a foreign educational model can enhance existing higher education institutions in Southeast Asia.

Eighty participants from 14 countries in Europe, America, and Australia, and almost all Southeast Asian countries attended the conference. Several topics addressed higher education issues specific to Cambodia, such as institutional knowledge production, transnational education, teaching ecology management and CKS's own Junior Faculty Training program. The best papers, selected by peer-review, will be published in a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Comparative and International Education in the winter of 2009.

## Cambodia and Mainland Southeast Asia at its Margins: Minority Groups and Borders 14-15 March 2008

Issues surrounding "margins", "minorities" and "borderlines" raise difficult questions for Cambodia, a country swept up in the process of globalization and struggling with the implications, and consequences, of development. Nothing is as solid as it seems – neither physical borders nor the concept of Cambodia as a nation-state.

This conference held at CKS's Siem Reap campus was the capstone event of the fifth session of CKS's Junior Faculty Training Program. In addition to its Cambodian junior faculty participants, it gathered 28 presenters from around the world to explore complex regional issues. The liveliest discussion revolved around the topic of the promise and costs of economic development. Peter Hammer, Visiting Scholar for the program, launched the discussion with his keynote address, *Development as Tragedy: The Asian Development Bank and Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia*.

Presenters explored the effects of development in Cambodia's remote northeastern provinces, home to Cambodia's ethnic minorities. Using narratives and interviews Margherita Maffii (University of Milan, Italy), examined the changing gender roles and women's status among indigenous communities in Cambodia, while Tive Sarayeth (Women's Media Center, Phnom Penh) discussed her work in producing a six-part documentary series: *Voices of Women from Ethnic Minority Groups*.

Ethnicity is not the only dimension along which a group can be marginalized. The conference also focused on questions of social exclusion and the construction of identity. Darren Zook (University of California, Berkeley), spoke about disability

### Voices: Paul Nietupski, CAORC Multi-Country Research Fellow Cincinnati, Ohio

In Cambodia, I worked at the CAORC-affiliated Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap. The [management], Cambodian staff and research colleagues at CKS provided excellent support and scholarly resources for my work there. CKS functions well as a research center for students and scholars and a place for sharing and exchanging ideas. It is an outstanding, well managed, and well run facility. It was an excellent place to begin my project. I spent a month at CKS and was able to focus on my project... My work at CKS was definitely productive.

At the end of his stay, Paul donated a very important book on Sanskrit to the Library.



and civil engagement in Cambodia. Ed Green (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia) presented a paper on *The Important Forgotten - Men Living in Rural Indonesia Who Have Sex With Men: The Implications for HIV Education*, providing narrative insight into an often invisible community and examining how this group addresses the borders constructed by family, culture and religion.

A number of the papers will be published by CKS as a part of a series of Conference Proceedings.

## Upcoming Activities

### Roundtable on Siem Reap: Urban Development in the Shadow of Angkor

Over a year of consultations between CKS, the Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development, the Getty Conservation Institute and the APSARA Authority went into preparing a Roundtable Forum to address the complex interplay between rapid urbanization of the Angkor region and conservation of its vulnerable cultural heritage.

In past years, APSARA and the Provincial Authority of Siem Reap worked with others to produce an Integrated Master Plan for Sustainable Development of the Siem Reap - Angkor Region. The Siem Reap Forum will convene international experts and local scholars to advise APSARA and its partners on crucial next steps in carrying forward this Master Plan, based on lessons learned and experience from around the world. This Forum will add to and complement the recommendations already put forth by the International Coordinating Committee of UNESCO.

The Forum is a unique model of international collaboration where global and local experts meet, where scholars and practitioners converge. Its model is typical of CKS's attempt to bridge applied and theoretical approaches, with the long term commitment to building Cambodian civil society through knowledge and education.

### Archaeology Workshop River Crossings: From the Irawaddy to the Mekong

Paving the way for regional collaboration in Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, CKS's Junior Faculty Training Program will hold a two-day workshop, in Siem Reap, Jan. 13-14, 2009, on the Archaeology of Mainland Southeast Asia. The workshop will draw together young scholars in archaeology and ancient studies from the region in order to build bridges and to encourage new cross-border research. The workshop is

funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

## CKS Lecture Series

The CKS Lecture Series held at the CKS Conference Hall in Siem Reap continues to generate widespread interest among fellows, researchers and local residents. In February 2008, board member Dr. Benny Widiono delivered an engaging and highly entertaining lecture entitled '*Dancing in Shadows, Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and the United Nations*'. Based on his recent book of the same title, attendees were treated to an informative account of the shortcomings and flaws of the Paris Peace Agreements, and the subsequent UNTAC operation, and the impact these have had on the trajectory of Cambodian political development since. Benny's lecture caused quite a stir, and was the subject of many lively discussions following the lecture. Future lectures will include presentations by CKS senior research fellows, and a much anticipated lecture by the Siem Reap Bureau Chief of the English language newspaper, the Phnom Penh Post, on the role of print media in Cambodia's post-conflict development. Details of these upcoming lectures can be found on the CKS website.

### Ancient Khmer Ceramics: The Revival of Ancient Crafts

CKS, in collaboration with the National Center for Khmer Ceramics Revival and Heritage Watch, is hosting a 3-day conference on Ancient Khmer Ceramics, December 10-12, 2008 at the CKS Conference Hall in Wat Damnak. This event kicks off the second annual International Khmer Ceramics Festival, which runs from December 11 to 29 and brings together Cambodian and international scholars specialized in ancient Khmer and Mainland Southeast Asian ceramics and contemporary potters with craftspeople, working to revive ancient production techniques. In light of illicit trading in antiquities, the objective is to raise awareness about the archaeological importance of ancient Cambodian and Mainland Southeast Asian ceramics, and to highlight the new opportunities for sustainable economic development in the region through the contemporary revival of ancient crafts.



Young potter practicing ancient craft

Please check our website [www.khmerstudies.org](http://www.khmerstudies.org) for upcoming conferences, workshops and events

# SIEM REAP: URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE SHADOW OF ANGKOR

Eric Heikkila and Philippe Peycam

In the shadow of Angkor, the city of Siem Reap is rarely considered in terms of its own social, economic and cultural dynamism, and the way its social fabric interacts with the neighboring World Heritage site of Angkor.

## Siem Reap and Angkor

Listed in 1993 as one of UNESCO's World Heritage conservation sites, the ancient Angkor temples in Cambodia have long been a source of fascination for visitors from abroad, while also playing a pivotal role in economic development and nation building efforts within what is now the Kingdom of Cambodia. During the past fifteen years, the fascination with Angkor has manifested itself in the mushrooming of tourism in the region. Although tourism is primarily focused on the monuments, its economic impact has transformed the neighboring rural town of Siem Reap. The sudden transformation of a largely rural setting into a locus of international tourism and trade is dramatic. As an emerging urban center, Siem Reap has in turn become a pillar of the service and related industries that support the tourist trade. Cambodia is one of the poorer countries in the region. Most observers concur that, as a cultural beacon, Angkor is an important driver of economic development not only for Siem Reap, but for the country as a whole.

The relationship between cultural heritage preservation and economic development in Angkor is both complex and historically rich. The monuments, dating from the 8th – 14th century AD, mark the flourishing of an extraordinary Khmer civilization centered in Angkor that had run its course by the middle of the 15th century, when the capital was relocated to Phnom Penh. With the highly publicized “discovery” of Angkor by French journalist Henri Mouhot in 1860, the monuments acquired additional layers of meaning when the Parc Archéologique d’Angkor became the symbol that justified French colonialism in Indochina and beyond. Now, fifty years into the post-colonial era, Cambodian governmental authorities increasingly use Angkor as an icon of nationhood and hence for establishing legitimacy both domestically and internationally. Thus, issues of economic development in the urban area around Siem Reap are inextricably tied to the great

iconic monuments of Angkor. Likewise, practical aspects of cultural heritage preservation depend in many ways on the nitty-gritty economic development in the burgeoning “cosmopolitan hamlet” of Siem Reap.

## The City

Siem Reap is located on the Siem Reap River, which flows south from Angkor to the Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. In ancient times, approaching Angkor from the Tonle Sap along the river, a traveler would encounter a series of small pagodas and surrounding villages along the way. Siem Reap was one such location, situated roughly halfway between Angkor Wat and the average flood line of Tonle Sap during the wet season. The primary mode of transportation was water-based, and these routes followed north-south from Angkor to the Tonle Sap, draining eventually into the great Mekong River system.

Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh, lies further south along the Mekong, and is therefore more proximate to seaborne trade and navigation. With the delineation of the Angkor archaeological park and preservation zone by French colonial authorities in 1920, Siem Reap became the focus of town-related development catering to the area. It was here in the early 20th century that the French established a modest colonial administrative presence for the region, lingering traces of which can still be seen in Siem Reap today. Population data is sketchy, but the population of Siem Reap in late colonial



Figure 1. Schematic map of Siem Reap.



times likely numbered in the order of tens of thousands of people. This number remained relatively stable through-

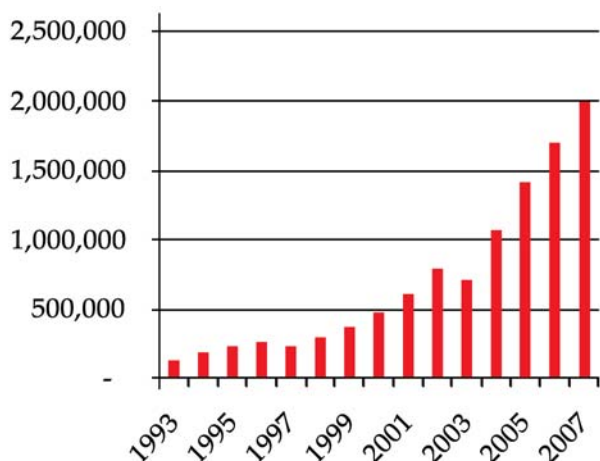


Figure 2. Tourist visits to Cambodia

out the colonial and early post-colonial period, but was decimated by the systematic de-urbanization policies of the Khmer Rouge in the late 1970s. Population returned warily during the era of Vietnamese rule during the 1980s, but only began to grow dramatically in the years following the peace accords, in Paris in 1991.

During the most recent period of relative stability, there has been exponential growth in tourism to Angkor, and Siem Reap has begun to grow commensurately, its current population approaching two hundred thousand. Although the initial north-south axis linking Siem Reap to Angkor is still important, major new development has an east-west orientation (figure 1).

The burgeoning growth in Siem Reap is the result of

tourism, which, as shown in figure 2, has doubled in the past three years, from one to two million visitors. This is an order of magnitude higher than in the previous decade, and represents a compound growth rate of 22.5% over the past fourteen years or a seventeen-fold increase over that period. Informality has characterized much of the unfolding urbanization, both in newly developed outer areas and in the central town area.

The resultant impact on Siem Reap can be seen in several characteristic aspects of urbanization. Most obviously, one finds a plethora of hotels: a recent survey reported one hundred thirty hotels and a comparable number of guest houses in the Siem Reap area. Increasingly, these are located outside the town center: along the east-west National Route 6, the north-south link from Siem Reap to the Angkor Park, and secondary roadways.

Different types of tourists and the manner in which they relate to the Angkor monuments readily impact the patterns of urbanization. The largest contingent of tourists visiting Angkor is the Cambodians. Of a different nature from their international counterparts flocking to Angkor, Cambodian tourists are a distinctive group. They come from all over the country, especially from the capital, Phnom Penh, but also from the Cambodian Diaspora all over the world. Their visit to Siem Reap - Angkor amounts to a kind of pilgrimage combining both the religious and patriotic significance of Angkor. More than simple visitors, they now represent the bulk of real estate investors – those who stay, but also own hotels, villas, and now apartments. Some services typically cater to these domestic tourists, like the 'Cambodian Cultural Village', a Sino-Cambodian joint-venture, which aims to narrate the historical development of Cambodia from the 'ancient' to the 'modern' eras.



Recent urbanization along National Route 6



Local market in central town area

Casinos, restaurants, wedding facilities, and real estate agencies are other kinds of services typically aimed at Cambodian visitors.

Among foreign tourists, of the top ten countries in origin, only the U.S., France and the U.K. are non-Asian. By far, the single largest source of tourism to Cambodia is Korea, which accounts for one sixth of total visits. This is more than twice the number from Japan, and it exceeds the combined visits from the United States and France, the two largest non-Asian contributors. The overwhelming majority of these Asian visitors arrive on group tours that can best be described as 'self-contained'. Typically, they arrive at hotels that are set well back from the roadway, with grounds that are cordoned off by imposing walls and gates. Bus transportation and meals are included in the package, and hotels offer spa services, international cuisine, cable television in assorted languages, internet services and other amenities.

A related aspect of urbanization is the appearance of guest-houses of varying quality and size that cater more to backpackers. These are more scattered in their location, and their visitors are generally inclined to interact more spontaneously with their surroundings. Yet another emerging urban phenomenon that one finds in Siem Reap is blocks of large shop-house developments, such as the one depicted



*Newly constructed guesthouse towers over shops*

that is peripheral to, but ultimately rooted in the tourist trade. Real estate speculation is rife in such developments.

It is difficult to convey adequately the dizzying array of such developments that are sprouting up in seemingly random fashion throughout formerly rural Siem Reap. Not only are master plans quickly out of date due to the rapid pace of development, but they are often difficult to access and their enforcement is often problematic to absent. This is compounded by the fact that there is no municipal authority for Siem Reap. Instead, development falls under the jurisdiction of Siem Reap Province and of the Authority for the Protection and Safeguard of Angkor, APSARA – the same authority that is responsible for conservation of the vast ensemble of Angkor monuments. Not surprisingly, the provision of urban services tends to be uneven at best, and is highly skewed towards meeting the perceived needs of tourism. The seasonal flooding that helped support traditional rice-based agriculture is less conducive to today's daily routines of urban life. In addition to its lack of adequate physical infrastructure, the rapid development of Siem Reap poses more vexing issues regarding the ultimate purpose and value of an urbanization that feeds from and in turn supports economic development centered on the Angkor monuments.



*Shop-house development on urban fringe*

above. These are targeted to appeal less to foreign tourists than to an emerging Cambodian middle-class of shop keepers, who might support a local urban lifestyle

*Eric Heikkila is Professor at the University of Southern California, and Executive Secretary of the Pacific Rim Council for Urban Development. Philippe Peycam, Ph.D., is Director of CKS.*



## Translation Training Program

Responding to the lack of written materials to support education, CKS took on translating important books and texts into Khmer, in 2005. But the absence of professional translators posed a serious setback. In early 2007, we finally undertook a special training program in translation open to young scholars in our Junior Faculty Training Program, and began publishing a series of digests of core texts, translated into Khmer by them for use in classrooms at their home universities. *Contemporary Southeast Asian Studies*, the first publication in our Southeast Asian Studies Series, was published at the end of 2007. We are now carrying forward with the next four publications in this series. One year ago, we would never have believed we could translate and publish such a wide variety of papers, with our young trainees, in just two years' time.

It has been a great challenge for them to learn more about the Khmer language usage itself, and, at the same time, to enter into the different cultures and contexts of the authors in order to grasp their point. Translating a simple word is one thing; translating complex texts that are clear,

intelligent, and true to their original meaning, is another thing entirely.

This year, we have worked on numerous subjects – history, politics, religion, gender and ethnicity, to name just a few. Our young translators often face problems, when they lack the general background knowledge necessary to a clear understanding of the topic. We found that a valuable step was to encourage, and indeed require, that they search on their own how to fill in those gaps. And this is where they say they have actually learned the most. We delight to tell you they report that translating is fun. We have learned so many things, taking us outside the borders of Cambodia, they tell us. CKS is currently releasing the second publication in the Southeast Asian Studies Series, to be followed closely by the third, fourth and fifth issues. Our biggest project, translating Milton Osborne's major text on the region, *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*, is in the final review phase. As all CKS texts, it will be sold at subsidized cost to make it widely available. Please keep an eye on our website for information!



Cultures and Identities: Cambodia in the Southeast Asian Context

## PEN Comes to Support Cambodia's Writers and Publishers

In collaboration with CKS, a delegation from the American chapter of PEN, the international professional writers' organization, representatives of American publishers and the International Freedom to Publish Committee visited Cambodia from January 16-18, 2008. International PEN was created in 1921, in the words of its founder, Catharine Amy Dawson, "to draw the nations together...in literature." PEN has 141 centers around the world, and is the world's oldest human rights organization and the oldest international professional writers' organization.

The purpose of PEN's first visit to Cambodia was to begin an exchange with potential Cambodian partners from the Book Federation of Cambodia and Cambodian publishers, writers, translators, printers and librarians. Topics of discussion included: writers' status and freedom, the economy of publishing, translation (especially from English into Khmer), and particular fields, such as academic publishing and fiction. The two very full days included site visits to publishing and printing houses in Phnom Penh and a workshop at CKS, which gathered distinguished individuals from Cambodia's literary circles.

# JUNIOR FACULTY TRAINING PROGRAM: ACHIEVEMENT AND BEYOND

*Without CKS sessions, I would not understand well social and political phenomena that had happened in Cambodian as well as other societies. Both theories and practical examples that each professor provided to us are very useful, not only show us how to observe, analyze, and write academic papers, but also provided us with effective and systematic teaching methods.*

*-- Pong Pheakdey Boramy, now in an MA program at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.*

The Junior Faculty Training Program is an ambitious CKS project, with public and private Cambodian university partners, to strengthen Cambodian higher education. It is now in its fifth year, in an initial ten-year projection.

Cambodia's educational system was shattered by a deliberate policy of destruction under the Khmer Rouge regime. Teachers were killed or fled, never to return. As a result, Cambodia's universities are still not accredited, lacking both qualified scholars and teaching materials.

Rebuilding educational infrastructure at all levels is a daunting task. Looking to the future, CKS decided to focus on junior faculty at the Phnom Penh universities. Participants are chosen through a competitive application for the semester-long program, which centers about a seminar curriculum, and stresses teaching as well as research skills. Seminars meet at CKS's Phnom Penh

facility, in an open setting where they can freely discuss social, political and academic issues. Over 70 young Cambodian scholars have now participated.

The first semester of the program is intended to enrich participants' knowledge base and research skills through weekly academic seminars. It is followed by a study tour to neighboring countries, supervised individual field projects, and participation in international conferences. The program takes place in English, both because it is the language of the Visiting Scholars who teach, and also to enable Cambodian participants to learn and contribute to discussion in English.

What has contributed significantly to the success of the Junior Faculty Training Program is the motivation and spirit of its Cambodian participants, whose dedication to improve academic standards in their country inspires us. It is also the senior Visiting Scholars, who direct each session, and guest lecturers (including Cambodians trained abroad), who understand the importance and challenge of strengthening the professional capacity of these young Cambodian scholars. Their dedication is, in turn, an example to the young Cambodians, who experience first-hand quality academic teaching, along with guidance and support in undertaking scholarly research.

The first 2008 JFTP session is in archaeology, linking

## Voices: Chap Prem Junior Faculty Training Program, 2005



I first heard about CKS through a friend who was chosen for the Junior Faculty Training program, early in 2005. I learned more about CKS and wanted to become a part of this program that worked with junior faculty from other Cambodian institutions and professors from all over the world.

After applying for the next session, I worried that I wouldn't be selected. I was only a second-year masters' student in sociology and anthropology at the Royal University of Phnom Penh with aspirations of continuing my studies, and the program was aimed at training social science lec-

turers already on the faculty.

I was thrilled to be admitted to the program in September 2005 for the semester on *Cultures and Identities in Mainland Southeast Asia* with Prof. Penny Edwards, the renowned Southeast Asian historian. She personally guided me through the six months of the intensive program, as I attended the seminars and workshops and conducted my own research project. During those short six months, I had the opportunity to get to know, study and debate with students from different institutions. I also had a chance to meet distinguished international scholars and professors, but this was just the beginning of those I would meet through CKS, and where they would take me.



with CKS's Sre Ampil Archeological and Conservation Project, supported by the Scaler Foundation. This is the first Cambodian designed, led and implemented archeological field project ever, and is used to train young archeologists. The second 2008 session of the JFTP will cover modern Southeast Asian history, a subject requested by our partner universities to strengthen their

departments. The Rockefeller Foundation has funded the JFTP from the start. It has recently changed its leadership and program direction. The JFTP received two more years of Rockefeller funding in 2008, bringing it half way to its 10-year target. CKS is therefore actively seeking funding to extend this vital and effective training program.

## Khmer Language Teacher Training program

Learning a language is a challenge at any time. Learning Khmer in Cambodia poses its own challenges. The Khmer language courses available to English-speaking scholars in Cambodia are inconsistent and of questionable quality. The only real language training available, aside from programs outside the country, is by private tutors with little exposure to teaching methods, and who often rely on photocopies of substandard curricula. CKS has received numerous requests to recommend a good Khmer language teacher or class, and we have been unable to do so with confidence. We have therefore decided to take this on.

In partnership with the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), CKS is implementing a program to train language instructors for English speakers systematically as part of our Junior Faculty Training program. The three-month session is designed for the Khmer language instructors at RUPP, but will also be open to others wishing to attend. The curriculum is designed by Frank Smith, a Khmer language lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, who also leads the summer Khmer language program at the University of



*Khmer language teacher*

Wisconsin. The CKS training course will be taught by Khmer language instructors, who were previously Mr. Smith's students. CKS is eager for this opportunity to train a new generation of competent Khmer language teachers. Our ambition is to develop a substantial pool of teachers with quality credentials.

After my semester in the Junior Faculty Training program, five other participants and I were chosen to work on another CKS project—Initiating Urban Cultural Studies in Cambodia. Again under the supervision of Dr. Edwards, this research project focused my interest in urban sociology and anthropology. At the recommendation of Dr. Edwards and with support from CKS, I attended an international conference, *Southeast Asia: a Global Crossroads, SEASREP 10th Anniversary*, in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Dr. Edwards suggested that I attend the CKS Resident Junior Fellowship Program in Siem Reap during the summer of 2006. This summer program gave me both a chance to further my own scholarly interest and the invaluable experience of sharing knowledge and culture with French and American students my

own age for two months. There, I met Dr. Leakthina Chau Pech Ollier, a Cambodian writer and scholar. I found this experience so valuable that I applied again for the 2007 Summer Program where I met a talented and well known Cambodian scholar, Dr. UM Khatharya, an associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Their support and guidance truly helped me to envision where I wanted to go in my career, and how to make that dream a reality.

*Since completing the programs at CKS, Chap Prem has become a lecturer at Mean Chey University, Cambodia, a new public university. He has recently been awarded a CKS grant for an MA in Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University, Thailand, which he began in May 2008.*

## SUMMER JUNIOR RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Building on the success of previous years, the 2008 Junior Resident Fellowship Program welcomed to our campus in Siem Reap 15 more enthusiastic students from Cambodia, France and the USA. Beginning in early summer, the two-month program provides a combination of academic challenge and rewarding personal experience. The program is run in collaboration with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Two college-level courses, 'Cambodian History and Culture' and 'Nation-Building After the Khmer Rouge,' are designed to maximize students' learning and critical thinking about historical and contemporary Cambodian social, political, and economic issues. The courses were taught in 2008 by Southeast Asian scholars, Brian Zottoli, CIEE Resident Country Director for Cambodia, and Dr. Trudy Jacobsen from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

CKS Junior Fellows attend daily Khmer or English Language classes, and conduct individual research projects. Both Trudy and Brian were on hand to give fellows regular structured guidance and supervision on research methods and practical solutions to the challenge of doing social science research in Cambodia. Academic rigor was balanced with extra-curricula activities, such as volunteering to teach English at Wat Damnak's Life and Hope Association, field trips and outings in and around Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. These activities contributed to a lively atmosphere of cultural and educational exchange, as fellows mixed with the local community and their peers from diverse backgrounds.

This valuable academic and personal experience is made pos-



*CKS Summer Junior Resident Program orientation*

sible by continuing support from the Henry Luce, Florence Gould and Cogut Family Foundations. From the moment they arrive in Siem Reap for orientation, fellows embark upon a journey of investigation and discovery that positively reshapes their perceptions of Cambodia, Cambodians, their fellow students and themselves. They leave the program with an enduring conviction of the vital importance of inter-cultural educational exchange in an increasingly interdependent and globalized world. This vision is at the core of CKS's mission, renewing our hope that the Junior Fellowship Program will remain a central component of the Center's activities.

## Voices: Hart Feuer

### CKS Junior Fellow, 2004



I have often viewed academia simply as an opportunity to study about, and make a career out of, one's individual interests and concerns.

For me, Cambodia has been a long-term passion dating back to my teenage years in Portland, Oregon, where I became acquainted with a

Khmer refugee family. After years of hearing all the family's stories about Cambodia and enjoying their cooking, I

longed to visit for myself. I finally did so in the summer of 2004, when I became a Junior Fellow in residence at CKS. This was the very first year of the CKS Resident Junior Fellowship program, and it was an eye-opening experience for us all.

That summer in Siem Reap changed my academic career forever. As a rather innocent student of economics in my undergraduate degree, I came to realize how limited my view of Cambodian development was. Fortunately, the scholars at CKS, especially the anthropologists and historians, helped me see through a more nuanced and multidisciplinary lens, expanding and refining my understanding.



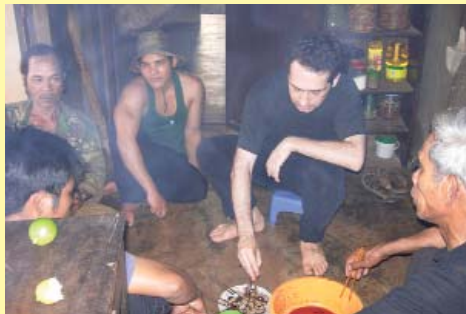
## SENIOR FELLOWS 2008-2009

Thai and Cambodian states, local and national-level business associations, migrant workers and civil society organizations. The purpose is to understand the role of Burmese and Cambodian workers employed in border SEZs, as they are vulnerable to exploitation in factories engaged in highly competitive global production networks. **(CAORC/ECA)**

**Aude Nguyen** is a clinical psychologist who has been working in Cambodia for almost two years with severely disadvantaged children. As a result of this life-changing experience, Ms. Nguyen decided to pursue a Master's degree in transcultural psychology at University of Paris 13/Villetaneuse. Through the study of children and their families affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, she explores the psychological context - the social and economic components of HIV - which is characterized in Cambodia by discrimination, poverty, isolation, loss and difficult access to education for children. Through interviews with HIV-positive patients, Ms. Nguyen seeks to examine how the psychological consequences of HIV on the families combines with the trauma resulting from past experience of the Khmer Rouge regime. **(Florence Gould Foundation)**

**Rebecca Hall** (Ph.D. in Art History from UCLA) will pursue post-doctoral research examining the Buddhist Banners of Cambodia: Form, Function and Significance. Cambodian Buddhist banners are a colorful addition to the sacred space surrounding a Buddha image or in the exterior space of a wat. In this project Dr. Hall will study banners in different regions of Cambodia, documenting the appearance of the banners, as well as the stories and meanings intrinsic to each one, and how these details vary according to their place of origin. This attempts to establish a much-needed perspective on Cambodian Buddhist banners - the producers of the banners, for what purposes they are hung, and how these banners compare with those in other parts of Theravada Southeast Asia. **(CAORC/ECA)**

**Jérémy Jammes** is conducting post-doctoral research in social anthropology on the Austronesian (Êdê and Jörai) and Austroasiatic (Mnong) ethnic groups. Comparing minorities groups in Central Vietnam and in the Northeast of Cambodia (Rattanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces), he will gather historical as well ethno-



During a pig sacrifice in an Êdê village, Central Vietnam 2007

logical data to analyze state policies concerning these ethnic groups from the 70s until now. His research emphasizes the geopolitical role of this border area and its inhabitants. Dr. Jammes will also investigate the interethnic relationship during the Lon Nol Republic, the Khmer Rouge, the Vietnamese occupation and in recent years, including the influences of illegal logging, trafficking, human rights NGOs and Christian churches. Jérémy Jammes is a post-doctoral member of the academic Group Sociétés Religieuses Laïcités (CNRS-Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes) in Paris. **(Florence Gould Foundation)**

**Sebastien Preuil**, is a Ph.D. candidate in geography and economics at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University (France) His research topic is Tourism and Patrimony in Siem Reap Region: Which Durability? Angkor and the Tonlé Sap, the "great lake", are living sites, where humankind is completely integrated into the landscape, molding it over the centuries. Using the Angkor Archaeological Park, its material and immaterial heritage, and the Tonlé Sap Lake, with its biosphere reserve and floating villages as his primary research sites, Mr. Preuil's research aims to analyze how such a renowned site, welcoming up to 2 million visitors per year, can manage sustainable tourism. He is also examining the economic, ecological and social sustainability of other tourism projects carried out in the biosphere reserve and lake villages of Tonlé Sap. Is it possible that decreasing the pressure on the natural and cultural environment could bring about a decrease in poverty and an improvement in the living conditions of the local population? **(Florence Gould Foundation)**

**Gabrielle Abbe**, a Ph.D. candidate at Paris I/ Panthéon Sorbonne in history of international relations, seeks to evaluate the role of cultural and artistic factors in relations between France and Cambodia during the colonial period (1863-1954) and after. Under the French Protectorate, art was a main focus of colonial policy in the museum, the school of art and archaeological work. After independence, art retained its prominence, notably with the presence of French researchers and teachers at the University of Fine Arts, in the museums and with the academic presence of the Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient. Ms. Abbe's research in archives and interviews with former cultural actors during this period, will seek to explore impact of the foreign role on the cultural identity of Cambodia and the development of its artistic heritage. **(Florence Gould Foundation)**

**Haejeong Hazel Hahn**, Ph.D. (Seattle University). Dr. Hahn will pursue 2 projects. *Urban Planning in Hanoi, Phnom Penh and Saigon, 1910-1945*, on urban planning projects and uses of public space, examines the relationship between French and indigenous councilors, as well as

# SENIOR FELLOWS 2008-2009

Supported by the Florence Gould Foundation and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers/U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

**Daniel C. O'Neill**, a Ph.D. candidate at Washington University St. Louis, is exploring the political drivers of Chinese investment in Cambodia. From 1980-2000, Cambodia was among the top ten global recipients of Chinese investment, and in recent years, it has been the prime destination for Chinese investment in Southeast Asia, receiving in 2004-05 more than twice as much as any other country in the region. This research project forms a case study, which focuses on why Chinese investment abroad increasingly goes to developing states, and often to very high-risk states. Mr. O'Neill seeks to link Chinese government policies, from subsidies for firms investing abroad to China's bilateral relations, to the high level of Chinese investment in Cambodia and other developing countries. (CAORC/ECA)

**Hedwige Multer o'Naghten** is a Ph.D. candidate at the Sorbonne/ Paris III. The reign of Jayavarman VII has frequently been described as one of the most significant in Angkorian history. This research project, *Spatial Organization under the Reign of Jayavarman VII: A Geopolitical Viewpoint* proposes a vision of his reign from both an historical and religious point of view. Using iconographic, epigraphic and architectural information relating to monuments as well as to the spatial organization of the kingdom, Ms. Multer o'Naghten will assess current knowledge, sorting out hypothetical information and that

accepted as fact to yield a new vision of this enigmatic ruler. (Florence Gould Foundation)

A Ph.D. candidate in geography at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, **Dennis Arnold's** research subject is *Cross-border Regions and Scaling of Development: State, Business and Civil Society in the Mekong Sub-region*. Special economic zones at the borders of Thailand, Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam are emerging as global production centers with significant implications for industrial organization and migrant labor. Examining the complex network of actors in the cross-border region, Mr. Arnold's research focuses on the inter-related roles of regional and international actors, including the Asia Development Bank, the



Young garment workers at machines in Cambodian factory

My research study on social capital and marketization in peri-urban Siem Reap ended up setting the tone for much of my later intellectual endeavors.

It was only natural that I continue my investigations into Cambodia for my Masters at Oxford University. With the help of my Khmer language ability and the many friends and connections made during my time at CKS, I had ample support when I arrived back in Cambodia in 2007 for field-work. I even made the CKS office my base when I was in Phnom Penh, although I spent most of my time in the field studying sustainable agriculture in Takeo province.

With my Masters behind me, and doctoral research in Cambodia on the horizon, I know that Cambodia and I have only just begun a long relationship together.

*Hart Feuer is now a PhD student at the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn.*



## SENIOR FELLOWS 2008-2009



Napoleon III building inside grounds of the Royal Palace, Phnom Penh.

those between the councils and other authorities. Rickshaws, housing crises, segregation, radical politics and visionary urban planning projects will be considered. The second project, *Travel and Tourism in Southeast Asia, 1880-1950*, explores the development of tourism in Indochina, which played a significant part in French colonial ambitions, both for economic benefit and politics of prestige, and by the 1930s, tourism was at the forefront of colonial planning. Centralized plans for developing the infrastructure for tourism were revised many times between the Ministry of Colonies and the colonial government. (CAORC/ECA)

**Sarah Womack**, Ph.D. Entitled *The Mind's Eye in the Tropics* this project traces the manner in which two distinct aesthetic traditions - Cambodian and French - came together during the colonial period, transforming each other and the physical environment that informed them. These mutual influences produced a way of perceiving the world that was neither exclusively Southeast Asian nor European, but distinctly colonial. Dr. Womack will be using techniques of historical archaeology to map the changing physical form and public culture of colonial Phnom Penh, tracking policies and debates relating to streetlights, traffic, parks, urban planning, and architecture, among others, to trace the transformation of understanding and uses of urban space. (CAORC/ECA)

**Jenna Grant** is a Ph.D. candidate in cultural anthropology at the University of Iowa. Her dissertation research examines biomedical images, such as x-rays and sonograms, asking what it means to visualize something previously invisible, and what effects imaging processes have on notions of health and disease. With research sites in the capital, Phnom Penh and the northwestern province of

Banteay Meanchey, she will trace the production and interpretation of biomedical images through participant observation in clinical settings, interviews with medical practitioners and patients, examination of hospital records, and archival research on historical imaging practices. Though focused on a particular form of modernity, Ms. Grant's research contributes more generally to understanding contemporary life in Cambodia, and the social studies of clinical science and technology. (CAORC/ECA)

**Jared Cahners** is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Anthropology. His research, *Negotiated Encounters: Ecotourism in Northeastern Cambodia*, is based in the far northeastern province of Ratanakiri.



Buddhist Banners of Cambodia: Form, Function and Significance

Populated by indigenous peoples, many areas of this province are slowly becoming more integrated with the rest of the country and the world, as businesses and tourists realize the natural, economic, and cultural resources of the region. This project will examine some of the changes that this increased interest has brought - in particular, the infrastructure that makes Ratanakiri

accessible and how the built aspects of the environment constructed for both new vehicles and people, has altered the landscape and has changed the ways indigenous people interact with it. How do new "modern" landscapes influence new indigenous ways of understanding their world? (CAORC/ECA)

**Sylvia Nam** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Her project examines the role of risk and speculation in the urbanization of Phnom Penh - specifically contemporary urban practices that are remaking the city today. The objective of this project is to explore the historical and political conditions in the production of social, material and lived spaces, and to forefront speculation in governing the socio-spatial practices of urban residents towards welfare and wealth creation alike. Ms. Nam's broader research interests include development theory and practice, political economy and gender, and urban theory. (CAORC/ECA)

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*Cambodian student reading book on the back terrace of CKS's Library*

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