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Study visit to Thailand of Cambodian Artisans and Cultural Officers *******

H.E. Dr. Michel Tranet, member of Cambodian Commission for Joint Research on Culture with Thailand, Deputy Director of N ational Commission for UNESCO and former Under Secretary of State of Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, led a group of Cambodian artisans and cultural officers comprising of H.E. Mr. Kimthan Hing, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Cult and Religions, Mr. Sothy Chhim, artist painter and researcher, Department of Plastic Arts and Crafts, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Mr. Mony Yim, designer and architect, Lotus Pond Company and Mr. Virakbot Yeang, lecturer of epigraphy and culture, Royal University of Phnom Penh, to visit Thailand during 22-28 August 2004 with a view to promoting cultural cooperation and better understanding between Thailand and Cambodia. The visit is a program under the Thailand-Cambodian Commission on Promotion of Cultural Cooperation. During the visit the Cambodian delegation met and exchanged views on cultural cooperation with H.E. Mr. Tej Bunnag, Co-Chairman of the Thailand-Cambodia Commission on Promotion of Cultural Cooperation, H.E. M.R. Chakrarot Chitrabongs, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, H.E. Mr. Arak Sunghitakul, Director-General, Department of Fine Arts. Ministry of Culture, Mr. Poot Veraprasert, President of Silpakorn University and Mr. Kiattikhun Chartprasert, Deputy Director-General, Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. They discussed several cultural cooperation issues of mutual interest.

The Cambodian delegation also shared the knowledge and experience on cultural heritage and conservation with the Thai side throughout the study visit. On 24 August 2004 H.E. Dr. Michel Tranet gave a lecture on Ancient Khmer Temples to Thai scholars and students at the Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University.

Besides, the Cambodian delegation visited the Grand Palace, Color Production and Research Project and Arts Galleries of Silpakorn University, study visit on wood

carving, costume jewelry, sculpture, wall painting and lacquer/glass works at the Office of Architecture and Traditional Arts, Fine Arts Department in Bangkok and visited Baan Prasat Archaeology Site, Prasat Phimai and Phimai National Museum in Nakorn Ratchasima Province.

The study visit has helped to set a foundation for cultural cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia in the future.

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