



สถานเอกอัครราชทูต  
ณ กรุงพนมเปญ

# ข่าวสารนิเทศ Press Release

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**Closing Remarks**  
**by Mr. Tej Bunnag, Co-chairman of the Thailand-Cambodia Commission for Promotion of Cultural Cooperation,**  
**at the Closing Session of the First Commission Meeting,**  
**19 May 2004, Phnom Penh.**

Professor Dr. Sorn Samnang,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the First Meeting of the Thailand-Cambodia Commission for Promotion of Cultural Cooperation reaches conclusion, I wish to thank the members of Commission for their participation and valuable contributions during this Meeting. I wish also to take this opportunity to thank Professor Sorn Samnang for his excellent co-chairmanship which helped to guide this Meeting through intensive discussion to constructive results. I was delighted that we were able to talk frankly and openly on matters of mutual interest and of high sensitivity. As one of the Cambodian participants said: "We have to take the bull by the horns". This is consistent with the spirit of friendship and mutual respect and I am proud to be part of this historic event, which will surely lay a sound foundation for stronger cultural ties and mutual understanding between our two countries and peoples.

With the progress from this meeting, you may agree with me that we have opened a new stage in our relations of cooperation based on mutual trust and confidence through frank and open dialogue. We have started our work well. Let us continue together in order to make this Joint Commission an effective mechanism for the further development of Thailand-Cambodia bilateral relations.

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that the various proposals and initiatives from this Joint Commission will receive full support from our governments. Our recommendations, particularly on our objective to extend every activity of this Joint Commission to reach people at the grassroots will be most fruitful in the long term. The agreement that the role of mass media in the promotion of mutual understanding of the two peoples is essential.

I was also impressed by the enthusiasm expressed by the participants of both sides. I am particularly pleased to note that we agreed to move this Joint Commission forward. While plenary meetings will take place regularly at least once a year, we agreed to establish working groups to continue our work in the interim.

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Writing history in an alternative way from nationalistic textbooks was also proposed. In this regard, the Meeting agreed to explore the possibility of establishing working groups on history education and culture education to look into the matter with a view to learning and understanding history in an objective, dispassionate and disinterested manner, in the belief that what happened in the past belongs to the past while we should be sharing and building for the future. Moreover, beyond preservation and conservation of culture in all its manifestations, there is room for creation and innovation in this new chapter of history we are going to write together.

Professor Dr. Sorn Samnang,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that, given the friendship and goodwill prevailing between our two governments, we will be able to consult each other often, to meet each other often so as to establish regular contacts among commission members. I believe that, with our joint efforts, long-lasting cultural ties between our two countries can be accomplished, and trust, confidence and mutual understanding at the people-to-people level can be achieved.

Thank you. I am looking forward to receiving all of you in Bangkok for our next meeting.

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