

## CAMBODIA, THE BEAUTIFUL





## **Cambodian Community Day**

Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 12 PM - 6 PM

Ben Brenman Park | 4800 Brenman Park Drive | Alexandria, VA

A festival to promote Cambodian Culture in the United States
And
Cambodian Higher Educational Program

Co-sponsored by The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, Cambodian Community Day Committee, Western Union, and the Cambodian communities of Washington, D.C Metro Area.

www.cambodiancommunityday.org





## Message from The President



My dear friends,

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of you who have come to participate in the Cambodian Community Cultural Festival today. Each year, the Cambodian Community Day Committee, known as CCD, works very hard to improve the yearly event by showcasing different aspects of the Cambodian Culture. We hope this year's event will be of interest to you. We are pleased to present 'Cambodia, the Beautiful'. With this theme in mind, we picked two regions that we believe are rich in culture and tradition: Pailin and Tonle Sap regions. Please stop by each tent and learn as much as you can about their Cultures.

For those of you who have never been to Cambodia, you may find the Angkor Wat replica a fascinating sight. This replica is a sculpture made out of stone that closely represents the real Angkor Wat temple, except it is on a much smaller scale. We spent over \$6,000 to purchase it in Cambodia and transport it to the USA. We accept your generosity to help defray the cost. Please stop by our information booth.

The CCD is a not-for-profit organization founded to present, promote, and preserve the Cambodian culture in America. While we believe integrating our culture into mainstream America is important, we also believe in the value of keeping and passing our cultural heritage on to our children. As such, on the eve of 'Mother's Day' 2009, we organized a candle light ceremony at the 'Mother's Day Celebration Night', during which the participants paid their dearest respect to their mothers. In this event, we organized the mother-and-daughter-look-alike contest and a Young Cambodian-American Talent Show. Both activities drew excitement and appreciation from the crowd.

Also, we are networking with other organizations of similar purpose. We have provided scholarships to three students via the CEE Foundation. We believe that higher education will improve quality of life. On August 1st and 2nd 2009, we participated in 'Destination Asia' during an Asian Festival in Reston, Virginia.

I hope you enjoy the festival, and that today's event will help you understand our culture a little bit better.

Sincerely,

Sophia Tep

Cambodian Community Day

My his P. Tep

President

#### ប្រីយមិត្តជាទីមេត្រី,

ជាបឋម ខ្ញុំសូមថ្ងៃជំអំណរគុណយ៉ាងជ្រាលជ្រៅចំពោះវគ្គមានរបស់ប្រីយមិត្តក្នុងថ្ងៃនេះ។ រៀងរាល់ឆ្នាំ គណៈកម្មារទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរបានខំប្រឹងប្រែងនាំ មកបង្ហាញនូវទិដ្ឋភាពប្លែកៗនៃវប្បធម៌ខ្មែរយើង។ ឆ្នាំនេះ យើងបានរៀបចំតាំងតំបន់ពីរដែលសម្បូរណ៍ទៅដោយធនធានធម្មជាតិ គឺតំបន់ប៉ៃលិននិង តំបន់ទន្វេសាប។ សូមអញ្ជើញទៅទស្សនាតង់ទាំងពីរ។ ជាបន្ថែម យើងបានចំណាយប្រាក់ជាងប្រាំមួយពានៈដុល្វាទិញសូមសំណាកអង្គរវត្តពីស្រុកខ្មែរ មកតាំងជូនទស្សនិកជនដើម្បីបង្ហាញនូវស្នាដៃរបស់បុព្វបុរសខ្មែរយើង។ ខ្ញុំជឿជាក់ថា ចំពោះអ្នកមិនដែលឃើញអង្គរវត្តពិតជាមានការរំភើបនិងកោត ស្ងប់ស្ងែងជាមិនខាន។ សូមប្រីយមិត្តមេត្តាជួយជាវិភាគទានដើម្បីសម្រាលក្នុងការចំណាយនេះ។

ទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរគឺជាអង្គការមនុស្សធម៌បង្កើតឡើងដើម្បីលើកដំកើង ផ្សព្វផ្សាយ និងរក្សានូវវប្បធម៌។ យើងយល់ថា ជាការសំខាន់ណាស់ដែលកូនចៅ យើងជំនាន់ក្រោយត្រូវតែបន្តការក្សាទុកនូវវប្បធម៌ខ្មែរនៅសហរដ្ធអាមេរិក។ កាលពីខែឧសភាកន្ធងមកនេះ យើងបានរៀបចំធ្វើពិធិរំលឹកគុណមាតា ដោយនៅពេលនោះ មានការប្រកួតប្រជែងមាតាបុត្រីមុខដូចគ្នា និងការប្រកួតប្រជែងទេពកោសល្យនៃយុវជនយុវនាវីខ្មែរ។ ទស្សនិកជនមាន ការសរសើរ និងពេញចិត្តនូវពិធីទាំងពីរនេះណាស់។ ខ្ញុំសង្ឃឹមថា ប្រីយមិត្តទាំងអស់នឹងបានទទួលការសប្បាយរីករាយក្នុងទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរថ្ងៃនេះ ហើយនិងបាន យល់នូវតម្ងៃនៃវប្បធម៌ខ្មែរប្រសើរជាងមុន។

សូមអរគុណ

ទេព សេវភ័ណ

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every year for the past 29 years, the Heritage of Cambodian Americans has been honored and celebrated in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area and in other parts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is home to many Cambodians who are rich in their cultural heritage and are very successful in their professional lives; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Cambodian Community in the City of Alexandria and in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area, will celebrate its rich heritage and culture through various cultural activities, live performance of classical, folk and traditional dances, arts and crafts displays, traditional games, and ethnic food tasting; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is very proud of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of its Cambodian citizens, and recognizing their continuing contribution to the culture, education, arts, industries, community, civic life, the City of Alexandria joins the rest of the Commonwealth in celebrating Cambodian Community Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim August 23, 2009 as:

#### "CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY"

in the City of Alexandria, and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in recognizing the multiculturalism and diversity of the Cambodian American heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2009.

MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia

AM D. EUILLE

ATTEST:

ue**lin**e M. Henderson, CMC



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### **FACTS ABOUT CAMBODIA**

#### At a Glance



**Population** 13,329,000

**Estimated Popula**tion in 2050: 27.420.640



**Capital and Population** 

Phnom Penh; 1,157,000

Area

181,035 square kilometers

(69,898 square miles, slightly smaller than timber, garments, rubber, rice, fish

Oklahoma) Language

Khmer (official) 95%, French, English

Religion

Theravada Buddhist (95%), Others 5%

Currency

Riel

Life Expectancy

54.44 male, 58.74 female (2000 est.)

**GDP Per Capita** 

U.S. \$1,600

Industry

garments, rice milling, fishing, wood and wood products, rubber, cement, gem minina. textiles

#### Agriculture

rice, rubber, corn, vegetables Arable Land 13%

#### **Exports**

**Imports** 

cigarettes, gold, construction materials, petroleum products, machinery, motor vehicles

#### **Natural Resources**

timber, gemstones, some iron ore, manganese, phosphates, hydropower potential **Literacy Percent** 

70





#### Geography

Cambodia covers an area of 181,035 square kilometers. The country's shape is an almost-square polygon. The country extends 440 kilometers from north to south and 560 kilometers from west to east. It is bordered to the North by Thailand and Laos, to the East and South by Vietnam, and to the South and Southwest by the Gulf of Thailand. Most of Cambodia's landscape is relatively flat and suitable for rice production, but there are mountainous areas, which include the Dangrek, Cardomen and Elephant mountain ranges. The coastal boundary is 440 kilometers with medium depth tropical sea, rich in aquatic creatures. In addition, there are beautiful, uninhabited islands, virgin beaches, white sand and fresh air.

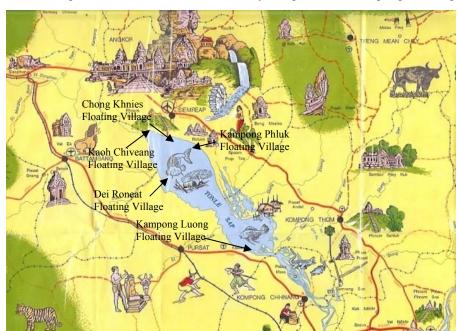
#### Climate and Seasons

Cambodia is a tropical country, bathed in sunshine almost all year round. It has a high average temperature. There are two distinct seasons, dry and monsoon. The monsoon lasts from May to October with southwesterly winds ushering in the clouds that bring seventy-five to eighty percent of the annual rainfall. The dry season runs from November to April averaging temperatures from 27 to 40 degrees Celsius. The most comfortable weather lasts from October to January.

## Discover Tonle Sap Lake ទី១ឧទ្ធេស្វាម

The Great Lake of Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia. It is a natural wonder of Cambodia, one of the unique geographical wonders of the world, and an ecological hot spot that was designated as a UNESCO biosphere in 1997. It is located at the central part of Cambodia and surrounded by five provinces: Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong

Thom.



The lake is linked to the Mekong River by the Tonle Sap River. From November until June the lake flows into the Mekong. However, each year during the rainy season (mid June- late October) the Mekong River is inundated with rain waters. Its lower delta becomes flooded and cannot flow into the sea quickly enough to eliminate all the excess water. This causes the Mekong River to rise enough to reverse the flow of the Tonle Sap River causing it to flow back into the lake. The lake expands from 2,500 km2 to more than 16,000 km2 (160 Km long, 100 Km wide, 9m deep) creating an enormous wetland area. This wetland area supports a tremendous amount of biodiversity including plants, reptiles, mammals, birds and other animals. Many of these are known to be rare or endangered. These wetlands are also an important breeding area for fish from the lake and Mekong River.

#### Tonle Sap Lake At a Glance

- cover 250,000-300,000 ha in the dry season, 1.0 - 1.6 million ha in the wet season
- Connect to the Mekong River by the 100-kilometer long Tonle Sap River
- reverse its flow seasonally
- 20% of the Mekong River's floodwaters are absorbed by the Tonle Sap
- 62% of the Tonle Sap's water originates from the Mekong River
- 38% of the Tonle Sap's water originates from the Tonle Sap watershed
- The Tonle Sap River flowing into the lake causes the lake's surface to expand from 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> to 16,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Fish caught from the Tonle Sap Lake provide 40-70% of the protein intake of Cambodia's population





journey in the Himalayas, flowing through China, Laos and Cambodia before discharging into the sea in South Vietnam. It merges into Tole Sap and Tonle Bassac rivers forming a four -face river in Phnom Penh. During the rainy season, the water is pushed up along the Tonle Sap river causing the expansion of Tonle Sap Lake area. The rivers and lakes of Cambodia are truly the lifeline for the largely agrarian and fishing society.

- a) 1.2 million people live in the area bordered by Highways No.5 and No.6.
- b) The Tonle Sap yields about 230,000 tons of fish per annual (more than 50% of Cambodia's total)

#### Sources:

- 1. Wikipedia (<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonle\_Sap">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonle\_Sap</a>)
- 2. Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Environmental Information Database (http://www.tsbr-ed.org/ english/default.asp)



## Discover Tonle Sap Lake



### Cont'd

#### **FISHERIES**

The pulsing system with the large floodplain, rich biodiversity, and high annual sediment and nutrient fluxes from Mekong makes the Tonlé Sap one of the most productive inland fisheries in the world. It yields about 230,000 tons of fish per annum (more than 50% of Cambodia's total) supports over 3 million people, and provides 60% of Cambodians' protein intake. At the end of the rainy season, the flow reverses and the fish are carried downriver. Three hundred species of freshwater fish in the lake ensure a livelihood for the many thousands of fishermen, who skillfully throw their nets from small wooden boats in centuries-old traditional ways.



Species inhabiting the lake include carp, catfish (weighing up to 135 kilograms), murrel, herring, climbing perch and gourami. Other species, eels, crabs and shrimp, are also significant catches on the Lake. There are large scale commercial fisheries, medium scale fisheries, and familytype fisheries. While annual

fish catch levels remains fairly constant, the number of key species and relative sizes of fish being caught decrease. An increase number of fishermen and fishing gears, an intense fishing, and deforestation of the surround-



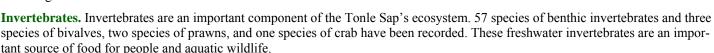
ing flooded area attribute to the problems. In addition, upstream dams and water resource projects on the Mekong affect flooding and sedimentation patterns for the Tonle Sap. Regeneration of fish stocks depends on seasonal flooding and the inflow of sedimentation to maintain productivity of fish spawning and feeding grounds.

#### BIODIVERSITY

The Tonle Sap floodplain is an habitat for many species. Its ecosystem is essential to the survival of many globally significant species of birds, mammals, and reptiles found around the lake during migration.

**Flora.** The flooded forest of the Tonle Sap remains the largest diverse habitats in Southeast Asia. It includes shrub lands, stunted swamp forests, gallery forests, and submerged and floating aquatic vegetation. Waterways are filled with reeds, water lilies and lotuses. About 200 plant species have been recorded.

**Fish.** The fisheries of the Tonle Sap and the Tonle Sap River account for 50 to 70% of all the freshwater fish catches in Cambodia. The fisheries productivity of the lake is known to be one of the highest in the world.



**Mammals.** There are as many as 46 mammal species in the vast region of Tonle Sap Lake. Some large species such as the Asiatic elephant and tiger used to migrate from upland areas to the Tonle Sap through natural corridors. The natural habitats of these mammal species are hampered by deforestation for profits and to make room for agriculture.

**Birds.** Tonle Sap Lake sustains the largest colonies of water birds in Indochina. Its floodplain is an important breeding area for ducks, jacanas, bustards, rails, herons and egrets, cormorants, darters, ibises, pelicans, and storks. Some 225 species of birds have been recorded since 1960s.

**Reptiles and Amphibians.** Little is known about the existence and distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Cambodia. There are probably 42 species of reptiles, including one endemic water snake, seven turtles or tortoises, and one crocodile.



#### **BIRD SANCTUARY**

An aquatic habitat attracts thousands of birds and fish-eating waterfowls who flock to the wetland before the rain begin in June. The bird sanctuary at the Prek Tuol is the best place among the three Biosphere core areas of Tonle Sap Lake for astute birdwatchers to enjoy. It is considered "the single most important breeding ground in Southeast Asia". Covering an area of 31,282 hectares at the northwest part, Prek Tuol plays host to species including Greater and Lesser Adjuncts, Black-headed Ibis, Painted Stork, Milky Stork, Spot-billed Pelican, Grey-Headed Fish Eagle and many more. Traveling to these



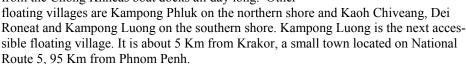


astounding bird watching areas remains difficult during dry season. However, it is the best time of the year because, as water recedes, the number of birds increases and flocks of migratory birds congregate at Prek Tuol.

#### FLOATING VILLAGES

Tonle Sap Lake is home to many floating villagers (see page 7 for map). Chong Khnies is probably the most accessible village. It is about 15 km south of Siem Reap town. Boat tours are available, departing

from the Chong Khneas boat docks all day long. Other



People live, work, fish, and shop at the floating village. Tourists may make a tour boat. Wooden motor boat or canoe are common form of transportation activities for visitors from one village to another village. They are reasonably cheap, but it is unsafe if going





farther from the shore as the water becomes deeper. The water is shallow for most times of the year (1 meter or less around the shore), except during the rainy season when the lake expands its size and it is as deep as 9 meters at the heart of the lake. All villages are floating ashore during that time of the year for safety reason. Most villagers make a living doing something else beside fishing. For others, fishing is their profession. Fishes are sold to the local villagers. The surplus is brought to the mainland market throughout the country. The produces are imported from the mainland and are sold at the floating market stores or at the open area of the lake.



## Discover Kampong Chhnang Province



Researched by Komarbonn Holl, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

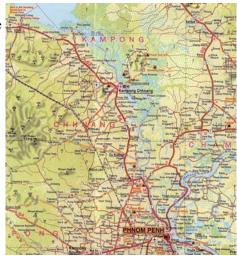
#### Overview

Kampong Chhnang (Clay Pot Port), on the Tonlé Sap River, is a tale of two cities: the leafy centre, its focal point a grassy park, and the bustling dockside. Nearby sights include two floating villages and a hamlet famous for its distinctive pottery. The word "kampong" means that it is a port. Kampong Chhnang has many floating houses along its river, and the word "Chhnang" is the Khmer word for pottery.

By land, the town is a straightforward stop on the way from Phnom Penh to Battambang, or an easy day trip from the capital, perhaps combined with a visit to Udong. You can also get to Kampong Chhnang by water; usually it's possible to get off the Phnom Penh-Siem Reap fast boat here.

#### **Geography**

Kampong Chhnang, one of nine provinces that is part of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, is a central province of Cambodia. Its capital is Kampong Chhnang Town. The province is famous for its clay pots. Kampong Chhnang is located 70 kilometers from Phnom Penh. Nestled along rivers, fishing is one its major natural resources. Rice and vegetable farming are also widely harvested.



#### **Climate**

Similar to the entire Cambodia, Kampong Chhnang has a tropical monsoon climate. December and January are the coolest months, while March and April are the hottest. The province's rainy season extends from May to October. Average annual rainfall is about 1,400 mm (about 55 in). The average annual temperature is about 27°C (about 80°F).



#### **Economy**

Kampong Chhnang's economy consists basically of fishery, rice and fruit cropping and several garment factories. Especially rural households depend on agriculture and its related sub-sectors.

#### **How to Get There**

The ferries linking Phnom Penh with Siem Reap pass right by Kompong Chhnang. If you'd like to get off here, inform the boat company in advance and they should be able to arrange for a local launch to pull up alongside the ferry and whisk you ashore. From the bus and taxi station, **Phnom Penh Sorya** (012 631545) has services to Phnom Penh (7500r, 91km, five or more a day to 3.30pm), Pursat (8000r, 97km, six a day till 4pm), Battambang (20, 000r, 202km, two or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours, five a day till 2.30pm) and Poipet (30, 000r, two a day in the morning).

#### **Tourist Attraction**

Ondong Rossey---The quiet village of Ondong Rossey, where the area's famous red pottery is made under every house, is a delightful 7km ride west of town through serene rice fields dotted with sugar palms, most with bamboo ladders running up the trunk. The unpainted pots, decorated with etched or appliqué designs, are either made with a foot-spun wheel (for small pieces) or banged into shape with a heavy wooden spatula (for large ones). Artisans are happy to show you how they do it.

Phoum Kandal and Chong Kos---A short sail from Kompong Chhnang's waterfront takes you to two colourful floating villages, Phoum Kandal to the east and Chong Kos to the northwest. Much less commercial than Kompong Luong, they have all the amenities a mainland village would have - houses, machine tool shops, veggie vendors, a mosque, a petrol station - except that almost everything floats. Many of the people are ethnic Vietnamese.

#### **Special Characteristic**

Pottery Development Center-

The golden-hued mud piled up in the yards of Ondong Rossey is quarried at nearby Phnom Krang Dai Meas and pounded into fine clay before being shaped and fired; only at the last stage does it acquire a pinkish hue. Pieces, including piggy banks, can be purchased at the Pottery Development Center. In Kompong Chhnang, several stalls selling Ondong Rossey pottery can be found on NH5 towards Phnom Penh from the centre.



### **Discover Pursat Province**

## ខេឌ្តពោធិ៍សាង

Researched and illustrated by Ben Bao. Source: Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia

#### Overview

Pursat is the fourth biggest province of Cambodia. The province is located in the western part of the country and borders clockwise from the north with Battambang, the Tonle Sap Lake, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Koh Kong, and Thailand. Pursat offers a perfect access to both the Tonle Sap (just 35km far) and the Cardamom Mountains (right to the West). The name of Pursat refers to a type of tree.

The provincial capital of Pursat is also called Pursat town. The city is located right in the middle between the Tonle Sap and the Cardamom Mountains on the riverbanks of the Stung Pursat. Pursat is the home of many marble workshops. The precious marble stones originate from the Cardamoms Mountain.

#### The Tonle Sap

Pursat province offers the magnificent opportunity to see one of the larger and markedly less touristy floating





villages without a significant investment in time or money. In fact, there are a number of floating villages in the province only accessible from the lake, Peach Kantil, Kbal Taol, and Prek Kr, but you can only see Kompong Luong for the cost of the day-rate for a moto (\$6-8) and the cost for a boat ride once you get there.

#### **Central Cardamoms**

Pursat offers a relatively easy way to enter this fantastic ecological wonder, the massive Cardamom Mountains. Accessing the central Cardamoms from Pursat is not too difficult as there is a road from Pursat to Veal Veng, a small village between the Mt. Samkos and Mt. Aural Wildlife Sanctuaries. There's really nothing to do but to take a drive through the country, to have a look at the mountains, and to talk to people who don't see many foreigners – and that is even worth it. There's no organized transport from Pursat to this place, but if you ask around you should eventually get satisfactory results.



### **Discover Pursat Province**

## ខេត្តពោធិ៍សាត់ Contrd

#### Geography

Pursat province is 12,692 square kilometres big. It's located in the Southwest of the country and is bordering to the North with Battambang, to the East with Kampong Chhnang, to the South with Kampong Speu and Koh Kong and to the West with Thailand. The province consists of some typical plain wet areas near the Tonle Sap Basin, covering rice fields and other agricultural plantations. The Tonle Sap itself covers a big part in the province's Northeast. Most surface area of the country is the Krâvanh Mountains, or literally called "Cardamom Mountains". This is a green, forested mountain range in the southwestern part of the province, near to the border with Thailand. The highest elevation is the 1,813m high Phnom Aural in the Southeast corner of the country.

#### Climate

- Cool season: November- March (18-28c)
- Hot season: March- May (22c -34c)
- Rainy season: May October (22-32c, with humidity up to 90%.)

Pursat's average temperature throughout the year is definitely lower than in other areas of Cambodia (except Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri Province).

#### **Economy**

Pursat's economy consists basically of agricultural farming, fishery, rice and fruit cropping in the North of the province near the Tonle Sap Basin. Beside this the harvesting of sandalwood oil, which fetches huge prices in Asia (but sandalwood trees are disappearing fast in Cambodia) is another livelihood for the locals. Unfortunately the illegal logging of precious hardwoods and the poaching of endangered species give some people an additional income.



#### **How to Get There**

Bus, Share-taxi: most tourists visit Pursat when they are on their way to Battambang or Phnom Penh.

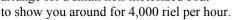
#### **Tourist Attraction**

#### **Cardamom Mountains**

A trip from Koh Kong to Pailin will cut through the Cardamom Mountains on the western edge of Pursat province. The Cardamom Mountains of Koh Kong and Pursat provinces are said to be the most pristine wilderness area remaining in Southeast Asia. This ride takes you through the area.

#### Floating Village of Lake Tonle Sap

Heading east from Pursat town, about one-third of the way to Kampong Chhnang town is the town of Krakor. Just a few kilometers to the north are Lake Tonle Sap and the floating village of Kampong Loo-uhng. It's a complete village on the water populated mostly by Vietnamese fishermen. You can arrange for a small non-motorized boat





#### Neak Ta Khleang Moeang

Neak Ta Khleang Moeang How to go: Location: Description: Is the main historical site in Cambodia and located at Snam Preah Commune, Ba Kan District in Six-Kilometer. The site is the sacred place prayed and worshipped by tourists who come from the near and far areas. This venerable site has a statue of Neak Ta Khleang Moeang respected and worshipped by the Cambodian people. The statue is newly made and put at the right place because the ancient statue is completely damaged by the civil war.

### **Discover Battambang Province**



Researched by Lowell Cole, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

#### Overview

Battambang is a large and important province in the northwest of Cambodia. Its name literally translates as "the lost long stick" legend. Along with various local legends beautiful countryside, hills and many Ang-

korian temples, it is regarded as a vital agricultural area.

Originally, during the Angkor period, the area was split in to many territories, namely Amogha Boreak and Bhima Boreak. Throughout this period, the region prospered due to the hospitable environment for growing fruit, vegetables, and other produce. In the 15th century however, when the Siamese army began to invade the regions to the northwest, the provinces' locals were driven out of their homes, and land was confiscated. Three centuries later, until the 20th century, Battambang was under the rule of the Siamese. At the start of the 1900's however, descendants of the people who once occupied the region demanded that land, which had been previously confiscated, should be returned to the rightful owners. These claims were based on the French Siamese Treaty of 1907. Indeed, the land was returned, and in the same year, the entire province was split in to three separate provinces, namely Battambang, Siem Reap, and Serei Sophorn. The areas then underwent a number of further alterations, both in geographical and textual terms, until the 1940's. At this time, the province of Battambang was made up of 7 separate districts. In the following 40 years, the province underwent an excruciating ordeal of killings, torture, and other human rights abuses. This period is now referred to as the period of the Killing Fields. The last stronghold of the Khmer Rouge was in Battambang. Finally in 1979, genocide was halted in the region, and the historic first election in the area was held in 1993.



Battambang is located in the northwestern region of Cambodia. It is bordered by the Tonle Sap Lake in the east, Pursat province to the southeast, Thailand and Pailin province in the west and Banteay Meanchey to the north. Battambang covers an area of 4900 sq. mi. 664 sq. mi. is towns and villages, 1021 sq. mi. is agricultural land and 1840 sq mi. is forest. The rest is flooded land. As it stands today, the province has 13 districts. About 70% of the people are farmers. Its capital, Battambag, is Cambodia's





second largest city. It is the main highway and rail cross-roads connecting Phnom Penh with Thailand. It is about 181 miles (291km) from Phnom Penh. National Highway Route 5 and train are ways to get to Battambang from Phnom. Boat and air travel are also available to and from Siem Reap. The Cardamom Mountains, with rainforests, wildlife refuges, and environmentally protected areas, spread into the southwest corner of Battambang province from neighboring Pursat province.

#### **Economy**

Known as the Rice Bowl of Cambodia, indeed of Southeast Asia, the province has a strong agricultural economy with a great production of rice. In the 2006 rainy season 2,440.14 km² of rice, were cultivated for production and the average rice yielded 2.2 tons per hectare, with the total output standing at 536,830.80 tons. With the amount reserved for con-

sumption, seeds, animal food, and waste during harvest, there were about 300,000 tons left for sale.

In addition to rice, subsidiary crops were also planted include corn, red corn, cassava, sweet potatoes and many other crops including green beans and chilies. There was a total of 194 sq. mi. of industrial crops with ground nuts, soybean, jute, sugarcane produced. The Province also produces notable quantities of pineapple, sesame, grapefruit, oil palm and saffron.

Besides arable farming, local people mainly indulge in\_livestock breeding, rice seed production, the production of animal fodder, etc while few operate animal breeding farms. Strategies laid out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, have intended to aid the transition from the tradition of growing long-term rice varieties to using medium- and short-term varieties and practicing nature-based intensive rice farming.

### **Discover Battambang Province**



Cont'd

Researched by Lowell Cole, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

#### **Economy** (cont'd)

Battambang Province has 12 fishing lots and commercial fishing exceeded 7,000 tons in 2006 of which 990 tons of rice field fish were caught by local families. The province has 37 fishing communities, each with over 300 members.

#### **Climate**

In Battambang are mainly two major rainy season and dry seasons. Rainy season starts from June to November and Dry season starts from December to May. The hottest weather comes in the dry season, which temperature rise up to 100 Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) and sometimes decreases to 68 Fahrenheit (20 Celsius).

#### **Tourist Attraction**

Battambag is home to some spectacular sceneries, which makes walking, tramping, and sightseeing a must for any visitor. Numerous historic ruins are open to the public, one of which is **Wat Ek Phnom** which was built in the 11th century during the reign of Soriyavaraman I (1002 – 1050), but now sits within the grounds of a modern pagoda. The temple is surrounded by 18 bodhi trees. The abundance of water in the form of lotus ponds, streams and the like give this place a relaxing feel. The temple and ruins lie 10 kilometers north of the Cobra River, and are at the bottom of a hill, hence only limited exercise is required to reach them.

For a more enduring experience, **Phnom Banan** is a mountaintop temple built in the Angkor period. The temple is still in relatively good condition, however pillaging and looting was once rife in the area, and the effects of this are noticeable. Nevertheless, this is an excellent sight to see, and any tourists to the area should be sure to check out at least a few of the many temples, as they certainly build a cultural and historical awareness. Other attractions worth a note are the **Phnom Sampeou Mountain**, the

Kamping Puoy Reservoir - an incredible engi-

neering project, Wat Pee-Pahd - an important symbol of Buddhism in Battambang, and the Gold Buddha Hill. As you can see, a tourist will not be lost for things to do in the province.





#### Nory/Bamboo Train



"Nories", the Cambodian word for bamboo trains, are one of the "must sees" of Battambang, if only for their novelty value. Formed by two sets of railway wheels, a bamboo mat, and a generator, these are an impromptu way of travelling up and down the railway line in lieu of the real train. When the real train shows up, all the nories disappear. They are also a great way to see rural Cambodia well of the road network. When two nories meet coming in opposite directions, the one with the lighter load is dismantled and removed from the track, allowing the other to pass. Powered by a small motor, they can carry motorbikes making a nori ride easy to combine with a motodop (motorcycle taxi) trip.

#### **Special Characteristic**

The area is known locally and internationally as the "Rice Bowl" of Cambodia. This is because the economy of Battambang is extremely efficient in the production of rice, and additionally because of the comparative advantage and local endowments in the region. An estimated 2,400 square kilometers of land is used in rice production, with the figure growing consistently each year. The abundance of land results in over 500,000 tonnes of rice being produced annually; around 300,000 tonnes of that rice is traded locally and internationally.

## Discover Siem Reap Province ខេត្តស្វើទីភេទ

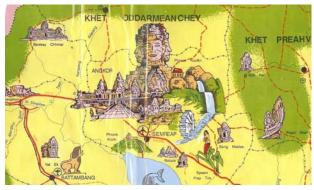
Researched by Sinara Ly, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

#### **Overview**

Siem Reap is a major tourist hub in Cambodia. The most recognizable place in Siem Reap is the temple of Angkor Wat, a *Capital Temple* that was built by King Suryavarman II during the early 12th century. Siem Reap also has many marvelous temples within the vicinity of Angkor Wat. It is located in a quiet environment surrounded by many natural wonders. Recently the city has seen a great deal of expansion;

hundreds of hotels, restaurants and shops, catering to both international and Cambodian tourists, have been opened to serve the influx of visitors.

#### **Geography**



Siem Reap covers an area of 10,299 square kilometers and it is located in the Northwest of the country bordering to the North with Oddor Meanchey, to the East with Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom, to the West with Banteay Meanchey and to the South with the biggest sweet water reserve in Southeast Asia, the huge Tonle Sap Lake. The province in general, especially in the Southern part consists of the typical plain wet area for Cambodia, covering lots of rice fields and other agricultural plantations. The north-

#### Climate

Siem Reap has a weather that is mainly dominated by monsoon. It has two kinds of monsoon Siem Reap climate remains hot from March to May and the cool season begins November to February.

#### **Economy**

Businesses centered around tourism have flourished, thanks to the tourism boom. There are a wide range of hotels, ranging from several 5-star hotels and chic resorts to hundreds of budget guesthouses. A large selection of restaurants offer many kinds of food, including Italian, Indian, French, German, Russian, Thai, Korean, Japanese, and Burmese. Plenty of shopping opportunities exist around the Psar Chas area while the nightlife is often vibrant with a number of western-styled pubs and bars.

### Getting there & away

#### By car, bus & taxi

From Phnom Penh, take National Route 6 north.

#### By Boat

There are daily express boat services between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. The boat to Phnom Penh is a bit of a rip-off these days, given it is just as fast by road.

#### By Air

There are direct international flights from Siem Reap-Angkor international airport to Thailand, Laos; Vietnam; Hong Kong; Malaysia, China; South Korea; Singapore and Taiwan. Domestic links are currently limited to Phnom Penh



#### **Tourist Attractions**

Most tourists come to Siem Reap to visit the Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, (about 6Km north of the city), and other Angkor ruins. While those are still the main attractions, there are plenty of other things to experience, such as a dinner with an Apsara Dance performance, a trip to fishing villages and bird sanctuary, a visit to a craft workshop and silk farm, or a bicycle tour around the rice paddies in the countryside.

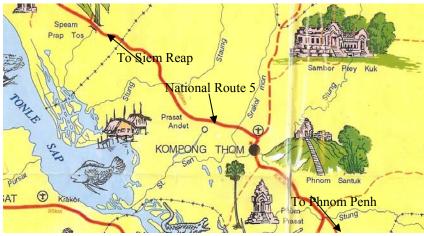
## **Discover Kampong Thom Province**



Researched by Natalie Chhuan, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

#### Overview

Kampong Thom is a province located at the central point of the Kingdom of Cambodia. 'Kampong Pos Thom' was the original name. A long time ago, at the dock of the Sen river next to a big natural lake, there was a cave home to a pair of big snakes inside. The people living around the area usually saw these big snakes every Buddhist Holiday. Over time, the snakes disappeared and the people called the area 'Kampong Pos Thom' with a short name as 'Kampong Thom'. The province is the home of Sambor Prey Kubh, one of the more than 200 ancient temples and other tourist attractions such as the exotic lakes, rivers, forests, and mountain sites.



#### Geography

The province has a total land area of 15,061km2 divided into 8 districts, 81 communes and 477 Villages. It borders in the North with Preah Vihear Province and Siem Reap Province, to the East with Kratie Province, to the South with Kampong Cham Province and to the West with Kampong Chhang Province. The total population is 576,805 people (110,334 families, women approximate 51%). It has road network which links from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap Province on National Road 6, and separates to Preah Vihear Province National Road 64 in a distance of 126 km. At the central point of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the province is divided into two parts. The Eastern part of National Road 6 covers 70% of the surface consisting of forests and plateau, rich in natural resources which are good for agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry. The Western of part of National Road 6 covers 30% of the surface consisting of the plain area extending to Tonle Sap Lake. This area is good for rice growing and fishing supporting the needs for the whole province and exporting to others.

#### **Climate**

Similar to the rest of Cambodia, the province has a tropical climate - warm and humid. In the monsoon season, abundant rain allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of crops. This year-round tropical climate makes the province ideal for tourists. Travelers need not fear natural disasters such as erupting volcanoes, earthquakes, or tropical storms. The province can be visited throughout the year. However, those plans to travel extensively by road should be avoided the last two months of the rainy season when some countryside roads may be impassable. The average temperature is about 80f with the minimum temperature at about 61°F December and January are the coolest months, whereas the hottest is April. Cool season: November- March (68°F-82°F); Hot season: March- May (86°F-95°F); Rainy season: May - October (74°F-86°F), with humidity up to 90%.)

#### **Economy**

Kampong Thom is a province rich in tourism potentials to attract national and international tourists such as the exotic lakes, rivers, forests, mountains and more than 200 ancient temples. Much of Kampong Thom is located on the floodplain of Lake Tonle Sap. In 2005 it was a significant harvester of wild fish (18,800 tons) and the fourth largest producer of fish through aquaculture in Cambodia (1,800 tons). Most fish-raising is home production, with a growing segment devoted to rice field aquaculture. Kampong Thom is also one of the largest producers of cashew nuts in Cambodia, with 6,371 hectares under production.

#### **How To Get There**

Kompong Thom province is best accessible by ground transportation such as leased vehicle or bus on National Road 6 from Phnom-Penh or Siem Reap. Details of various ground transportation mode:

**Bus:** The province has a very basic road network, which links Phnom Penh (168km) and Siem Reap (150km) with the National Highway No 6, and the separate National Road 64 to Preah Vihear province with a distance of 126 km. There are lots of bus companies going from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap or back, so while they pass Kampong Thom its easy to drop off there.

**Share Taxi:** If you want to shorten the time spend on the trip to Kampong Thom you may take one of the share taxis, mostly leaving near the central market. Taxi is not always a comfortable way of travelling and it is more expensive than bus.

## Discover Kampong Thom Province ខេត្តអំពុខនំ

### Cont'd

#### **Tourist Attraction**

The province is the home of the more than 200 ancient temples and other tourist attractions such as the exotic lakes, rivers, forests, and mountain sites. The few sites below are representatives of the many historical treasures of the Kampong Thom Province.

**Sambor Prei Kuk:** The ancient city where monuments of Sambo Prei Kuk as found today was identified as ISANAPURA, the capital of Chenla in 7<sup>th</sup> century, a former vassal of the Funan kingdom, one of the first state in Southeast Asia.

Main archaeological features in these groups of monuments are classified as Sambor style the foundation of many decorative details in Khmer architecture and sculpture. The historical



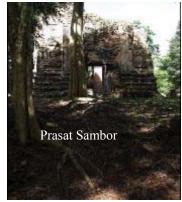
traces suggest that these monuments must have belonged to the important provincial principle city after Pre Angkor period. This group of monuments is extremely significant

not only for Cambodia but also for the entire area of Southeast Asia, for they are the only remaining sound architectural constructions that exemplify the architecture and sculpture of the early period in sizable quantity.

Sambor Prei Kuk cluttering sanctuaries were located in Sambor Village, Kampong Cheuteal Commune, Prasat Sambor District, Kampong Thom Province. The over 52 sanctuaries were built of brick and limestone with the decoration of bas-relief on the scenery walls. The foundation of sanctuary was made of laterite, false door, diamond column and the sculptures were made of sandstone.

**Prasat Sambor Group (Northern Sanctuaries):** The Northern group comprised 11 sanctuaries separated from each other with the one at the middle, and had two-wall rampart. The sanctuaries were built of brick and limestone and carve in the beautifully real Khmer style. The sanctuary comprised 14 temples (only 8 remains), and were surrounded by two-wall rampart. These temples were

constructed in various plans-square and octagonal shapes. The top of the temple was carved in lotus petals of sandstone, but some parts were cracked down and buried into the ground and the pile of bricks.



**Lion Temple Group:** Lion temple group comprise 18 temples with two ramparts closed to the pond. The reasons why the people called Lion Temple because on the tops of all stairs from the four directions, there were sitting lions with forelegs standing up, hind-legs humbling down, its head rose up and its mouth opened to the sanctuary. Now the pond is empty during the dry season.

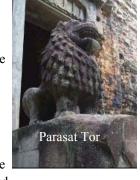
**Kroul Romeas Group:** Behind Kroul Romeas Group, there were four more sanctuaries made of brick and built during the reign King Suryavarman 1(end

of 11<sup>th</sup> century). These sanctuaries were built on a rectangular hill, and faced to the East. One of sanctuaries was not completely built yet, it was likely built in later period. The lintel was carved in the form of bow without the modal. At the

southeastern side, there were two temples recognized as the original ancient khmer styles.

**Prasat Yeah Puon Group:** Prasat Yeai Poeun Group comprised a total of 22 sanctuaries (5 have octagonal shapes) with two wall rampart, and was built of brick, masonry, laterite and sandstone in rectangular from in 7th century (600-635) during the reign of Isanavarman I to dedicated to Shiva. They were built on a hill with Gopura from the eastern and western entrances joining to an outside laterite rampart. The inner rampart reached by gateways from the four directions and joined to the brick rampart carved in various clustering figures.





Parasat Yeah Puor

## Discover Kampong Thom Province ខេត្តអំពខ៌នំ

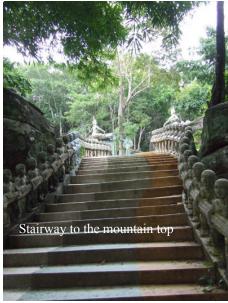
### Cont'd

#### **Tourist Attraction (cont'd)**

#### Phnom Santuk

Phnom Santuk Mountain has many Buddha statues carved from great mountain rock including three big Buddha statues reaching Nirvana, each measure than 10-meter length. Phnom Santuk has changed names to Chorn Chong Kiri and Phnom Krop Tuk. Chan Chan Dare or Chan Chare are called two pieces of stone by local people that join all together in marked symbol and made in small hole. When the passenger arrived there, they always dropped cash coins (ancient coins) into this small hole.

When cash coins are dropped in, it makes soft weak voice like a voice of the birds sing or music with happiness. So they did that since ancient period.



Stone Handicraft located at Ka Kos Village, Ka Kos Commune, Santhuk District in 16-km distance

from Provincial Town of Kampong Thom on National Road 6. The craftsmen take the rocks from the Santhuk mountain's foot to make statues and various figures for house decoration. This stone handicraft is served for domestically and internationally target markets. Beside stone handicraft, Kampong Thom has other handicraft like Krama, Silk shirts, traditional khmer clothing and handbags.

Phnom Santuk Gateway

#### **Prey Pros**

Prey Pros is a natural and cultural site located at Prey Pros Village, Prey Preal Commune, Kampong Svay District in approximate 16-km distance northwest of Kampong Thom province. The site cover an area of 2 million square meters and includes a river which is rich in Domrei fish. The site is a venue for foot races, bicycle races, and other games during national festivals. In addition, there are several recreational activities such as boating, fishing and swimming, with resting cottage where food and drinks are sold. The view from Prey Pros is beautiful and enchanting, with wind blowing across the river cooling and refreshing visitors.

#### **Prasat Andet Temple**

Prasat Andet is located northwest of Kampong Thom province. The temple was built in second half of 7th century of brick with masonry, laterite and sandstone. Prasat Andet had isolated plan facing to the East. The lintel of Prasat Andet was carved in the garlands and carefully done in the traditional khmer style. On the northern framed door, we can see the marks of a cloven hoof of tiger cat that used to be in the upper box of the door.

#### **Bird Sanctuary of Boeng Tonle Chmar**

Boeng Chmar contains fishing lot 5 and lot 6, and is 30km far from Stoung District town of Kampong Thom Province, there were villages of Nesat, Kamong Kdei, Svay Kor, Mo Doung, Kampong Bradom and Msa Trang Tboung in Peam Bang Commune. The people living in this area with floating houses that are moving up and down according to the water levels in the jungle and flooded forest. The bird sanctuary of Boeng Chmar covers a land area of 400



hectares having an interconnecting network of water channels along the bank of Boeng Kla Lake, rich in flooded forests. This area is connected by two big river tributaries.



## Discover Pailin Region ខ្លុំ១៩ខ្លែង

Researched by Mealy Chhim, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

#### **Facts About Pailin**

#### History

Pailin is originally a small forest zone which fulled of animal and several precious stones. The people of Pailin are predominantly Kola. The Kola people originally migrated from Burma beginning in 1876. In the late 1970s, Pailin was a prosperous town stemming from the extensive gem deposits in the surrounding countryside. A new wave of tourism began found depend on its ancient temple, natural forest, animals and especially the precious stones.

#### **Points of Interest**

Pailin is located 68 Kilometers west of the Capital City of Battambag. It is used to be part of Battambang province, but recently the Cambodian Government rezoned the area and make it one of the provinces of Cambodia. In the old days, Pailin was

famous for gem stone mining. It is one of the best in Southeast Asia. It was just about a decade ago, the gem stone mine was depleted. Nowadays, Pailin looks more plain than when it was covered by deep jungle that housed many wild animals.

The road to Pailin is very difficult as of summer 2009, but it will change soon. The road and bridges are being built and is expected to be completed before the monsoon season of 2009. It will take about one hour or little longer to get there from Battambang when the road is completed.

There is one famous place worth visiting if you are in the area. And that is Phnom Sampeo where famous song writer Pov Sipho wrote many love songs.

There are a couple of other interesting places right in the city of Pailin, one of which is Phnom Yat (picture shows entrance stairway to the top of the mountain). Tourist now can drive up to top without having to use this stairway.













Left: Statute of Preah Ko & Preah Keo, characters of a Cambodian legendary and compatriotic drama story. This place is the historic place in this drama.



On the top of Phnom Yat, there is a statute of Grandma Yat, believed to be the founder and care taker of Phnom Yat Temple. People went up there to pray for prosperity and good health.

## Discover Pailin Region

ដំមន់មែលិន

Cont'd

Researched by Mealy Chhim, edited and illustrated by Ben Bao.

#### **Food**

In Pailin, there are a few different kinds of foods. Kola's food is distinct from Burma's Cuisine as well. The most popular Burmese style one is Mee Kola which is a vegetarian noodle dish made from thin rice stick noodles, steamed and cooked with soy sauce and garlic chive, sometimes mixed with some meats and small lobster. Other dishes include Tom yum from Thailand and Mon banana pudding of Burma.

#### Costumes

Pailin people, known as Kola, wears varieties of traditional costumes of a rich Kola rich lady and princess as shown in this folklore dance. Woman wears colorful sarong and uses a distinctive colorful umbrella known as Taing You for a daily-life activities. Man wears strife-color sarong, usually made from silk.



The Traditional clothes of Pailin is Longyi, also known as Sarong. Kola men wear ankle-length patterns of checks, plaids or stripes "Longyi" in any kinds of color. The Men always wear their white eingvi shirt which has a mandarin collar and sometimes also wear a traditional jacket called teik -pon over their eingy. It has white, grey, black or terracotta colors. They put the Gaung Paung turban on their head and on their feet wear simple rubber or velvet slippers. For Kola women's calf-length longvi are in solid colors, flower

prints and many kinds of designs. They soften have a red based color, with partial stripes or very small checks similar to what Mon wear. They also often have horizontal or vertical stripes at the middle part. Royalty traditionally wore a long dress called "thin-dai" decorated by many threads. It was always worn by a lord's daughter and the king of the province's lady.

The Women wears a beautiful blouse and a lovely shirt which know as eingyi. The shirt is decorated with several colors and many piece of silver. The shirt also has horizontal or vertical stripes at the middle part in some beauty color. Kola women tie a traditional shawl on their eingyi as well as they put the shawl on their shoulders. Women tie a lovely band on their head and wear beautiful flowers in their hair, allowing their hair to drop as a ponytail above their shoulders. They sometimes took a traditional umbrella made from baboom with them. The footwear is simple slippers of leather or velvet called Hnyat-phanat. All of these costumes were shiny with bright colors during celebrations. The clothing is very similar to what is

worn by the Shan in Burma.

#### **Economy**

The surrounding area in the past was rich in a variety of gemstones which were mined almost clean to support the Khmer Rouge. They also logged the area extensively, creating great environmental damage. Unlike most of Cambodia, Pailin is composed primarily of uplands where little rice is grown. Many farmers produce non-traditional crops for the markets, including sesame, mung and soya. In 2003-04 it produced 17,204 tons of maize, the second-highest production in the country.



#### **Pailin Peacock Dance**



It is a dance of Kola ethnic group, who live in the region of Pailin in the west of Cambodia. The dance relates to a Pailinian legend about a magic peacock who goes to preach to the King. The lively dance is about commemorating this peacock which is a symbol of happiness. The dance imitates the peacock with lively colors of beautiful wings, and suggests a courting scene between a peacock and a peahen. The dance is said to bring happiness and prosperity to villagers, and is often performed during the New Year and ritual ceremonies in times of drought to pray for rain.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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"a job well done"
Cambodian Community Day 2009!



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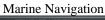
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