



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

The background of the page is a photograph of the Temple of Preah Vihear, a large ancient stone structure with multiple columns and a highly ornate, multi-tiered roof. The temple is set against a clear blue sky. A Cambodian flag is visible on a pole in the background. The title 'THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR' is overlaid in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline.

# THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR

Edited  
by the Council  
of Ministers

PHNOM PENH  
JUNE 2008

*Proposed for the inscription on the World Heritage List  
(UNESCO)*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>PAGES</b>
1- THE LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE	2
2- THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IS UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CAMBODIA (Judgment of the International Court of Justice – 15 June 1962)	3 - 9
3- THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA PROPOSES THAT THE "SACRED SITE" OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR BE INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST	10
4- THE MEANING AND THE SCOPE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION	11
5- THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION RESPECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES AND THEIR RIGHTS	12
6- THE SACRED SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE	13 - 16
7- THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT TO INSCRIBE THE SACRED SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IN 2008 (31 <sup>st</sup> session of the Committee - Christchurch, New Zealand - July 2007, Decision No 31 COM 8B.24)	17 - 19
8- THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA IMPLEMENTS DECISION 31 COM 8B.24 OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE	20 - 21
9- CAMBODIA AND THAILAND ENHANCE THEIR COOPERATION FOR THE INSCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR	22 - 31
10- THE DESCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR	32 – 44





**Panoramic view of the temple of Preah Vihear**



## 1 THE LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE

The Temple of Preah Vihear is an Angkorianera monument located in the northern province of Preah Vihear, 400 km north of Phnom Penh and 140 km northwest of Angkor, in immediate proximity to Cambodia's border with the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Temple is perched on the southern end of a 625 meter high rock promontory of the "Dangrek" mountain range. From the top of this steep escarpment, it looks to the south over a vast plain stretching out below on the Cambodian side. Beyond the plateau to the north, the terrain extends in a gentle slope towards Thailand.





## THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IS UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CAMBODIA (Judgment of the International Court of Justice – 15 June 1962)

Through its petition submitted to the International Court of Justice (the Court) on 6 October 1959, the Cambodian Government requested that the Court rule on a dispute over territorial sovereignty. In its judgment of 26 May 1961 the Court “upheld its jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the dispute” which it described in the following terms:

“In the present case, Cambodia alleges a violation on the part of Thailand of Cambodia’s territorial sovereignty over the region of the Temple of Preah Vihear and its precincts. Thailand replies by affirming that the area in question lies on the Thai side of the common frontier between the two countries, and is under the sovereignty of Thailand. This is a dispute about territorial sovereignty.”

“The court can only give a decision as to the sovereignty over the Temple area after having examined what the frontier line is”.

MAPS were submitted to the Court and various considerations were brought to bear on this subject. The Court found therein the reasons for the Decision that it would render to resolve the dispute.

The Court first noted that:

- The “Dangrek” mountain range wherein the Temple of Preah Vihear stands on a promontory, is in a general way the **border** between the two countries in this region—Cambodia to the south and Thailand to the north;
- The **border** in this area of the “Dangreks” was subject to the relevant provisions of the **13 February 1904 Convention** between FRANCE (as the protectorate power of CAMBODIA within French Indochina) and SIAM (as THAILAND was then known);
- **The exact delineation of this border** was to be determined by a Franco-Siamese Mixed Commission.

The Court then pointed out that:

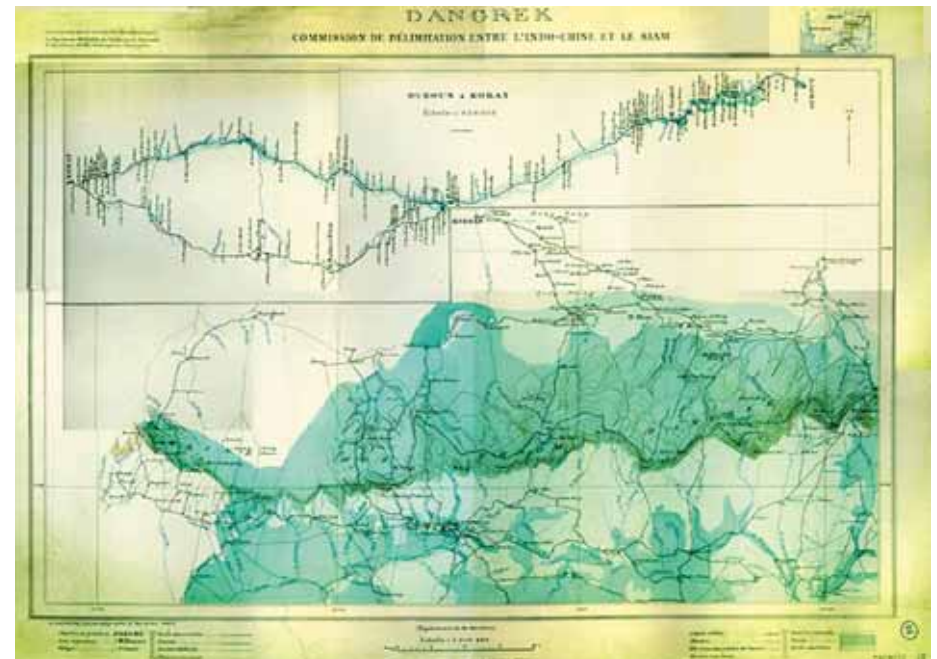
- A new **Border Treaty** had been signed **on 23 March 1907** between Siam and France;
- A second **Mixed Border Delimitation Commission** had then been established;

- A **Map** (referred to by the Court as Annex I Map) shows the delineation of the border as the result of delimitation work and locates **THE ENTIRE PROMONTORY OF PREAH VIHEAR, INCLUDING THE TEMPLE ZONE, WITHIN CAMBODIAN TERRITORY.**

“Thailand denies this so far as she is concerned, representing herself as having adopted a merely passive attitude in what ensued. She maintains also that a course of conduct, involving at most a failure to object, cannot suffice to render her a consenting party to a departure at Preah Vihear from the watershed line specified by Article I of the Treaty of 1904, so great as to affect the sovereignty of the Temple area.”

“The Court sees the matter differently” because:

- “The maps were given wide publicity in all technically interested quarters by being also communicated to the leading geographical societies in important countries; to the Siamese legations accredited to the British, German, Russian and United States Governments; and to all the members of the Mixed Commission, French and Siamese;”



Map designated by the International Court of Justice as the Annex I map representing the frontier line in 1908 (Ref. maps in details on pages 7 – 8)

- “The Court cannot accept these contentions either on the facts or the law”, which Thailand “suggested during the oral proceedings that no one in Siam at that time knew anything about the Temple or would be troubling about it.”
- “It is an established rule of law that the plea of error cannot be allowed as an element of vitiating consent if the party advancing it contributed by its own conduct to the error.”

The Court raised the question:

“THE REAL QUESTION, THEREFORE, WHICH IS THE ESSENTIAL ONE IN THIS CASE, IS WHETHER THE PARTIES DID ADOPT THE ANNEX I MAP, AND THE LINE INDICATED ON IT, AS REPRESENTING THE OUTCOME OF THE WORK OF DELIMITATION OF THE FRONTIER IN THE REGION OF PREAH VIHEAR, THEREBY CONFERRING ON IT A BINDING CHARACTER” (p.22, par.3 Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders, International Court of Justice - Case Concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear - Judgment of 15 June 1962);

The Court answered:

- 1. “THE COURT HOWEVER CONSIDERS THAT THAILAND IN 1908 -1909 DID ACCEPT THE ANNEX I MAP AS REPRESENTING THE OUTCOME OF THE WORK OF DELIMITATION, AND HENCE RECOGNIZED THE LINE ON THAT MAP AS BEING THE FRONTIER LINE, THE EFFECT OF WHICH IS TO SITUATE PREAH VIHEAR IN CAMBODIAN TERRITORY”** (p.32, par.5 of the same Report of Judgment, Advisory Opinions and Orders mentioned above).
- 2. BOTH PARTIES, BY THEIR CONDUCT, RECOGNIZED THE LINE AND THEREBY IN EFFECT AGREED TO REGARD IT AS BEING THE FRONTIER LINE”** (p.33, par.1 of the same Report of Judgment, Advisory Opinions and Orders mentioned above).
- 3. “THE COURT CONSIDERS THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNEX I MAP BY THE PARTIES CAUSED THE MAP TO ENTER THE TREATY SETTLEMENT AND TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF IT”** (p.33, par.4 of the same Report of Judgment, Advisory Opinions and Orders mentioned above).
- 4. “THE COURT, THEREFORE, FEELS BOUND, AS A MATTER OF TREATY INTERPRETATION, TO PRO- NOUNCE IN FAVOR OF THE LINE AS MAPPED IN THE DISPUTED AREA”** (p.35, par.3 of the same Report of Judgment, Advisory Opinions and Orders mentioned above).

**INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
J U D G M E N T of 15 June 1962**



“FOR THESE REASONS,

**THE COURT,**

By nine votes to three,

**FINDS THAT THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IS SITUATED IN TERRITORY UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CAMBODIA.”**

**Remarks:**

The above text basically summarizes the judgment that the International Court of Justice published in its “**Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders,**” under the heading **CASE CONCERNING THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR (CAMBODIA vs THAILAND)** – Merits – Judgment of 15 June 1962 – ICJ. Case report, p. 6-37. **The United Nations Charter** signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945, under the provisions respecting the **STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, stipulates the following:**

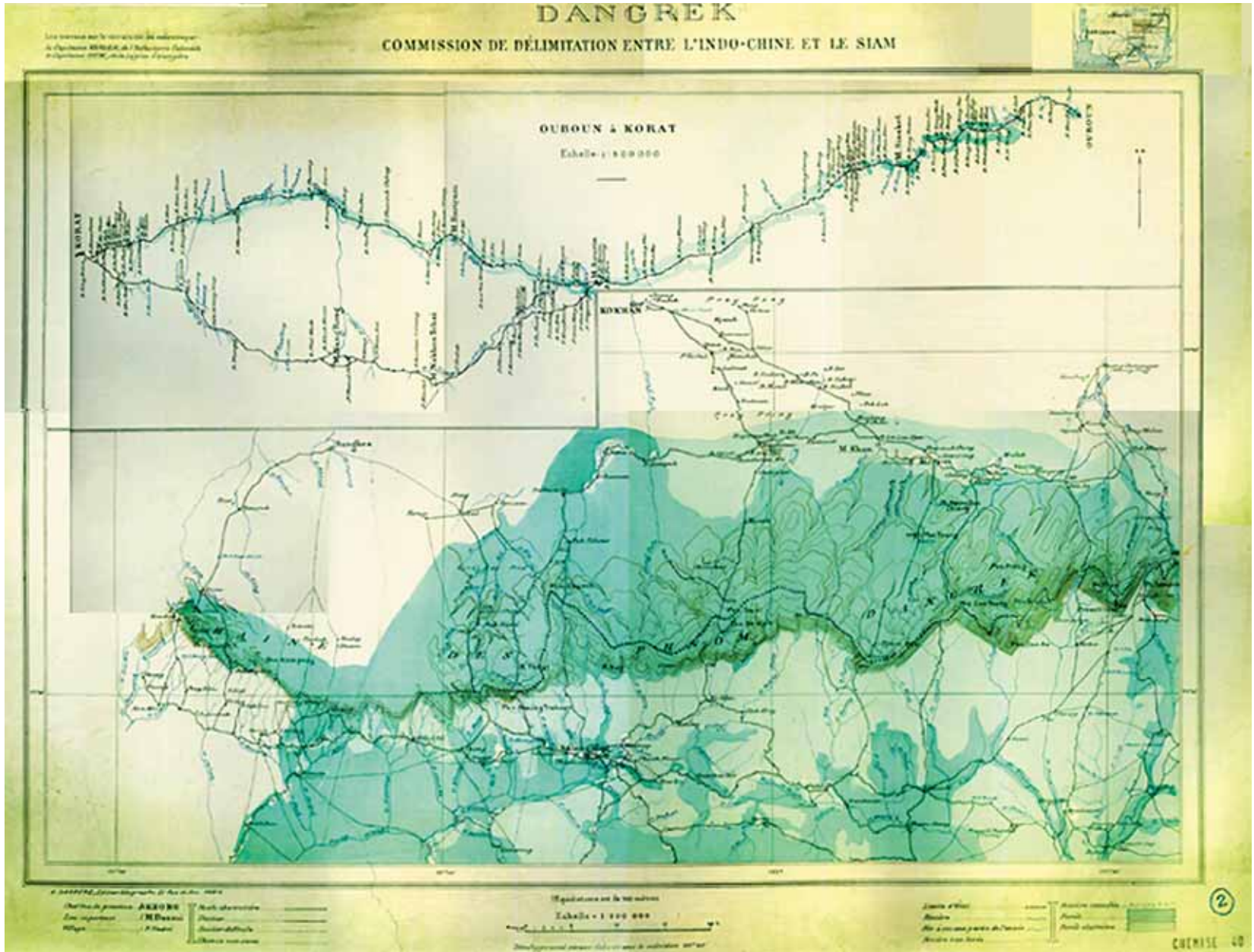
Article 60:

**The judgment is final and without appeal.**

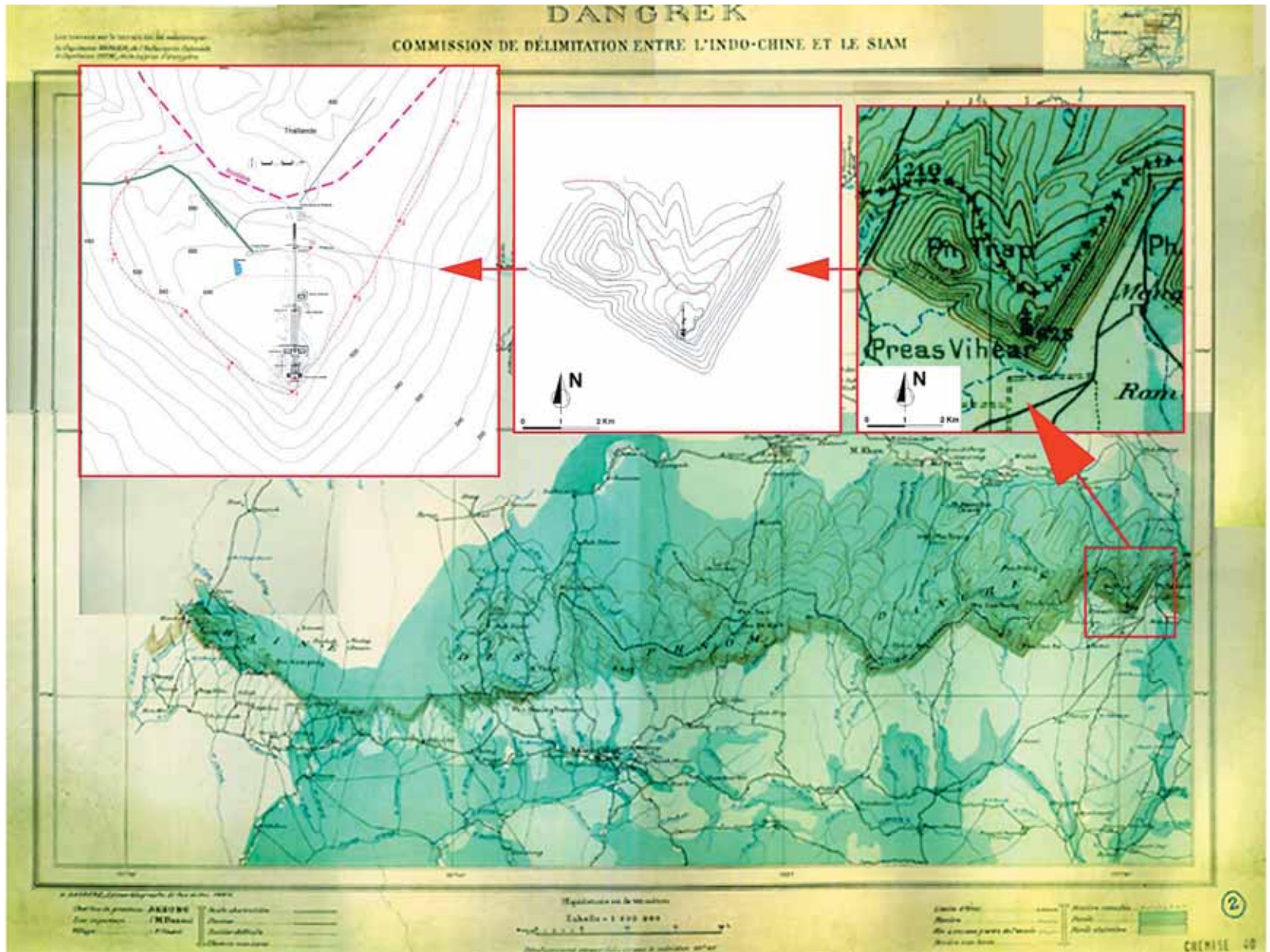
Article 61, paragraph 5:

**No application for revision may be made after the LAPSE OF TEN YEARS from the date of the judgment.**

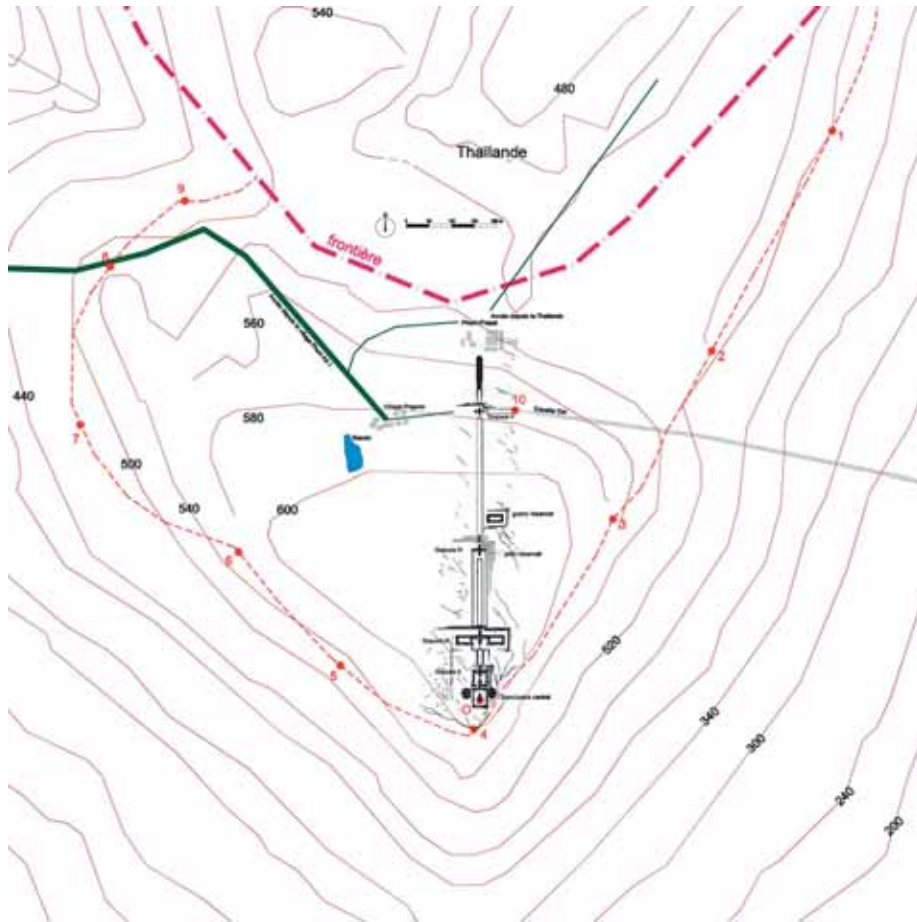




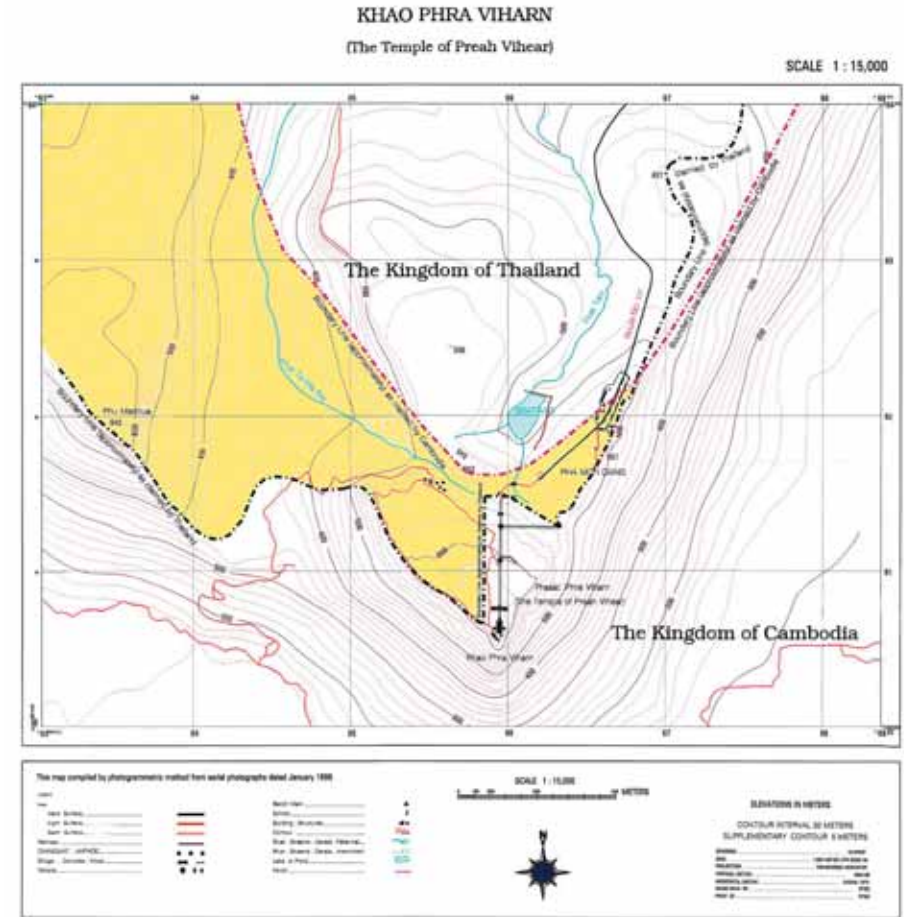
Map designated by the International Court of Justice as the Annex I map showing the frontier line in 1908



Area of the Temple of Preah Vihear in the Dangrek range of mountains (extrapolation from the map recognized by the International Court of Justice, 15 June 1962)



Map used by the Kingdom of Cambodia based on the Map recognized by the ICJ as **an intergral part** of the treaty settlement in its judgment of 15 June 1962



Recent map for the same area **unilaterally** prepared and presented by the Kingdom of Thailand. The yellow colored area indicates the claim by Thailand.



## THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA PROPOSES THAT THE SACRED SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR BE INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

---

As State Party to the *Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (commonly referred to as the 1972 Convention or World Heritage Convention), since November 1991, the Kingdom of Cambodia presented to UNESCO to inscribe the **SACRED SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR** on the World Heritage List.

In a letter dated 10 October 2001, His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, informed the Director General of UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Koïchiro MATSUURA, of the Royal Government's decision to propose this inscription.

Subsequently, a complete portfolio in compliance with the *Operational Guidelines of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* was prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, with the technical advice and active assistance of UNESCO (Cultural Section and Office in Phnom Penh).

This portfolio was submitted to the World Heritage Center (UNESCO-Paris) on 30 January 2006.





## MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

---

As noted by the members of the World Heritage Committee in the “*Budapest Declaration*” adopted on 28 June 2002, during the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage and on the thirtieth anniversary of the 1972 Convention:

“The **properties** on the World Heritage List are **assets** held in trust to pass on to generations of the future as their rightful **inheritance**;”

“The 1972 World Heritage Convention is an **instrument for the sustainable development** of all societies through DIALOGUE and MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.”

This Convention adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on 16 November 1972, states in:

- Article 6, that **property inscribed** constitutes a **world heritage**, for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate;
- Article 7, that **international protection** of the world heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of **international co-operation and assistance** designed to CONSERVE AND IDENTIFY THAT HERITAGE.
- Article 27, that the States Parties shall endeavor by all appropriate means to strengthen **APPRECIATION** and **RESPECT** of the **HERITAGE** by their peoples.

# 5

## THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION RESPECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATES AND THEIR RIGHTS

---

Article 6, the Convention states that State Parties **fully respect the sovereignty of the State** in whose territory the heritage is situated.

Article 11, paragraph 3 of the Convention is an essential provision to avoid conflicts and contestations:

**“The inclusion of a property situated in a territory, sovereignty or jurisdiction over which is claimed by more than one State, shall in no way prejudice the rights of the parties to the dispute.”**

Paragraph 106 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention:

**“Where no buffer zone is proposed, the nomination should include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required”.**





## THE SACRED SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

---

A non-governmental advisory organization with the World Heritage Committee, the **International Council on Monuments and Sites** (ICOMOS) is in charge of evaluating proposals for the inscription of cultural property.

In accordance with the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, ICOMOS performs "evaluations that are **OBJECTIVE, RIGOROUS and SCIENTIFIC, with a consistent level of professionalism.**"

Pursuant to a technical mission carried out on the sacred site of the Temple of Preah Vihear by the ICOMOS representative from 23 to 29 October 2006, and to additional information requested by ICOMOS and submitted by Cambodia, on 3 January 2007, ICOMOS **approved** as of 21 **January 2007**, the following evaluation:

**ICOMOS considers that the site's OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED.**

And that the property is in keeping with criteria I, II and IV,

### **Criterion I**

"Preah Vihear is an outstanding masterpiece of Khmer architecture. It is very 'pure' both in plan and in the detail of its decoration"

### **Criterion II**

"Preah Vihear demonstrates an important interchange in human values and developments in art, architecture, planning and landscape design"

#### **Criterion IV**

“The architectural ensemble is exceptional in its representation of Buddhist geometry. The position of the Temple on a cliff edge site is particularly impressive. Stairs and historical access surviving for over a thousand years show a sophisticated technological understanding. The whole historic structure demonstrates the highpoint of a significant state in human history.”

Consequently, **ICOMOS recommends that the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia) be included on the World Heritage List.**











## **THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT TO INSCRIBE THE SACRED SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR IN 2008**

(31<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee - Christchurch, New Zealand - July 2007, Decision No 31 COM 8B.24)

During its 31<sup>st</sup> regular session held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 23 June to 2 July 2007, the World Heritage Committee examined all the documents relating to the proposal to inscribe the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List.

The Committee first of all took note of the following statement made by the Chairman of the World Heritage Committee, approved by the delegation from Cambodia and the delegation from Thailand:

*"The State Party of Cambodia and the State Party of Thailand are in full agreement that the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear **has Outstanding Universal Value** and **must be inscribed on the World Heritage List** as soon as possible. Accordingly, Cambodia and Thailand agree that Cambodia will propose the site for **formal inscription** on the World Heritage List at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee **in 2008 with the active support of Thailand.**"*

The Committee then recognized:

*"That the **Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear** is of great international significance and **has Outstanding Universal Value** under **criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)**" and agreed "in principle that it should be inscribed on the World Heritage List and noted that **the process for inscription is in progress.**"*

The Committee concluded by requesting the State Party Cambodia:

*"To strengthen **conservation** and **management at the site** by making progress in developing an appropriate management plan, which progress will enable its formal inscription by the Committee at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Session in 2008;" and "to **submit a progress report** to the World Heritage Center, **by 1 February 2008.**"*

# Activities of the delegation of the Royal Government at the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in Christchurch, New Zealand



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONCONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGEWORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
Thirty-First Session  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
23 June – 2 July 2007**Decision: 31 COM 8B.24**

## TEXT

1. *The World Heritage Committee, Having examined documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/NF.8B.1,*
2. *Having taking note of the following statement by the Chair of the World Heritage Committee which has been agreed to by the Delegation of Cambodia and the Delegation of Thailand:*

“The State Party of Cambodia and the State Party of Thailand are in full agreement that the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear has Outstanding Universal Value and must be inscribed on the World Heritage List as soon as possible. Accordingly, Cambodia and Thailand agree that Cambodia will propose the site for formal inscription on the World Heritage List at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2008 with the active support of Thailand.

They also agree that the site is in need of urgent attention and requires international financial and technical assistance and close cooperation between them.

They further agree that it is essential to strengthen conservation and management at the site including by the development of an appropriate management plan, as required under paragraph 108 of the Operational Guidelines, that will ensure the future protection of this property.

They understand, following consultation with the World Heritage Centre, that financial and technical assistance for the development of a management plan will be available through the World Heritage Centre’s International Assistance programme.”

3. *Recognises that the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear is of great international significance and has Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criteria (i), (ii) and (iv), agrees in principle that it should be inscribed on the World Heritage List and notes that the process for inscription is in progress;*
4. *Requests the State Party of Cambodia to strengthen conservation and management plan, which progress in developing an appropriate management plan, which progress will enable its formal inscription by the Committee at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Session in 2008;*
5. *Further requests the State Party of Cambodia to submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2008.*

Chairperson statement  
at the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee  
Christchurch, New Zealand

This decision means that the committee has agreed that this Sacred Site deserves to be included in the World Heritage List and that its formal listing will take place at its next session in 2008, and I request that my remarks are included in the final report of this meeting along with the decision.



**Mr. Tumu Te Heuheu**  
Chairman of the World Heritage  
Committee



## 3 THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA IMPLEMENTS DECISION 31 COM 8B.24 OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

---

The Royal Government of Cambodia created a public institution, the National Authority for the Protection and Development of the Preah Vihear Natural and Cultural Site (*Autorité Nationale pour la Protection et le Développement du site culturel et naturel de Preah Vihear - ANPV*) and has provided it with the human and financial resources as well as the legal and statutory capacity to:

Reinforce **CONSERVATION OF THE SITE** and move forward in developing an appropriate **MANAGEMENT PLAN** for this site.

In order to implement the aforementioned decision of the Committee in the best possible conditions, the ANPV conducted a number of appraisal and technical analysis missions on the Preah Vihear site from September 2007 to January 2008. These high-level missions were made possible due to the kind commitment and generous contribution of Belgium, the United States of America, France and India, whose distinguished experts also benefited from valuable input by colleagues from China, Japan and Thailand, as well as the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

The missions resulted in the preparation of a **PROGRESS REPORT** forwarded to the World Heritage Centre (UNESCO) on 28 January 2008.

This document was complemented by a SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT following up on the “Meeting of experts regarding conservation and management procedures for the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear ,” held at UNESCO Headquarters on 25 and 26 March 2008, at the invitation of the Deputy Director for Culture, Her Excellency Ms. Françoise RIVIÈRE.

This latter report was forwarded to the Centre on May 13, 2008.

## ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE

---

### SITE SACRÉ DU TEMPLE DE PRÉAH VIHÉAR



DOSSIER RELATIF  
A LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA DÉCISION  
31 COM 8.24 Rev  
DU COMITÉ DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL  
(31<sup>ème</sup> session – 2007 – Christchurch, Nouvelle Zélande)  
PHNOM PENH / JANVIER 2008

## ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE

### LE SITE SACRÉ DU TEMPLE DE PRÉAH VIHÉAR

Mise en œuvre de  
la décision 31 COM 8.24 Rev  
du COMITÉ DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL



### CONSERVATION ET GESTION

#### RAPPORT COMPLÉMENTAIRE

ÉTABLI SUR LA BASE DU RAPPORT D'ÉTAPE REMIS LE 28 JANVIER 2008  
AU CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL (UNESCO)

PHNOM PENH / MAI 2008



## CAMBODIA AND THAILAND ENHANCE THEIR COOPERATION FOR THE INSCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR

In a spirit of friendship, neighborliness and mutual understanding between the two countries, the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand have been working together in recent months to strengthen dialogue and consultation in a number of areas of mutual interests.

**These fruitful developments focus in particular on inscribing the TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR on the World Heritage List in 2008.**

**Thailand has confirmed its decision**, as expressed at the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Christchurch (New Zealand, 23 June to 2 July 2007), **to support the inscription** of the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear.

This **confirmation** was made:

- 1) Firstly, by **the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand**, His Excellency Mr. Samak Sundaravej, on the occasion of his visit to Phnom Penh on **3 and 4 March 2008** at the invitation of His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia;





- 2) Then by a press release published by **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand** on 11 March 2008;
- 3) In **a joint press release** issued on 6 May 2008 at the conclusion of a working meeting on the subject of the **Temple of Preah Vihear** attended by a Cambodian delegation led by His Excellency Mr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and a Thai Delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- 4) During a tête à tête meeting between His Excellency Mr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and His Excellency Mr Noppadon Pattama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on 14 May 2008, on the occasion of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for National Highway No. 48 (Koh Kong-Sre Ambel), presided over by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and His Excellency Mr Somchai Wongsawat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Senior Representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand;
- 5) And finally, during a meeting in Paris (France) on 22 May 2008 between a Cambodian delegation led by His Excellency Mr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and a Thai Delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Noppadon Pattama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand in the presence of a number of UNESCO eminent members, led by Her Excellency the Deputy Director General of UNESCO for Culture, Mrs Françoise RIVIERE. **The Kingdom of Thailand reconfirmed its support for the inscription of the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Quebec, Canada in July 2008. For its part, the Kingdom of Cambodia, in a spirit of goodwill and conciliation, accepted to inscribe the Temple of Preah Vihear on the List of the World Heritage, at this stage, without a buffer zone on the north and west of the Temple.**

The documents herewith illustrate the development of this most productive process.



**Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen welcomes the Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej at Phnom Penh International Airport, 3 March 2008**



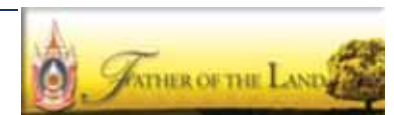
   
OFFICIAL MEETING  
Between  
Samdech Akka Moha Sana Padei Techo HUN SEN,  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and  
H. E. Mr. SAMAK SUNDARAVEJ,  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand  
Phnom Penh, 03 March 2008

គិច្ចប្រជុំផ្លូវការ  
រវាង  
សម្តេច អគ្គមហាសេនាបតីតេជោ ហ៊ុន សែន  
នាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ក្រុងព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា និង  
ឧត្តមស្នងការ ណាម៉ាក់ ស៊ុនថារេន យាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី  
នៃក្រុងព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា  
រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ, ថ្ងៃទី ០៣ ខែមីនា ឆ្នាំ២០០៨

Official working session between Cambodia and Thailand delegations in Phnom Penh on 3 March 2008

- ◆ กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ
- ◆ บริการประชาชน
- ◆ ศูนย์ข้อมูลข่าวสาร
- ◆ ศูนย์เศรษฐกิจ
- ◆ ความสัมพันธ์กับต่างประเทศ
- ◆ ขอดกลงและสนธิสัญญา
- ◆ เว็บไซต์

ค้นหา



## - Thailand – Cambodia agree to strengthen their cordial relations

March 11, 2008, 2:26 pm

As part of his customary introductory visits to fellow ASEAN member countries after his recent appointment, Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 3 - 4 March 2008, at the invitation of the Cambodian Prime Minister. In addition to reflecting the importance Thailand attaches to its relations with neighbouring countries, particularly those sharing a common border with the Kingdom, the visit afforded both sides with the opportunity to deepen and broaden their bilateral relations as well as to exchange views on various important issues.

During his visit, the Prime Minister was graciously granted an audience with H.M. the King of Cambodia. He also paid courtesy calls on the President of the Senate, the Chairman of the National Assembly, and held official talks with the Prime Minister of Cambodia.

Prime Minister Samak also met with the Team Thailand in Cambodia, headed by the Thai Ambassador and comprising officials from other government agencies posted to Cambodia, and members of the Thai community in Phnom Penh, during which he was briefed on the latest developments in Thai-Cambodia relations and business opportunities in Cambodia.

Overall, the visit contributed much towards the strengthening relations between Thailand and Cambodia. As "development partners", both sides agreed to further their cooperation in various fields, including the development of closer transportation linkages, tourism co-operation, expediting negotiations on overlapping maritime claims, the return of ancient artifacts to Cambodia, the inscription of Preah Vihear Temple on the UNESCO World Heritage List, combating transnational crimes, as well as co-operation within the framework of ACMECS and the GMS.

-----  
11 March 2008



**H.E. Mr. SOK An welcomes H.E.Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul  
at the Office of the Council of Ministers, Phnom Penh, 6 May 2008**



**Official working session between the Cambodian Delegation led by H.E. Mr. SOK An and the Thai delegation led by H.E. Mr. Varasakdi Futrakul at the Office of the Council of Ministers, Phnom Penh, 6 May 2008**



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE



On May 6, 2008 His Excellency Mr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, welcomed his Excellency Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand accompanied by a Thai delegation during their visit to Phnom Penh.

The meeting was conducted in a fruitful and constructive atmosphere to discuss ways and means of strengthening the neighborly cooperation for a further reach for long lasting cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand.

Both sides agreed to fulfill commitments envisaged in the Decision of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee to ensure Cambodia's formal inscription of the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session in July 2008.

The Kingdom of Cambodia strongly stresses that the inscription of the Temple of Preah Vihear is without prejudice to the demarcation work of the Cambodian-Thai Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) between Cambodia and Thailand; and the zoning ("Zonage" in French) stipulated in the document submitted by Cambodia to UNESCO shall not be considered as boundary line.

Phnom Penh May 6, 2008



BEST WISHES TO  
 SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM  
 OF THAILAND AND H.E. SOMCHAI WONGSAWAT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM  
 OF THAILAND AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF NATIONAL ROAD NO.48  
 AND 4 BRIDGES IN KOH KONG PROVINCE, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

សូមប្រសិទ្ធពរវេនបង្ហាញប្រសើរ  
 ជូនសម្តេចអគ្គមហាសេនាបតីតេជោ ហ៊ុន សែន នាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រីនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា  
 និង ឯកឧត្តម សុមនាយ ច័ន្ទសារ៉ាតិ ឧបនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រីនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា  
 អញ្ជើញជាអធិបតីខ្ញុំខ្ញុំសំ ក្នុងពិធីសម្ពោធនាគរជាតិស្វយ័ត  
 លើផ្លូវជាតិលេខ ៤៨ និងស្ពាន ៤ ក្នុងខេត្តកោះកុង



Discussion between Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen with the Senior Representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Somchai Wongsawat Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Nappadon Pattama, Minister of Foreign Affairs on 14 May 2008 at Koh Kong, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for National Highway No. 48 (Koh Kong – Sre Ambel)

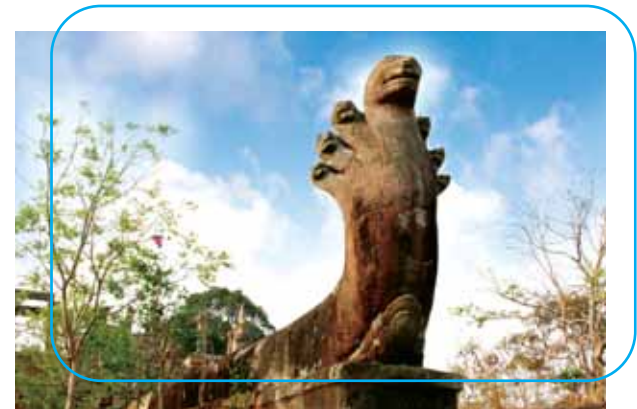




**Meeting at the UNESCO Paris Headquarters on 22 May 2008 between H.E. Mr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Council of Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia and H.E. Mr. Noppadon Pattama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand in the presence of H.E. Mrs. Françoise RIVIERE, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO and H.E. the Ambassador Francesco Caruso.**

# THE DESCRIPTION OF THE TEMPLE OF PREAH VIHEAR

---





**MONUMENT AT GOPURA V**



**MONUMENT AT GOPURA IV**



**MONUMENT AT GOPURA III**



**MONUMENT AT GOPURA II**



**MONUMENT AT GOPURA I**

FOUNDATION ACT

The history of the founding of the temple of Preah Vihear is known thanks for the five inscriptions. The first found at Angkor and the four others on the site of the Temple of Preah Vihear.

Inscription K583 (found at Angkor) teaches us that at the beginning of the ninth century, Indrayudha received the god Çiva order to bring to the site of Preah Vihear a “linga”, extracted from the large stone “linga” on the mountain Vat Phu (Indrapura).

This linga was named Çikhareçvara, “Lord of the SUMMIT”.

Inscription K380 affirm that “Çri Bhadreçvara of Lingapura (Wat Phu) has been reborn at Çri Çikhareçvara (Preah Vihear) ... to show its power in a visible fashion, so that the world can admire”.



The site of Wat Phu from where comes “The Lord of the Summit”



## THE NATURAL SITE

## AN OPEN LANDSCAPE

### AN OPEN LANDSCAPE OF VAST PLAINS

The temple of Preah Vihear is built on a promontory that extends to the south. The shrine opens to the sky and stands at the apex of a triangular piece of high ground jutting out into the plain it “dominates”.

### A VIEW OF THREE SUMMITS

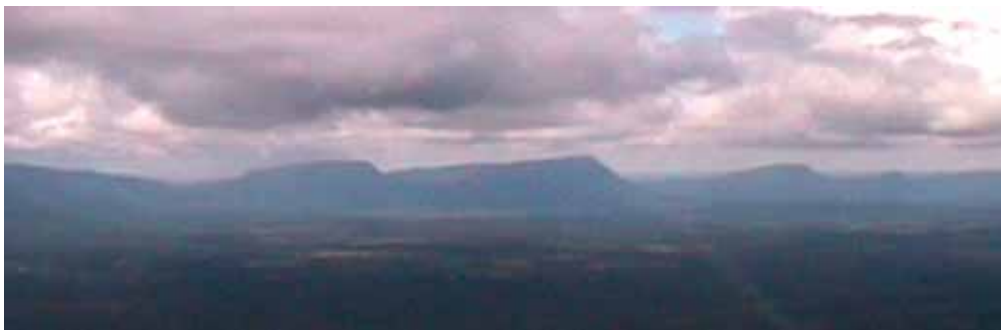
A promontory framed by two ranges of mountains at each side presents a spectacle of three majestic peaks.

### THE THREE SUMMITS: A SYMBOLIC MEANING

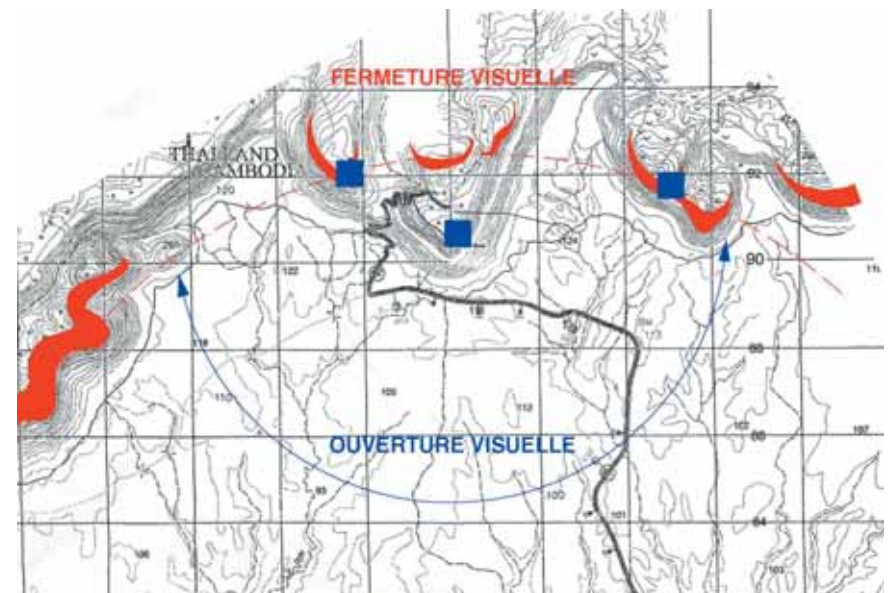
The natural and spectacular setting of the three summits six hundred meters above of and overlooking the plain was - according to some experts – an invocation of the spirit of the founders of the Devine Trinity in Hinduism:

## VISHNU - SHIVA - BRAHMA

The symbolic value of the site revealed by the inscriptions takes in its full meaning.



Distant view of successive summits: the promontory on which stands the Temple of Preah Vihear, is in the middle.



## LANDSCAPE

### VISUAL LIMITS

A panoramic view of Preah Vihear opens to the south, towards the plain.

From the site, the panorama opens to the horizon offering a discovery of the plain as a whole.

The panoramic view is limited to the east and the west by the massive ranges of mountains.

The panoramic composition of the site, extending the visual boundaries from the monument to the plain, provided a particular meaning to the entire scenery.

### A LANDSCAPE OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HIGH VALUE

The discovery of the majestic site of the Temple of Preah Vihear from the plain by arriving from the South was a rare experience.

The plain set between the massive ranges of mountains constitutes a breathtaking landscape of high natural and cultural value.



View from the rocky outstretch of the promontory to the South-West and the village of Kor 1 below.



Scenic view from the promontory to the plain, extending to the horizon and rolling between massive ranges of mountains from the east and the west.

The temple of Preah Vihear presents an axial plan having 800 meters in length with successive and alternate “gopuras” and pavements leading to the central shrine.

The north-south orientation of this axis is relatively uncommon due to the (topography) of the site.

**THE GOPURA V:**

A cruciform building consists of square pillars and gables that supported a double slope slide roof made of wood.

**THE GOPURA IV:**

This Gopura is also a cruciform building. The gables support two superimposed ornaments.

**THE GOPURA III:**

This Gopura in cruciform plan opens to the south by three doors. It is flanked by two symmetrical galleries in U-shaped form and ended by a long hall.

**THE GOPURA II:**

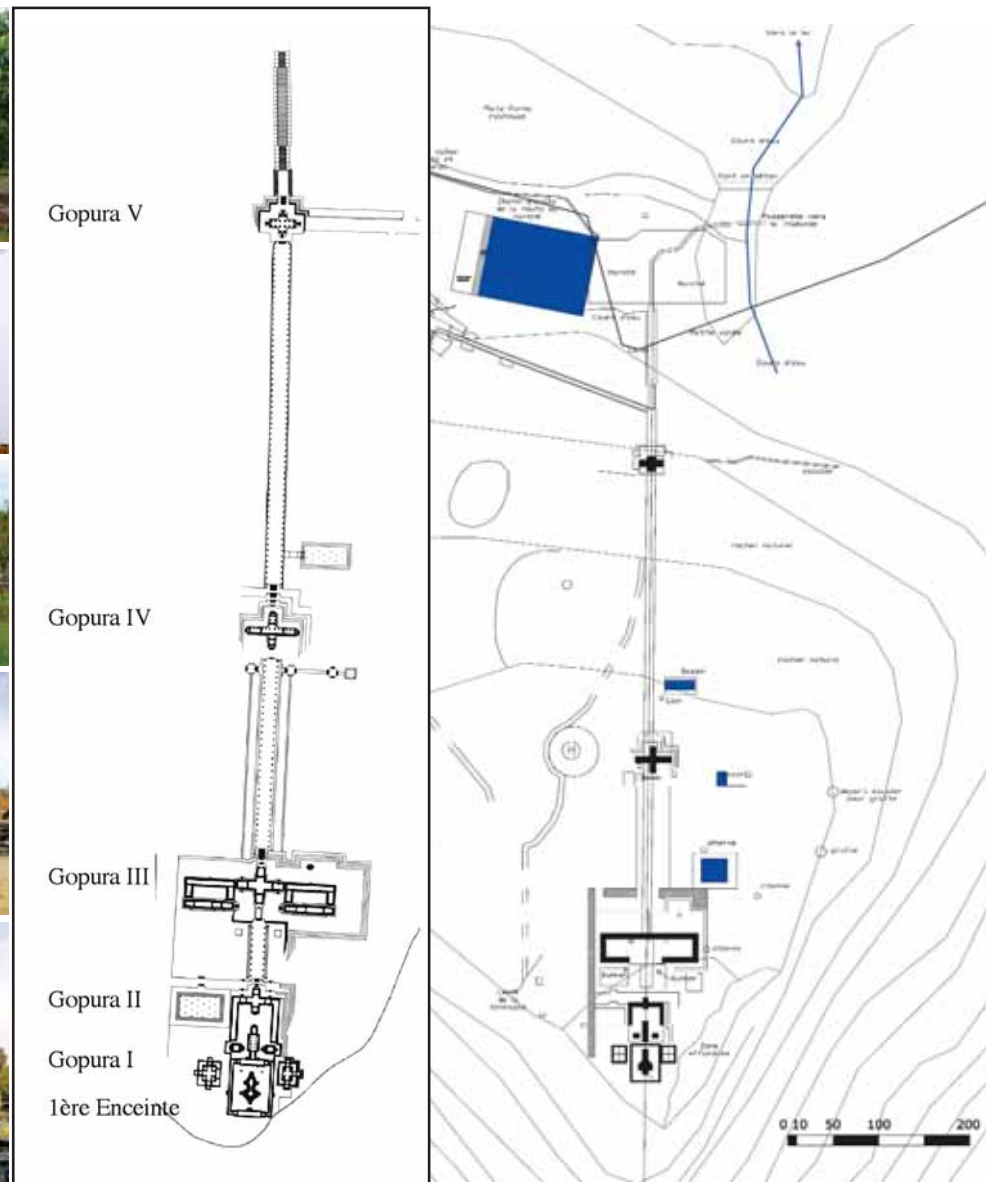
This Gopura, also in cruciform plan, is followed by the east and west galleries. The whole setting is a U-shaped delimiting a courtyard with a large rectangular room and pillars.

To the east and west of this room are the two “libraries”.

**THE GOPURA I and the first courtyard:**

The large rectangular room with pillars made up the first gopura.

It opens on a central courtyard of vaulted galleries at the center of which stands the sanctuary with a collapsed central tower.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

## THE SECONDARY STRUCTURES

The water management works designed to complement the main structures of the monument demonstrate the ingenuity of Khmer engineering in the vital field of water management. These works, sometimes, gigantic are important to understand and to appreciate of monument.

### WATER WORKS

#### THE GREAT BASIN:

A large east – west direction dam made of blocks of sandstone on both sides of a small valley to the north, forms a large basin which receives all the waters of the west side of the promontory bearing the temple.



#### THE WEST PAVEMENT:

The holding wall on the upper side of the pavement is connected to a canal cut through the rock which drains the water into a receptacle and pours it into the large basin located in low area.



#### THE MAIN RESERVOIR:

It measures 36 meters by 18 meters. This reservoir is partly cut in the rock and has walls of steps made from blocks of sandstone. It is fed by the rain waters of the east side of the plateau.



#### THE SMALL RESERVOIR:

A second, square-shaped reservoir of 9.5 meters each side, with walls of steps made from blocks of sandstone is located just above the main reservoir. It is fed from the south with the rain water from the area of the lion's head.



#### OTHER WORKS:

The entire water management system is not understood today. Other reservoirs and pipe works appear in several locations and have yet to be studied.

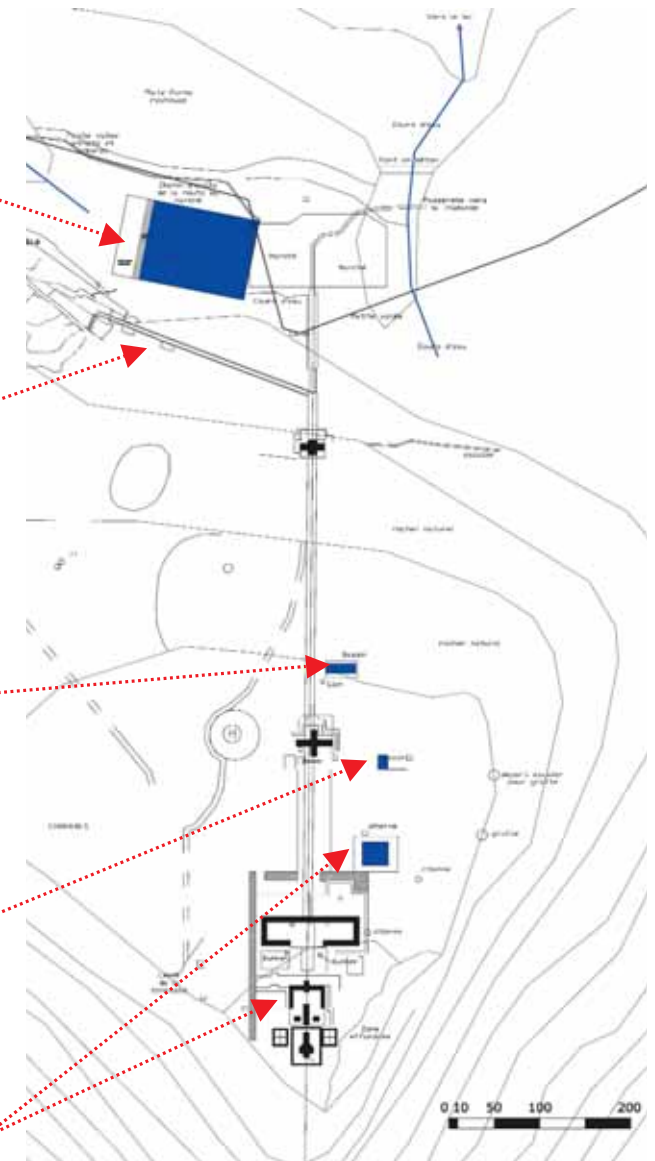
Le grand bassin

La chaussée Ouest

Le grand réservoir

Le petit réservoir

Les autres ouvrages



## DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT

## COMPLEMENTARY WORKS

The main and secondary structures are connected to each other by complementary structures (pavements and stairs) and are accompanied by water management infrastructure (basins and gutters). These structures constitute integral parts of the monument.

### COMPLEMENTARY WORKS

#### THE MAIN STAIRCASE:

The monumental staircase climbs the escarpment leading to the plateau on which the temple stands. It has 159 steps; half of each step is made of blocks of sandstone and the other half is carved in the rock.

#### THE WEST PAVEMENT:

This pavement of north-west south-east direction was built on the broken slope of the escarpment and against the line of sandstone short walls, leading to the foot of the “nagas” pavement.

#### THE NAGAS PAVEMENT:

The monumental staircase ends at a 25 meter long pavement, itself bordered by railings made of gigantic nagas.

#### THE EAST STAIRCASE:

The 10 meter-wide East staircase begins at Gopura V and descend 400 meters along east side of the escarpment of the promontory. Built in the 10th century, the staircase is in a very poor condition.

#### THE MAIN PAVEMENT:

It is beyond Gopura V, and was built against the side walls of sandstone blocks in its northern part, and cut into the rock in its southern part with railings of short pillars. It is 244 meters long and leads to the Gopura IV.

#### THE SMALL PAVEMENT:

This pavement is 150 meters long, spanning between Gopura III and IV with railings of short pillars and other unidentifiable structures which remain to be studied.



Le grand escalier

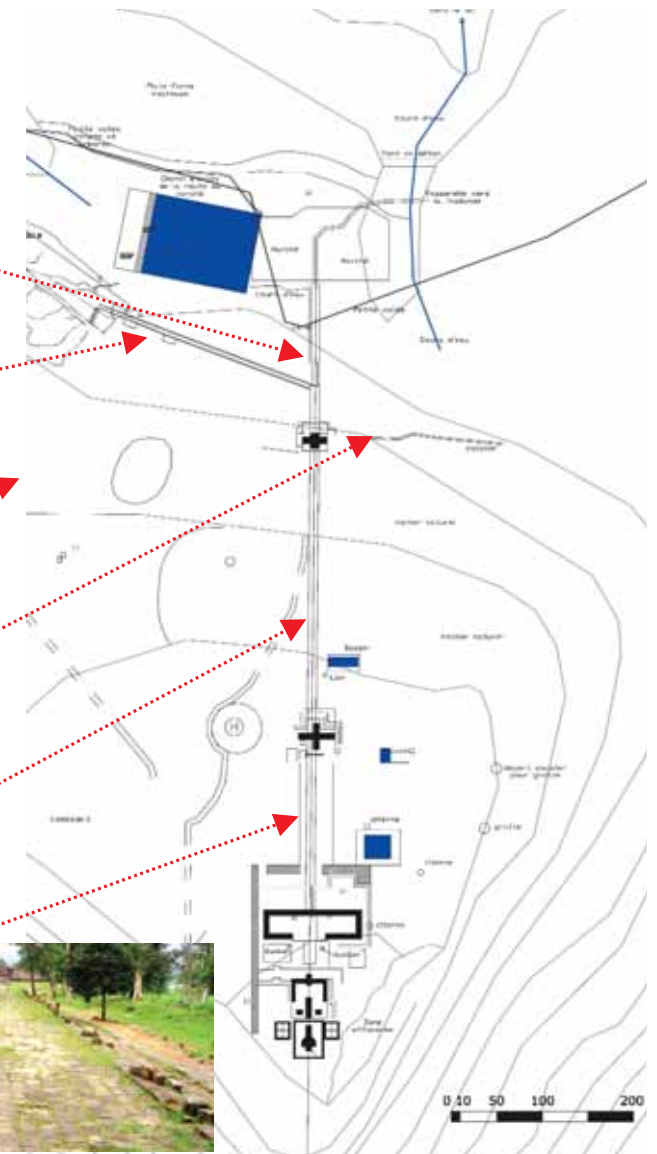
La chaussée Ouest

La chaussée aux nagas

L'escalier Est

La grande chaussée

La petite chaussée



The temple of Preah Vihear is dedicated to Shiva.  
The topics covered are vishnouite and shivaite. They provide an idea of religious practice at the time of their creation.

One may be surprised to see so many vishnouite representations in a temple dedicated to the god Shiva.

The most beautiful stone-carved decorations of the temple are on the “lintels” and doors “enfilade”.

### THE TYMPANS

The doors “enfilade” are rich with scenes of mythology: churning of the sea of milk, Khrishna Govardhan.

On several gates, the decorative motif of the doors “enfilade” is the same as the lintel.

This recalls the décoration on the doors of the libraries at Phnom Chisor.

### THE LINTELS

Several compositions of different types exist in Preah Vihear.

One is built around a central motif, almost always a head of kala or lion, which develops into a symmetrical decoration.

Others are organized around a branch that is bending around creating more room for the decorative motif.

Still others present in their center a small scene.

The mask or head of “Kala” is one of the elements of the decorative features of Preah Vihear. They are directly inspired by the iconography of the temple of Banteay Srei.



Tympan on Gopura IV: barratage the sea of milk, Khrishna Govardhan.



The lintel of Gopura IV: Khrishna tue Kala



**The Council of Ministers  
of  
The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia**



**Printed in Phnom Penh  
CAMBODIA**