The establishment of Living Human Treasures System in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Final Narrative Project Report

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1. Introduction

The objective of this document is to give a complete report on all aspects of the implementation of the UNESCO/Korean Funds-in-Trust project entitled: «Establishment of the Living Human Treasures System in the Kingdom of Cambodia». This project was developed in 2005 with the initiative of Mr. Teruo Jinnai, UNESCO Representative in Cambodia.

Objectives:
- Awareness on the importance of intangible cultural heritage is raised;
- The national bearers of intangible cultural heritage and especially of knowledge in danger or disappearance are identified;
- The Living Human Treasures System for Cambodia is established in a sustainable way and with a culturally sensitive approach and the transmission from the Living Human Treasures to the younger generation at community based and formal educational system is established;
- Mechanisms to identify masters in specific domains of intangible cultural heritage are formulated;
- The transmission of Knowledge and skills from a generation to another within the community and within educational institutions is ensured;
- Attention of the younger generation towards the richness of the Cambodian culture is attracted;
- Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and national and international institutions working in the field of Culture is developed. Such cooperation will serve the sustainability of Living Human Treasures System.

Major activities planned:
- To establish the system of Living Human Treasures and its detailed procedures;
- To identify masters in selected provinces;
- To nominate the first group of Living Human Treasures and promote the role of masters;
- To develop a system to ensure the sustainable transmission of the knowledge to the younger generation.

Key outputs:
- Establishment of a sustainable system for the Living Human Treasures in Cambodia;
- Detailed written information on the system and its mechanisms;
- Promotion of this system among practitioners and other stakeholders;
- Training of various provincial teams on the Cambodia Living Human Treasures, the identification of masters and research practices;
- Identification of the masters in the selected prioritized provinces;
- Organization of at least one national workshop with some of the outstanding masters indentified in provinces;
- Nomination of a maximum of five masters as Living Human Master;
- Training of the younger generations both within the community and within the institutional system, such as the Royal University of Fine Arts.
The report will describe the various steps involved in the implementation of each phase and assess the changes to the original goals and the influences, both negative and positive, on the participants and the results.

2. Background of the project

Cambodia is rich in tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In fact, some “Holders” of intangible heritage, not yet identified, are getting older. That is the reason for which a sustainable preservation system and transfer of knowledge are needed urgently in this country. Within the framework of the Korean Funds-in-Trust Project "Establishment of the Living Human Treasures in Kingdom of Cambodia", UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh has has been honored to cooperate closely with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia to implement this important project.

After the approval from the Government of Republic of Korea (through the Korean National Commission for UNESCO) of the proposed project document, a Plan of Operations was signed on 11 July 2005 between the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh and the Royal Government of Kingdom of Cambodia.

In addition, the former Culture Programme Specialist left Cambodia to take her new assignment in March 2006 and the position was vacant between April and July 2006.

On 4 May 2006, UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh recruited Mr. Prom Chak as National Project Coordinator to assist the MCFA for the preparation and implementation of the project.

On 14 June 2006, UNESCO Office also sent a letter to remind MCFA of the necessity of taking actions and reiterated its request to establish a National Working Group to coordinate the activities relating to the project. To this request, the Ministry informally informed UNESCO that it did not wish to establish the Working Group, which was supposed to be composed of members from other organs than the Ministry.

On 24 August 2006, Mrs. Nao Hayashi, New Culture Programme Specialist, Mr. Keo Sereineath, Assistant to the Culture Programme Specialist and Mr. Prom Chak, National Project Coordinator of UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh held a meeting with officials of the MCFA, identifying together an alternative solution in order to avoid any further delay in the execution process. The Ministry confirmed the cancellation of the nomination of Professor Hang Soth and the establishment of a Central Committee lead by H.H. Prince Sisowath Kulachat, Secretary of State and a Sub-Committee appointed an executive director, Dr. Bong Sovath, Deputy-Director General of Department of Technique for Culture. During the meeting, the Ministry and UNESCO agreed to hold meeting in the coming days to update the work plan and establish a revised budget planning.
On 3 September 2007, Hong Makara was appointed as National Professional Officer, responsible for Intangible Cultural Heritage and the project was extended until 31 December 2008.

3. Project Implementation

3.1 Phase I

3.1.1 Tasks

In this phase, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts had to organize several meetings among members of National Working Group in order to prepare different stages for the establishment of the Living Human Treasures according to Cambodian context. These different stages are following:

- Definition of the Living Human Treasures in Cambodia
- Objectives of the system
- Legal provisions
- Identification and designation of Living Human Treasures
- Criteria of Living Human Treasures selection
- Number of appointees
- Duties of appointees

The National Working Group of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts was immediately created and consisted of 13 competent officials to implement this unique project in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The National Working Group organized regular meetings in order to achieve different tasks mentioned above.

3.1.2 Achievements

a. Definition of Living Human Treasures in Cambodia

The numbers of old masters who have expertise in the field of intangible cultural heritage have been decreasing every year. Old masters are the sources of creativity; therefore, it is urgent to promote education among young generation to succeed the knowledge of intangible heritage, which is parts of cultural and national identity. Understand the core identity of cultural heritage is the basis for conserving and developing the national cultural heritage for future generation.
As a result, it is necessary to establish the Living Human Treasures System in Cambodia in order to conserve and transfer knowledge, and to develop intangible cultural heritage such as traditional music, dances, songs, theater, story telling, and poetry. These forms of arts are the foundation of education and development in Cambodia.

Living Human Treasures System is a system of knowledge of Khmer arts, which is deeply rooted in Cambodia. It is a combination of propensity and talent in performing as well as creativity and transferring of knowledge to the young generation. The followings are types of intangible cultural heritage that are defined by Royal Government of Cambodia:

- Form of narration arts or talent in story telling
- All forms of performing arts
- Traditional craftsmanship

Therefore, the Living Human Treasures System is a hub to store all the unique knowledge of art through leaning, performing, and commitment to conserving and transferring the knowledge to next generation.

b. Purpose and suggestion for creating Living Human Treasures in Cambodia

The main goals for creating the Living Human Treasures System are:

- To conserve Khmer art and cultural heritage for future generation;
- To search for Living Human Treasures throughout Cambodia and create the best mechanism for conservation and development of Khmer art and cultural heritage in a sustainable way;
- To create a system for transferring intangible cultural heritage to future generation;
- To promote public awareness in terms of forms and meaning of Khmer art and cultural heritage by encouraging young generation to support and participate in preserving, conserving, and developing art and culture in sustainable and prosperous ways.
- To promote cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and International organization for the sake of conservation and development of intangible cultural heritage throughout Cambodia in sustainable and prosperous ways for the future generation.

c. Legalization or Sub-decree for Living Human Treasures

In order to make the Living Human Treasures System in the field of art and intangible cultural heritage long term sustainable, the Royal Government of Cambodia needs to formulate practical mechanisms. For example, the formulation of a sub-decree for
administering the Cambodian Living Human Treasures has to be clearly stated and recognized all by stakeholders. The sub-decree consists of the characteristics of Living Human Treasures, the appointment, legalization, and rights in society. This sub-decree also states the appointment procedure for Living Human Treasures that will ensure the sustainability of the system.

**d. Criteria for Appointment of Living Human Treasures**

The criteria for selecting Living Human Treasures focus on the field of intangible Heritage with the following criteria:

- Distinguished values and talent in creativity;
- Foundation of traditional culture and society or unique symbols of national culture and history of the nation;
- Expressed unique values in the field of art and intangible cultural heritage of a region or community;
- Prominent identification of Cambodian people and society.

These distinguished values are currently endangered:
- Risk to become extinct in era of globalization;
- Decreased in numbers of prominent masters;
- Degradation of authenticity;
- Degradation of prestige through changing of new law, and regulation;
- Degradation of performance quality and production.

**e. Criteria for selection Living Human Treasures**

Each individuals or groups of distinctive artist that will be selected have to meet the followings criteria:

- Exceptional knowledge and expertise;
- High capacity in art, sacrifice for creativity, and honest to their homeland;
- High ability to transfer their knowledge to younger generation;
- Highly dedicate their works to serve community and nation;
- Unique capacity to develop knowledge of art and creativity;
- High morality and respect the law of the country.

**f. Award for Living Human Treasures**

The award for Living Human Treasures is an essential element to encourage people to innovate and develop new form of art. These awards consist of the following points:
- The medal will be offered by high-ranking government officials. This is good to show that the government pays high attention to the selected Living Human Treasures. The medal ceremony shall be publicized via the media including national radio, television, and a publication of the biography of the selected Living Human Treasures;
- The award also includes a lump sum and salary for individuals and teams of Living Human Treasures;
- A Special medal will be created for individuals or teams of artist that are selected as Living Human Treasures.

g. **Obligation of Living Human Treasures**

After selection, the Living Human Treasures, individuals or a group of artists shall carry out the following obligations:
- Train and educate the younger generation in order for them to continue the art form;
- To document teaching materials for the younger generation;
- To widely transfer knowledge to the public through performing in cities and provinces throughout Cambodia.

### 3.2 Phase II

#### 3.2.1 Task

In this phase, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts had carried out the following activities:
- Developed detailed documents to promote the Living Human Treasures System and present the procedures for identification and nomination of Living Human Masters;
- Organized a conference to promote the Living Human Treasures System among national and international institutions, experts, and artist and encourage them to provide the National Working Group with relevant information on masters who meet the criteria;
- Selected eight persons as members of provincial research teams;
- Developed a detailed research manual for the provincial research teams;
- Organized a seven-day training on research methodology for provincial research teams;
- Conduct research to identify masters and collect data conducted by provincial research teams in selected provinces.
3.2.2 Achievements

- Two meetings were organized by members of the National Working Group of the project to discuss the criteria to select Living Human Treasures. These meetings were chaired by H.E. Samraing Kimsan, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

- In November 2007, the members of National Working Group organized a meeting to continue the discussion on the selection criteria of Living Human Treasures and on the documents to be developed for the promotion of the Living Human Treasure's System. The procedures for identification and nomination of the Living Human Masters were also presented.

- On 13 November 2007, the Ministry organized a conference to promote the Living Human Treasures concept among national and international institutions, experts and artists. The conference took place at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and was presided over by H.H. Prince Sisowath Kolachat, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

Plenary session

- Recall the context of the project: in several Asian countries, the Living Human Treasures System is already established. There are three mains policies for the “holders”: a special remuneration, medical prize-giving and a special fund for transferring skills to apprentices or “Future holders”;

- Globalization has negative impacts on Living Human Treasures in Cambodia: Natural Dyeing and other traditional techniques risk the disappearance;

- The importance of the project in establishing a Living Human Treasures system in Cambodia could be justified by the fact that most of masters are old, and so the transfer of knowledge and skills is urgent;
- The establishment of a Sub-decree is urgently needed to ensure the sustainability of the system;

- Researches will focus on five main themes:

  + Khmer traditional music
  + Handicrafts and plastic arts
  + Khmer classical dance
  + Performing arts
  + Story telling

Discussion session

Only three points out of nine in the mechanism of Living Human treasures were chosen for discussion as these three points are the most important and they are the key to open other steps of the project:
- The establishment of a Sub-decree for Living Human Treasures:
  + A working group was immediately appointed to elaborate this proposal sub-decree,
  + Participation from the legislation Department was compulsory,
  + The work was finalized before 2008.

- Criteria for appointment of Living Human Treasures:
  + The six proposed elements in the criteria are too strict (cf. p.11). Researchers must be flexible to find out the real endangered “holders” of cultural heritage.
  + Researches should include both categories of “holders”: intellectuals (referring to individuals having high level of Education in the cultural field) and ordinary masters (referring to individuals not having education but having skills).
  + The selection of the “holders” must be done with the agreement of local inhabitants.

- Immediately after this conference, a meeting was organized with the members of National Working Group of the project to discuss the criteria for the selection of provincial researchers and to discuss the documents for training and research methodology for provincial research teams.
- as per decision of the meeting of members of National Working Group, eight persons from different provincial Departments of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts were selected as research trainees.

1. Mr. Seng Kimly  6. Mr. Kruy On
2. Mr. Doung Samuth  7. Mr. Keo Dorevan
4. Ms. Ouk Solichumnith  9. Mr. Phen Sareth
5. Ms. Uy Latavan

- From 19 to 22 November 2007, a training course on research methodology was held at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts for the provincial research teams. Three experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage from Departments of the Ministry were invited as trainers. This opening ceremony for training session of Living Human Treasures Project took place at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts on 19 November 2007 and was chaired by H.E. Mr. Veng Sereyvuth, Senior Minister, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts.
On 13 February 2008, a meeting was organized for the members of the National Working Group to discuss the development of a legal system for Living Human Treasures.

3.3 Phase III

3.3.1 Tasks

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has carried out the following activities:
- Identify 20 Living Human Treasures based on the results of the research conducted in the provinces;
- Organize a seven-day National Workshop of Masters to bring to exchange knowledge and skills;
- Organize meetings among members of the National Working Group to establish a commission of experts and to discuss the duties of the commission experts;
- Organize the official ceremony to nominate the first group of Living Human Treasures and promote the role of masters.

3.3.2 Achievements

After training, researchers started their work in the selected provinces, twenty masters in four main domains of endangered art have been registered:

List of 20 selected masters from different provinces in Cambodia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Skill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chan Sim</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Plastic arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cheng Phon</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Master of arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Duong Phang</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Manuscript Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Em Theay</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Master of Kh. Clt. Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kantrim Group</td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kantrim Ming Group</td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kong Nay</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Chapei (Lute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mim (Instrument)</td>
<td>Ratanakiri</td>
<td>Flute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Neay Pe</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Chapei (Lute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pech Tum Kravil</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Cultural Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Prach Chhuon</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Chapei (Lute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Preurng Pruon</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Master of Kh Traditional Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sao Sem</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Cultural Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sim Montha</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Clothes and Decoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sok Duch</td>
<td>Takeo</td>
<td>Classical instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sok Sam Un</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Master of Kh. Clt. Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ta Sok</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Lacquer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Uch Roeurn</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Plastic Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Uy Son</td>
<td>Kandal</td>
<td>Cultural Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Yuos Sat</td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Ayay and Chapei</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the beginning of June 2008, these twenty masters were invited to attend a workshop to demonstrate their skill. They will be selected by the Commission of Experts during the nomination ceremony. The National Working Group will establish this Commission of Experts.

- The Working Group has finished the final draft for the sub-decree. This sub-decree contains twenty articles and will be submitted to the council of ministers as soon as possible.

Some selected masters

Master Chan Sim is 71 years old. He was born in Prey Pring village, Chom Chao commune, Dang Kor district, Phnom Penh. He is living in Phnom Penh. From 1957 to 1958, he was teacher at Khmer fine arts school. From 1979 to 1993, he was an official at Royal University of Fine Arts. In 2002, he was professor at Norton private University. He was nominated as Master by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in 2000 and nominated as Professor of Art by Royal Cambodia Academy in 2004. He is specialized in plastic arts and produces many masterpieces.

Master Chan Sim, 71 years old
Master Em Theay is 77 years old. She was born in district number 4, Phnom Penh. She is living in Phnom Penh. She used to be a very Royal Ballet dancer. She played the roles of Prince, Princess, Giant and Monkey. She has retired, but she is still involving in activities of Khmer Classical Dance at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. In the past, she used to perform the Royal Ballet for the Kings of Cambodia in the country and abroad.
Master Kong Nay is 70 years old. He was born in Daung village, Svay Torng district, Takeo province. He is living in Phnom Penh. He was an official in the Department of Performing Arts of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. He was nominated as Master by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in 1996. We can hear and see him on national radio and television with his Chapei (Khmer musical string instrument similar to guitar with three strings). He has trained several apprentices.

Master Prach Chhuon is 72 years old. He was born in Sra Mor Krom village, Khvao commune, Traing district, Takeo Province. He is living where he was born, and was an official at the Department of National Radio of the Ministry of Information from 1979 and retired in 2000. He was also nominated as Master by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in 1996. We can also hear and see him on national radio and television with his Chapei (Khmer musical string instrument similar to guitar with three strings). He has trained several apprentices.
Master Sim Montha is 71 years old. She was born and is still living in Phnom Penh. She was teacher specialized in Neay Rong role (Prince). In 1990, she worked as costumer for Khmer classical Dance. She has retired, but she continues to work on costumes for artist with other masters of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. In 1996, she was nominated as Master by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. In 2002, she was nominated as Professor by the Royal Cambodia Academy. She used to perform Khmer Classical Dance in the country and abroad.

Master Sok Duch is 83 years old. He was born in Bati district, Takeo province. He is living in Samrong Torng village, Bati district, Takeo province. In the past, he used to be teacher and producer of Khmer traditional musical instruments. He was nominated as Master by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in 1996. He has performed Khmer traditional music for National radio and television. He produced Khmer musical instruments with high quality and has trained several apprentices.
The opening ceremony of the National Workshop of Masters took place at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in the new theatre of the Ministry on Monday 23 June 2008 and was chaired by H.E. Mister Veng Sereyvuth, Senior Minister, Minister of Culture and Fine Arts. The objective of this workshop was to bring together the identified masters to exchange their knowledge and skills.
All selected masters were invited and performed.

3.4 Phase IV

3.4.1 Tasks

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has carried out the following activities:

- Establish the means of knowledge and skills transmission for young generations;
- Organize transmission sessions of knowledge and skills from Living Human Treasure masters to young generation in communities;
- Organize workshops in Phnom Penh with the participation of students from the Royal University of Fine Arts;

3.4.2 Achievements

a. Three provinces, Takeo, Svay Rieng, and Prey Veng, nine masters among those indicated in the list and 18 officials of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts were involved with the objective to establish the means of knowledge and skills transmission for young generations;
b. The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts sent its officials to selected provinces in order to organize transmission sessions of knowledge and skills from Living Human Treasure masters to young generation in communities:
Mission in Takeo province

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in close collaboration with the Department of Culture and Fine Arts of Takeo province has organized a workshop on the preparation of the establishment of knowledge and skills transmission means from masters to young apprentices in Takeo province. On 9 October 2008, there was a visit at Sok Duch house, a master of Living Human Treasures in order to prepare the means of knowledge transfer and the workshop for the following day and on 10 October, there was a workshop on the establishment of knowledge and skills transmission means from masters to apprentices in Takeo province.

- **Sok Duch House Visit**

  Sok Duch, 83 years old, has been selected as one of nine masters by the selection committee of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. Not only he can perform with several Khmer traditional musical instruments, but also he can produce these musical instruments with high quality. His health is slightly fragile. He seems to be very weak and tired before the workshop day in Takeo province. He is living in the North of Takeo Province around 25 km from the province center.
Master Sok Duch has trained around 100 apprentices. Most of them became professionals and masters. In this final step of the project, he has seven male and three female apprentices.

- **Workshop**

The workshop on the preparation of the establishment of knowledge and skills transmission means from masters to young apprentices was held on 10 October 2008 in the theatre of Takeo province.

![Workshop in Takeo Province](image)

The two masters Prach Chhuon and Sok Duch were invited to step onto the platform in order to show the audience how to hold the instrument and how to learn to perform.

![Master Sok Duck with his famous Tro at three cords](image) ![Master Prach Chhuon with his Chapei](image)
Apprentices were invited onto the platform as well. One of Master Sok Duch Apprentices and one of Master Prach Chhuon Apprentices demonstrated their lessons learnt after the two famous masters had showed some of their teaching techniques. The two masters performed music with female apprentices, and the performance was a great success.
The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in close collaboration with the Provincial Cultural Department of Svay Rieng province organized a workshop on the preparation of the establishment of knowledge and skills transmission means from masters to young apprentices on 17 October 2008 in the Conference Room of Svay Rieng from 8:00 am to 12:00 am.

More than three hundred participants have attended the workshop.

The workshop started with a report of the Provincial Cultural Department. Svay Rieng has several private troupes of performing arts. The most impressive is that this province has also three masters of *Chapei* and that Mr. Oum Ry, Director of Provincial Cultural Department of Svay Rieng has conducted a research on a lost form of performing arts specific in Chantrea District of Svay Rieng Province. He succeeded in compiling this Khmer popular dance entitled “Dance to request for rainfall” and presented it to the audience.
“Dance to request for a rainfall” newly discovered

The audience was enthusiastic with this dance

The dance is an account of the daily life of Cambodian farmers who encountered drought and tried to find a solution in order to ensure a good harvest to sustain their precarious life depending on rainfall.

The 56 years old, Master Peak Chapech is not able to see, because he lost sight at the age of twenty. He is a master of story telling. He can perform several characters, old and young male, or female at the same time.

Master Peak Chapech performs and explains how we can learn to perform. He has two apprentices, one is his son and the second is his grand son. Both started to learn this skill several years ago. The Provincial Cultural Department has invited them to show the audience what they had learnt.

The two apprentices showed to the audience what they have learnt from their master.
After the workshop, officials from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts interviewed Master Peak Chapech in order to compile complete data on masters for the establishment of Living Human Treasures System in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

**Mission in Kandal province**

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in close collaboration with the Provincial Cultural Department of Kandal province organized a workshop on the preparation of the establishment of knowledge and skills transmission means from masters to young apprentices on 24 October 2008 in the Conference Room of the Teacher Training Centre of Kandal province from 8:00 am to 12:00 am. This is the final phase of the project entitled “Establishment of Living Human Treasures System in Cambodia” with the support of Korean Funds-In-Trust.
a. Master Hun Sarin demonstrated traditional musical instruments and explained how to teach, how and when to perform *Areak* Music.

Master Pok Sarann demonstrated all specificities of Khmer shadow theatre and explained how to teach, and perform this *Sbek Thom*.

4. Difficulties

- Although the project started only in July 2005, because of the delay of actions to be taken by the Ministry.

- The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and other Cambodians Institutions were very busy with the Cambodian National Election in the months preceding July 2008. That is the reason for which the implementation of the Project has been delayed.

- Masters have been selected for nomination, but the procedure still takes time because the new Royal Government of Cambodia was not immediately formed and the government needed to prepare a budget for the masters after nomination.
5. UNESCO solutions

UNESCO tried its best to give assistance and assure the smooth execution of the project. Human resources have been reinforced:

- **The Programme Specialist (PS):** Before 15 March 2007, UNESCO Phnom Penh Office was functioning without Programme Specialist for Culture. Within UNESCO, the only National Professional Officer (NPO) was overloaded with several projects at the same time, the follow up faced therefore some difficulties. The Current Programme Specialist took all projects in hands after his arrival in March. He immediately took up the matter of the implementation delays and had several meetings with the working groups of the project at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. Contrary to expectations, the situation did not change until September 2007.

- **A National Professional Officer (NPO)** was appointed on September 3, 2007 to follow up all the Projects related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), the Ballet Royal Project included. The new situation within the Culture Unit of the UNESCO Phnom Penh office almost immediately improved the execution of the Project.

6. Global results

   - **Phase 1**
     - The terms and conditions for the Living Human Treasures in Cambodia was defined;
     - Objectives of the system were fixed;
     - Sub decree was finalized and submitted to the Minister;
     - The procedure of identification and designation of Living Human Treasures was elaborated;
     - Criteria of Living Human Treasures selection is established;
     - Finally, nine masters have been selected
     - Duties of appointees are established.

   - **Phase 2**
     - Detailed documents were developed to promote the Living Human Treasures System and the procedures for identification and nomination of Living Human Masters were presented to related persons and institutions.
     - The conference to promote the Living Human Treasures System among national and international institutions, experts, and artist was organized and they are encouraged to provide the National Working Group with relevant information on masters who meet the criteria.
     - Eight persons were selected as members of provincial research teams.
     - The detailed research manual was developed for the provincial research teams.
     - The seven-day training on research methodology for provincial research teams was organized.
- The research to identify masters was conducted and data was collected by provincial research teams in selected provinces.

**c. Phase 3**
- Twenty masters of Living Human Treasures were identified as foreseen, based on the results of research from selected provinces.
- The seven-day National Workshop of Masters was organized in order to bring together the indentified masters to exchange knowledge and skills among them.
- Meetings among members of the National Working Group were organized to establish a commission of experts and to discuss on the duties of the commission of experts.

**d. Phase 4**
- The means of knowledge and skills transmission for young generations in communities were established in three provinces: Takeo, Svay Rieng and Kandal.
- Transmission sessions of knowledge and skills from Living Human Treasure masters to young generation in communities were organized in the above three provinces.
- The workshop in Phnom Penh with the participation of students from the Royal University of Fine Arts was organized.

### 7. Lessons Learned

- Technical assistances are highly demanded for the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in order to facilitate the project implementation.
- A daily follow up is also necessary to ensure a regular project implementation.
- Some Masters have knowledge and skills, but they have not an effective method for teaching and transferring knowledge and skills to younger generation. Then professional teachers of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts were invited to collaborate with Masters in order to provide an effective transferring of knowledge and skills.
- Some Masters would only transfer their knowledge and skill to their relatives. The working group needed to explain and persuade them to transfer their knowledge and skills to younger generation for sustainable preservation.
- Some Masters have difficulties to find interested apprentices because young people prefer something new or modern.

### 8. Recommendations

- UNESCO Phnom Penh Office should continue to support the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts to get the sub-decree on the Living Human Treasures System in Cambodia approved;
- To ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the sub-decree in the whole country and encourage Cambodian people to preserve intangible cultural heritage in the Kingdom of Cambodia;

- To continue the support for the nominated masters and encourage them to train more apprentices.

9. Visibility

The UNESCO logo and the Donor “Korean Funds-in-Trust” have been mentioned on all documents and backdrops. All important events such as opening ceremonies of the workshop were shown on National Television and attended by national and international personalities.
### Result Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARy of OBJECTIVES (intended)</th>
<th>ACHIEVEMENTS (results)</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>MEANS OF VERIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Phase 1**                      | - The terms and conditions for the Living Human Treasures in Cambodia were defined.  
- Objectives of the system were fixed.  
- Sub decree was finalized and submitted to the Minister.  
- The procedure of identification and designation of Living Human Treasures was elaborated.  
- Criteria of Living Human Treasures selection is established.  
- Number of appointees is decided for nine masters.  
- Duties of appointees are established. | - Nine masters were identified.  
- Several workshops were organized.  
- The sub-decree was finalized and submitted top the Minister.  
- Several missions in provinces were completed. | Related national and international instructions such as local organizations, provincial departments are satisfied with of the results of the Working Group.  
- Several trainees and officials and students of school arts are satisfied with the training session and the workshops provided.  
- Masters and apprentices are satisfied with the transfer of knowledge system. |
| **Phase 2**                      | - Detailed documents were developed to promote the Living Human Treasures System and the procedures for identification and nomination of Living Human Masters were presented to related persons and institutions.  
- The conference to promote the Living Human Treasures System among national and international institutions, experts, and artist was organized and they are encouraged to provide the National Working Group with relevant information on masters who meet the criteria.  
- Eight persons were selected as members of provincial research teams.  
- The detailed research manual was developed for the provincial research teams.  
- The seven-day training on research methodology for provincial research teams was organized.  
- The research to identify masters was conducted and data were collected by provincial research teams in selected provinces. | - Skills and knowledge were transferred from Masters to apprentices. | - |
| **Phase 3**                      | - The seven-day National Workshop of Masters was organized in order to bring together the identified masters to exchange knowledge and skills among them.  
- Meetings among members of the National Working Group were organized to establish a commission of experts and to discuss on the duties of the commission experts. | - | - |
| **Phase 4**                      | - The means of knowledge and skills transmission for young generations in communities were established in three provinces: Takeo, Svay Rieng and Kandal.  
- Transmission sessions of knowledge and skills from Living Human Treasure masters to young generation in communities were organized in the three provinces above.  
- The workshop in Phnom Penh with the participation of students from the Royal University of Fine Arts was organized. | - | - |

**Activities**

- To identify masters in selected provinces;  
- To nominate the first group of Living Human Treasures and promote the role of masters;  
- To develop a system to ensure the sustainable transmission of the knowledge to the younger generation.