

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
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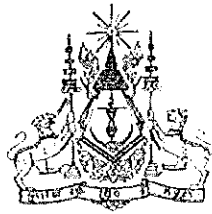
**Proposal to have the Second Review Conference of the
AP Mine Ban Convention
hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia**

Cambodia is one of the most heavily mine affected countries in the world, following decades of civil conflict. The Royal Government of Cambodia has consistently recognized landmine contamination as one of the highest humanitarian and development priorities for the country. This has manifested itself by Cambodia's active participation in the process leading to the signing of the Ottawa Convention, vocally articulating the concerns of affected countries globally; Cambodia has identified Mine Action as Cambodia's 9th Millennium Development Goal, as evidenced by the high support provided through the National Budget despite limited resources and competing priorities.

Cambodia has provided leadership amongst affected states for many years, and has been a source of innovative ideas which have benefited the global Mine Action community as a whole. This has included clearance techniques, community based/locality demining, land release, and a community-driven prioritization process which gives voice to affected communities. These are just a few examples but serve to illustrate the contribution Cambodia has strived to make over the years, and will continue to do.

While there are many possible locations in the world which are logistically able to host this event, the Royal Government of Cambodia shares the views expressed by many other key stakeholders in the AP Mine Ban that Cambodia *feels* like the right place to host this landmark event. Cambodia is a country that has maintained an unwavering commitment to the Ottawa Process since the negotiation process and throughout the past decade, and would appreciate the opportunity to welcome so many colleagues from around the world to share the progress we have made, with the assistance and cooperation of many attendees. Furthermore, there are many countries in the Asian region that have not yet joined the Convention. Many States Parties speak about the implementation of universalization. Hosting the Second Review Conference in our region would also help to promote universalization!

Now, more than ever, the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, that has been the hallmark of this Convention must continue to be strengthened. We have only 18 months leading up to the Second Review Conference. Cambodia re-iterates its willingness to host the Second Review Conference and encourages all States Parties, International Organizations and ICBL to reflect the reality of the situation on the ground. Thank you indeed for your attention.



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**Proposal to have the Second Review Conference of the
AP Mine Ban Convention
hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia
Nov 30 – December 4, 2009**

Background

Cambodia is one of the most heavily landmine affected countries in the world, following decades of civil conflict. The Royal Government of Cambodia has consistently recognized landmine contamination as one of the highest humanitarian and development priorities for the country. This has manifested itself by Cambodia's active participation in the process leading to the signing of the Ottawa Convention, vocally articulating the concerns of affected countries globally; Cambodia's identification of Mine Action as Cambodia's 9th Millennium Development Goal, inclusion of Mine Action in all development strategy papers including the NDSP and the RGC's Rectangular Strategy; and the high support provided through the National Budget despite limited resources and competing priorities.

Cambodia has provided leadership amongst affected states for many years, and has been a source of innovative ideas which have benefited the global Mine Action community as a whole. This has included clearance techniques, community based/locality demining, land release, and a community-driven prioritization process which gives voice to affected communities and empowers local planning authorities within the wider decentralization framework. These are just a few examples but serve to illustrate the contribution Cambodia has strived to make over the years, and will continue to do.

While there are many possible locations in the world which are logistically able to host this event, the Royal Government of Cambodia shares the views expressed by many other key stakeholders in the AP Mine Ban that Cambodia *feels* like the right place to host this landmark event. Cambodia is a country that has maintained an unwavering commitment to the Ottawa Process since the negotiation process and throughout the past decade, and would appreciate the opportunity to welcome so many colleagues from around the world to share the progress we have made, with the assistance and cooperation of many attendees.

Recently, the Royal Government of Cambodia appointed HE Sam Sotha as Ambassador for Mine Action, ERW, Cluster Munitions and Disarmament. This serves to illustrate that Cambodia's commitment to Mine Action continues to have the highest level support of the government, and that Cambodia has the political will and dedicated resources to host the Second Review Conference successfully and fulfill all related duties.

Proposed Venue

The 2nd Review Conference will be hosted in Siem Reap, Cambodia at the Angkor COEX Exhibition Centre. The Centre has two floors (main and mezzanine) with a main plenary space able to accommodate 1000 delegates sitting in formation similar to the 8th MSP at the Dead Sea, Jordan. The entire ground floor is a conceptually open space of approximately 5800sqm, with the ability to customize partitions to divide appropriate spaces for offices and break rooms, while the 1st floor mezzanine has 17 rooms of varying sizes which can be used for different purposes. Ambassador Sam Sotha led a team including Cambodian Mine Action Authority and UNDP staff to assess the location, and met with the owner to discuss the requirements. The owner gave sufficient assurances that with appropriate advanced warning the building could be ready for whatever configuration is required, including the required offices, meetings rooms, lobby with coffee serving areas, plenary with a stage, etc. The building facility is available at the dates suggested November 30 to December 4, 2009.

The venue is located approximately 10 minutes from the centre of Siem Reap and has ample parking for cars, buses, etc. It is equipped with wireless internet, and arrangements can be made for the provision of computers for delegates, office equipment for documentation centres and offices, etc.

Siem Reap is located approximately 310 km from Phnom Penh, the capital, and is the gateway to the world famous Angkor Wat temple complex. The Siem Reap International Airport is very well connected, with a variety of flights connecting directly to many regional hubs including Bangkok, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Seoul, and Ho Chi Minh.

Logistics

The delegation met with the President of the Hotel Association and confirmed that arrangements can be made with 5-6 hotels to block rooms based on the numbers of delegates and their needs. Due to its proximity to Angkor Wat, Siem Reap has lots of capacity to accommodate the delegates, with 30 hotels ranked as 3*, 21 ranked as 4* and 9 hotels ranked as 5*.

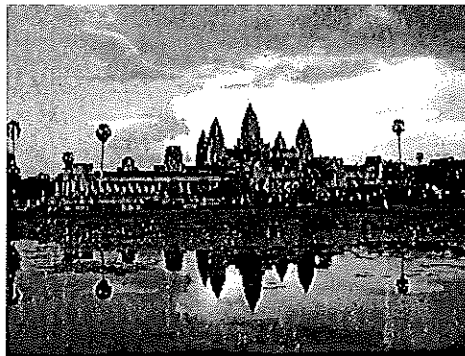
Ancillary service providers, such as restaurants, transport companies, tour operators and bars are both plentiful and professional.

Side Events

The following side events can be arranged for the participants, depending on demand:

Angkor Wat

No trip to Siem Reap would be complete without a visit to the famous Angkor Wat temple complex, a short ride from town. Group tours can be arranged for the days immediately before and immediately after the conference to allow everyone who so chooses to participate. Visits to a floating village, cultural centers, silk production facilities and other tourist attractions are also possible.



Demining

There are a number of clearance tasks around Siem Reap, and a field visit could be easily arranged. One possibility is clearance which is taking place around, until-recently, inaccessible temple sites, approximately 50 minutes away from Siem Reap. Participants can see a demonstration, learn about demining around cultural sites, and visit the temple in privacy.

CMAC Training Centre

The Cambodian Mine Action Centre has a Training Centre near Siem Reap (15km) and a variety of interactive demonstrations could be arranged there for participants including technology demonstrations.

Victim Assistance

There are a number of Victim Assistance initiatives around Siem Reap, and there is the possibility for small groups of participants to visit.

Cambodia's Experience Hosting International Events

Cambodia hosted an International Conference on demining co-sponsored with:

1. With the support of Japan in October 1998 entitle "Phnom Penh International Forum on Demining and Victim Assistance which hosted over 50 affected and donor countries and 20 international organizations with approximately 300 delegates;
2. With the support of Australia, Canada, Norway, Japan and UNDP in March 2003. This had over 150 participants from 20 affected countries form the region and 20 donors from all over the world;

3. With Canada in March 2007, entitled Mine Action and the Implications on Peace and Development. This had over 150 participants from over 20 affected and 20 donor countries, more than 20 international organizations and NGOs.
4. There were several of other regional conferences level of summit and ministerial hosted by Cambodia during the past few years.

National Security

After the Peace Accord in Paris, signed in October 1991, brokered by the UN and other 18 countries to end Cambodia's conflict witnessed the beginning of a new Cambodia, in which the four warring factions agreed to disarm before the UN peacekeeping security forces. Achieving peace in Cambodia paved the path for reconstruction and development. As a result, in 1998 there were about 600,000 tourists in Cambodia and in 2007 there was a record of 2 million tourists which is expected to rise to 3.6 millions in 2010, due to the improved security and development within the country.

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