

E ditorial

by Dr. *Michel Antelme*

It has been slightly more than two years that the Center for Khmer Studies project began with the arrival of four students who had studied together in England. In spite of the difficulties any growing structure is confronted with, from the beginning we have always been lucky to encounter people who have believed in the Center's purpose and have given us personal support – sometimes in a very spontaneous way.

Thanks to this, our administrative efforts have been carried through. For example, luck would have it that a Cambodian native of Siem Reap - a former pupil from Wat Damnak - was saddened by the condition of the former Buddhist school of the monastery, and reported it to us. Thenceforth a fruitful collaboration started with the monks and lay people of the monastery.

The initial team has grown bigger with time. New professors, researchers, and students keep coming to the Center. Some of us have been called elsewhere but nonetheless keep in touch in their travels to and from Cambodia.

After two years, a lot has been done and a lot still has to be done, but as one says “slow and steady wins the race”. So is it for *Siksācākṛ*. Our newsletter which was supposed at the beginning to give reports of the Center and consortium activities – and including some research articles – had such an unexpected success that we had to revise our editorial policy.

Faced to the influx of articles in English, Khmer and French, the editors of *Siksācākṛ* have decided to give much more representation to these research papers as you may have already noticed.

In this issue, there are various contributions such as a new consideration of 9th century Cambodia; a dissertation summary about the creation of the *commune* (village council)

in Cambodia, which due to a coincidence, is published when council elections are held in Cambodia; an article on issues of primary school education in rural society; an analysis of grammatical points in Khmer; a study of possible cultural relationships between Karnāṭaka and Ancient Cambodia; and much more.

For our latest issue a whole range of people with various backgrounds have contributed, such as confirmed researchers, students, professionals working on the field as well as common people with an interest in the field. All of them have ideas and knowledge to share with us. We hope the dynamism of our readers and writers will continue both in this publication and in the growing field of Khmer studies.

Some articles may contain typographical errors, misprints and imperfect translations. These imperfections are due to a heavy work load for all of us, the use of three languages when only a minority of the team members are trilingual, deadlines and technical problems (compatibility problems between different computer systems, document delivery by post or via internet because of a geographically scattered team). All these imperfections appear, in spite of constant efforts and a concern for perfection. We are grateful to our readers to report our mistakes and to excuse us for these imperfections.

We try our best to improve the presentation of the newsletter and we hope that you will like the fonts used in this issue, especially the Khmer ones which are getting more and more complete and more pleasing to the eye, thanks to Mr. Danh Hong's wonderful work.

We thank you all for contributing to the success of *Siksācākṛ*.

