

**Minutes of discussion on prospective collaborations and the future of a regular  
Khmer ceramics conference  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

**Prospective Collaborations**

- Mr. Hap Touch, director of Phnom Penh National Museum of Cambodia spoke to the conference regarding generating support for setting up a central conservation lab and storage facility in Phnom Penh, as well as centralization of information on Khmer ceramics in one location.
- Mr. Hap Touch also commented that he would like to have an exhibition of recent findings; a collaborative effort can be made to collect all the information about the pieces and put together an exhibition.
- It was suggested that a contemporary ceramic exhibition would be good to display alongside such an ancient ceramics exhibition to make it more accessible to the public.
- A replica/reconstructed kiln like the one built at NCKCR, could be built as a tourist attraction at places like Koh Ker.
- There is mounting concern for the piles of sherds collected but not being studied or displayed to the more general public. A central ceramics conservation center needs to be established at least to store the huge quantities of sherds in an organized fashion so they don't get lost. There are pots broken into hundreds of sherds and it takes years for them to be put back together. EFEO now has restored about 200 pots for display in Phnom Penh museum. Resources are needed to continue this work.
- Ceramists can exchange learning and skills by setting up a new initiative of a workshop residency – a ceramist from another country can visit and work at a workshop in Cambodia and vice versa. This would contribute to the revitalization of a partly lost art form by forging links between different places. Further support would make it more visible, resulting in training of locals like at the NCKCR, making it more sustainable.
- Collaborations can be made with the National Museum and Heritage Watch.

**Future of Khmer ceramics conference**

- It was suggested that the conference should be held once every two years.
- It was suggested that Khmer ceramics encompasses a large geographical area, and therefore the location of the conference can be rotated around Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, and can last for a few weeks with simultaneous activities in different cities, e.g. exhibitions in museums etc.

- It was brought to the conference's attention that an art historian in Thailand has had successful conferences by bringing in a personality and making the event more accessible to the general public. The conference can be a less 'academic' event.
- The conference can be widened to cultural and social anthropologists who also conduct research in this field.
- There is a lot of unglazed, non-kiln fired earthenware ceramics that can be included in the conference, for example village-made, small scale ceramics, with a widespread tradition that needs to be sustained. Scholars from this area should take part in a Khmer ceramics conference. The national museum can also facilitate this. Experimental ceramics, including earthenware, is an important area to include as we learn about how the ancient ceramics were made. This area traditionally hasn't been paid much attention, so any development in that area may help support new innovations.