

**Invitation to the Press Conference  
14th December 2006**

**Angkor - Sacred Heritage of Cambodia  
15 December 2006 - 9 April 2007**

This is the first time that Germany will be host to an exhibition of this scale displaying art which – ever since it became known in the mid-19th century – has fascinated the culturally interested public in Europe and filled them with wonderment. Since then, the name Angkor has stood for unfathomably vast, mysterious temples, spread out in the Cambodian jungle – temples that can even today evoke the splendour that was once theirs.

Angkor represents the climax of a civilization which began to develop during the first centuries AD. The earliest Buddhist and Brahmanical (Hindu) works of art date from the 6th century.

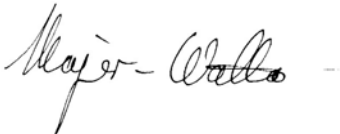
The real Angkorian period began in the 9th century when the centre of power was shifted to the west, close to Tonle Sap. At the height of their power the Khmer ruled over the entire territory of present-day Cambodia, South-Vietnam, Laos and the central plain of Chao Phraya in Thailand. They were one of the largest and most powerful people of Asia. The significance of the Khmer empire becomes manifest in a series of gigantic temples, of which Angkor Wat is considered to be the world's largest sacred building.

Round 140 stone sculptures, bronze figures as well as silver objects and paintings will make their way to Bonn from the National Museum in Phnom Penh. In addition, objects on loan from the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques Guimet in Paris will also be on display at the exhibition. The show offers a unique survey of Cambodia's culture, beginning in the 6th century with stone sculptures from the Pre-Angkor kingdoms of Funan and Zhenla. The exhibition's main focus though is the art and architecture of the Angkor-Period (9th – 13th century). In this context the aspects of water management, rice cultivation, and trade relations, which provided the basis for the country's exceeding wealth, will also be discussed.

**The press conference will be held on 14th December 2006 at 11.00 a.m. in the  
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211) or E-Mail ([ferreira@kah-bonn.de](mailto:ferreira@kah-bonn.de)). **Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or [www.bundeskunsthalle.de](http://www.bundeskunsthalle.de). Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.**

We are looking forward to your visit.



Maja Majer-Wallat  
Press Officer