

DISCOVER CAMBODIA





Cambodian Community Day

Sunday, August 24, 2008 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Ben Brenman Park | 4800 Brenman Park Drive | Alexandria, VA

Proceeds will go toward promoting Cambodian Culture in the United States and Cambodian Higher Educational Program

Co-sponsored by The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, Cambodian Community Day Committee, Western Union, and the Cambodian communities of Washington, D.C Metro Area.

www.cambodiancommunityday.org







www.alexandriava.gov

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every year for the past 28 years, the Heritage of Cambodian Americans has been honored and celebrated in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area and in other parts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is home to many Cambodians who are rich in their cultural heritage and are very successful in their professional lives; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Cambodian Community in the City of Alexandria and in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area, will celebrate its rich heritage and culture through various cultural activities, live performance of classical, folk and traditional dances, arts and crafts displays, traditional games, and ethnic food tasting; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is very proud of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of its Cambodian citizens, and recognizing their continuing contribution to the culture, education, arts, industries, community, civic life, the City of Alexandria joins the rest of the Commonwealth in celebrating Cambodian Community Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim August 24, 2008 as:

"CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY"

in the City of Alexandria, and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in recognizing the multiculturalism and diversity of the Cambodian American heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24th day of August 2008.

ueline M. Henderson, CMC

WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Farmer .

Message from The President



My dear friends, Let me start by saying "thank you" very much for your presence at Ben Brenman Park today. Your participation truly shows your commitment to preserving Cambodian culture and willingness to integrate it into American society.

This year, the Cambodian Community Day Committee has participated in events organized by many government agencies and non-profit organizations. We supported Angkor Association and Cambodian American Human Rights and Democracy during their fund-raising parties. We were at the Mayor's Office in D.C. for Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Celebration (APICC) and at Mount Vernon Community School in Alexandria for Asian-Pacific Heritage Night. On August 9th &10th, we exhibited our Cambodian arts and crafts at the Asian Festival in Reston, Virginia. In addition, we awarded \$300 scholarships to three needy Cambodian students to attend universities in Cambodia. However, that is not all. Our energetic group got off to a great start in planning the various activities that you are going to see and enjoy today. We are so happy and proud of what we have done. We could never achieve at this level without support from you and from our devoted team.

Again, thank you so much for making CCD 2008 another exciting and memorable event. Together, we are fostering greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Cambodian culture.

ខ្ញុំសូមជំរាបស្ួរអស់លោកលោកស្រីនឹងប្រីយមិត្តទាំងអស់ជាទីគោរពរាប់អាន,

ខ្ញុំសូមថ្ងៃជំអំណរគុណយ៉ាជ់ជ្រាលជ្រោដល់អស់លោកលោកស្រីដែលបានមកចូលរួមក្នុងទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរថ្ងៃនេះ។ វត្តមានរបស់ លោកលោកស្រីបញ្ជាក់នូវការជួយឧបត្ថម្ភដល់ទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរនិងការរួបរួមលើកដំកើងផ្សព្វផ្សាយវប្បធម៌របស់ខ្មែរយើងអោយ បានឡើងខ្ពស់មួយកំរិតថែមទៀត។ កាយវិការទាំងនេះជាគំរូនិងជាការបង្រៀនដល់កូនចៅយើងជំនាន់ក្រោយអោយ ចេះស្រឡាញ់ និងយល់នូវតម្ងៃនៃវប្បធម៌របស់ខ្មែរយើង។ សូមមេត្តាពូតដៃគ្នាជួយថែរក្សាកេរ្តិ៍ដំណែលរបស់បុព្វបុរសយើងអោយ បានគង់វង់។ ខ្ញុំ សង្ឃឹមថាអស់លោកលោកស្រីនិងបានទទួលការសប្បាយរីករាយជាមួយរបាំប្រពៃណីយ ល្បែងប្រជាប្រីយ ភ្វេង មហោរី ការសូត្រ កំណាព្យខ្មែរ ហើយនិងបានរាំលេងកំសាន្តជាមួយវង់តន្ត្រីស្ទឹងខៀវ ព្រមទាំងបានទស្សនានូវចាកជីវភាពអ្នកស្រុក ស្រែ និងពិធី មង្គលការត្រង់ចាកផ្ទឹមចង់ដៃផងដែរ។ ជាពិសេសអស់លោកលោកស្រីបានសំណេះសំណាលជាមួយមិត្តក័ត្ត្រ និងបាន ពង្រឹង មិត្តភាពរវាងគ្នានិងគ្នាអោយកាន់តែរឹងមាំ។ ខ្ញុំសូមអរគុណដល់សន្តានចិត្តដ៏សប្បុរសរបស់អស់លោកលោកស្រីដែលបានធ្វើ វិភាគទានផ្តល់នូវលទ្ធភាពក្នុងការចាត់ចែងប្រារព្ធទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរក្នុងថ្ងៃនេះ។

Sincerely,

Pophia P. Tep

Sophia P. Tep Cambodian Community Day President

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER - STATE-FOREIGN OPERATIONS

TRANSPORTATION-HUD

CO-CHAIR - CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
August 7, 2008

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Ms. Sophia Tep CCD President 6820 Darby Ln Springfield VA 22150-2005

Dear Ms. Tep:

I would like to congratulate you on your 2008 Cambodian Community Day on August 24, at Ben Brenman Park in Alexandria.

The Cambodian Community Day brings together a group of motivated people interested in promoting and preserving their Cambodian heritage and culture. Cultural diversity has always been one of America's greatest strengths and I am pleased that the participants in Cambodian Community Day are striving to keep their culture alive in the United States.

Again, I would like to congratulate and commend all the participants in Cambodian Community Day, and I am confident this special day will be a great success.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf Member of Congress

FRW:eh





TABLE OF CONTENTS

FACT ABOUT CAMBODIA	6
BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMBODIA	7, 8
DISCOVER KHMER PEOPLE	9
DISCOVER KHMER LANGUAGE	10
DISCOVER PHLENG KHMER (CAMBODIAN MUSIC)	11
DISCOVER KHMER RELIGION	12
DISCOVER THE ORIGINS OF KHMER WEDDING	13
DISCOVER KHMER DANCES	14
DISCOVER ANCIENT KHMER TEMPLES	15,18
DISCOVER TOURISM	19
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS AND CO-SPONSORS	20
CCD TEAM 2008	21
ADVERTISEMENTS	22-32

FACTS ABOUT CAMBODIA

At a Glance

Population

13,329,000

tion in 2050:

27.420.640



Estimated Popula-

Capital and Population Phnom Penh; 1,157,000

Area

181,035 square kilometers

(69,898 square miles, slightly smaller than timber, garments, rubber, rice, fish

Oklahoma) Language

Khmer (official) 95%, French, English

Religion

Theravada Buddhist (95%), Others 5%

Currency Riel

Life Expectancy

54.44 male, 58.74 female (2000 est.)

GDP Per Capita U.S. \$1,600

Industry

garments, rice milling, fishing, wood and wood products, rubber, cement, gem minina. textiles

Agriculture

rice, rubber, corn, vegetables Arable Land 13%

Exports

Imports

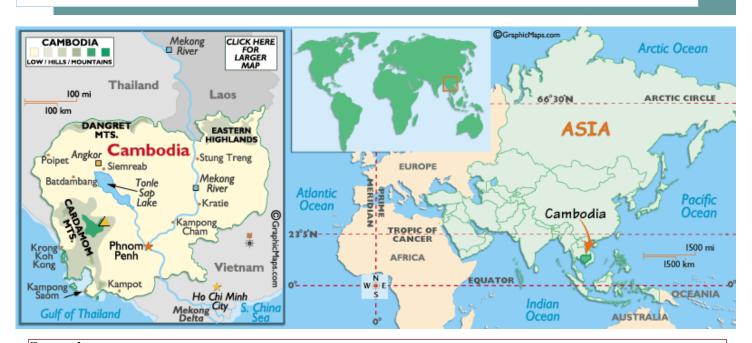
cigarettes, gold, construction materials, petroleum products, machinery, motor vehicles

Natural Resources

timber, gemstones, some iron ore, manganese, phosphates, hydropower potential **Literacy Percent**

70





Geography

Cambodia covers an area of 181,035 square kilometers. The country's shape is an almost-square polygon. The country extends 440 kilometers from north to south and 560 kilometers from west to east. It is bordered to the North by Thailand and Laos, to the East and South by Vietnam, and to the South and Southwest by the Gulf of Thailand. Most of Cambodia's landscape is relatively flat and suitable for rice production, but there are mountainous areas, which include the Dangrek, Cardomen and Elephant mountain ranges. The coastal boundary is 440 kilometers with medium depth tropical sea, rich in aquatic creatures. In addition, there are beautiful, uninhabited islands, virgin beaches, white sand and fresh air.

Climate and Seasons

Cambodia is a tropical country, bathed in sunshine almost all year round. It has a high average temperature. There are two distinct seasons, dry and monsoon. The monsoon lasts from May to October with southwesterly winds ushering in the clouds that bring seventy-five to eighty percent of the annual rainfall. The dry season runs from November to April averaging temperatures from 27 to 40 degrees Celsius. The most comfortable weather lasts from October to January.

Briefly Discover the History of Cambodia

Researched by Ben Bao

Legend

Traditional stories passed down from generation to generation tell how the land of Cambodia was formed. Once, there was an ocean ruled by Naga who built an empire under the sea. The land was ruled by the Indian Empire. One day, Neang Neak, a daughter of the Naga king, took a bath by the seashore. Her beauty caught the eyes of Preah Thong, a young Indian prince who was visiting the area. Falling in love with the princess at first sight, the prince went to ask the Naga king for Neang Neak's hand in marriage. The king refused to give his permission unless Preah Thong defeated the Naga's most powerful warrior. The prince won the contest, and the marriage took place. Keeping his word and as a token of his love for his daughter, the Naga King swallowed the water to uncover the land that is now known as Cambodia and gave it to the newlywed couple as a wedding gift.

Prehistoric era

Let's set aside the legend for now. Archaeological evidence suggests that early Cambodians were cave-dwellers. The earliest known site is Laang Spean cave which occupies the country's northwest region and inhabited by a Neolithic culture that may have migrated from southeastern China to the Indochinese Peninsula. Laang Spean cave was first occupied beginning in 7000 B.C. Rice has been grown on Cambodian soil since well before the 1st century AD. The inhabitants had developed relatively stable, organized societies far surpassed the primitive stage in culture and technical skills. The most advanced groups lived along the coast and in the lower Mekong River. Some historians speculate that these people arrived before their present Vietnamese, Thai, and Lao neighbors.

Funan (68 AD – 550 AD)

Cambodians consider Funan to be the earliest kingdom of Cambodia. Little is known about Funan except that it was a powerful trading state. Archaeological evidence indicates that this commercial society centered on the Mekong Delta and flourished from the 1st century to the 6th century. Through increasing trade and contact through the travels of merchants, diplomats, and learned Brahmans, Funan became an Indianized state. Immigrants, believed to have arrived in the fourth and the fifth centuries, accelerated the process. By the fifth century, the elite culture was thoroughly Indianized. Language, character symbols, tradition, custom, ceremony and the structure of political institutions were based on Indian models. The Sanskrit language was widely used.

Chenla (550 AD – 802 AD)

Chinese called a group of inland kingdoms Zhenla (Chenla) which flourished in the 6th and 7th centuries from southern Cambodia to southern Laos. The first stone inscriptions in the Khmer language and the first brick and stone Hindu temples in Cambodia are dated from the Chenla period. People of Chenla, referred to as Khmer, established control over Funan. They embarked on a course of conquest that continued for three centuries. They subjugated central and upper Laos, annexed portions of the Mekong Delta, and brought what are now western Cambodia and southern Thailand under their direct control.

Khmer Empire (802 AD – 1431 AD)

The Khmer Empire was the largest empire of Southeast Asia. The empire, which seceded from the kingdom of Chenla, at times ruled over great parts of modern-day Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Cultural accomplishments, immense political power and wealth, as well as a variety of belief systems during the period made Cambodia a powerful state. This was the golden age of Khmer civilization. Its greatest legacy is Angkor, which was its capital during the empire's zenith. The official religions included Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism, until Theravada Buddhism prevailed after its introduction from Sri Lanka in the 13th century.

Angkor Era (802 - 1431 A.D)

A young prince, Jayavarman II, returned home after a long stay at the court of Sailendra in Java. The purpose of his stay in Java is unknown, but he brought back the art and culture of Javanese Sailendran court to Cambodia. After his return to the former kingdom

of Chenla, he quickly built up his influence and conquered a series of competing kings. He



inaugurated a cult honoring the Hindu god Shiva (one of the principal deities of Hinduism) as a Deva Raja (Sanskrit term meaning "god-king"). He was crowned in 790 by the Khmers and became king of a kingdom then called "Kambuja" or "Kampuchea". In the following years he extended his territory and eventually established his new capital

of Hariharalaya near the modern Cambodian town of Roluos, where he laid down a foundation of Angkor. In 802, he declared himself Chakravartin in a ritual taken from the Indian-Hindu tradition that made him a divinely appointed and uncontested ruler. He simultaneously declared the independence of his kingdom from Java.

Jayavarman II died in 834. His successors continued to expand territory and built many great temples (more than a thousand sites) within the vicinity of Angkor. Indravarman I (reigned 877 - 889), with the wealth gained through

Angkor Vicinity where Angkor Wat and more than a thousands other temples scatter around. Modern satellite imagery suggests that the area is larger than today New York.

trade and agriculture, began extensive building projects, most importantly, the temple of Preah Ko and the irrigation systems. His son, Yasovarman I (reigned 889 - 915), established a new capital,

Yasodharapura - the first city of Angkor, a central temple of Phnom Bakheng, built on a hill, 60 m above the plain. East Baray, a massive water reservoir of 7.5 by 1.8 km was also created under his reign. Among the Khmer builder-kings was Suyavarman II, who built the temple known as Angkor Wat in the mid-12th century, and Jayavarman VII, who built the Bayon temple at Angkor Thom and several other large Buddhist temples half a century later. Cambodia was defeated in great naval battle of Tonle Sap and the Cham conquered and reigned over Cambodia for four years. Jayavarman VII was a military leader prince. He led the army to regain the capital. He ascended



the throne. He defeated Champa in 1203 and conquered large parts of its territory. A fervent Buddhist, he built hospitals and rest houses along the roads that criss-crossed the kingdom. Just like his predecessors, he continued to build an impressive network of reservoirs and canals which supplied irrigation to support large population and enable them to build even more temples.

Dark Ages (1593 – 1863) Jayavarman VII was the last great kings of Angkor. Unlike his predecessors, he was not a tyrant. He unified the empire, and above all,



he carried many building projects, and called the new capital Angkor Thom. After his death, the Khmer power declined. Some suspect a connection with the kings' adoption of Theravada Buddhism that contradicted Hinduism in many

ways. Under the Buddhism, kings were no longer considered "devarajas", and there was no need to erect huge temples to gods who protected their people. The retreat from the concept of the devaraja may also have led to a loss of royal authority, leading to a shortage of workers. Neighboring Thai kingdom that once paid homage to Angkor kings became more powerful and waged wars against Cambodia. The Khmers abandoned Angkor capital, retreated to a region near today Phnom Penh. For four centuries, little is known about Khmers.

French Colonial Rule (1863–1953)

In 18th century, there were frequent invasions by powerful Thai and incursions by Vietnamese forces. In the late 18th century, a civil war in Vietnam spilled over into Cambodia. Vietnam and Thailand competed for control over the Cambodian court. The continuing warfare came close to destroying Cambodia. France sought control over Indochina. In 1884, France forced King Norodom to approve a treaty with Paris that promised to protect Cambodian territory. In return, France sought abolition of slavery, institution of private land ownership, and the establishment of French residents in provincial cities. The king reluctantly signed the agreement. Local elites opposed its provisions and formed rebellions which were severely suppressed. France invested little in Cambodia's economy, but it left the monarchy, Buddhism, and the rhythms of rural life undisturbed. They developed rubber plantations in eastern Cambodia, restored the Angkor temple complex and deciphered Angkorean inscriptions, which gave Cambodians a clear idea of their medieval heritage and kindled their pride in Cambodia's past.

Post-Independence Cambodia

Cambodian gained independence from France in 1951. The Geneva Accords of 1954 acknowledged Sihanouk's government as the sole legitimate authority in Cambodia. Sihanouk's campaign for independence sharpened his political skills. In 1955 he abdicated the throne to pursue political career. In 1965, Sihanouk broke off diplomatic relations with the United States and sided with Vietnamese Communists in the Vietnam War. In March 1970 Cambodia's National Assembly deposed Sihanouk, abolished monarchy and created a republic state (Khmer Republic), elected a pro-western general, Gen. Lon Nol, to be its first president. Vietcong invaded Cambodia soon afterward in an attempt to liberate the monarchy for Sihanouk. The invasion against Lon Nol's poor and ill-equipped armies did not fully succeed because American troops helped Lon Nol fight the Vietcong as well. The Vietnam war spilled into Cambodia. Lon Nol was hoping that the U.S. aid would help him defeat the invasion, but the U.S. was more focused on the war in Vietnam. The Khmer Rouge gained strength and popularity during that period. With help from the Vietcong and its formidable ability to recruit fighters, the Khmer Rouge defeated the Khmer Republic in 1975 and reigned over Cambodia until 1979 when Vietnam invaded Cambodia and ended the Khmer Rouge regime. Under its rule, the Khmer Rouge abandoned free economy, currency, religion and completely destroyed the education system. The regime caused close to 3 millions Cambodians to lose their lives from starvation, political persecutions and murderous acts.

1992-93 UNTAC (UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA)

From 1979 to 1991, the Khmer Rouge waged a guerrilla war against the Vietnamese-installed government. Other Non-communist militia groups also fought the Vietnamese occupation as well. UNTAC was established to ensure implementation of the Agreements on the Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. The mandate included aspects relating to human rights, the organization and conduct of elections, military arrangements, civil administration, maintenance of law and order, repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons and rehabilitation of Cambodian infrastructure. The Paris agreement resulted in a general election in 1993 with a number of political parties participated.

Cambodia has made a lot of strides in recovering from the devastations of more than 30 years of war and the genocidal regime of Khmer Rouge. Much progress has been made. Although some still suffer from political intimidation, people now can live relatively in peace. The international community has helped rebuild Cambodian economy, roads and infrastructure, which has all lead to a boom in the tourism industry. Millions of visitors pay visits to Cambodia each year to see remnants of many temples scattered around Cambodia.

References:

Discover Khmer People





The word Khmer is referred to Cambodian people or the Cambodian language. The Khmer people make up most of the Cambodian total population and are the predominant (90%) ethnic group in Cambodia. There are also Cham, Chinese, Vietnamese and 20 other distinctive hill tribes. The Khmer-Morn, as it is often referred to, are ethno linguistic people who migrated into the mainland regions of Southeast Asia from the north more than 3000 years ago, much earlier than Thai people.

The Khmer were influenced by Indian traders and scholars, adapting their religions, sciences, and

customs and languages. In the early days, they believe in Deva Raja (Hinduism God-King) and the great temple as a symbolic holy mountain.

Cambodia's economy is mainly based on agriculture and tourism. More than 80 percent of Cambodians are farmers. They grow rice and other crops for their consumption and subsistence. A small percentage of people work in industries like: rice milling, fishing, wood products, rubber, cement factories, gem mining, and textiles.



In a typical Khmer family, the husband is the head of the family, responsible for providing shelter and food. The wife is generally in charge of the family budget and has considerable authority over family affairs. However, both men and women are responsible for working in the rice fields, and taking care of the household. Parents, children and grandparents are generally considered one household of extended nuclear families in Cambodia. Parents still have influence over their children, even while they are married and have children of their own. Overall, each family member shares the work in the household, which creates an efficient family dynamic. Health and life expectancy are very low in Cambodia, but this has been improving in recent years. This is due to the level of sanita-



tion. In most rural areas people use the same water from ponds and lake for drinking and cooking bathing, washing clothes. A shortage of qualified medical personnel in Cam-

bodia has compounded the healthcare problem. There are many NGOs (Non-Governmental Organization) and charitable organizations presently in Cambodia that help to fill the healthcare gap that the government has failed to provide, one of which is Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, run and funded by Friends Without A Border, a charitable organization based in New York city.



Angkor Hospital for Children, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, is a pediatric teaching hospital that provides free and compassionate care to much needed children in this region and medical education to health professionals from all parts of Cambodia.

AHC is funded by Friends Without A 3order, a non-profit organization based in the Unites States, Japan and France.

http://www.fwab.org

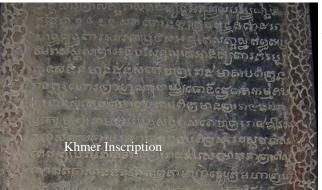




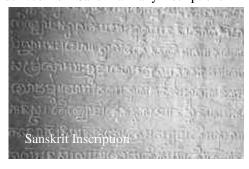
Discover Khmer Language



The word Khmer also refers to the language of the Cambodian people, the official language of Cambodia. Khmer has been considerably influenced by Sanskrit and Pali, through the vehicles of Hinduism and Buddhism. It is also the earliest recorded and earliest written language of the Mon-Khmer family. Many characters and words appears to be derived from Sanskrit. Many inscriptions



discovered on the wall of many Angkor temples are both in Khmer and in Sanskrit. It is believed that early Cambodian people used Sanskrit inscriptions, an Indian sacred language, to maintain the original form of prayers and tributes so that the values to their gods would not be



diluted by any form of translation. They also inscribed in Khmer to differentiate and distinguish a Khmer identity.

Khmer differs from neighboring languages such as Thai, Lao and Vietnamese in that it is not a tonal language. All its main dialects are mutually intelligible. Battambang is a dialect spoken by people in northern Cambodia. Siem Reap dialect is similar in tone to the Battambang one and is spoken in Siem Reap, Kampong Thom provinces. Phnom Penh, the capital dialect, is spoken by people in surrounding provinces. Takeo and Svay Rieng, Prey Veng is close to the Phnom Peng, but Prey Veng has a slightly different accent. Khmer Surin is another popular dialect. Surin was a former Cambodian northern province, annexed by Thai in the 18th century. Native Khmers who live in this province still speak Khmer with Surin accent, even though Thai is the official language. Khmer Krom or Southern Khmer, spoken by the indigenous Khmer population of the Mekong Delta, former Cambodian provinces that French had annexed to Vietnam during the French colonial period. However, the Khmer Krom still keep Khmer tradition and Khmer language. There are also highlander dialects spoken by many tribes in the mountains of western Cambodia.

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Consonant subscript

ក្និទ្តិឃា្ស្ស៍ចូត្ជញ្ញាជ្ជប្នេញ្ញស្ស្រា

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ចេះពីរៀន មានពីរក។ knowledge is from learning. Wealth is from work. មនុស្សម្នាក់។កើតមកស្មើៗគ្នា ហើយមានសិទ្ធិ សេរីភាពដូចៗគ្នា។ All human being are born free and have same equal rights.

Discover Phleng Khmer (Cambodian Music) 5525

PHLENG KHMER

The word "phleng" is a literal translation of the English word 'music". The word "Khmer" is used interchangeably with the word "Cambodian" to mean people of Cambodian or Cambodian language. We can divide the Cambodian music into two main categories: modern/contemporary music and traditional music. "Phleng Khmer" refers to the Cambodian traditional music. Phleng Khmer can be divided into three sub-categories, each of which is suitable for a particular social and traditional event.

Phleng Mohoree (Mohoree Ensemble)

Mohoree musicians use different type of fiddles, recorder (Khloy), dulcimer and banjo, Roneat and drums. The music is suitable for an entertainment in social and traditional events. It normally has an upbeat, happy-going style of music. Songs and lyrics of Mohoree music normally depict the beauty and admiration of nature, the confession of love or the teasing between man and woman.



Phleng Kar (Wedding music)

Phleng Kar is one of the major components in the wedding ceremony. In fact, it is an essential one. Unlike the Phleng Mohoree theme, which is always an offbeat and happy tune, the Phleng Kar is much sober, much more emotional. It is the time for the bride and the groom to reflect about their lives, from the day they were born, how they have been raised, the good deeds of their parents, and the journey ahead as a married person. The Phleng kar is played from the early morning of the wedding day to the conclusion of the ceremony (the thread-tying and the blessing) early next day. There are six musicians in the ensemble. They use two types of fiddles (a melodic fiddle that leads the whole ensemble and the bass fiddled), one dulcimer, one Takhe (two-string dulcimer), one drum and a singer.

Phleng Pinpeat

Phleng Pinpeat is performed at different events ranging from praying to Buddha to classical dances to funeral processions. The songs and lyrics vary according to the event type. The praying music is melodious and serves simply to enhance the praying services. The classical dance Pinpeat emphasizes the drum beat that coordinates and synchronizes the dancers' footsteps. The funeral type has a sad tone and lyrics that may cause one to cry.

Cambodian Traditional Music Instruments

(Researched by Boran Tum, edited by Ben Bao)



Roneat Thoung Roneat Ek Khim (dulcimer) Takhe Tror Ou Tror Sau low-pitched fiddle high-pitched fiddle



Skor Day Skor Sampho Takhe Chheung Tror (fiddle)

Discover Khmer Religion 535553

Cambodians are predominantly Buddhist and account for about 95% of the population. A small percentage practices other religions, such as Catholicism, Protestantism, and Islam. They also believe in local deities, ancestral spirits, as well as the evil spirits. While Cambodians practice Buddhism, their beliefs also greatly influenced by Hinduism. Since ancient times, the Khmer accepted the two great religions from India: Hinduism and Buddhism. At times, the former one was more popular.

Hinduism had played an important role in Khmer civilization. The Khmer built thousands of monument temples to show devotions to Hindu gods, mainly, Shiva or Vishnu who is believed to be a supreme Hindu deity regarded as a protector. During the same period, the Buddhism of Mahayana was also being revered by the Khmer. However, Buddhism was less prominent. Both Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism played an important role as the political, religious and philosophical pillars of the Khmer civilization. The king was revered as the god-king or deva-raja (Hinduism influence), but also was expected to be humble and compassionate (Buddhism influence). Theravada Buddhism was introduced to Cambodia from Sri Lanka in 13th century. Theravada Buddhism

teaches people to seek self enlightenment and abandonment of worldly things. That contradicted the original Khmer beliefs and caused people to change attitudes towards their Hindu gods as well as the god-king. Some scholars believe that this is one of the possible explanations of the gradual weakening of the Khmer empire and eventual collapse in the first half of 15th century.

Nowadays, there are many Buddhist pagodas scattered around the country. Cambodians build them right in their communities. Each pagoda has one big temple building called Preah Vihear where most Buddhist ritual ceremonies take place. There is always one gigantic Buddha statue and sev-



eral small ones in the temple. Cambodians paint the walls and ceiling of the temple with beautiful scenes from the life of Buddha, from when he was born until when he reached enlightenment.



There is a dinning hall. The hall usually has half-walls and one full wall, at the side where one big Buddha statue and several small ones were placed, along with offering altar. This is the place where Buddhist monks have their breakfast and lunch. Foods are brought by the parishioners and are offered to the monks at a food offering ritual in which believers renew their vows and obedience to Buddha and his teaching. Monks and laymen do not have dinner. They must eat before noon, passing that time, they are not allowed to eat. There are one or more sanctuaries where monks live and learn Dharma.

Every boy in a Cambodian family is expected to be ordained as a Buddhist monk. This is viewed as an act of gratitude and respect to parents. In Theravada Buddhism, every boy and man can become a monk any times in their lifetime. Also, the monk can leave their monkhood anytime he wishes. However, devout Buddhist monks usually stay in the monkhood for life.



Discover the Origins of the Khmer Wedding ពិនីទទួលទារ

Traditional Khmer wedding symbolizes the beautiful legend of the origin of Cambodia. It has been adopted since the ancient time from a legend of the marriage of the first Khmer prince, Preah Thong, to the naga princess, Neang Neak. The prince was a foreigner exiled from his homeland, and during his travels encountered and fell in love with the naga princess. As a marriage gift, the father of the naga princess swallowed a part of the ocean, and thus formed the land of Cambodia.

A traditional Khmer wedding is one of the most joyous occasions for a Khmer family and typically lasts from three days to an entire week. It is a grand affair, full of color and festivity, as well as tradition. Together, families, friends, and other members of the community come to enjoy the celebration. Musicians play throughout the day on traditional instruments. The couple is dressed like royalty. The bride may change her outfit several times in one day. If the wedding is a week-long affair, she could declare the color of her dress each day and the wedding party would dress only in that color.

Procession of the Groom

At the beginning of the day, the bride customarily waits at her parent's house while the groom gathers a procession of his family and

friends. The procession symbolizes the journey of the prince Preah Thong to meet his bride, the princess Neang Neak. The groom's procession approaches the bride's home bearing wrapped platters of gifts, variety of fruits and Khmer desserts, and is led by a band of musicians and singers.

Mai Ba, a well-respected representative of the bride's family comes out to greet the procession. Chao Moha, a well-respected representative of the groom's family introduce the groom and ask permission to enter the house. The fruits and desserts are counted. The Mai Ba and Chao Moha run through a humorous verbal parlay



which ends with the groom and the rest of the procession being allowed to get into the bride's home.

Passing the Blessing

Married couples are asked to gather in a circle around the bride and the groom, as it is believed they will pass along the special quality that has preserved their union. Three candles are lit and handed from person to person. Each participant passes their right hand over the candle in a sweeping motion towards the couple sending a silent blessing to them. The candles are passed around the circle clockwise seven times to complete the ceremony. The Achar (wedding master of ceremony) will then charge the groom with the care of the new family.

Knot Tying



Khmer weddings have a knot tying ceremony, but unlike what the name implies, it is the guests who tie the knots, not the bride and groom. Families and friends are invited to come forward to bring their best wishes and blessings to the new couple by individually tying ribbons around each of their wrists. These ribbons are traditionally worn for three days to preserve the good luck.



Showering of Flowers

Immediately following the knot tying ceremony, guests are given petals and are positioned to shower the couple in celebration of their union.

Discover Khmer Dances <mark>ខោំអម្បសា</mark>តា

Classical Dance

Cambodian classical dance was one of the many forms of art in Cambodian civilization rooted many centuries ago. It is often referred to as royal court dance. Historically, the royal court dance was performed at the court for royal families' pleasure. Nowadays, the dances are performed at various social occasions such as foreign diplomat guest receptions, festivals for public leisure, or events at a religious ceremony. In America these expressive forms of art are kept alive by many interest groups. The classical dance depicts a relationship between gods that dwells around all mankind and the mortals, the king, his people, and his kingdom. The costumes used in the dance reflect the civilization of the era. Normally, the male character is performed by a female dancer wearing a distinctive, masculine characteristic costume.

Most traditional dances seen today were developed in the 18th through 20th centuries, beginning in earnest with a mid-19th century revival championed by King Ang Duong (1841-1869). Subsequent Kings and other Khmer Royals also strongly supported the arts and dance, most particularly Queen Sisowath Kossamak Nearireach (retired King Norodom Sihanouk's mother) in the mid-20th

Or Phtey Srok Khmer (Khmer Rural Lif

century, who not only fostered a resurgence in the study and development of Khmer traditional dance, but also helped move it out of the Palace and popularize it.

Apsara dance

Classical dance, including the famous Apsara dance, has a grounded, subtle, restrained, almost ethereal appearance. Distinct in its ornate costuming, taut posture, arched back and feet, flexed fingers flexed, codified facial expressions, slow, close, deliberate but flowing movements, Classical dance is uniquely Khmer. It presents themes and stories inspired primarily by the Reamker (Cambodian version of the Indian classic, the Ramayana) and by the Age of Angkor.

Folk Dance

Folk Dance come in two forms: ceremonial and theatrical. As a general rule, only Theatrical Folk Dance is presented in public performances, with Ceremonial Folk Dances reserved for particular rituals, celebrations and holidays. Theatrical Folk Dances such as the popular Good Harvest Dance and the romantic Fishing Dance are





usually adaptations of dances found in the countryside or inspired by rural life and practices. Most of the Theatrical Folk Dances that are seen in performances today were developed at the RUFA

> in Phnom Penh in the 1960s as part of an effort to preserve and perpetuate Khmer culture and arts.

Prasat Preah Vihear

The Khmer began building Prasat (temple) Preah Vihear in 9th century atop of a mountain cliff, 525 meters high, overlooking a vast plain and mountain range. At the time, Cambodian western territory extended as far as present Burma and northern territory as far as Chieng Mai, Thai's province. For centuries, it was a sanctuary dedicated to Hindu god Shiva. The construction was accelerated during the reigns of the kings Suryavarman I (1002 -1050) and Suryavarman II (1113 - 1150). Its architecture resembles the style of Koh Ker (early 10th century), and





Banteay Srey (late 10th century). It adapted to the natural environment and religious function. Suryavarman II, the main architect of most Khmer temples during his reign, wanted to increase the prestige and natural beauty of the Khmer temples, changed the original small sanctuary into one of the greatest Khmer temples of all times. The result

was the finest carving statues that depicted the highest standard and unique Khmer architecture. There are many exceptional quality carved stone



ornamentations which made the temple extraordinary. Without a doubt, the temple has the most remarkable setting of all the Khmer architects anywhere in Cambodia.

During the French colonial era, Cambodia lost a vast area of territory. Today, the temple is situated on the edge of a plateau at Cambodian-Thai border. The geographic location is a subject of an emotional dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. In 1904, Siam and the French colonial authorities, based on their border commission works, placed Prasat Preah Vihear on Thai side. In 1907, French officers drew up a new map, showing the temple on Cambodia side. In 1954, Thai forces occupied the temple following the withdrawal of French troops from Cambodia. Cambodia protested, and in 1959, asked the International Court of Justice to rule on the ownership. Former U.S. secretary of state Dean Acheson was an attorney for Cambodian government. Thailand's legal team included a former British

attorney general, Sir Frank Soskice. On June 15, 1962, the Justice at the Hague officially found that the Preah Vihear Temple situated inside the Cambodia territory, by a vote of 9 to 3. On July 8, 2008, the World Heritage Committee decided to add Prasat Preah Vihear to the World Heritage Site list.



The temple complex runs about 800 meters north-south axis. It has four levels and four courtyards. Palace Building was the King's residence when he came to pay homage to the mighty God. The two wings were the shelters for the pilgrims. The main temple is used for the high-ranking supreme divinities. The front stone stairway is a main passage on the North side. The stairway is 8 meters wide and 78 meters long.

The fist flight has 162 steps. The first landing is a large stone statue. Another 54 flight of steps 4 meters wide and 27 meters long leads up to the second landing. It is also decorated with stone statue. The Nagaraj Courtyard is a stone-paved, 7 meters wide by 31.8 meter. The Stairs are in the form of seven-headed snakes called "Ngu Suang" facing North towards the temple. A shorter avenue leads to level 3,

the first courtyard of the temple which resembles Angkor Wat architecture. A short causeway decorated with nagas leads to the inevitable level 4 where the second courtyard, known as Galleries, and the Main Sanctuary are located.

Apsara



Apsaras are supernatural beings in Hindu and Buddhist mythology, appearing as young women of great beauty and elegance. They are proficient in the art of dancing. They are the wives of the Gandharvas, court servants of Indra. They dance to the music made by their husbands, usually in the palaces of the gods, and entertain gods and fallen heroes. As Hinduism and Buddhism made ways into Cambodia, Apsara became a symbol of dancing art. The walls of many Angkorian temples are covered inside and out with bas-reliefs and carvings including Apsara. Nearly 2,000 distinctively rendered apsara carvings adorn the walls of Angkor Wat. Other fine apsara carving arts are also found at the walls and pillars of Bayon temple.

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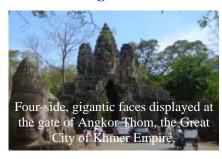
Prasat Angkor Wat



Constructed in early 12th century by King Suryavarman II, Angkor Wat is visually, architecturally and artistically breathtaking. It is a massive three-tiered pyramid crowned by five lotus-like towers rising 65 meters from ground level. It is in the form of a massive temple-mountain dedicated to the Hindu god, Vishnu.

Angkor Wat is surrounded by a moat and an exterior wall measuring 1300 meters x 1500 meters. The temple itself is 1 km square and consists of three levels surmounted by a central tower. The walls of the temple are covered inside and out with bas-reliefs and carvings. Apsara carvings, 2000 of them are on the walls throughout the temple. The exterior walls of the lower level display the most extraordinary bas-reliefs, depicting stories and characters from Hindu mythology and the historical wars of Suryavarman II. The northern reflecting pool in front is the most popular sunrise location.

Prasat Angkor Thom



Angkor Thom (the Great City) was the last and most enduring capital city of the Khmer empire, established in the late twelfth century by king Jayavarman VII. It covers an area of 9 square km. There are several monuments from earlier eras as well as those established by Jayavarman and his successors. At the center of the city is Jayavarman's state temple, the Bayon (characterized by many gigantic stone face towers), with the other major sites clustered around the Victory Square immediately to the north. Three centuries earlier, Khmer capital was at Yasodharapura slightly further northwest. Angkor Thom overlapped parts of it. Former state temples (Baphuon, and Phimeanakas) were incorporated into the Royal Palace during the reign of king Jayavarman VII. Angkor Thom remained the capital of the Khmer kingdom until it was abandoned some time prior to 1609.

Prasat Banteay Srey



Banteay Srey loosely translates to "citadel of the women". Banteay Srey was built in the late 10th century by King Rajendravarman, at a time when the Khmer Empire was gaining significant power and territory. The temple was constructed by a Brahmin counselor under a powerful king, Rajendravarman and later under Jayavarman V. It displays some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art. It is relatively small in size with pink sandstone walls densely covered by some of the most beautiful, deep and intricate carvings.

Prasat Samre



This monument takes its name from the Samre people, country people. It is located to the east of the earth embankment forming the eastern wall of the East Baray. There is a legend connecting the naming of this monument with a farmer who mistakenly killed the king then ascended the throne.

Banteay Samre was constructed in the mid 11th century by King Udayadityavarman II, in the heart of Angkor Thorn. The exterior entry gate is a 200 meter causeway paved in laterite and bordered by a naga balustrade in the style of Angkor Wat. Carvings show Buddhist scenes in a Hindu temple. There are multilated sculptures, believed to be about Buddhist, a sign of religious tolerance of the monument's patron.

Srah Srang

Srah Srang is a baray (water reservoir) at Angkor located south of the East Baray. It was constructed in the mid 10th century, and modified in the 12th or 13th century. It is an area of land where dikes have been raised to catch and hold water. There are four barays in the Angkor area. The first was built by King Yasovarman I, measuring 3.8km x 880m. The second one measures 7.8km x 880m, almost five times larger than the first. The third and largest baray (8km x 2.2km) is the West Baray, built in the early 11th century. The last baray, baray of Preah Khan, was constructed by Jayavarman VII in the late 12th century.



The number of people visiting Cambodia is up by 13 percent from the same period last year, according to Cambodian Government. More than half of all international visitors visited fame Angkor temples. Last month, the UN World Heritage listed Preah Vihear, a 11th century temple in the northern part of the country, as one of the world wonders, benefiting Cambodian tourism even more. Also, read page 15.

Siem Reap

The town is where most visitors stay because its proximity to the Angkor Archeological Park where dozens temple ruins are located. The Airport is about 6 km from the town

center. The main temple complex is

about 5 to 10 km north of town. You may find good hotels as cheap as US\$20 to stay, but there are many larger, upscale ones with reasonable prices. Beside airplanes, there are bus, tourist-taxi and boat services from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. Getting around town in Siem Reap is easy. You may use car taxi, cost about US\$5 to the temple center. Motorcycle taxi costs about US\$1. Guided tours and books are abundant. During your stay, you may enjoy dinning at many authentic Khmer cuisines and shop at many



souvenir shops to complete your journey.

Tonle Sap (the Great Lake)

The Tonle Sap Lake is one of the natural wonders of the world. It has served as a main source of freshwater fish since the Great Angkor era dating back some 1,000 years ago. The floating houses and fishing villages along its banks are main tourist attractions.

The Tonle Sap area also has a wealth of bird life for keen bird-watchers.

Phnom Kulen



This is a most sacred of all Khmer Pilgrimages located at a picturesque site about one hour from Siem Reap. It is a popular bath place.

Phnom Penh According to legend, the capital of Cambodia was named

after Grandma Penh. One day, she found a hollow Koki tree drifting ashore. She discovered four bronze and one stone Buddha statues inside the tree. She then founded a sanctuary on the hill in 1372 where the grand stupa still stands today. This place is often referred to as Wat Phnom. Also, read page 12.

Buddhist Institute







Embassy link: http://www.embassyofcambodia.org/tourism.htm.



Tonle Sap

Royal Cambodian

Inside Angkor Wat

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank the City of Alexandria, Dept of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities, all CCD 2008 committee members, volunteers and their families; individual and group organization sponsors; business advertisers, professional and non-profit communities, all artistic performers and musicians, all Cambodians, Americans who comes and support us today. The CCD preparation is the hard work of people who involved all year round. We appreciate for all the contributions and donations that made the CCD possible.

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Congratulations to Ms. Sophia Tep, President of CCD, CCD committees and all volunteers for "a job well done" for another great Cambodian Community Day 2008!

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- ១. ពត័មានផ្នែកសុខភាពជាភាសាផ្សេងៗនឹងការនៃនាំតាមទូរសព្ទ័ដើម្បី
 - ជួយនៃនាំ អំពីធនធានផ្នែកសុខភាពរបស់ ស្រុកមន់គោម៉ែរី
 - ផ្ដល់ពត័មានឬនៃនាំរកសេវាផ្នែកសុខភាពរបស់ស្រុកមន់គោម៉ែរី
 - ជួយបកប្រែភាសាផ្នែកសុខភាពតាមទូរសព្ទ័
- ២. មានអ្នកបកប្រែផ្នែកសុខភាពជាភាសាផ្សេងៗដើម្បីជួយ
 - សំរូលការលំបាកផ្នែកភាសា
 - ជួយណាត់ជូបពេទ្យនៅគ្លីនិគ ស្រុក មន័គោម៉ែរី
 (សំរាប់អ្នកណាដែលមានថវិកាទាប ឬគ្មានអាស្សារង់ពេទ្យ)
 - ជួយបកប្រែភាសា ផ្នែកសុខភាព ដល់ទីកន្លែង

" យើ១និយាយភាសារបស់អូក "

យើងមានអ្នកបច្ចេកទេសសំរាប់ទទូលទូរសព្ទ័ដែលចេះនិយាយ ភាសា**ចិន ឥណ្ឌា កូរេ វៀតណាម** រួមទាំង ភាសាអាស៊ីផ្សេងៗទៀត។ ពត័មានបន្ថែមពីកម្មវិធី **នេះស្សិន ឈាខេ្សិស្ខេតន ័ម្រគ្រាម**

នេះសូមមេត្តាទូរសព្ទ័ទៅលេខ: 301-760-4993

Toll Free: 1-866-403-1566









Montgomery County DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI)
in Partnership with
Cross Cultural Infotech (CC Infotech)
Introduces the Launch of the New

Patient Navigator Program

Services offered by this FREE program include:



1. Multilingual Health Information and Referral Line to

- Help Navigate Montgomery County health resources
- Provide information on/and referrals to County health

services

Assist with Interpretation over the phone

2. Multilingual Medical Interpreters to

- Help overcome communication barriers
- Assist with scheduling appointments to County clinics (for low income/uninsured Montgomery County residents)
- Provide On-site Medical Interpretation

"We Speak Your Language"

Information Specialists are available to take your call in Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Vietnamese and other Asian languages as needed.

To learn more about the Patient Navigator Program please call:
301-760-4993
OR

Toll Free: 1-866-403-1566











មូលនិធីខ្មែរសម្រាប់ការសិក្សា Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation

FOUNDATION String House British House

Equal Education Opportunity For All www.ceefoundation.org

The CEE Foundation is a 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit organization, dedicated to enrich Cambodian students, especially those with a financial disadvantage, but with an academic excellence, moral character, integrity, career objectives, a mindset for exemplary leadership, and a heart that is willing to serve others.



Our Mission

To create and promote an environment that empowers our young and precious generation of Cambodians to take up education as a way to enrich their own life, the life of others, thus the prosperity of the country.



Our Philosophy

"Equal Education Opportunity For All"

a commitment to learning, by which it fuels a lamp that illuminates the future

a willingness to help those in need without compensation

a quality to take initiative; a sacrifice of yielding one's personal interest for the interest of others a force that distinguishes a person from others



We believe:

Character:

- Unity is Strength and Knowledge is Power
- well-educated citizens are more productive and strong
- well-educated citizens fuel the economic growth

Our Future Plans

- Award more scholarships;
- Set up more school libraries in rural areas
- Create computer labs
- Provide school supplies to impoverished students
- Assist Orphan and Vulnerable Children to have access to education

Our Current Services:

- Scholarships to impoverished students, enabling them to pursue higher education
- Scholarships to young children, enabling them to attend evening English school
- School library system in rural areas, enabling children to improve their reading abilities

Please come and support us at

រាត្រីអំសាន្តទំនួយជល់អារសិក្សានិទមន្ត្រាល័យ

Education/Adopt-A-Library Night

Saturday, November 1st, 2008 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Lucky Three Restaurant

5900 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041 Tel: 703-998-8888

Admission Fee: \$40 (\$20 is tax deductible)

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CEE Foundation/Treasurer 9845 Canal Road, Montgomery Village, MD 20886 Please make check payable to CEE Foundation.



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សម្រាប់ការធ្វើប្រាក់ក្នុងចំនួនចាប់ពី 500។ដុល្លាវចុះ

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- 🗸 ថ្ងៃ*សេវាកម្មធ្វើប្រាក់មិនមានការប្រែប្រួលទៅតាមទឹកខ្លែងរបស់ភ្នាក់ងារទទួលប្រាក់ឡើយ
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*** iputropigaturomanistigi u is aum gi zon unutromay gritumulkommany paptylinui puntpingoner ultriadismitnigi da Seele, Rence in Sector i

Wester Union ស្រានប្រព័ន្ធមាននៅក្បាយជាតិនៅលាំពុកនៃបែកគ្មានប្រសាធម្មានការប្រសាធមានប្រចាំពេលប្រចាំ ប្រធានបានគឺម៉ែកការបានប្រកិត្ត ««នេះសាងការសុខប្រជាពលបែកប្រកិត្តមានស្ថិតនៅជាតិបាន និងនៅលោកនៃប្រកាសការបានបានការបានបានការបានការបានការបានការបានបាន