



College of Humanities
and Social Sciences

Department of Geography
and Anthropology

February 5, 2013

Cultural Property Advisory Committee
Cultural Heritage Center,
Department of State, Annex 44
301 4th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20547

Madame Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

I write to encourage you to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States and the Kingdom of Cambodia that addresses import restrictions on archaeological material. I am an Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University and I have been conducting archaeological research in India for over 10 years. As a result, I have had the opportunity to study the archaeology of the neighboring region of Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia. I have also researched the irreparable harm that can be done to a nation's heritage when antiquities are not properly regulated.

The archaeological and material heritage of Cambodia is exceptional and remains under extraordinary threat from illicit collecting and exporting activities. While the current MoU covers the Bronze Age through the Khmer Era, I recommend extending this time period to include older and younger artifacts which are also under threat. The government of Cambodia has worked very hard over the past few decades to curb such activities and to protect its priceless monuments and artifacts. However, these efforts are insufficient if countries targeted by looters, like the United States, do not implement import restrictions. The citizens of the United States benefit from such import restrictions as they ensure good will with the people of Cambodia. Such import restrictions do not preclude the exchange of cultural property for educational purposes, and in fact foster such exchanges between museums, universities, and other cultural and educational institutions.

In sum, extending the MoU between the US and Cambodia will act as a powerful deterrent to looters, safeguard the heritage of Cambodia, and promote good-will and understanding between the US and Cambodia. For these reasons, I request that you renew the MoU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa P. Raczek".

Teresa P. Raczek, PhD
Assistant Professor