

Area based archaeology and cultural heritage education in Angkor of Cambodia

Masako Marui[1]

[1] Inst. of Asian Cultures, Sophia Univ.

The presentation would like to introduce the activities on cultural heritage education in Angkor sites, Cambodia. It stands on the view point focused in the relationship between archaeology and local community.

Historically, in Cambodia the field of archaeology has begun as one of the sub discipline to pioneer Angkor studies mainly by French researchers. It has gone back to the French colonial period, around the beginning of the 20th Century. Archaeology, in this period had occupied the interest of the historical buildings remained on the ground, on the other hand, paid no attention to buried cultural properties.

Angkor archaeological sites have registered World Heritage in 1992. After the experience of the civil war for 20 years since 1970'S, Angkor monument such as Angkor Wat was placed a key to reconstruct a country, following the historical sites rescue campaign by international state and non-state organs has started. This campaign is very famous for a success international cooperation organized by World Heritage Center, UNESCO.

In recent years, the number of visitor to Angkor had increased with around 963,000 in January-November, 2008. It raised around 7 percent increased compared to the last year.

But, most significance character of Angkor sites is Living Sites for people as the place to worship. The historical landscape including monument, local community, and natural environment is evaluated for World heritage.

Sophia University Angkor International Mission has conducted archaeological survey at Banteay Kdei, one of Angkor sites, since 1991. Our policy is like that Archaeological site conservation by Cambodian, for Cambodian. We have carried out the human resource development.

Also, to build up a closer connection with local community near by the site, since 1998 the site visiting programme has been arranged in every excavation campaign. Then from 2008, this programme has developed into more large scale cultural heritage education event. We hope local Cambodian people to understand, touch, and enjoy the archaeology, cultural heritage, and the history of the area.

It seems the difficult to continue, but we believe firmly of a entrance to public archaeology based on the area.