

# INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN CAMBODIA





## **I- CAMBODIAN INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (CIC)**

### **WHAT IS THE INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL?**

The Inter-religious Council is a non-governmental organization, which was set up to muster the potential of people of different religions in order to care for the Creation and promote peace in our country and the world alike. Furthermore the purpose of the set-up is to contribute to building Cambodia in line with moral principles, non-violence, mercy, and mutual understanding as stipulated in each religious treatise.

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL IN CAMBODIA**

The horrific event of the 2001 September 11 attack on the World Trade Center brought about deep worries and various measures have been taken to prevent such a terrorist attack from happening again.

In the middle of 2002, Kofi Annan, then-Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), sent Dr. William F.



The inauguration ceremony bringing together 200 Buddhist, 100 Muslim and 100 Christian delegates, as well as government, the United Nation and civil society representatives. His Majesty the King Norodom Sihanouk who endorsed and supported the CIC, delivered the Royal Address.



*This meeting was at Chaktumuk conference hall, Phnom penh, cambodia, 10 oct. 2002*

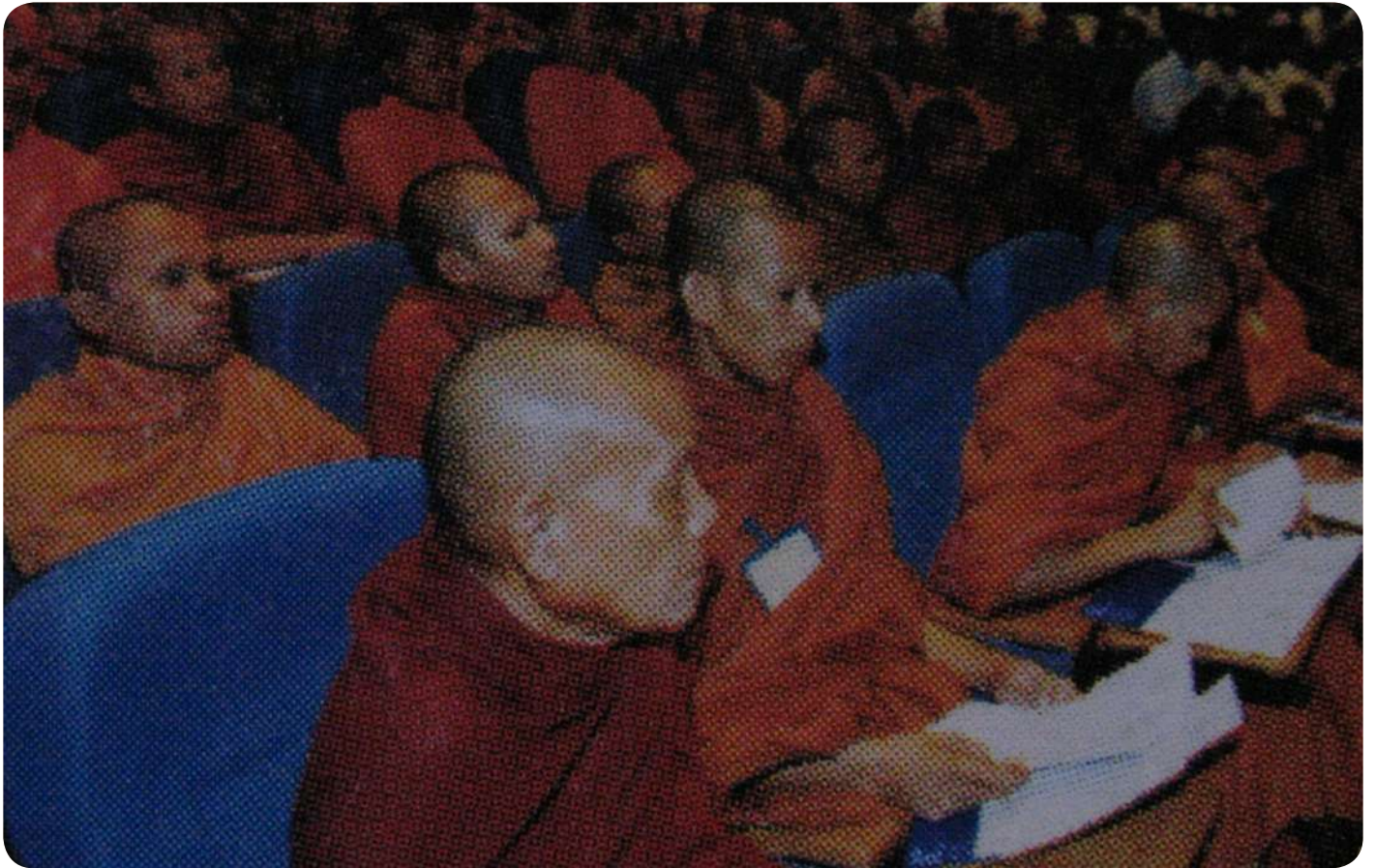
Vendley, the Secretary General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) of the UN, to Cambodia to meet His Excellency Sok An, the Senior Minister for the Council Ministers in order to set up the Inter-religious Council.

The opening ceremony of formation of the Council took place on the 10th of October 2002, 8:30 am until 12 am at Chatomuk Theater of Phnom Penh. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Minister Kong Samol, the deputy minister of the Royal Palace representing King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

The ceremony also featured the recitation of prayers. A welcome speech had been made to welcome the minister of the Ministry of Cults and Religion and the Secretary General of the WCRP.

Later on, high profile speakers highlighted the way of building of peace. All representatives of the main religions, the founders in Cambodia were determined to put ideas together towards peace.

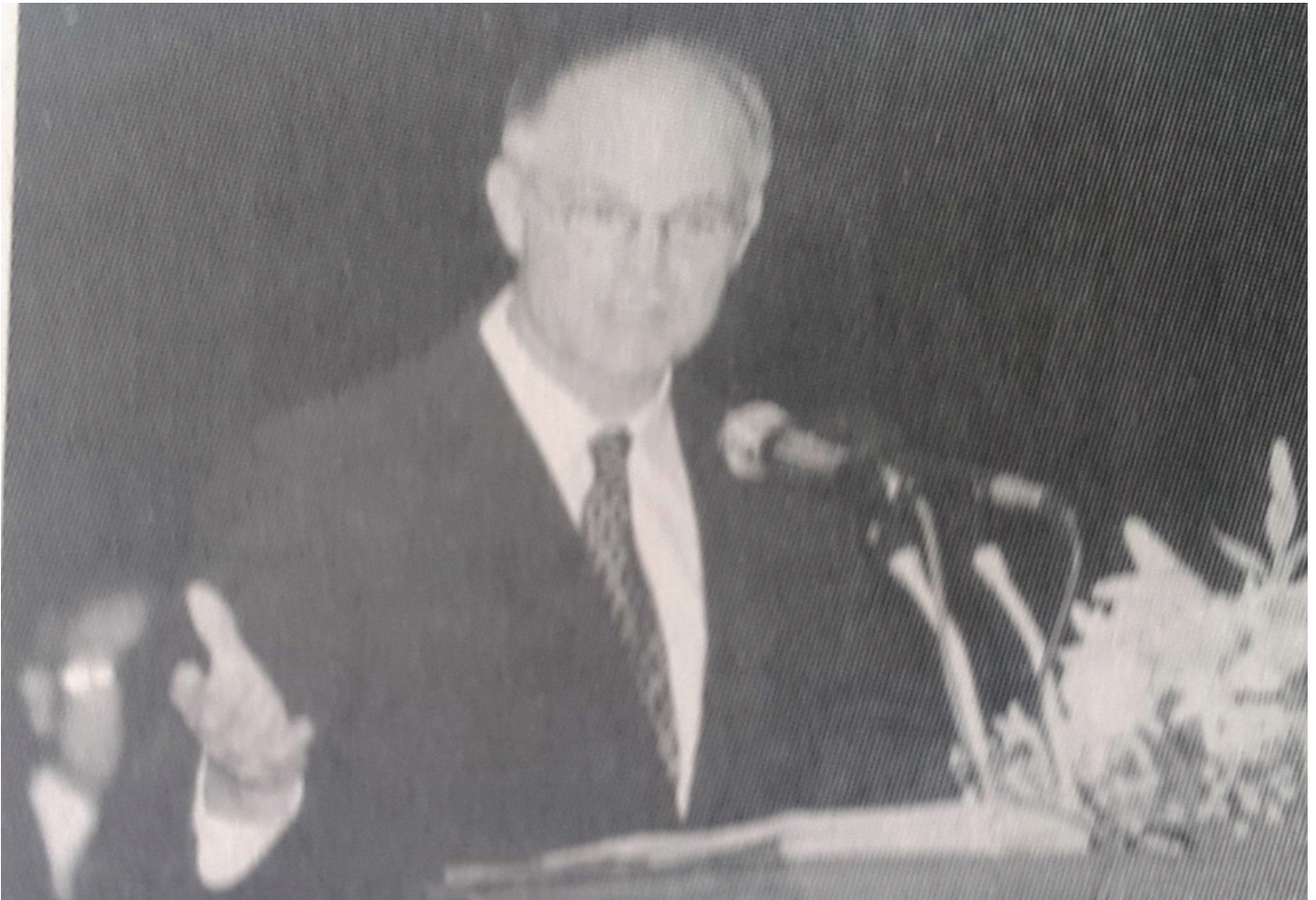
## **II- THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE CAMBODIAN INTER- RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (CIC)**



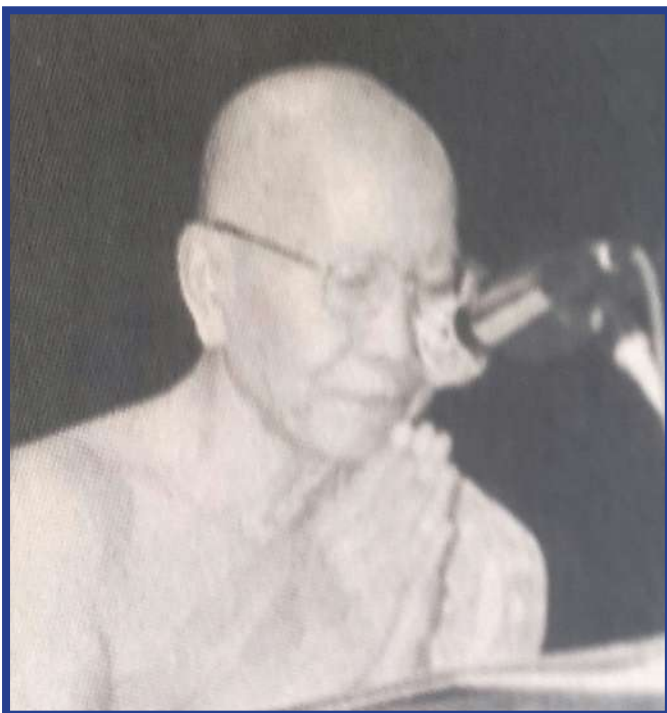
Opening Jayanto chanting by monk



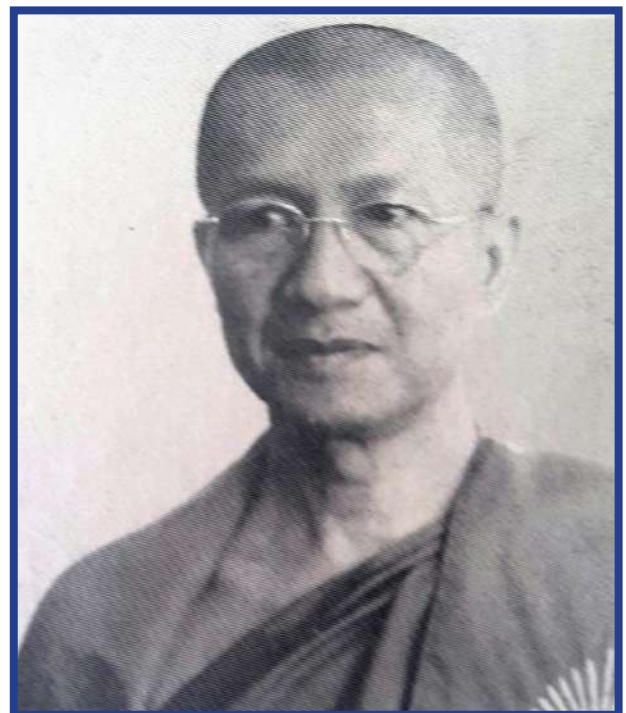
Opening prayer by Islam and catholic and protestant



Introduction to wcrp by Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General, World Conference on Religion and Peace.



The Most Venerable Samdech TEP VONG Suprem Patriarch of the Mahanikaya Buddhist Order.

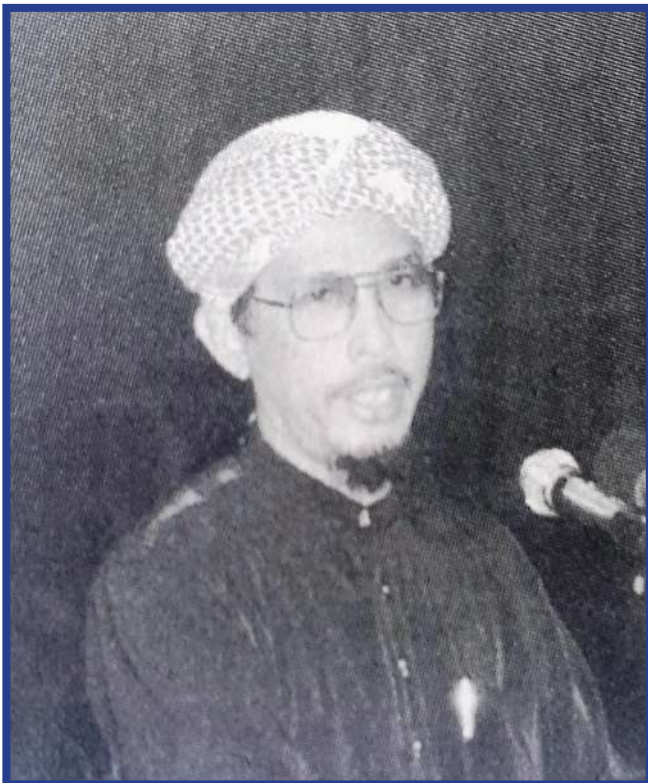


The Most Venerable Samdech BOUR KRY Suprem Patriarch of the Dhammayuttikanikaya Buddhist Order.

**COMMITMENTS BY FOUNDERS OF THE CAMBODIAN  
INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL**



Grant Musfti Oknha KHNOUR KAY-TOAM  
Islam Leader of Kompong Chhnang Province



Grant Musfti Oknha SOS KAMRY  
Chief of the Highest Council for Islamic Religious  
affairs, Cambodia



Fr. UN SON the catholic community  
in Cambodia.



Rev. UNG TY protestant Christian  
community



**សេចក្តីថ្លែងការណ៍រួមរបស់  
អ្នកដឹកនាំសាសនាកម្ពុជា  
ក្នុងឱកាសសម្តេចបើកក្រុមប្រឹក្សាអន្តរសាសនាកម្ពុជា  
(ក.អ.ស.ក.) / WCRP  
នៅភ្នំពេញ ថ្ងៃទី ១០ ខែ តុលា ឆ្នាំ ២០០២**

យើង ជាអ្នកដឹកនាំ សហគមន៍ ពុទ្ធសាសនិក, ឥស្លាមសាសនិក,  
គ្រិស្តសាសនិក និង សាសនិកដទៃទៀត នៅកម្ពុជា :

**នៅតងចាំ** ថាប្រជាជនកម្ពុជាបានរងទុក្ខសោកមិនអាចទ្រាំទ្របាន បណ្តាលមកពីសង្គ្រាម និងអំពើប្រទូសវាយ  
គ្នា ដែលបានបំផ្លាញទាំងជីវិតមនុស្ស ទាំងសង្គមជាតិរបស់គេក្នុងគ្រប់កំរិត ហើយបង្កឱ្យមានរបួសឈឺផ្សាក្នុងដួង  
ចិត្ត ភាពក្រីក្រ និងការបាត់បង់អស់រាល់តម្លៃស្មារតី .

**ជឿជាក់** ថាការធ្វើឱ្យតុលាកម្ម ជំនឿ និងការប្រតិបត្តិសាសនា បានរស់រាន មានសកម្មភាពឡើងវិញ នឹងជួយឱ្យ  
ប្រជាជនយើងជំនះបានលើរបួសស្នាម និងសេចក្តីឈឺចាប់របស់ខ្លួនក្នុងអតីតកាល ហើយទទួលបានថាមភាព និង  
គតិបណ្ឌិត ដើម្បីកសាងគ្រួសារ សង្គម និងប្រទេសជាតិរបស់ខ្លួនឡើងវិញ .

**ទទួលស្គាល់** តួនាទីដ៏សំខាន់ របស់សហគមន៍សាសនាទាំងឡាយ ក្នុងការផ្សះផ្សាជាតិ, ក្នុងការអប់រំសន្តិ-  
ភាព, និងក្នុងការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សង្គម និង សេដ្ឋកិច្ច .

**តាំងចិត្ត** កសាងឡើងវិញ នូវប្រពៃណីសាសនារបស់យើងរៀងៗខ្លួន និងសហគមន៍នៃប្រពៃណីសាសនា របស់  
យើងទាំងនោះ ដោយគោរពចំពោះគ្នាទៅវិញទៅមក និងជៀសវាងពីការក្រៀមក្រាមសង្គត់ ឬការបង្ខិតបង្ខំឱ្យផ្តាស  
ជំនឿពីសាសនាមួយ ទៅសាសនាមួយទៀត .

**តាំងចិត្ត** ទាំមុខគេក្នុងការបង្កើត នូវសង្គមមួយមានសន្តិភាព និងមានសុខដុមរមនា ដោយផ្អែកលើតុលាកម្ម  
និងសកម្មភាពរួមចំណែករបស់យើង .

**សម្រេចចិត្ត** បង្កើតក្រុមប្រឹក្សាអន្តរសាសនាកម្ពុជា (ក.អ.ស.ក) ជាសាខារបស់ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាពិភពលោក ដើម្បី  
សាសនា និងសន្តិភាព (WCRP) ទុកជាឧបករណ៍មួយ សម្រាប់ធ្វើសហការរវាងសាសនាទាំងនានា ដើម្បីសន្តិភាព.

**តាំងចិត្ត** ធ្វើសកម្មភាពរួមគ្នា តាមរយៈក.អ.ស.ក ដើម្បីដោះស្រាយបញ្ហាទាំងឡាយ ដែលជាសេចក្តីកង្វល់រួម  
គ្នា ដូចជាការកាត់បន្ថយភាពក្រីក្រ, ការអប់រំសន្តិភាព, ប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ និងសិទ្ធិមនុស្ស, ការលុបបំបាត់អាវុធ  
ធុនតូច, ការបង្ការទប់ស្កាត់ការរីករាលដាលមេរោគអេដស៍ និងជំងឺអេដស៍ និងការថែរក្សាការពារបរិស្ថាន ។

**តាំងចិត្ត** ចងសម្ពន្ធភាពជាដៃគូ តាមរយៈ ក.អ.ស.ក ជាមួយបណ្តាស្ថាប័ន និងបណ្តាក្រុមសាធារណៈ និងសង្គម  
ស៊ីវិលសំខាន់ៗ រួមមានបណ្តាអង្គការរបស់រដ្ឋាភិបាល, បណ្តាអង្គការរបស់សហប្រជាជាតិ, និងបណ្តាអង្គការ  
ក្រៅរដ្ឋាភិបាល .

**ប្តេជ្ញា** ថែទាំបំប៉នវប្បធម៌សន្តិភាព, ការគោរពគ្នា និងយោគយល់គ្នាទៅវិញទៅមក, ការរួមរស់នៅជាសុខដុម  
និងធ្វើការងារជាមួយគ្នា ដើម្បីសន្តិភាព និងអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សង្គម ។

**The Joint Statement by Cambodian Religious Leaders  
On the Occasion of the Inauguration of  
Cambodian Interreligious Council (CIC)/WCRP**

**10 October 2002, Phnom Penh**

**We, the leaders of Buddhist, Muslim, Christian and other religious communities in Cambodia:**

**REMEMBER** that the Cambodian people have undergone unbearable suffering from war and violence, which damaged individuals and their societies at all levels and resulted in trauma, poverty and the loss of religious values,

**BELIEVE** that reviving religious values, faith and practice will enable people to overcome their wounds and pains from the past and to gain strength and wisdom to reconstruct their family, society and nation,

**RECOGNIZE** the important role of religious communities in reconciliation, peace education, and economic and social development,

**COMMIT** ourselves to rebuilding our respective faith traditions and their communities with respect for freedom of religion and the rejection of pressure or coercion to convert from one religion to another,

**COMMIT** ourselves to taking the lead in creating a peaceful and harmonious society based upon our shared values and commitments,

**DECIDE** to establish the Cambodian Inter-religious Council (CIC)/a national chapter of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) as an instrument of interreligious collaboration for peace,

**COMMIT** ourselves to undertaking cooperative action through CIC to address issues of common concerns such as development, peace education, democracy and human rights, eradication of small arms, prevention of HIV/AIDS, and preservation of the environment,

**COMMIT** ourselves, through CIC, to entering into partnership with relevant public and civil society institutions and groups including governments, the United Nations, and NGOs,

**PLEDGE** ourselves to nurturing a culture of peace, mutual respect and understanding, harmonious common living, and working together for peace and social development.

# ROYAL MESSAGE HIS MAJESTY KING PREAH BAT SAMDECH PREAH NORODOM SIHANOUK

Unofficial translation

## Royal Message of His Majesty the King of Cambodia

- Most respected and venerated Samdech Sangharajas of the two Buddhist Orders,
- Highly respected and venerated Venerables,
- Highly respected Lok Oknha, the two leaders of Muslim religion,
- Highly respected Representatives of Christianity,
- Dear Dr. William Vendley, Secretary General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP),
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen as Buddhist, Muslim and Christian followers,

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to Samdech Sangharajas of the two Buddhist Orders, Lok Oknha Leaders of the Muslim religion, Priestly Leaders of Christianity as well as to all Buddhists, Muslims and Christians who are gathering here on this auspicious occasion for the inauguration of the Cambodian Interreligious Council (CIC).

I appreciate the endeavors made by all religious leaders in Cambodia as the founders of an interreligious organization which is set up for the first time in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The inauguration of this Cambodian Interreligious Council is tantamount to the opening of a door for all followers of religions to closely link their ties of friendship with one another aiming at further strengthening and consolidating their national unity.

The Interreligious Council has a very important role to play not only in Cambodia, but also in the world over as being duty-bound to be both a moral and spiritual educator and a reconciler in line with the practice of non-violence, loving-kindness, compassion and great tolerance stipulated in the scriptures of each religion.

I wish the Cambodian Interreligious Council full success in its mission, and I pray that the whole world be happy, peaceful and violence-free forever.

May Their Eminences Samdech Sangharajas of the two Buddhist Orders, Venerables, Muslim Leaders and Christian Representatives be always blessed with longevity, strength, happiness and well-being.

October 10, 2002

*Signed*

Norodom Sihanouk

*A Message from  
SAMDECH PREAH MAHA GHOSANANDA*

Your Holinesses the Supreme Patriarchs of both Nikayas, Most Venerables, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, With deep respect to the assembled religious leaders, and to all Excellencies and Invited Guests, please accept my blessings and profound joy at the founding of the Cambodian Inter-religious Council. I regret not being able to be here on this important occasion to share these words with you.



Inter-religious understanding based on mutual respect is more necessary now than ever before, not only for Cambodians but also for those in our troubled region and world. I appeal to representatives of all religions to unite for peace and reconciliation in the name of the higher spiritual truths – expressed through love, compassion, justice, and tolerance – found in our respective religious traditions.

Through our Dhammayietras, or “pilgrimages for truth,” we have walked for the last ten years, step by step, for peace and reconciliation in our country in order to overcome the ideological differences that led to so much common suffering in our Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian communities.

From this suffering may the Cambodian Inter-religious Council, as a national chapter of the renowned World Conference on Religion and Peace, serve society as a healing force that will contribute in meaningful ways to a better quality of life for all people in our beloved country.

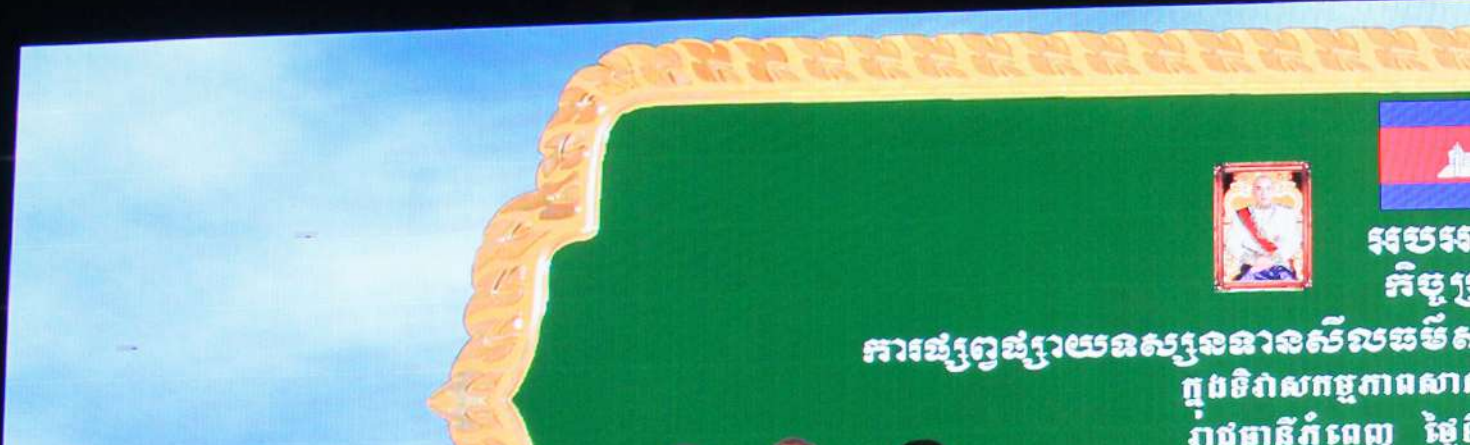
May all Beings be Happy!



Public signing of the joint statement senior –most representatives from buddhist, muslim and christian communities.



At the End, Cambodian cultural performance



  
 រដ្ឋសភា  
 កិច្ចប្រជុំ

ការជំរុញជំនួយនិងសហការនៃសិល្បៈ  
 ក្នុងទិសកម្មភាពសាសនា  
 រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ថ្ងៃទី...

MEETING ON... ENHANCING RELIGIOUS...  
 PHNOM PENH...





រសាទរ  
 ប្រជុំស្តីពី  
 មាសនា ដើម្បីសុខដុមនីយកម្មនេវាកម្ពុជា  
 មនោរមីឃ្យកុមារនៅកម្ពុជា  
 ២០១៥ ខែធ្នូ ឆ្នាំ២០១៥

GENERAL VISION FOR HARMONIZATION OF CAMBODIA  
 AND THE FUTURE OF CAMBODIA  
 December 2015



# LOGOS OF CAMBODIAN INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (CIC)





### III- THE ACTIVITIES OF CAMBODIAN INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (CIC)

#### 1- VISITING PRISONS DURING CHRISTMAS



Praying and Blessing to them



## 2- DIALOGUE

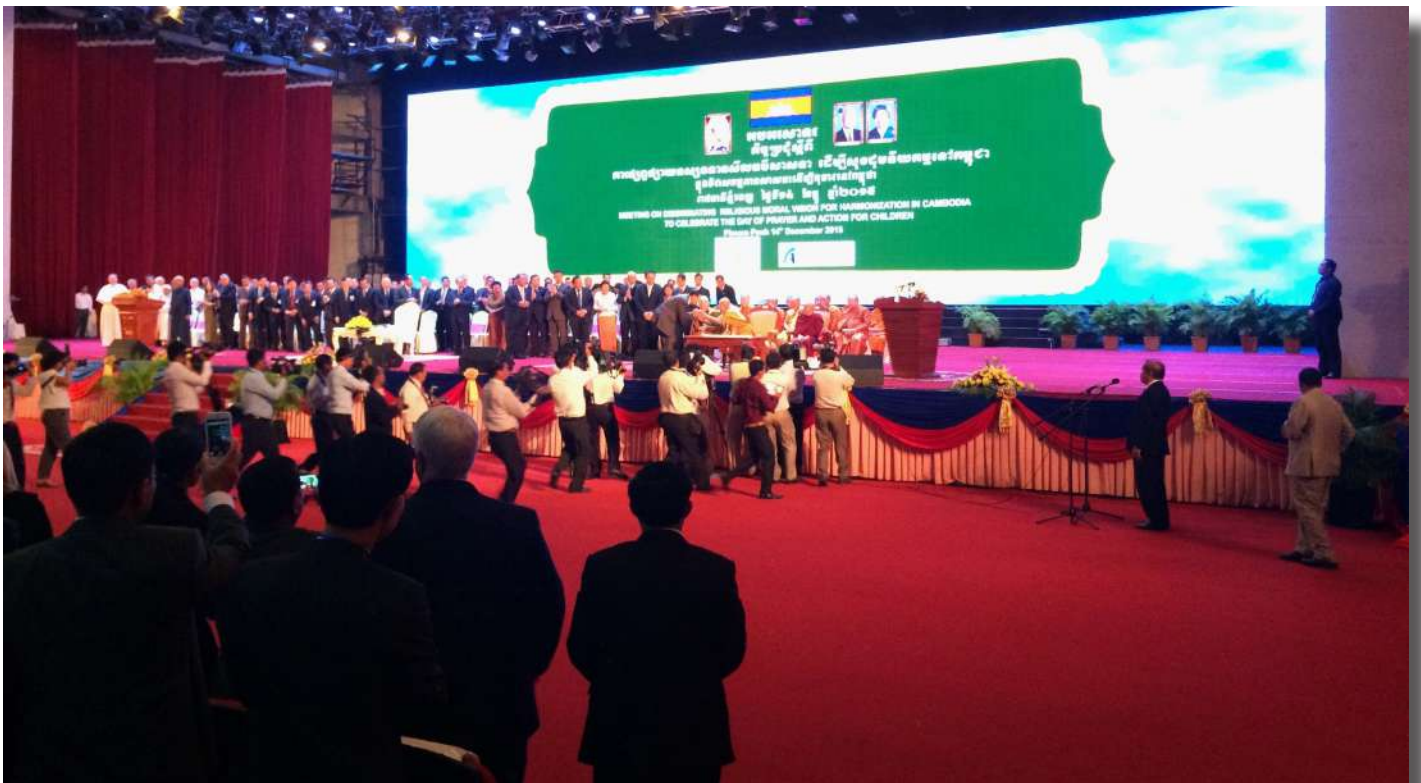


**INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE  
IN CAMBODIA**





### 3- MEETING







**INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE  
IN CAMBODIA**









[www.CatholicPhnomPenh.org](http://www.CatholicPhnomPenh.org)



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