

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

> Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

MEDIA ADVISORY Sacred Dancers of Angkor US Tour 2013 Press Conference 2:00 pm, 15 September 2013 At the Pochentong Airport Phnom Penh, Cambodia

WHAT:	Press conference on the occasion of the departure of the Sacred Dancers of Angkor for their US Tour 2013
WHO:	Founder-Chairman of the Nginn Karet Foundation for Cambodia
	Ms. Anne Lemaistre, UNESCO Representative in Phnom Penh
WHEN:	15 September 2013, 2:00 pm
WHERE:	VIP Room of the Pochentong Airport Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dear Journalists,

On Sunday, 15 September 2013 at 2.00 pm, the **Sacred Dancers of Angkor Troupe** will embark on a challenging and much anticipated month-long tour of the US.

Hailed by the King of Cambodia as "highly talented and spiritual" dance troupe, these 30 extraordinary young artists will be visiting 4 major cities performing a rare classical, folk and sacred Khmer dance and music. Their mission is to bridge the Cambodian-Americans to their Motherland during the Holy Month of Remembrance of the Ancestors (Pchum Ben which starts on September 20) and to raise awareness about the Cambodian dance. The tour is endorsed and supported by King Norodom Sihamoni, the Cambodian Government and the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh and is placed under the Auspices of Princess Norodom Boppha Devi.

The Nginn Karet Foundation for Cambodia which is leading the initiative has been committed to helping disadvantaged villagers of Angkor and improving their life expectancy and living standards through their programme on rural development. The population of the 14 villages currently supported by NKFC totals an estimated 12,778 people of 2,334 families representing about 40 per cent of the total population of Banteay Srey District.

Since 2007, the Preah Ream Boppha Devi NKFC Conservatoire has trained over 170 dancers and musicians in traditional Cambodian performing arts and maintaining the cultural legacy of traditional Khmer dance. 25 dancers have been selected to participate in the Sacred Dancers of Angkor US Tour 2013.

All journalists are invited to attend the press conference on 15 September at 2:00 pm.

TOUR OVERVIEW BOSTON September 14 – 23 NEW YORK September 23 – 30 WASHINGTON DC October 1 – 10 LOS ANGELES October 10 – 22

For further information, please contact: Ms. Jamie Lee, Communications and Information Focal Point, UNESCO, at 078 77 21 44 or <u>hj.lee@unesco.org</u>