

# THE SLEUK RITH INSTITUTE (SRI)

SCHOOL OF GENOCIDE, CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

## SPEAKER SERIES

### **“Stonecutting Worksites during Ancient Times”**

Professor Thuy Chanthourn

**OCTOBER 23, 2015, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

Building H, National Institute of Education

The Sleuk Rith Institute’s School of Genocide, Conflict and Human Rights Studies is pleased to announce the fourth event in its speaker series. **“Stonecutting Worksites during Ancient Times”** will be presented by Professor Thuy Chanthourn, Deputy Director of the Institute of Culture and Fine Arts of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, Deputy Chief of the Cambodian Historian Association, and member of the National Council for Khmer Language. Students as well as the general public are welcome to attend this event.

As one may observe, ancient Khmer temples were constructed of various materials including brick, basalt stone, laterite stone, sandstone, and wood, based upon the era in which they were built. Research has shown that during the pre-Angkor period, from the 1st to 8th centuries, many ancient temples were constructed of clay or basalt stone, particularly during the kingdoms of Funan and Chenla. Temples representative of this style include Asrom Maha Russey temple (Angkor Borey, Takeo Province) and Phnom Han Chey temple (Kampong Cham Province). During the early Angkor period beginning in the 9th century, workers used brick with laterite stone, followed by laterite with sandstone, to construct the temples. After the Angkor period, many historical buildings were constructed of wood, a material which is vulnerable to the ravages of nature and war. For example, the wooden palaces of Banteay Longvek and Vaing Chas Odong were completely destroyed during the extended wars with Siam and Vietnam.

Previous research on the construction of Khmer ancient temples had shown only limited evidence of stonecutting worksites. According to earlier archaeological research and history books written during the French colonization of Cambodia, stonecutting worksites had been discovered at Ou Thma Dab, Trapaing Phong, Popok Vil, and Tik Lech. In addition to these known worksites, Professor Thuy Chanthourn has discovered many additional stonecutting worksites throughout Cambodia which were used to supply stone for the construction of ancient Khmer temples. Professor Thuy Chanthourn will take this opportunity to share his knowledge of this aspect of the Khmer Empire with students and the general public. Professor Thuy Chanthourn holds a PhD in Pre-history from the Royal Academy of Cambodia through support from the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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