AERIAL INVENTORY OF ACHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN CAMBODIA

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By: Teng Peng Seang, director of PGE C

Supervised by: Dr. Heng Thung
During the aerial mapping of Cambodia it was discovered that there was a tremendous number of archeological sites scattered over the whole country, from temples to mounds and barays, from roads to canals, from pre-historical sites to more magnificent edifices.

Many were known sites, but many others were small and appearing insignificant. Some could be positive identified and others showed as potential sites on the aerial photographs. Earlier mapping efforts for UNESCO have shown that many unknown sites could be found through careful interpretation of aerial photographs.
Thus, a small undertaking was made to systematically scan all the aerial photographs for sign of ruins and other archaeological sites. Two young architects were assigned to conduct the task and who meticulously plotted these images and identified them by type, scanned the images, located them on the topographical maps, noted their coordinates, and entered them into a GIS system.

A database was established with the assistance of EFEO, as their have the most experienced in these studies. The objective was that this catalog would form a research tool for experts studying the archaeological sites and perhaps pointing to their interesting area, which have been neglected in the intensive concentration of studies at the surrounding area of Angkor.
A GIS program was developed by a Cambodian expert Mr. Teng Peng Seang, director of PGEC in such a way that this point data could be used in conjunction of the digital data of the country wide RSP project developed for Cambodian under sponsorship of JICA. The GIS could then be used to analyze and correlate the archaeological data with other available information.

However, at this point the system is far from complete and it is hope that further efforts are going to be made and supported for:

1. More detailed survey of the aerial photos of other areas of Cambodia,
2. Transferring information from written records about the sites into the GIS database.
3. Making sure that studies of new sites are systematically recorded in the database.
We hope that this exposure of this very small and simple project can generate interest of further support to use it as a core of a national catalog of archaeological sites.
Cambodian Archaeological Site Location

Populated Area

GIS Database
Spatial Ovelay of the Archaeological Sites and Lands at ETM and
because it based on GIS and Database technology, the application of this inventory is almost unlimited

1. Updating the inventory,
2. Selecting-by-theme Analysis,
3. Selecting based on attribute,
4. ...