

## The East-West Center/University of Hawai`i Program in Cambodian Heritage—An Update

The Hawai`i program, now associated with the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh and Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, continues with active research and training. Dr. Miriam Stark returned to Angkor Borei, the possible ancestral Funan city from which Khmer culture sprang, in the summer of 1997, collecting ceramic samples from outlying sites and continuing development of the research plans for lengthy excavations. Bion Griffin and Mike Dega collected brick samples from the city wall and possible religious architectural units for thermoluminescence dating. Further work on developing a zoning plan for the protection of key areas was undertaken, with plans made by Dr. Stark to return in June 1998 for final work on the plan. Griffin and Dega, along with University of Hawai`i Cambodian graduate student Tea Van visited Sambor Prei Kuk,



*UH faculty and students on site at Angkor Borei. Photo by William Chapman.*

the pre-Angkorian capital (7th and 8th centuries A.D.), and discussed further work at this poorly known but important location. The three also visited Neolithic sites east of the Mekong River. Mr. Dega returned in February 1998, joining a German excavation team in excavating these Neolithic sites. Both Tea Van and Bong Sovath of the Royal University are now classified graduate students in the Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai`i with the financial support of the East-West Center.

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