

**Saving the Next Angkor Wat: Khmer Treasure of Cambodia Banteay
Chhmar: Citadel of the Cats**

**Exhibition Opening sponsored by the Global Heritage Fund
Musée Guimet, Galeries Pantheon Bouddhique**

**Remarks by Ambassador David T. Killion
30 November 2010**

Thank you, Jeff, and thank you to the Global Heritage Fund and the Musée Guimet for organizing and hosting this extraordinary exhibit on Banteay Chhmar, and for tonight's program.

Mr. Ambassador, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO, preserving our common, global cultural heritage is one of my top priorities. I am pleased that UNESCO under Director General Bokova is vigorously pursuing this mandate, and that the Obama administration is committed to increase U.S. support for our common global treasures.

Jeff, without the vigorous advocacy by NGOs such as the Global Heritage Fund, our efforts would be far less effective. The advice, research, monitoring and reporting provided by GHF and its collaborators are indispensable to our common efforts to preserve our cultural treasures. Working with UNESCO and your organizations, it is vital that we solve the global crisis facing heritage in developing countries, as outlined in your excellent Vantage report. Your proposal for an early warning system is right on track. This splendid exhibit gives us a chance to reflect on what we could lose.

I am eager to hear the rest of the speakers, but I want to thank you for your superb work, and thank you again for hosting this evening's opening in honor of Banteay Chhmar.