

UTM Global Outreach Programme 2011

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*Academic visit to Cambodia – Vietnam
under the courses of MIT 2604 & SPB 4344
Department of Urban & Regional Planning
Faculty of Built Environment.*



*“An unforgettable destination rich
in history, culture and
natural beauty”*

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAMME

A 6 days academic visit to Cambodia and Vietnam is definitely a memorable experience for all students involved and indeed assented as a good way established by UTM in promoting students' involvement in academic and learning activities in global context. Towards making the long forward trip a reality, student committee for Master of Science (Tourism Planning), Faculty of Built Environment has been working together in paperwork and all necessary requirements preparation. Though deep disappointment does come across due to the cancelation of the prior programme to Egypt, yet the change of place to Cambodia and Vietnam is never viewed as an inferior place for visit.

With the believe of its not the place that promise the lesson to be learn but how a place is perceived and experienced; academic trip to Cambodia and Vietnam is seen as the first platform for most of the students in exchanging knowledge and experiences in various aspects such as tourism sector, economic, politic and socio-cultural. Besides the academic standpoint, this trip provided a significant form of experiential learning for tourism students whereby they could briefly observe the roles and contributions of tourism industry as a catalyst for local socio-economic development.

With the same climate and skin tones of the peoples of Cambodia and Vietnam, it does felt like we are quite the same. However, hearing different language spoken, different development process undergone, different culture and heritage, it is indeed, still a different world to us Malaysian young generation. Like the well-remembered phrase that welcomes us: **“Same Same But Different”**.

The journey that begins in Siem Reap to Phnom Penh and lastly crossing border to Ho Chi Minh is never a tiring journey. Both Cambodia and Vietnam has a lot of interesting stories and mysteries to be embraced by tourists and visitors. And how they perceived their history from the expanding tourism world is a valuable knowledge and understanding.



This report is prepared to keep a note of every bits encountered and experienced by students proving that the UTM Global Outreach Programme is a without a doubt a very good global exposure for students.

Here we would like to thank our university, University Teknologi Malaysia to the given opportunity under the UTM Global Outreach Programme for to visit the exciting and fascinating Cambodia and Vietnam that had opened our eyes how grateful we are to be Malaysian. Not to forget all the help, advice and approval from our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Zaini Ujang, PM. Dr. Ahmad Nazri Muhamad Ludin, Dean of Faculty of Built Environment, Mr. Masnawi Miskam, Mr. Sezali Jamaludin, Mrs Siti Rahimah Mohd Yusof and all the staffs of FAB, HEMA and ISC for making this trip coming true.

PROGRAMME PARTICULARS

Programme Name:

UTM Global Outreach Programme: Academic Visit to Cambodia - Vietnam under the Courses of MIT 2604 and SPB 4344

Date:

30th May 2011 to 4th June 2011

Objectives:

- i. To expose students to a global academic and inter-cultural learning experience as part of the programme courses (MIT 2604 and SPB 4344).
- ii. To create opportunities for tourism planning students to acquire knowledge and generate skills related to education in an international setting.
- iii. To initiate future collaboration between Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam higher education institutions or ministry in exchanging knowledge with regards to tourism aspects and higher education as a whole.



Participants:

8 students of Master of Science (Tourism Planning) and 1 student of Master of Urban Design

NO	NAME	MATRIC NUMBER
1.	HAFIZUL RIDZWAN BIN YAHYA	MB102027
2.	JANNAHTUL 'IZZATI BINTI RAHMAN	MB102026
3.	MUHAMMAD IRFAN BIN ABDULLAH@ZAWAWI	MB102059
4.	NOOR FARRADILATUN BINTI NORDIN	MB092015
5.	NORIAH BINTI HUSSAIN	MB092169
6.	NURHIDAYAH BINTI HILIMI	MB102049
7.	SITI ZAWANI BINTI RADZI	MB092010
8.	YONG JIA YAIK	MB092151
9.	GOH CHUI YONG	MB092058

2 students of Doctor of Philosophy, PhD (Urban & Regional Planning and Management)

NO	NAME	MATRIC NUMBER
1.	ABDUL RASID BIN ABDUL RAZZAQ	PB093114
2.	NOR HANIZA BINTI MOHAMAD	PH093015

5 students of Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning

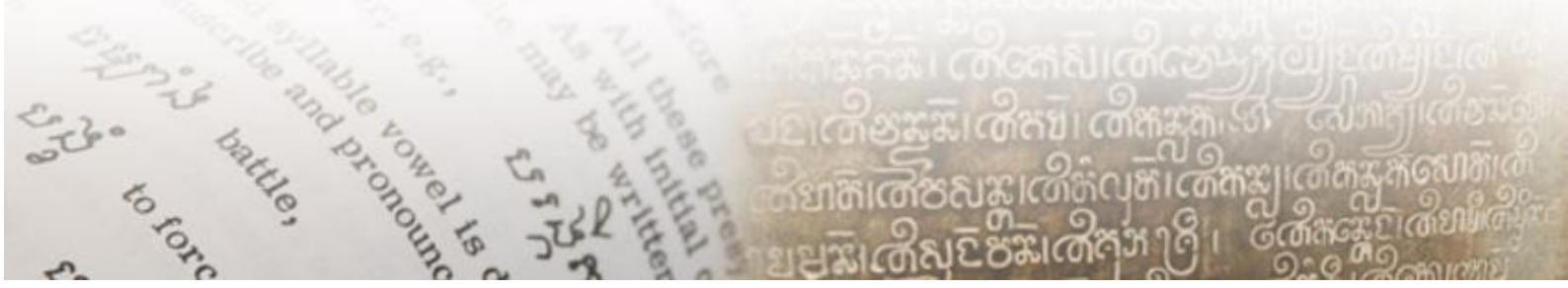
NO	NAME	MATRIC NUMBER
1.	ALIA NURASHIKIN BINTI NORDIN	AB070012
2.	NUR RASYIQAH BINTI ABU HASSAN	CB090036
3.	NURUL DIYANA BINTI MD KHAIRI	AB070186
4.	SITI NOOR ZUBAIZURA BINTI AL ZUBIR	AB070219
5.	SYED MUHAMMAD RAFY BIN SYED JAAFAR	AB070227

The participant is accompanied by 2 lecturers namely:

NO.	NAME	STATUS
1.	DR. HAIRUL NIZAM BIN ISMAIL	Programme Coordinator, Master of Science (Tourism Planning), Faculty of Built Environment; Accompanied Lecturer
2.	PROF. DR. AMRAN BIN HAMZAH	Accompanied Lecturer

Expenses:

RM 1878 x 16 students = RM 30 048 (Refer Appendix A)



PROGRAMME ITINERARY

Skudai – Kuala Lumpur – Siem Reap – Phnom Penh – Ho Chi Minh – Kuala Lumpur - Skudai



DATE / TIME	PROGRAMME/ ACTIVITIES
29 May 2011 11.00pm	Departure by UTM bus from UTM to Low Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT), Kuala Lumpur
DAY 1	
30 May 2011 6.50am 7.50am (local time) 9.00am 9.30 – 11.30 pm 12.00 – 1.00 pm 2.00 pm 3.00 pm 5.00 pm 7.00 pm 9.30 pm	<u>KUALA LUMPUR to SIEM REAP</u> Departure from LCCT, Kuala Lumpur to Siem Reap International Airport, Cambodia Arrival at Siem Reap International Airport, Cambodia Checked-in at Angkor Way Hotel Visit to Angkor Wat “Assessment on Cultural & Heritage Tourism” Lunch at D’Wau Restaurant, Siem Reap Rest at hotel Visit to Angkor Thom or ‘Hollywood Angkor’ “Assessment on Impacts of Commercialisation and Publicity on Cultural & Heritage Tourism” Boat trip at Tonle Sap Great Lake and visit to local fishing communities and floating village is changed to visit to Siem Reap Old Market due to heavy rain. “Briefing on Tourism Entrepreneurship Culture in Siem Reap” Dinner at Champa Family Restaurant Visit to Muslim Village – “Briefing on Volunteer Tourism Activities and discussion with the local leader on future planning of collaboration in volunteer tourism activities”

DAY 2	
31 May 2011	<u>SIEM REAP – PHNOM PENH</u>
6.00am	Early breakfast at hotel
7.00am	Departure to Phnom Penh via private bus
9.00am–11.00pm	Stop at to Cham Village, Russy Chrouy – Visit to Muslim village and Cambodia Islamic Centre <i>“Briefing on community based tourism and community services and community service activities through school necessity supply for the children”</i>
1.00-2.00pm	Arrival at Phnom Penh Lunch at Bubble Tea Restaurant and check-in at Khmer Royal Hotel.
3.00-3.30pm	Phnom Penh City Tour <i>“Assessment on Heritage and Urban Tourism in the context of Phnom Penh as Cambodia’s Capital City.”</i>
3.30 – 5.00pm	Visit to Central Market
5.30 – 8.00pm	Boat trip on Tonle Sap River – Mekong River
8.00pm	Dinner at Titanic Restaurant & Lounge, Phnom Penh
9.00pm	Night walk at ‘The western side of Phnom Penh’ <i>“Informal Briefing On Criteria Of Urban Tourism That Influence A Tourist City”</i>
DAY 3	
1 June 2011	<u>PHNOM PENH</u>
7.00am	Breakfast at hotel
8.00 - 10.00 am	Visit to Russian Market
10.00 – 1.30 pm	Visit to Toul Sleng Museum (S21), a prison during Pol Pot and Khmer Rouge <i>“Observation On Tourist Movement Patterns In The Museum Area”</i>
2.00 pm	Lunch at D’Wau Restaurant, Phnom Penh
3.00 pm	Visit to Cheung Ek Killing field

	“Briefing On Visitors Management On Killing Field Museum As Dark Tourism Attraction”.
5.00 pm	Rest at Hotel
6.00 pm	Visit to Phnom Penh Waterfront “Assessment On How Town Planning Implementation And Tourism Activities can Benefits Both Locals and Tourists in a Tourist City”.
7.00 pm	Dinner at Mamak Corner Restaurant

DAY 4

2 June 2011	<u>PHNOM PENH – HO CHI MINH</u>
6.00-7.00 am	Early breakfast at hotel
8.00 am	Depart to Ho Chi Minh via private bus
2.00 pm	Arrive at Ho Chi Minh City Lunch at Tandoor Restaurant
3.00pm	Ho Chi Minh City Tour Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral, Ho Chi Minh Post Office, War Remnant Museum “Briefing on Heritage Tourism”
5.00 pm	Check-in and rest at Dai Nam Hotel
7.00 pm	Dinner at Four Season Restaurant
9.00 pm	Night walk at Ho Chi Minh City “Informal Lecture on Backpackers Area of Ho Chi Minh and its contribution to urban tourism activities”.

DAY 5

3 June 2011	<u>HO CHI MINH</u>
7.00 am	Breakfast at hotel
8.00 am	Departure to Cu Chi Province
10.00 – 1.00 am	Visit to Cu Chi Underground Tunnels “Briefing on Visitor Interpretation”
2.00 pm	Lunch at Salehuddin Restaurant

2.00 – 6.00pm	Visit to Ben Thanh Market “Briefing on Tourism Entrepreneurship Culture in Ho Chi Minh”
7.00 pm	Dinner at VN Halal Restaurant
9.00 pm	Free and Leisure

DAY 6

4 June 2011	<u>HO CHI MINH – KUALA LUMPUR</u>
7.00-8.00am	Breakfast at hotel
8.00 am	Hotel Check-out
9.00 am	Departure to Ho Chi Minh Airport
11.00 am	Departure from Ho Chi Minh Airport to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Kuala Lumpur
2.00 pm (local time)	Arrival in KLIA, Kuala Lumpur
3.00 pm	Lunch
4.00 pm	Departure from KLIA, Kuala Lumpur to UTM (UTM Bus)
8.00 pm	Arrival at UTM, Skudai



PERCEPTION AND EXPECTATION

Syed Muhammad Rafy Syed Jaafar

“This trip provides a great experience and knowledge of culture and lifestyles of various communities in Asia. This trip also gave me the opportunity to find out how difficult the society in Cambodia and Vietnam to develop after the war ended. This trip also gives me a little idea on how to handle a group for overseas travel”.

Muhammad Irfan Abdullah@Zawawi

“It was great journey to see and learn the local culture and the countries development process. Besides knowing the history of Cambodia and Vietnam, we can understand depth how hard life there especially Cambodian Community Center. It was great experience of life”.

Yong Jia Yaik

“The trip was an eye-opener, especially the strength and resilience of both nations which had endured civil war just 40-50 years ago. The people were friendly and welcoming, while the Angkor temples were simply majestic. Academically, there was much knowledge to be gained, in terms of both experiences and information exchange”.

Nur Rasyiqah Abu Hassan

“It was an incredible journey. It was breath taking experience. It was all about understanding people culture and historical evidence that should be protected”.

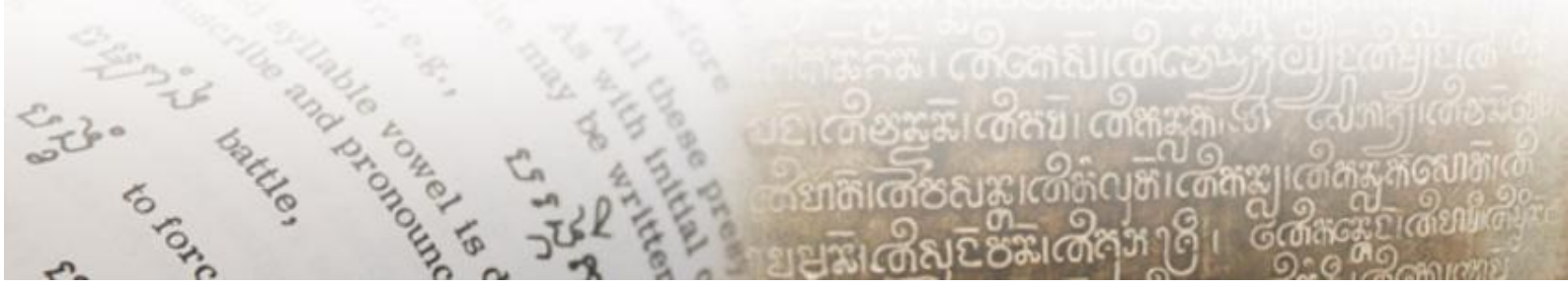
Nurul Diyana Md Khairi

“It was a remarkable trip both to Cambodia and Vietnam. Experiencing new customs and society with historical places and local community certainly assist to enhance our knowledge and awareness concerning other countries. A joyful moment with the existence of night cultures perhaps makes the journey more pleasure. After all, it was an overwhelming trip to be learned by heart”.

Nurhidayah Hilimi

“It was an interesting trip visits to the tourism attractions in Cambodia and Vietnam which have their own history. It was an opportunity to learn the local culture, the places and gain the knowledge about them as well as get memorable experience”.





Alia Nurashikin Nordin

“It was an awesome journey to have an opportunity to step on one of the seven wonder of the world. In addition, the trip was an opportunity to learn the local culture and history of Cambodian and Vietnam which had endured war for kind a long time yet they have survived and started to redevelop”.

Nor Haniza Binti Mohamad

“GOP is a must-do trip that can humanise academic knowledge and should trigger participants to make meaningful changes in life. The trip adds new dimensions to personal reflection of touristic behaviours - the what, how, why tourists do what they do to commensurate their needs, wants, and concerns. A trip to Bandung, Indonesia would be a good comparative platform to see similar results of economic deprivation yet a different level of creativity, innovativeness, values, and standard of services essential to tourism executives and tourism industry”.

Siti Zawani Radzi

“Good experience with ability to learn the local culture in new places but too long journey from one place to another”.

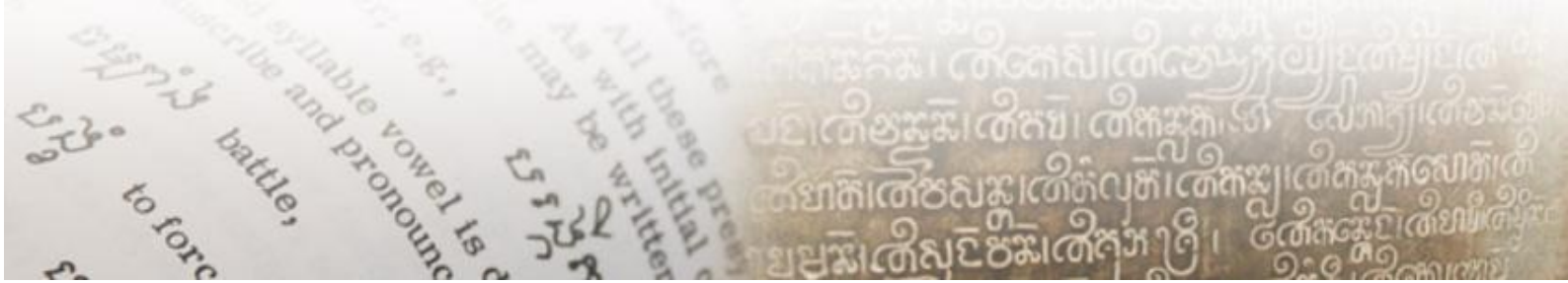
Hafizul Ridzwan Yahya

“Same Same, But Different”- Cambodia and Vietnam has a fantastic mix of historical and cultural background. Although both countries still struggle to recover from the gloomy past, as less developed country, how tourism been developed and the level of acceptance of tourism activities among the people amazed me. This breathtaking trip is not just about leisure and shopping, it’s about how do we appreciate our life in our own country, Malaysia.

Jannahtul ‘Izzati Rahman

“I have experienced going abroad but Cambodia and Ho Chi Minh is definitely a new experience to me. How tourism being rapidly developed in countries that less developed than us and how the people accept tourism as a main economic generator is amazing. From this trip, we were exposed on how the local people perceive tourism industry from the beginning until now. 6 days is seems to be too short as there are still so many things to be learned but it’s better than never. Big Thank You to UTM Global Outreach Programme!”





Siti Nur Zubaizura Zubir

“Love the experiences! It is a great chance to visit another country and learn about new things. Despite it is also a good site visit especially at one of the Seven Wonders of the World – Angkor Wat”.

Abdul Rasid Abdul Razzaq

“I strongly believe that this invaluable programme is very functional in allowing students to widen their perspectives on foreign tourism industry. Not only did such trip provide refreshing experience to the participants but also an occasionally needed reminder: to be grateful for the blessings in life, and counting the privileges of living in a prosperous and peaceful country when neighbouring counterparts are not so lucky”.

Goh Chui Yong

“This programme/trip was interesting and gets lot of information regarding the cultures, local communities and places of interest in Cambodia and Vietnam. Also, it leave full of experience visit both of country”.

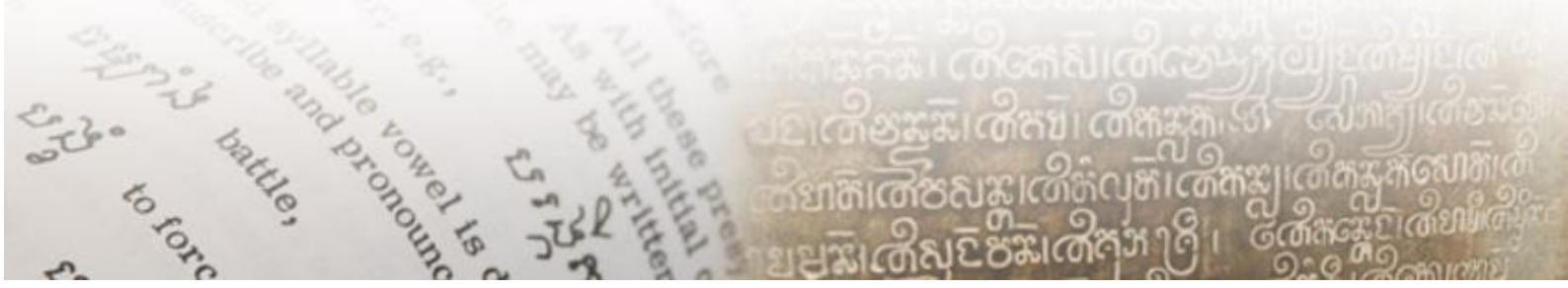
Noor Farradilatun Nordin

“The Global Outreach Programme was beneficial to learn about cultures and way of life of local people in Cambodia and Vietnam. Both of these cannot be found in Malaysia and get the chances to visit tourism attractions there such as Angkor Wat, one of the seven wonders in the world”.

Noriah Hussain

“This education trip gives the opportunity to the students to learn and know about the lifestyles of people in Cambodia who were poor and unlucky rather than other people in other country. Also, gain the knowledge about all the place of interests in Cambodia and Vietnam such as war museum and genocide museum”.





PROGRAMME SUMMARY

DAY 1



Day 1: 30 May 2011

Morning: arrival at Siem Reap

Arrived at Siem Reap International Airport around 10am local time. Warm welcomed by our tour guide, Mr. Terry.

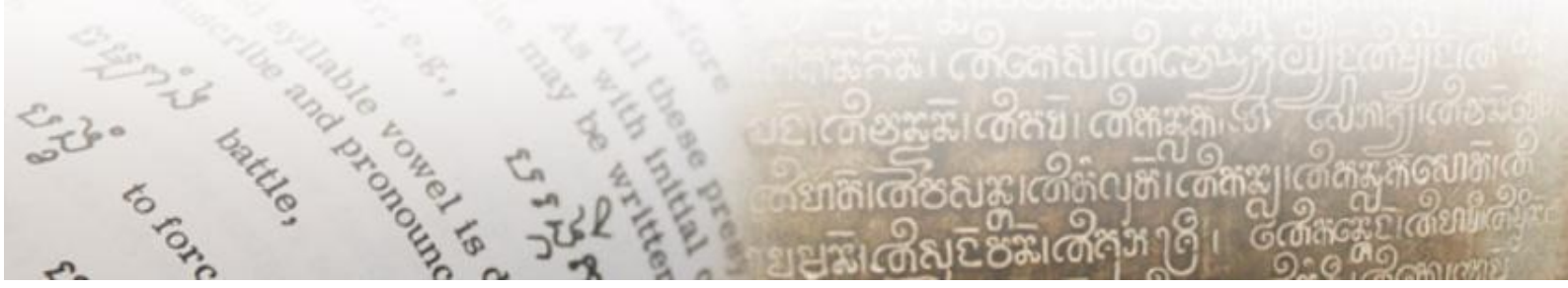
The hotel that we stayed during the 1st night named Angkor Way Hotel, located 7km from Siem Reap International Airport. During check-in, the hotel welcomed us with the local 'lemonade', the lemongrass tea.



Warm welcome by tour guide



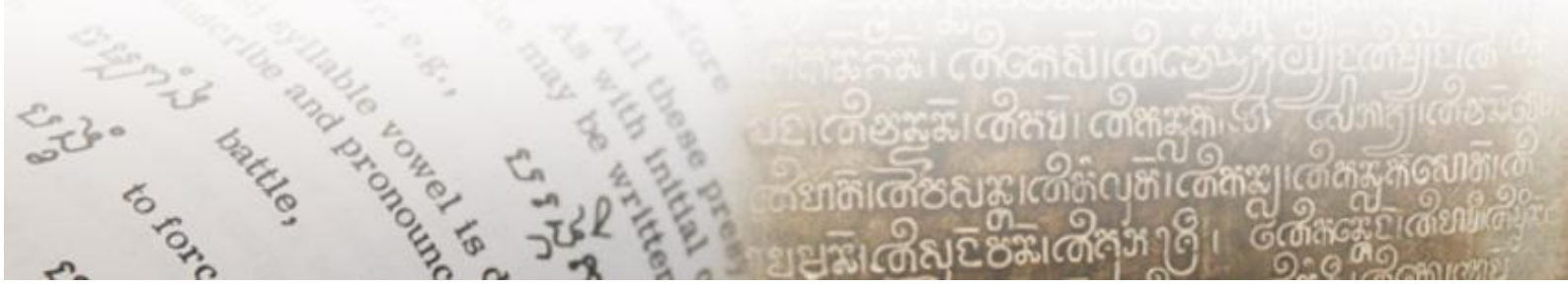
Accommodation for the 1st night



Afternoon: Visit to Angkor Wat

We were visiting Angkor Wat in the afternoon. Believed to be the world largest religious building, the temple is the perfect fusion of symbolism and symmetry and a source of pride and strength to the Khmers. Built in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II, this is the most famous temple at Angkor.

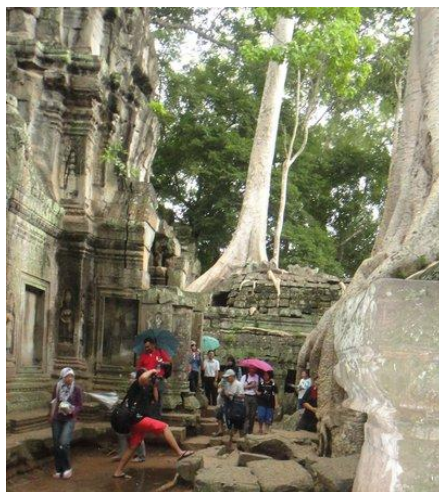




Afternoon: Ta Phrom Wat/ Hollywood Tomb

Tha Phrom is the modern name of a temple of Angkor, built in the Bayon style largely in the late 12th and early 13th centuries and originally called Rajavihara. Ta Phrom is a quiet, sprawling and monastic complex, made famous by the Hollywood blockbuster ‘Tomb Raider’.

After only 45 minutes touring the ruins, we were blessed with the heavy rain of Siem Reap. We were stuck there about one hour in one of the ruins temple that used as our shelter. The wet experience is really memorable even though we cannot complete the tour. The most exciting experience is when the exit is flooded so we need to use the entrance instead where is not highly flooded yet. What an experience with slippery rocks and ruins everywhere made us feeling of as we are filming Tomb Raider in rainy season.



Night - Visit to Stung Thmey Village (Muslim Village)

After the visit to the Hollywood Tomb, we then directly went to a Muslim village in Siem Reap, the Stung Thmey Village. The villagers here are Cham people and most of the older people can speak Malay very well. We had our dinner there and able to experience the unique dinner dish of Khmer people which called ‘Lembu Naik Bukit’.

The night continues with the discussion on future collaboration in volunteer tourism activities in the village and UTM. There were also English classes run by the local community and the teacher is only a male youth which is the one and only villagers that studied in a local university. The class is carried out 3 times a week and we are able to join and teach some English to the locals from the beginning until the end of the class.

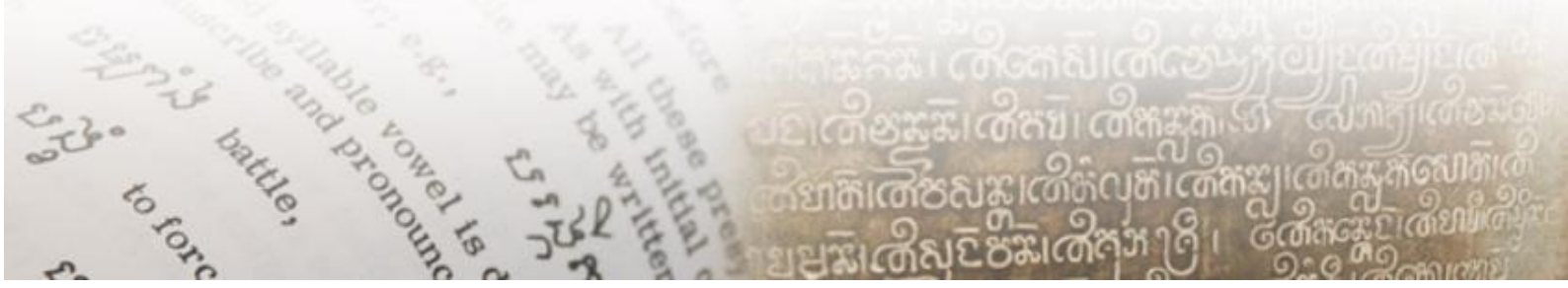
Volunteering activities is well established in this area where most of the volunteer tourists come from Singapore (primary and secondary school children) and from Malaysia (Universiti Sains Malaysia) itself consistently come to this village to do volunteering activities for the local community. Informal discussion is done between us and Ustaz Haji Musa, a Member of Municipality of Siem Reap Town and a representative of Muslims in Siem Reap. The discussion is on the possibility for UTM under FAB to collaborate with Ustaz Haji Musa in to assist in term of logistic if UTM want to involve in bringing certain amount of student to do volunteering in this village. During the discussion, we did mention on the future of this village to be our study area for the research on volunteer tourism.



Cham's Special Beef Dish – ‘Lembu Naik Bukit’



Night English class for the local Muslims



Night – Angkor Night Market



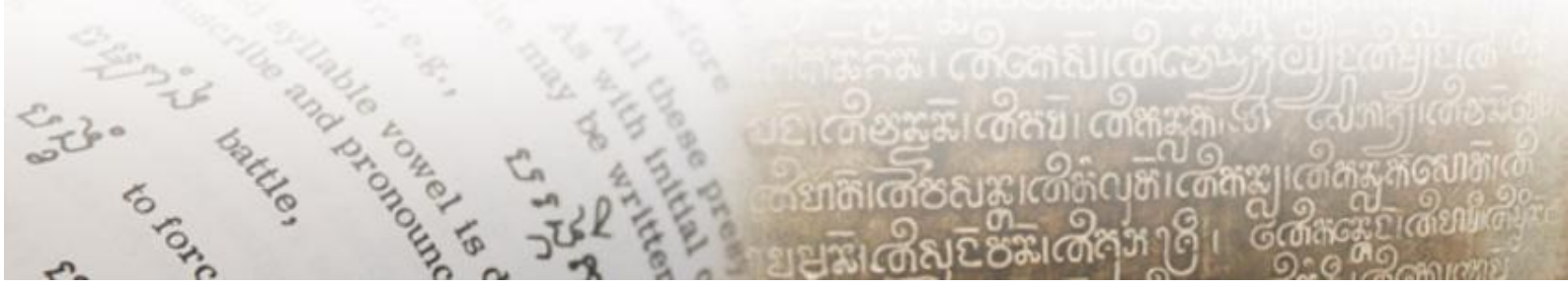
The Angkor Night Market is a good place to shop some unique items of Cambodia. Only takes time 10 minutes from our hotel by 'tuktuk' (local taxi), it is worth to go to this market where it some of the items sold here come from the remote village and made by the small community.

There are at least 100 stalls and good variety of goods sold here. We can find palm wines, silk items, artworks, general souvenir, jewelleries and books. There are also food court and so call island bar



The scene at Angkor night market





PROGRAMME SUMMARY

DAY 2



Day 2: 31 May 2011 (Siem Reap – Phnom Penh)

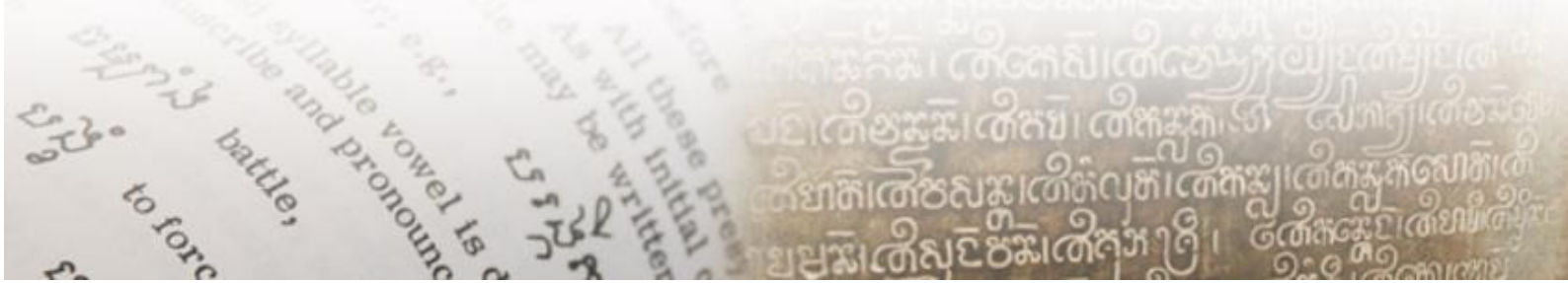
Morning: Community Works at Kampong Cham, Russy Chrouy, Cambodia.

After early breakfast we are leaving to Phnom Penh via private bus. The trip to Phnom Penh took about 5 hours by tour bus. On the way to Phnom Penh, the bus stop at Kampong Cham, the largest Muslim settlement in Cambodia where the location is halfway from Phnom Penh City Centre.

During the visit, we were welcomed by the local community. With the beautiful smile in their faces, they are expecting we are coming to visit them. This Cham people look exactly like our Malay, they are very friendly and hospitable and some of them can even speak Malay. Such an experience to meet them and contributing to the local community especially the school children.

We also did supplying school necessity to the children such as story books, colouring books and colour pencils.





Along the way from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh

←
Along the journey from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh, we stop to see the traditional delicacy in the making called Krolan. Krolan is sticky rice mixed with coconut and beans and cooked in bamboo tubes. Krolan is a most famous traditional delicacy in Kratie Province where some families have been producing Krolan for more than 50 year

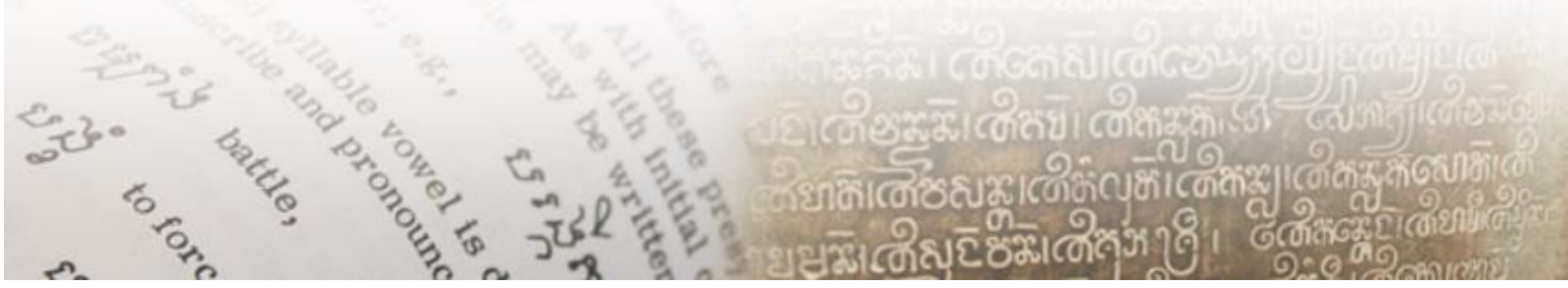
Traditional local delicacies (Krolan)

Before arrive in Phnom Penh, we stop and try to find some food at one of the local market. Most of the food is fairly typical dishes that one would expect to see here is and mixed of local fruits and vegetables, however we also see people who selling deep fried cricket and variety of other bugs. Deep fried cricket is among the famous Cambodian street snack.

Some of us insisted to try this special snack and some says that this snack is disgusting, bitter and greasy, Urgh!!



Having taste of Cambodian delicacies



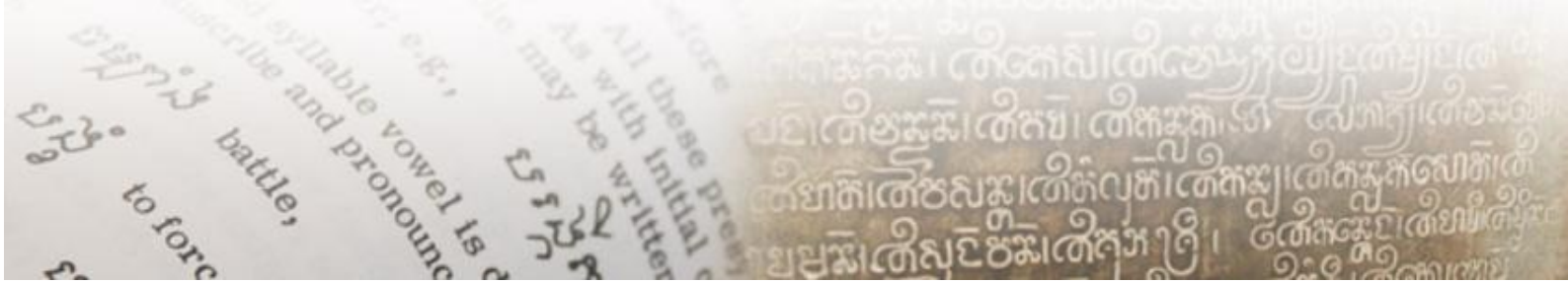
Afternoon: Central Market (Phsar Thmei)



Central Market served as one of the main markets in Phnom Penh. The market offered a variety of selection of quality handicrafts and silks as well as original artistic creations including paintings, prints, carvings and especially jewellery and other Khmer souvenirs.



The perfect place for the bargain hunters!



**Late Afternoon:
Sunset Cruise (Tonle Sap River)**

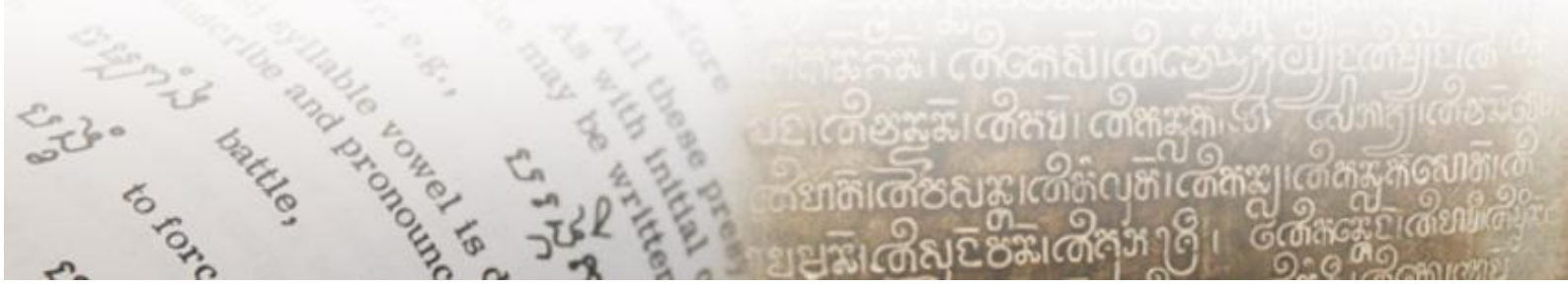
At the late afternoon, we board a local boat for a sunset cruise on the Tonle Sap River, which famously reverses direction each year, acting as a world’s largest natural flood barer for the Mekong River.

We cruise pass the Royal Palace compound and around the Chrouy Changvar Peninsular on the mighty Mekong River. We cruise passed a small Cham floating villages and see fishing boats preparing their catch. We back inland after dark and having dinner at Titanic Restaurant & Lounge.



Another Cambodian Specialty – Pamelo Salad (Kerabu Limau Bali)

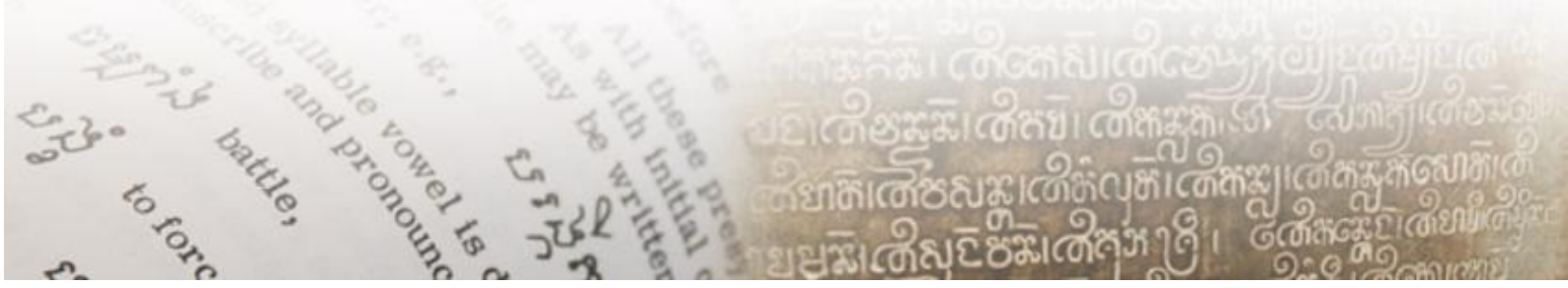
Enjoying the sunset



PROGRAMME SUMMARY

DAY 3





Day 3: 1 June 2011

Morning: Visit to Russian Market, Phnom Penh (Psar Toul Tom Pong)

Located away from the normal tourist area, Russian Market is still one of the famous markets in Phnom Penh for both local and tourist. The name of Russian Market is given since 25-30 years back where the area is the settlement of Russian people during Vietnamese occupation of the city and everyday those Russian will go to the market to buy their daily needs.

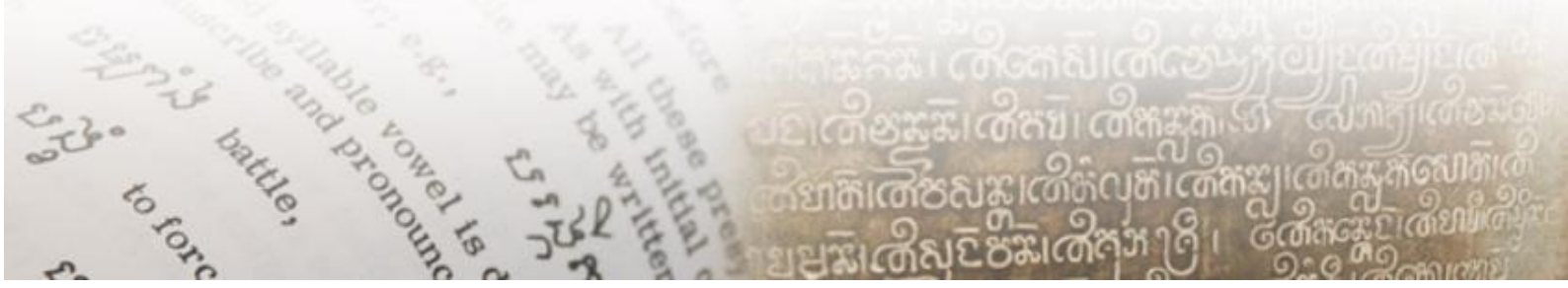


Russian Market is definitely a new experience to all of us which used to do shopping of different things in different places. But in Russian Market, this 'one stop market' really amazes us! There, we can find everything we need from groceries, fresh vegetables and meat, clothes, branded clothes, shoes, bags, to tourists' souvenirs, handicraft and even motorcycle spare part! Even there is a salon there!



This is a good example of development that benefits both local and tourist and in the same time being a good presentation of local lifestyle for tourist without having to spend so much money on it. This is what we understand as part of the Experiential Tourism.





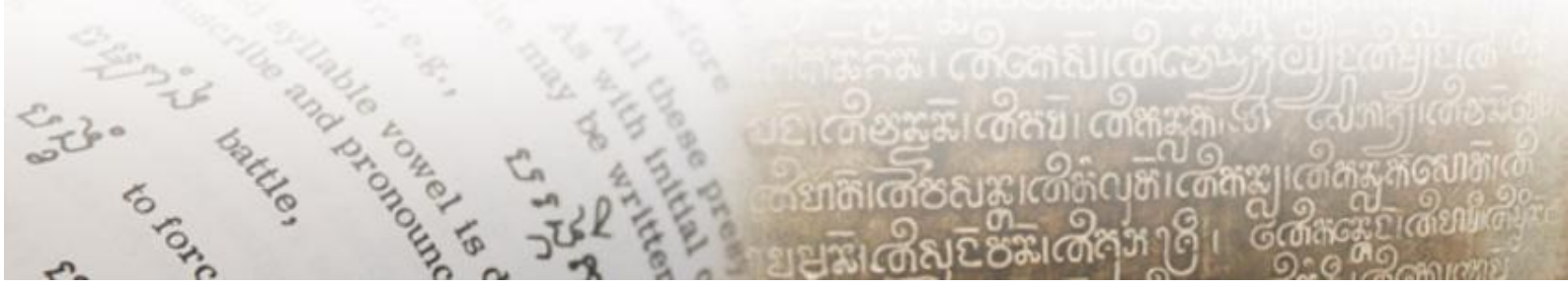
Late Morning: Visit to Toul Sleng Museum (S21)

Toul Sleng Museum or known as Security Prison (S-21) to most of the local is formerly a prison during Khmer Rouge communist regime or Pol Pot. This is a very haunting and harrowing experience touring the former high school of a horrible 3 years from 1975 to its fall in 1979.

During the visit we are given the task to observe the *Tourist Movement Flow Patterns* in the museum area and how tourists flow is designed in order to create a high tourist experience. Visit to this museum have made us realize how lucky we are living in a peaceful country. The tour begins at tomb or 14 prisoners that left in prison until rotten after the fall of Pol Pot and one of them is a woman.

It then continues to the torture rooms, and open air killing area, and the documentation hall of each and every people that killed by Pol Pot with the exact date and time. What is surprised us is most of the prisoners are important person of the government including ministers, doctor and those with higher education such as PhD and so on. The torture was really cruel and the aim is only one – to kill them. Its only time that matter either you will be torture till death or killed immediately. Once they killed you, then the whole family will be killed too. There were also preserved victim skulls in the museum. Besides that, we also have the opportunity to meet the one and only survivor of the Pol Pot massacred, and bought the book written by him.





Afternoon: Visit to Cheung Ek Killing Field

This is the place where all victims are killed by the executioner. The victims are allowed to choose the way they were to be executed, either using bamboo slit, knives or other tools because bullets were expensive. Meanwhile, thousands of children were killed by having their head crashed on the tree.

The visit starts by having a briefing on the visitors' management of Cheung Ek Killing Field as one of the famous dark tourism attraction in Cambodia as well as in South East Asia. After a tour around the site, we then bring to the audio visual room and documentation area of the black and white of all the killing executions. The video reveals a very sad story of the killing field that though the killing is done every day, the victims family never know that they were killed and people living around the area never knew that the large abandoned field is actually where their relatives and friends was killed.



It is a very sad to see the real killing place and imagining the situation and yet full of new and good knowledge to be kept in mind and heart. We return to Phnom Penh with a sorrow feeling but we enjoy the lesson we learn!



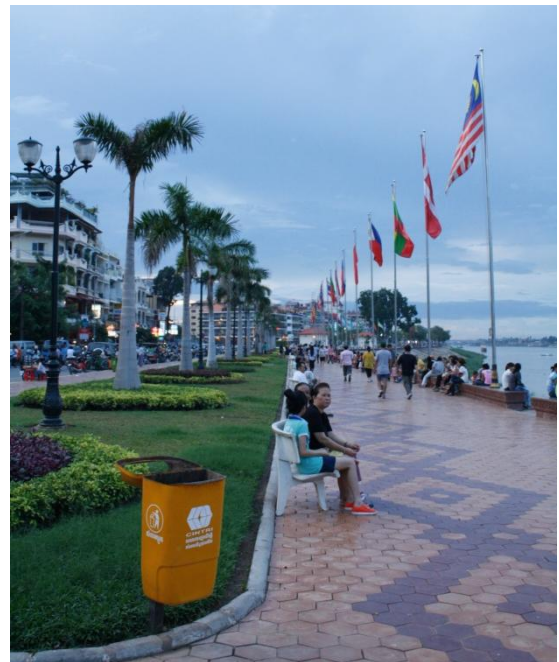
The left picture is the place where children killed by Pol Pot Regime are buried and the right picture is the tree is the tree where they smashed the children head in front of their mother.

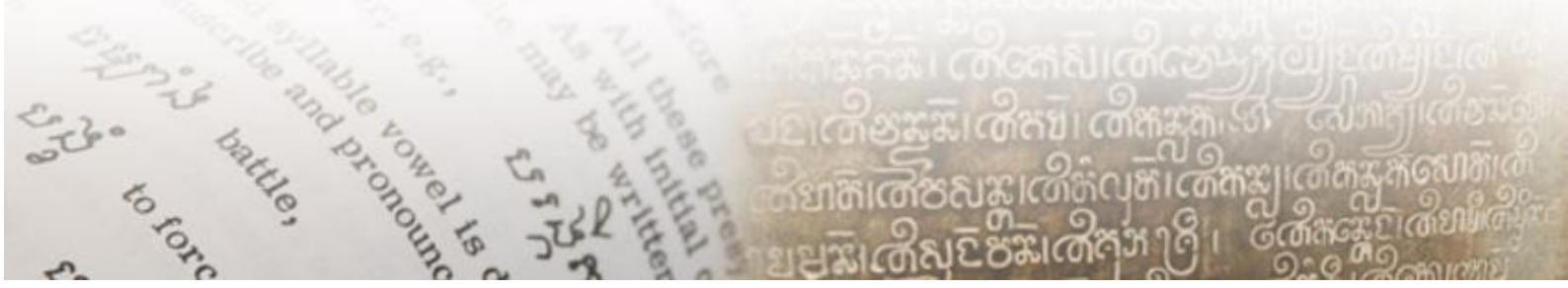
Evening: Visit to Phnom Penh Waterfront

The last point of visit of the day is Phnom Penh Waterfront. It is quite a relief for most of us after horror experiences since morning. The task here is *assessment on town planning and tourism planning done in Phnom Penh*. In the context of tourist city, the waterfront is developed along the centre of both local and tourist centre point. We clearly see and experience how a good town planning implementation and tourism activities can benefit both locals and tourists in Phnom Penh.

The waterfront is very active with informal activities such as group dancing, hip hop group dance, family recreation and even there are tourist that jog along the waterfront. Despite that, the waterfront do serve as the relax area for both tourist and local to enjoy the beautiful scenery and sunset at Tonle Sap riverbank. This scene than made us thinking, why did our Danga Bay fails to do so? Why we, who can be considered the more developing country than them, cannot make a good informal activity place?

After a long walk from one end to another, we then depart for our dinner at Mamak's Corner Restaurant with the specialties that we all love – Nasi Lemak and Teh Tarik in Phnom Penh style.

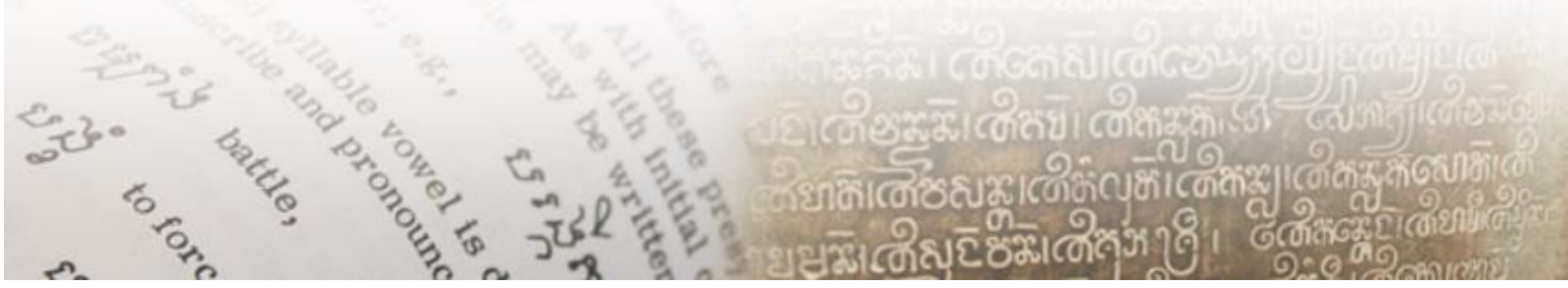




PROGRAMME SUMMARY

DAY 4





Day 4: 1 June 2011

Morning: Good Bye Phnom Penh, Hello Ho Chi Minh

←
After having breakfast in hotel and check-out, we then start our journey to the new city and new country at 9.00am. As advised by our tour guide, we have at least must be at Cambodia border at 11.00am otherwise we will be arriving late at Ho Chi Minh city as the journey from Phnom Penh to border is only 1 ½ hours but from Vietnam border to Ho Chi Minh takes up 3 1/2 hours.



The journey was long due to the road condition that is not as good as our PLUS highway. But the scenery and panorama along the way that keeps us forget about the time. We have also experienced crossing the river via ferry which reminds us to Penang Ferry.



We unfortunately arrived late at Ho Chi Minh City around 2.30pm and having lunch at Tandoor Restaurant.

Afternoon: Ho Chi Minh City Tour

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After a great lunch, we decided to continue our journey before going check in to the hotel. The city tour is done with the briefing on heritage tourism and the places of visit are Notre Dame Cathedral, Ho Chi Minh Post Office.

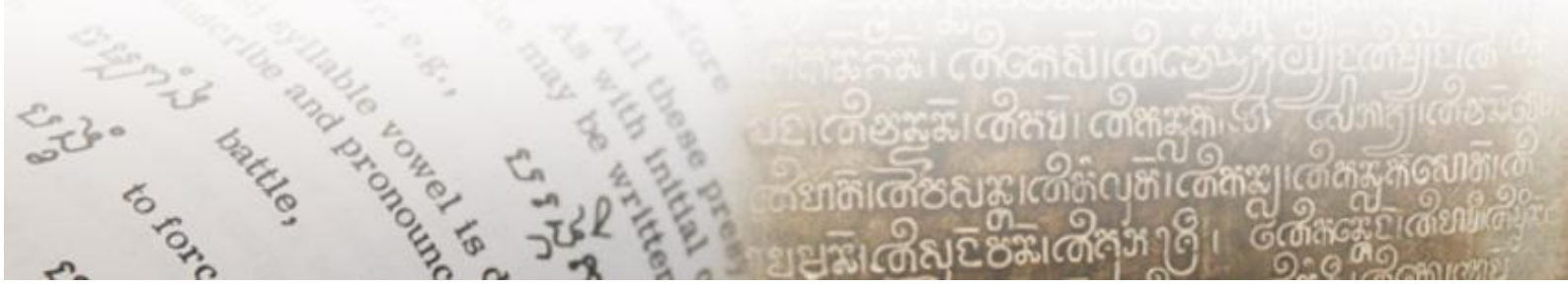


After the city tour, we then spend 3 hours visiting the War Remnant Museum. The 3 storey museum occupied with a very detail explanation about the Vietnam War and its aftermath. US Army military equipments, weapons and battleships is also displayed there. Besides being a heritage city, Ho Chi Minh do give us the experience of Dark Tourism with the establishment of this museum. The pain and tortures undergone by the Viet people during the war and health problem and diseases faced by their future generation really made us thinking deeply that war is not the answer for any conflicts.



Night: Night walk at Ho Chi Minh City

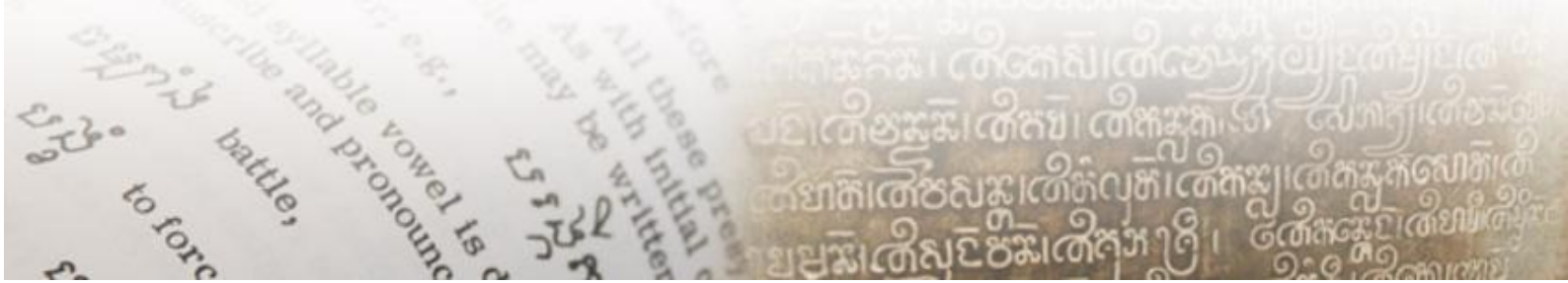
After having dinner at Four Season Restaurant, we then had a walk around Ho Chi Minh City. The walk is done around the backpackers' area of Ho Chi Minh City. The night walk is filled with informal lecture on how backpackers can influence a tourist city for example in the context of its contribution to urban economics and how it influences the planning of tourism related services and activities.



PROGRAMME SUMMARY

DAY 5





Day 5 – 3 June 2011

Morning: Visit to Cu chi Underground Tunnels



The 75 miles long Cu Chi Tunnels, once a haven for Viet Cong (VC) fighters and villagers, are one of the many battlegrounds in Vietnam that have been converted to major tourist attraction in Vietnam.

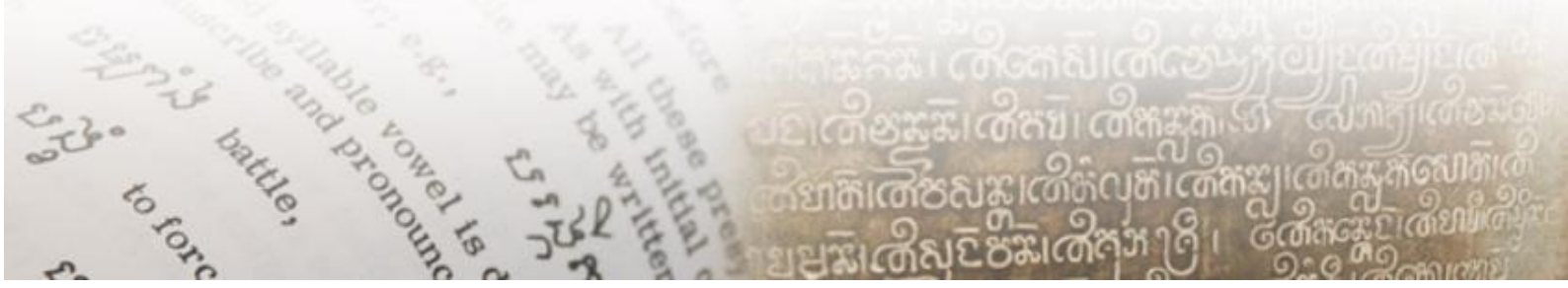


The Cu Chi Tunnels system was created around 1948 to assist Viet Minh in their combat with French. Building continued over the next 25 years until it was an underground city with living areas, kitchens, storage, weapons factories, field hospitals, command centres. In places, it could house up to 10,000 people who virtually lived underground for years. Getting married, raising children.



During the American War the entire area of Cu Chi was designated a free fire zone and was heavily bombarded. From 1988, two sections of tunnels have been opened up for visitors.





**Late Afternoon – Night:
Free and Easy Activities**

After the ‘Tapioca Lunch’ at the Cu Chi Tunnel, we then went to Shamsuddin Restaurant for our real lunch. Everybody wanted to taste their last cup of Vietnam coffee which will let us stay energetic for our last day in Ho Chi Minh.



We then had a free and easy time and decided to go to the Ben Thanh Market. Ben Thanh Market has been operating since 1914. It is located at the centre of the town and takes up the whole block. Whatever you want, you can probably find it from souvenir to silk. Inside this market is extremely hot, crowded and full of people at the day time.



A good rest at the hotel until dawn made us hunger for Vietnamese food. But then, dinner in VN Halal Restaurant only serves us with typical Malay dish. Though we are bit disappointed, the foods are delicious. We don’t want to spend our last night in Saigon by staying in the hotel, some of us decided to go somewhere else and half of us spend 2 hours at Ben Than Night Market to finish up our remaining ‘Dongs’ and ‘Dollars’ for souvenirs to be brought home.



During night most of the stalls of Ben Thanh Market is located outside and most of them trying to sell all types of things from shirt, watches to souvenirs. We already have been warned by our guide to be careful of pickpockets and heavy rains made the shopping time shorter.

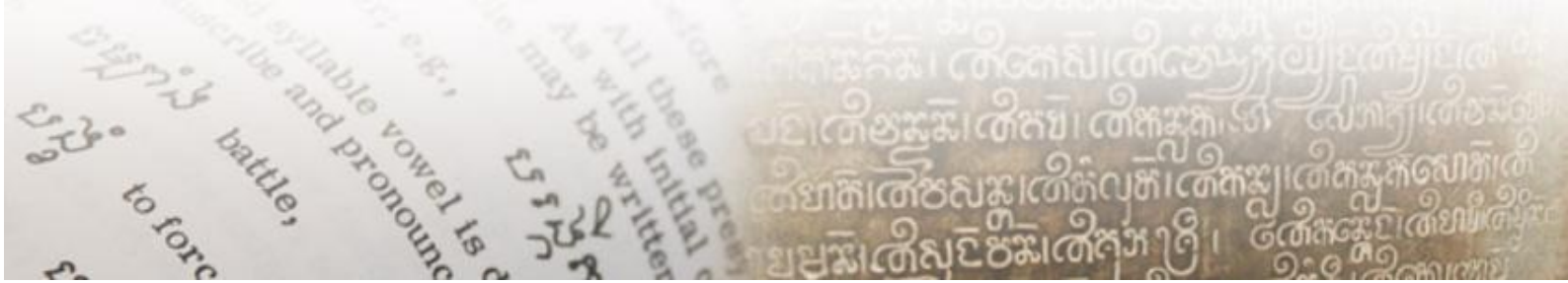




PROGRAMME SUMMARY

DAY 6





Day 6: 4 June 2011

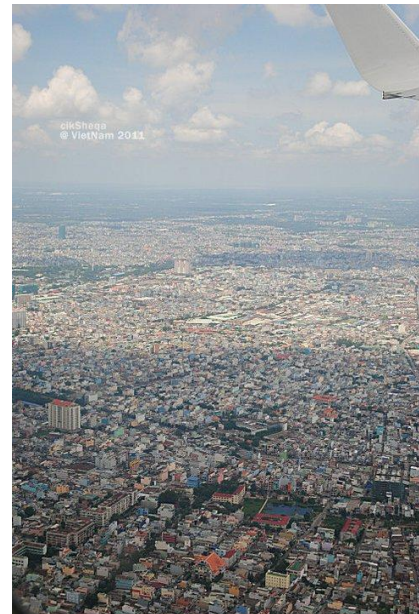
Morning: Home Sweet Home - Good Bye Ho Chi Minh

The final day of the trip, spending a short morning before departure to our home sweet home - beloved Malaysia! After a light breakfast in hotel, we depart to Ho Chi Minh Airport at 8.30am before departing at 11.00 am.

6 days trips felt like too short for us to learn more and experience Vietnam and Cambodia. We safely touched down at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at 2.00pm.

At arrival, after all luggages are claimed, some of us went back to their homes and the rest were going back to Skudai. We do not have to wait any longer as the UTM bus is already waiting for us before 2.00pm.

Our group finally arrived at FAB bus stop around 7.00pm. Thought we are exhausted, the great memories in Cambodia and Vietnam will never be forgotten.



Most of us is enjoying the new experience of flying with MAS



PROGRAMME OUTCOME

The visit has brought many benefits to the students as well as the university. The programme has given unique experiences and knowledge to the participants in addition to expanding their views of the world which would prove most useful while pursuing their master degrees in Tourism Planning. The learning, understanding and building of knowledge on what make a good rural and urban tourism destination in attracting tourists was the main outcome in the minds of the participants, while observing foreign designs and cultures. In addition, the students managed to build on their generic skill sets through the practical activities conducted on each site of visits throughout the tour. This is in line with the mission of the university to produce high-quality graduates who are knowledgeable. Some benefits gained throughout of this programme are:

- i. Teamwork in making the visit a success and interaction among course members were also improves as a result of working together in achieving common goals.
- ii. Increasing the ability of students in organizing, planning and managing the trip. This required plenty of practical or “real-life” procedures and communications.
- iii. Application of what is learned in theories on the ground as students are given some tasks in most of the visited attractions has increased students understanding and experience.
- iv. Students way of thinking are more open and broader especially in term of tourism and town planning as we have learned that what best in our country may not applicable in other countries and vice versa.

The whole time of the visit, the students has shown that such academic visits have great potential to not only expose students to multi-dimensional views, but is also able to promote the name of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) among the international audience by raising its profile, especially to the premier universities of the world.



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*“An unforgettable destination rich
in history, culture and
natural beauty”*