

Davidson Hepburn Visits Cambodia – Jan 2018

Dr. Davidson Hepburn was the President of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 35th Governing Council (2009 -2011). During that time he encouraged many to visit World Heritage sites around world. He explained why in messages he sent to the Sri Chinmoy Oneness- Home World Harmony and Peace Runs which he has experienced in his native Bahamas, Kazakhstan, Malta and other locations



. “I was delighted to see the Run visit a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites... drawing attention to the efforts of the international community to protect so many cultures around the world.

Initiatives such as the ...**Run contribute significantly** to the realisation of one of UNESCO's principal mandates: **mutual understanding** and our shared determination to build and strengthen a culture of **peace and harmony**”

See the full video message from UNESCO with sub titles in 25 languages for the 25th anniversary of the runs at <http://www.worldharmonyrun.org/25.html>



Dr .Hepburn January 2018, under a sign celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Angkor as a World Heritage site in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Dr. Hepburn showed his continued commitment in 2018 as he personally visited the Angkor World Heritage sites in Siem Reap Cambodia with many members of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home international torch relay teams from around the world.

Also part of the tour were many longtime friends from the Peace Meditation at the UN from when Davidson Hepburn was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of his country during the 1970s and 80s at the UN in NY.

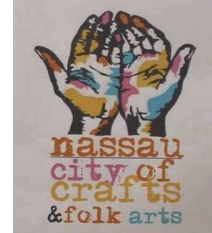
It was where he first became friends with Sri Chinmoy.

Ambassador Hepburn was able to be present for many inspiration meetings of the group including cultural activities, meditations , recitations and musical performances

An introduction and response At the first opportunity on Jan 20, Dr. Hepburn was warmly introduced and gave a stunning response. Some who had not heard him speak previously were especially surprised by the easy warmth of his message and the deep resonance of his voice.



Dr. Hepburn's shirt logo showed his ongoing appreciation for a Bahamian Organization "**Creative Nassau**" Celebrating and promoting BAHAMIAN ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE from the INSIDE OUT. A city of Crafts and Folk Art, Nassau was designated UNESCO Creative City in 2014.. <http://creativenassau.com/nassau-city-of-craft-and-folk-art/>



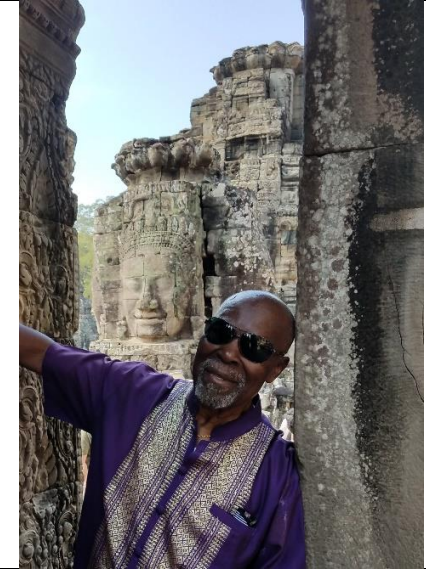
Designated
UNESCO Creative City
in 2014

The first visit in Siem Reap was to Angkor Thom

(literally: "Great City, was the last and most enduring capital city of the [Khmer empire](#)).

It was established in the late twelfth century by King [Jayavarman VII](#).

It covers an area of 9 km², within which are located several monuments from earlier eras as well as those established by Jayavarman and his successors.



Dr. Hepburn with our informal guide, Trishatour, who has a great love for Cambodia ever since he served there with the U.N. years ago..



—Dr. Hepburn appreciated the various crafts and food items around the monuments, and as usual gave smiles to the local sellers – including these two women who had wonderful corn in the husk that reminded of his home in Bahamas, and the fresh food of his youth.

That same day
we also visited

“Ta Prohm”

the modern name of
the temple at Angkor
**built in the Bayon
style largely in the
late 12th and early
13th centuries** and
approximately one
kilometre east of
Angkor Thom

”
Founded as a Mahayana
Buddhist monastery and
university.

Ta Prohm is in much the same
condition in which it was
found: the photogenic and
atmospheric combination of
trees growing out of the ruins
and the jungle surroundings
have made it one of Angkor's
most popular temples with
visitors.

UNESCO inscribed Ta Prohm
on the World Heritage List in
1992. Today, it is one of the
most visited complexes in
Cambodia’s Angkor region.

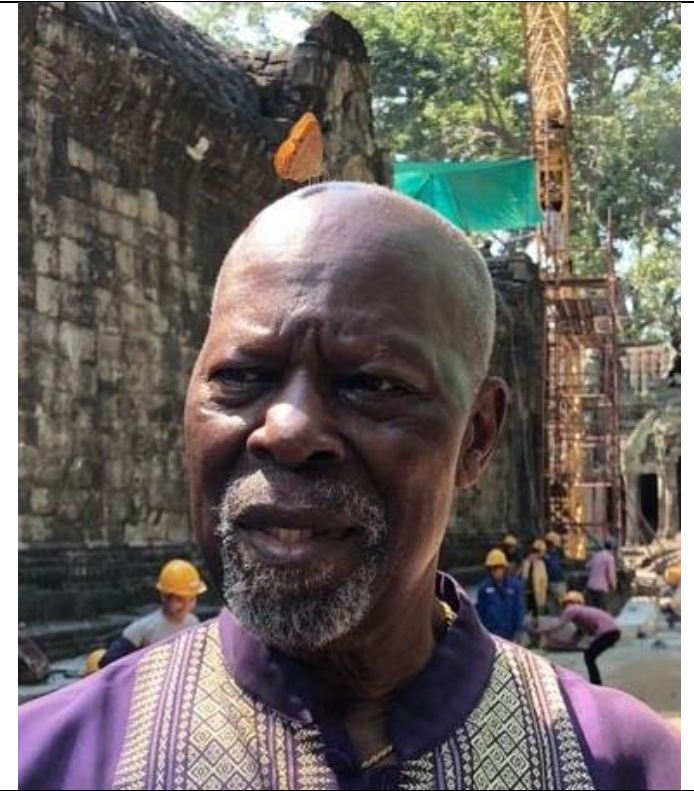
The conservation and
restoration of Ta Prohm is a
partnership project of the
Archaeological Survey of India
and the APSARA (Authority for
the Protection and
Management of Angkor and
the Region of Siem Reap)



Dr. Hepburn was able to **observe restorative work** being done at the monument



Even the **butterflies** seem to appreciate Dr, Hepburn's comments on the site as a number were flying around - one (yellow-orange-gold) even landed on his head,

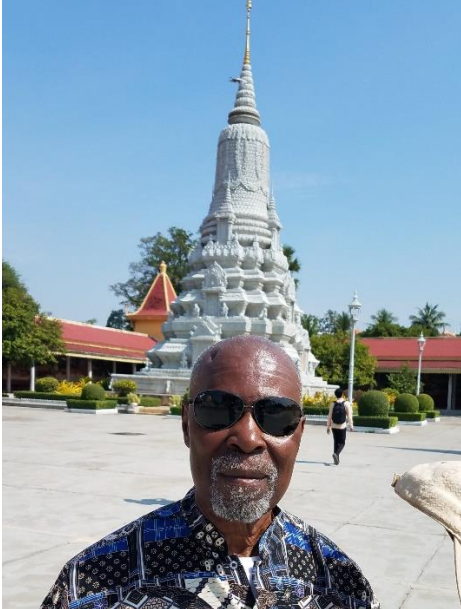


On this day we were drawn to some music along the path.

Dr. Hepburn was wearing a favorite shirt that he received after his son had visited Cambodia. As we got closer we noticed , to our delight that these local (some blind) musicians at the heritage site were wearing a very similar shirt



There was short trip to visit to the **capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh and the King's residence**



Monks after chatting with Dr. Hepburn by the river in Phnom Penh at night



Visiting the main Temple: Angkor Wat (or "Capital Temple") complex in Cambodia, called the largest religious monument in the world . It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple of god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, gradually transforming into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century





Bas Relief Galleries “The reliefs sculpted on the southern section of this western gallery represent a concluding episode of the Mahabharata, a renowned India epic tale. This is the Battle of Kuruksheta, when the Pandavas and the Kaurava clans meet in final, deadly combat.”



There is always an interest to capture Dr. Hepburn for either Radio or video audience.



We heard from the coordinator of Peace Run in Europe:

"The Bulgarians used the video to promote the opening of the Peace Run. It went out to a lot of media and was widely used.

“We showed it at the opening of the Peace Run and the audience responded very enthusiastically.

“I dare say that Mr Hepburn is now a semi celebrity in Bulgaria. We are extremely grateful to him for offering his words and support.”

Below is link to the video

<http://www.peacerun.org/bg/news/2018/0221/2622/>

and on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/tJKmLLMY2Eg>

Bulgaria 21 February: Dr Davidson Hepburn about the Peace Run opening in Sofia, Bulgaria – 2018



“Continue to move on”

In an earlier audio interview that morning, **Dr. Hepburn was questioned about his optimism:** In part he responded by saying:

“You can’t concentrate a great deal on the evil that is happening in the world. It is not going to stop. You have to continue what you are doing. It is very good. In that way you counteract the evil that is happening.”

When asked if he can detect progress in the world. “I don’t think it is possible for us to determine the degree of progress that we have made in achieving peace. I feel we have to look at this step by step.” “You can’t concentrate on the bad things. If you are going to concentrate on anything then you should concentrate on the good things. That will then pacify your concerns about the evil that is in the world.” ... The moment you slink off into a corner, and concentrate on the negative things that are happening. The worse it is going to be.”

“No matter how bad it gets you should be concentrating on what’s good.

When I leave here, what I do is concentrate on this mediation group. You can’t imagine what help, what kind of assistance, what kind of joy I get from being a part of this.

See the full interview here:

<http://perfectionjourney.org/2018/03/25/continue-to-move-on/>



About

Continue To Move On

Posted by ugal | Category: Sri Chintmy center activity | No Comments

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A few months ago while visiting Cambodia I spoke with career UN diplomat, His Excellency Davidson L Hepburn. Having absolutely zero political experience I was curious and hopeful that he might shed some light on what is currently happening in the world and whether or not he was still optimistic.



Visiting Angkor National Museum,

Davison Hepburn has been very involved in his own and other countries cultural heritage and was most happy to examine the displays and artifacts in the **Angkor National Museum** for a few hours.

<http://www.angkornationalmuseum.com/index>



ANM Galleries

- ▶ Briefing Hall
- ▶ **Exclusive Gallery**
- ▶ Gallery A
- ▶ Gallery B
- ▶ Gallery C

Exclusive Gallery: 1,000 Buddha Images

"A Gallery of Cambodia Buddhism Reflection"

The religion of Buddhism is spiritually linked from the ancient Khmer civilization to the present-day Cambodia. The gallery of One Thousand Buddhas contains one of the most prestigious collections of 1,000 Buddha statues and relics ever assembled.



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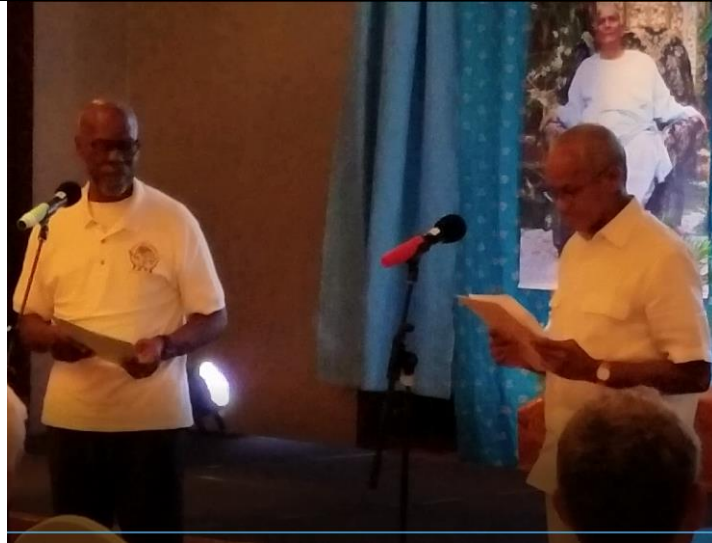
Gallery A: Khmer Civilization

"The Origin of Khmer Empires Story"

One of the mysteries is how the Khmer Empire was established. Learn what drove the ancient Khmer civilization to create one of the world's most colossal structures ever. Explore the Khmer peoples' faith in their great kings and delve into the stories of ancient wars that once ravaged these tranquil lands.

Readings about the message of Christmas and of Peace

Dr. Hepburn demonstrated his willingness to participate in cultural events, for example, by **sharing his amazing voice for readings about the message of Christmas and of Peace** from Sri Chinmoy's writings. He was joined by two friends:



Bhashwar from New York gathered the excerpts and read with Dr. Hepburn. (shown holding the Oneness-Home Peace torch together with Ambassador Hepburn



Pramodan from Germany, played music that enhanced the readings



*** Listen to Bhashwar and Dr. Hepburn's readings.**

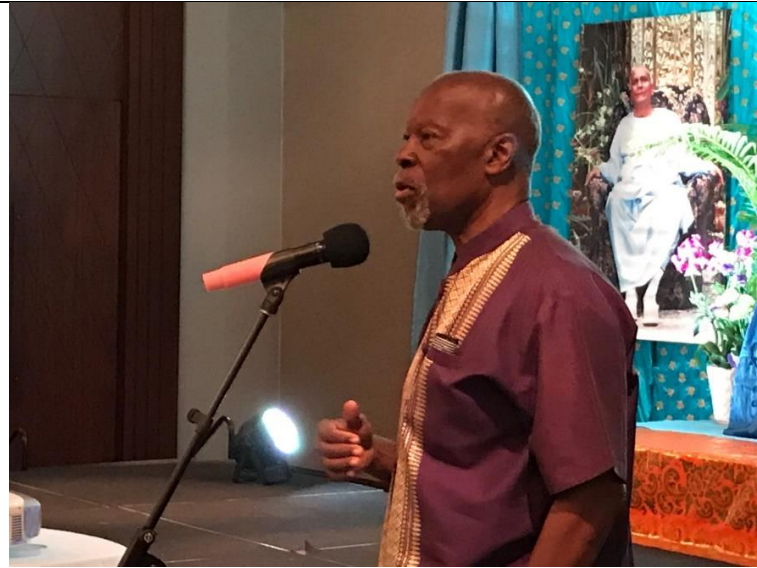
Excerpt of video on YouTube is **"unlisted"** so not see with general search, but only with this specific url

<https://youtu.be/tQ2rokSbMec>

Poetry Recitation:

At an early days' function Davidson Hepburn had performed one of his favorite inspirational songs for the group

Then on his last full morning, 30st January, as a farewell gift he surprised and charmed the group by and reciting a selection from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam



Later that day Jan 30 , there was a Boat ride between Houses on Stilts;



a Floating School where Dr. Hepburn especially liked interacting with the children;



and chats with some young and very friendly monks



World Harmony and Peace Run team members from around the world visiting Cambodia, welcomed the opportunity to join with Dr. Hepburn holding the torch and Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home banner on his last day.



Dr. Hepburn (center with torch) and Oneness Home Peace Run team members in Cambodia



Dr. Hepburn and Peace Run Executive Director



Dr. Hepburn and Mongolian Peace Run team members



Dr. Hepburn and Bali, Indonesia Peace Run team members



Sun, Feb 4, 2018 8:36 am from: Davidson L. Hepburn
To adhiratha

Good evening:

This note comes to let you know that I arrived home safely and went to bed. Nevertheless, I woke up around 2 A.M. The flight was long but uneventful except for a few bumps along the way.

I am unable to find the words **to express my gratitude** ... for the preparations ... to facilitate my participation. **I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and I am now more comfortable with Meditation on a focused basis.**

The Peace Run is a blessing and has brought so many nations together. I hope that it will continue for a long while. Naturally, I cannot send a message to everyone, but I would **appreciate your telling the group that I am grateful for their selflessness and will continue to pray for their continued steadfastness.**

“”Thank you once again for your kind attention during my stay.
Please give my fond regards to everyone

Blessings

