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World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

31 March 2008

National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS)

Dear colleagues,

The World Scout Bureau has received an application for membership of the World Organization from the National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS).

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of WOSM, the World Scout Committee considered this application at its meeting on 29 February-2 March 2008, and recommended that it be accepted.

Under the terms of Article VI.2 of the WOSM Constitution, "if within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations", NACS will be declared a Member, as the National Scout Organization of Cambodia, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement as from 1 July 2008. Affirmative votes are not required.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General

Encl.: Information on NACS

National Association of Cambodian Scouts

Scouting in Cambodia began over 70 years ago and had undergone various phases of development. Angka Khemarak Kayarith (AKK), or the Khmer Scout Association, was created in 1934 under the Patronship of Prince Monireth to develop the Scout Movement in the kingdom. In the 1960s the membership of AKK reached 2,000 and the association was represented in a number of international events including the 8th World Jamboree in 1955 in Canada and the 10th World Jamboree in the Philippines.

On 1 November 1964, HRH Prince Sisowath Essaro, then President of AKK, announced the dissolution of the Scout association and merged it into a Khmer socialist youth organization. However, as the political system changed in the country, Scouting was gradually re-established and Scout groups were organized in the refugee camps at the Thai border. In 1994, the World Scout Bureau/Asia-Pacific Region visited Cambodia and met the then Minister of Education, Youth and Sports and several other government officials, after which full government support was assured.

Subsequently, two main Scout groupings emerged in Cambodia and were registered in July 2000. In the effort to unite these into a new single national association, the Coordinating Scout Committee of Cambodia (CSCC) was created on 21 April 2000. Since then *ad hoc* contacts continued and finally, a working group composed of leaders from the two groupings was established in May 2005 to work on the Constitution and By-Laws. In September 2005, the National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS) was created to finalize the draft Constitution and By-Laws and seek formal government recognition to launch it as a non-governmental organization. The first AGM of the newly-established NACS was held in April 2006 at which the Constitution was adopted and the first batch of office bearers were elected.

The membership of NACS in 2006 was 2,805 (1,768 Scouts, 540 Rovers, 171 Cub Scouts and 326 adult leaders). In 2007, this figure increased by 25% with an actual membership of 3,763 and with an almost equal number of girls and boys. This figure is expected to double and the association has set a target of 7,310 by end of 2008. It is worthy of note that this target covers all the 24 provinces and/or municipalities of the country.

After the formation of one unified National Scout Organization, extensive development work was undertaken and is still on-going. These are the focal areas:

- Orientation of adult leaders on Scouting at all levels;
- Training of adult leaders;
- Participating in various community development/service projects;
- Production of a range of Scouting literature;
- Establishment of partnerships with government and other external agencies; and
- Participation in regional and other national level Scout activities.

NACS is also positively planning to organize their first National Scout Jamboree, to be held in December 2008, close to the Angkor Temples – a world heritage site.

NACS submitted its formal application for WOSM membership on 27 February 2007, through the Asia-Pacific Regional Office after endorsement by the Regional Scout Committee. A formal mission to review the application consisting of World Scout Bureau staff and the Regional Scout Committee was undertaken from 14-19 November 2007 to assess the realities on the "ground."

The conclusion is that NACS is mature enough to become a full member of WOSM. All constitutional matters have been fulfilled and the situation on the ground is authentic. The final report on the admission of NACS to WOSM membership was considered by the World Scout Committee at its meeting in February 2008.