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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU CAMBODGE

Press Release

*Statements made by
The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson*

Visit to Cambodia of Mrs Brigitte Girardin, Minister Delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophony (18-21 January)

Brigitte Girardin, Minister Delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophony, will be in Laos and Cambodia from January 18 to 21, 2007.

In Cambodia, Ms Girardin will be received by Prime Minister Hun Sen and Vice Prime minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Hor Namhong.

She will visit the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh and the site of the Baphuon Temple at Angkor restored by the Ecole française d'Extrême Orient. The minister delegate will proceed with an evaluation of the framework partnership document signed between France and Cambodia in September 2005 and sign a codicil to the document.

In Laos the minister delegate will be received by Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh and Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith. She will sign the framework partnership document between France and Laos which sets out the strategic guidelines for cooperation in the country for the next five years, representing a financial commitment of between 65 and 80 million euros. Laos is the 26th country in the priority solidarity area to conclude such a framework partnership document with France.

The financial commitment for French cooperation for 2006 to 2010 amounts to between 110 and 124 million euros.

The visit will demonstrate our commitment to help the development of Cambodia and Laos, members of the priority solidarity area and "la Francophonie", where France is the third-ranking donor of bilateral funds.

(Paris, January 16, 2007)

*[Please note that only the original French text issued by the
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be considered official*