

# H.E Dr. HANG Peou

Director General of APSARA National Authority



**H.E. Dr. HANG Peou** got his Doctorate Degree in 2002 from Université Catholique de Louvain ([www.uclouvain.be](http://www.uclouvain.be)) in Belgium then comes back to Cambodia as Professor in Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) where he got his Hydraulic Engineering Degree. Dr. HANG has joined APSARA Authority (Authority for the Preservation and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap) in August 2004 as Director of Water and Forest Department, and nominated as Deputy Director General in 2008, then in 2019 as Director General of APSARA National Authority.

Starting from that time, he has conducted the research on the natural resources and the environment of Angkor World Heritage Site. His research demonstrated the important role of Water and Forest in the conservation of monuments (temples) in Angkor Park by introducing the concept three main elements: Temple-Water-Forest. Base on these resultants he is setup department visions, strategies, policies and planning to preserve and increase the forest covers in Angkor Park as well as to rehabilitate the extensive Ancient Angkor Hydraulic Network.

Since 2005, Dr. HANG rehabilitates Ancient Hydraulic Systems following his master plan to assure stability of temples and the sustainable development of the whole Siem Reap region, those achievements are:

- North Baray (handmade reservoir built in 12th century) that was dried up more than 500 years ago,
- Restored original feeding system of West Baray (11th century),
- Restored Angkor Thom, Preah Khan and Angkor Wat moats, Srah Srang, Banteay Srei moat and reservoir,
- Restored the inlet and outlet of Lolei Baray (Indratataka): first ancient reservoir built in 9<sup>th</sup> century,
- Beginning 2012, rehabilitates Ta Some (old water gates - the key point of water management whole Angkor region) and 17 Km of ancient canals and dikes system that were not functioned for many centuries in order to optimize water resources management and protect Angkor Park and Siem Reap City from flooding. The floods events in 2012 and 2013, and droughts years 2015 and 2019 have confirmed the result of his research in protecting the Angkor Park, International airport and Siem Reap city from floods and droughts.
- His works are demonstrated the highest technology of Khmer ancestors on the water management and technology a thousand years ago.