

**The CollAsia 2010 Field Project: Teamwork for Sustainable Collections Care  
January 8 - February 9, 2007  
Hanoi, Vietnam**

**Opening Remarks by Vice Minister of Culture and Information,  
Hon. Tran Chien Thang**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the leadership of Ministry of Culture and Information, I am pleased to welcome the trainers from The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO-SPAFA), and especially trainees from eight nations in the Southeast Asian region.

In recent years, ICCROM, SPAFA and countries in the region has been in close collaboration and cooperation with Vietnam in a wide range of fields, especially in the training of human resource for the cause of safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage. The Ministry of Culture and Information highly appreciates the objectives, work plans, and achievements from activities conducted by ICCROM and SPAFA in the implementation of the CollAsia 2010 Programme (Preserving Heritage Collections in Southeast Asia).

During the last five years, in realizing of the importance, the long-term and practical benefits of the Project, the Ministry of Culture and Information has always provided support to the active involvement of various Vietnamese heritage researching and safeguarding institutions and museums in the project. To us, this is an important project since it will help Southeast Asian nations in re-identifying the values of their own heritage, and in seeking for appropriate resolutions for heritage preservation in the conditions and environment of each individual country and of the whole region. Furthermore, the Programme helps

increase capacity building and sets grounds for the establishment of a sustainable cooperation network of conservators in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Vietnam is honored to be the host country for the 2007 CollAsia Field Project, which is the longest and the most multi-national course to be held within the CollAsia Programme.

On behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Information, I would like to express our warmest thankfulness to the representatives from ICCROM and SPAFA. And, I hereby would like to entrust the Department of Cultural Heritage of Vietnam, the National Museum of Vietnamese History, together with concerned institutions with a fruitful and effective training workshop.

I look forward to the active and close cooperation among our trainers and trainees during the workshop. I also I anticipate learning about your interesting discoveries from field work in the conservation of heritage collections in Vietnamese museums.

I wish you all good health and success. Thank you very much.