



UNESCO Bangkok
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

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***Crown Property Bureau Building Wins Honourable Mention in the
2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards***

*Awards Ceremony, Crown Property Bureau Office, Laddawan Palace, 27
October 2008, 15:30-17:00*

Bangkok, 21 October 2008 – UNESCO Bangkok will recognize the outstanding restoration of the Crown Property Bureau Building at a ceremony to be held on 27 October 2008 at Laddawan Palace. The conservation of this significant heritage building was awarded an Honourable Mention in the 2008 annual UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards.

Mr Sheldon Shaeffer, the Director of UNESCO Bangkok, will present an award plaque to Dr Chirayu Isarangkun Na Ayutthaya, the Director of the Crown Property Bureau Office. Certificates of Recognition will also be presented to project team members by Mr Shaeffer.

Restoration of the Crown Property Bureau Building in Chachoengsao Province has given new life to an important heritage site that was extensively damaged by fire. During the reconstruction and conservation work, careful attention was paid to the historic character of the building, both interior and exterior. The project has bolstered local pride and led to the larger revitalization of the historic urban district of Chachoengsao and the Bangpakong waterfront.

A total of 45 entries, from 13 regional countries, were submitted for consideration. Conservation project entries include hotels, offices, cultural institutions, educational institutions, religious sites, memorials, public institutions, residential buildings and urban districts.

Herat Old City in Afghanistan and Stadium Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia were honoured with Awards of Excellence in the 2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.

The three Awards of Distinction went to the National Pass in the Blue Mountains, in New South Wales, Australia, the Fujian Earth Buildings in Fujian Province, China, and Suffolk House in Penang, Malaysia.

The three Awards of Merit include Vysial Street in Pondicherry, India, the Shigar Historic Settlements and Bazaar Area in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and Wat Pongsanuk in Lampang, Thailand.

Six Honourable Mentions were also announced: the Béthanie in Hong Kong SAR, China; the Archiepiscopal Palace in Goa, India; the Craigie Burn Bungalow in Matheran, India; Bach 38 on Rangitoto Island, Auckland, New Zealand; the Amphawa Canal Community in Amphawa District, Samut Songkhram Province, Thailand, and; the aforementioned Crown Property Bureau Building in Chachoengsao province, Thailand.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards recognize the efforts of private individuals and organizations who have successfully restored and conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

Eligible projects must be over 50 years old and the restoration work must have been completed within the past 10 years. Buildings must also have been in viable use for at least one year from the date of the awards announcement. UNESCO believes that recognizing private efforts to restore and adapt historic structures will encourage other property owners to undertake conservation projects within the community, either independently or by seeking public-private partnerships.

Thailand has actively participated in the awards programme through a series of outstanding conservation practices. In addition to the Crown Property Bureau Building, five other projects from Thailand have obtained UNESCO Heritage Awards. These include: Wat Pongsanuk (Award of Merit 2008); Amphawa Canal Community (Honourable Mention 2008); Tamnak Yai, Devavesm Palace (Honourable Mention 2005); Phra Racha Wang Derm (Award of Merit 2004), and; Wat Sratong Temple (Award of Merit 2002).

Further information about the Heritage Awards and this year's winning entries can be found at: <http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=480>

For further information, contact:

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