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Greeting of Dr. Ingo Karsten, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Cambodia:

Every day we observe the rapid changes in Phnom Penh. We are both fascinated and overwhelmed by the developments. We see well-appreciated buildings and homes disappear. Questions have to be answered on what should be preserved and what should move and be replaced in order enable development and improve living conditions. This is a challenge faced daily in most cities around the globe. The built environment - the space in which we live and work every day - is one of the key features of our cultural identity. The preservation and strengthening of cultural identities is considered as one of the most important objectives of the German External Cultural Policy. By being aware of what makes up our cultural identity we are better able to preserve it. Therefore, I am very happy that this book, which shows us everyday people in their everyday environment in Phnom Penh as well as changes which have taken place over time, has been published. I would like to invite you to join me on this exciting visual visit of the city and its inhabitants.

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