

STATEMENT BY BANGSACHAMPA

10th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP),
Tenth Session, Geneva, 10 – 14 July 2017 .

Item 6 of the provisional agenda: *Ten years of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: good practices and lessons learned.*

Dear Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brothers and Sisters,

My name is DAISA DAO, I am honored to greet you on behalf of BANGSACHAMPA (The Champa Nation).

BANGSACHAMPA cannot over emphasize to the Session the real urgency to address the need in the preservation of its indigenous cultural identity. In order to preserve ones cultural heritage, the importance of language in producing identity cannot be over emphasized.

Language and culture then become the seedbed and instrument of empowerment for and in our own self-determination.

In its advice to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), we request that the Session calls upon the action that UN take towards the issues of the Champa nation, and highly recommends to the governments of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia to develop the programs that would preserve indigenous cultural identity of the Champa nation. It is crucial for us that those programs include the following four issues:

1. Construction of schools and pre-school facilities in the Champa people settlements;
2. Renovation of unique historical and architectural objects of the Champa medieval cultural heritage;
3. Assistance in developing digital and print media in the Cham indigenous language;

We are confident that the Session of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the right place to report our problems and propose solutions within the EMRIP mandate.

Finally, I would like to also introduce to the session that in 2014 the United Champa Nation Movement (BANGSACHAMPA) was formed as an Swedish registered NGO. It is our mission at BANGSACHAMPA to integrating the all over the world Champa people into the mainstream of the national and international life.

Thank you.

(Delivered by email: daisadao@gmail.com)