



*fossils found*

### Giant dinosaur fossils found

Fossils uncovered in Spain belong to what was probably the biggest dinosaur found in Europe. The massive fossilised bones show that the region might have been inhabited by dinosaurs as huge as those in Africa and the Americas.

Discovered in Teruel, eastern Spain, the dinosaur has been identified as *Turiasaurus Riodevensis*, a four-footed herbivore despite its fearsome teeth. It measured around 30-37 metres, and weighed between 40-48 tones, qualifying as the biggest terrestrial animal yet discovered in Europe.



*Teeth of Turiasaurus*

The longest recorded dinosaur in the world is *Argentinosaurus*, a South American creature twice as heavy. It lived about 100 million years ago, and reached 35 metres in length.

*Seismosaurus*, estimated to measure 37 metres, was the longest dinosaur ever discovered (in Mexico), and it lived about 145 million years ago. *Sauroposeidon*, 18 metres tall, is the tallest dinosaur found (in Oklahoma).

### Evolution of snakes

A fossil discovered in Argentina is reviving the debate about whether snakes evolved on land or in the sea.

The creature, with a pair of legs and a sacrum, which was a bony feature that supported the pelvis, lived in Patagonia, and is believed to be the most primitive snake known. Its anatomy and location indicate that it lived on land. Scientists believe that snakes evolved from lizards, losing the Sacrum and limbs as a result.

This find can establish that the evolution of snakes took place on land, and promises to clarify some of the doubts concerning how snakes originated and evolved. The discovery was published in the journal, *Nature*.

### Two-headed reptile

The first fossilised example of a two-headed reptile was discovered last year in China, and dates to the dinosaur epoch.



*Fossil of reptile in rocks, northeastern China*



*Two-headed snake*

Belonging to a group of aquatic reptiles, the animal was a choristoderan, characterized by a long neck.

The specimen shows the creature's spinal column divided with two long necks and skulls.

Choristoderans are considered common aquatic reptiles during the Cretaceous Period in China (144 to 165 million years ago). The fossils were unearthed from Cretaceous rocks in the Yixian Formation of

northeastern China, and now placed in the Shenzhen museum in South China.

### Trafficking of artefacts

A recent *Bangkok Post* investigation has found that though the illicit trade of precious artefacts is still thriving in Southeast Asia, it is undergoing significant changes.



*Khmer artefact*

Economic factors and the effects of laws are affecting the lucrative business, causing traffickers to adapt. Many are now turning to the trade in fakes as law enforcement becomes more effective, and priceless artefacts are more difficult to find in the market. The illicit trade volume has dramatically declined from that of previous years.

Authorities and traders informed the *Bangkok Post* that public awareness has increased, and the assistance of ordinary citizens have been contributing to the alleviation of the looting and trafficking of ancient objects.

Artefacts stolen from Vietnam have been smuggled to Thailand through Laos, but the Vietnamese government has been quite effective in managing the problem. Similarly, law enforcement in Cambodia has been vigorous, and as a result, trafficking activities are now being carried out with more circumspection. Temples are carefully supervised, and artefacts have been registered.

Cambodia and Thailand committed to an agreement in 2000 to suppress illegal trafficking in artefacts, and impose sanctions against violators.

Meanwhile, Thailand continues to hold the notorious reputation as "the principle sale and export point for artefacts in Southeast Asia," a smuggling transit for Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

### Funds for World Monuments Fund

The World Monuments Fund (WMF) archaeological group recently appealed for more funds to continue with its restoration of the centuries-old Bakheng temple in Cambodia.

As a part of the famous Angkor temple complex, the 10<sup>th</sup> century Bakheng temple has been attracting an increasing number of visitors who choose to watch the sunset from the temple on a hill.

The non-profit WMF has been repairing the collapsed walls, and preventing further deterioration, of the temple.

Angkor temples have endured wars, looting and deforestation, but are now facing the risk of accelerated damage caused by tourism. *AP* reported John Stubbs, WMF vice-president, as saying that "as many as three thousand tourists climb the hill in the space of just a few hours to see the sunset" at the Bakheng temple.

### Peruvian headdress seized

An ancient artefact of major significance to Peru's cultural heritage has been confiscated at a lawyer's office in London.

The object, a Peruvian headdress symbolising a marine god, dates back to over 1,300 years, and is considered an example of the art of an ancient civilisation known as Mochica.



*Peruvian headdress seized from a lawyer's London office*

It is believed to have had been extracted from the La Mina archaeological site, where a tomb was looted.

Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques officers held the raid at the lawyer's office after much cooperation with the government ministers and authorities in Peru, and Interpol. The headdress is expected to be returned to its country through diplomatic channels.

### Asia's largest dinosaur

The remains of the largest dinosaur ever found in Asia were recently unearthed in Changji, Xinjiang region of China.

Measuring about thirty-five metres, the dinosaur fossil excavated so far consisted of the neck of the creature, a researcher at the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology reported.

China, particularly in the northern desert region, is rich with dinosaur fossils, and more finds are expected to be made there.

Meanwhile, a new giant dinosaur species was discovered in Brazil, based on fossils dating back to the Late Cretaceous Period.

The herbivorous reptile, *Maxakalisaurus topai* lived 80 million years ago, and belongs to the Titanosauria group. It had a huge body, long neck and tail, and a relatively small head; weighed approximately nine tonnes, and measured thirteen metres long.

Dinosaurs from the *Titanosauria* group were believed to be the main herbivorous dinosaurs of the ancient continent (200 million years ago) identified as Gondwana (consisting of Africa, South America, India, Antarctica and Australia).

### Ceramics of Southeast Asia

About 200 diverse and fine ceramic vessels from Southeast Asia will be displayed at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, in an exhibition titled 'Taking Shape: Ceramics in Southeast Asia'. The remarkable objects, produced during the prehistoric to the present, "provide the focus for a detailed narrative of the migration of pots from their mak-

ers to their users," according to a news release of the gallery.

The landmark exhibition presents the two basic types of ceramics crafted in Southeast Asia – soft, porous earthenware and high-fired stoneware. Spanning four millennia of invention and exchange, the items were made for domestic use, trade, rituals and burials, and they indicate the depth and diversity of ceramic traditions in the region.

'Taking Shape' will go on show from April to the year 2010, and includes the narrative of discoveries, excavations and shipwrecks, with the help of a spectacular satellite image of Southeast Asia, informative maps and photographic panels.

### Global warming threatens heritage sites

Experts warned that ancient ruins and heritage sites would not survive a rapidly warming world.

In November last year, the Stockholm Environment Institute issued a report on threats to archaeological sites, coastal areas, and other treasures. Released at a UN climate conference, the report said that the 600-year-old ruins of Sukhothai in Thailand were damaged by recent floods caused by climate change. It also provides other examples from around the world.

The two-week conference on climate brought worldwide delegates to address the issue.

The 189 parties to the 1992 UN climate treaty are separated into two groups: the 165 that signed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases; and the minority, led by USA, which did not. A mandate in the Kyoto accord demands that 35 industrial countries cut their emissions by 5% by 2012. USA dismissed the accord as a constraint on the American economy, and objected to the exclusion of poorer nations from its mandate.

### Singapore's casino design

The government of Singapore has chosen architect Moshe Safdie's design for the island's US\$3.6 billion casino.

Safdie, who holds Israeli and Canadian citizenship, was the former head of the urban design school at Harvard University. He achieved early success but has also suffered disappointments. His design for a tower at Columbus Center was rejected after it was opposed by New York residents on the grounds that Central Park would be overshadowed by the architecture.

Recently, in Israel, there was a controversy over the urban expansion of Jerusalem, based on Safdie's blueprints.

With the addition of a casino, another architectural icon will be added to the modern Singapore urban-scape, which has been transformed since the early 70s. Much of the city's built heritage in the historical centre has been replaced, and it was only in the late 80s that the nation realised the loss of its architectural distinctiveness, and has since become more conscious about conservation.

### World's most expensive paintings – art market taking off

'Golden Adele' by artist Gustav Klimt was the most expensive painting in the world in November 2006. The 1907 art nouveau portrait of a Viennese woman in a gown was sold for \$135 million to Ronald Lauder, a cosmetics tycoon.

Klimt's 140 cm. by 140 cm. painting was exhibited at the Neue Galerie museum (July-September) in New York where admission fees rose to \$50, with crowds queuing up to view the golden portrait.

The painting was surrendered by the Austrian government in early 2006 after a protracted legal struggle over restitution. Coupled with Lauder's record purchase, and rumours about a love affair between the painter and his model, public interest in the works of the Austrian artist skyrocketed.

Rewards are being set and broken dramatically in the art world, with 2006 turning out to be a good year for the market. In one particular week during November, half a billion dollars were transacted at an "extraordinary" Christie's impressionist auction in New York.

The Gustav Klimt record sale has now been broken by that of a Jackson Pollock painting which went for \$140 million. The works of Paul Gauguin, Egon Schiele, and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner also made their marks.

Economic prosperity, financial confidence, speculation, and a new generation of billionaire collectors and buyers are contributing to the record-breaking frenzy, coupled with the availability of some rare works for sale.

While buyers now include many from India, China and Russia, the market continues to be dominated by Americans and Europeans, the traditional driving force in the art world.

### Top 10 auction sales

Garçon à la pipe by Pablo Picasso	May 2004 - \$104.1m
Dora Maar au Chat by Pablo Picasso	May 2006 - \$95.2m
Portrait of Dr. Gachet by Vincent van Gogh	May 1990 - \$82.5m
Bal au Moulin de la Galette, Montmartre by Pierre-Auguste Renoir	May 1990 - \$78m
Massacre of the Innocents by Peter Paul Rubens	July 2002 - \$76.7m
Portrait de l'artiste sans barbe by Vincent van Gogh	November 1998 - \$65m
Rideau, Cruchon et Compotier by Paul Cézanne	May 1999 - \$60.5m
Femme aux Bras Croisés by Pablo Picasso	November 2000 - \$50m
Irises by Vincent van Gogh	November 1987 - \$49m
Les Noces de Pierrette by Pablo Picasso	November 1989 - \$49m

### Lost civilisation of Chachapoya

Researchers uncovered an archaeological site in Peru that may be linked to the Chachapoya "cloud warriors" who fought the Inca Empire before the Spanish conquest.

The mountain site, an unfortified structure, lies in what was previously deemed the fringe of the Chachapoya territory in the upper Amazon area.

Known as Hauca la Penitenciaría (Penitentiary ruin), the ruins include a huge ceremonial platform, rectangular and circular monuments, and a plaza. The area had been abandoned for at least 400 years, it is reported, making it a fascinating archaeological time capsule.

Overtaken by the Incas, the Chachapoya people co-operated with the Spaniards after 1532. They are known for their mountaintop citadels, such as Kuelpa and Vira Vira, and well-preserved mummies discovered in tombs at the Lake of the Condors. The civilisation, which existed between 800 and 1475, eventually disappeared, overwhelmed by diseases brought by the arriving Europeans.

### Pre-Inca site

A major pre-Inca site was discovered in northern Peru, revealing about twenty tombs of Sican nobles, who were viewed as agents of divine power.

It is regarded as one of the most significant finds (near Ferranafe, north of Lima) in the country, and should contribute to understanding ceremonial knives and figures (tumis), ceramics, masks, breastplates and the remains of a woman.

### Preserving fossils correctly

A paper in the 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' concludes that incorrect conservation treatment of fossils reduces the chances of extracting DNA from them.

The study advises that currently standard processing and storage, such as washing, brushing and varnishing ancient bones, cuts the odds on recovering good DNA, and that the practice of freezing and using gloves in handling samples is adopted as mandatory.

It was found that the most important issue concerns how fossils are cleaned, usually on site in a big bath that can allow contaminants in the water to permeate the porous bones.

Close co-operation between archaeologists, excavators, paleontologists, field researchers, etc. and DNA specialists, lab geneticists, and paleontologists, etc. is urged so as to establish proper preservation practices, and improve the odds for recovering DNA from samples.

The paper also informs that DNA does not survive well in warm environments, and thus ancient DNA examinations have been carried out on permafrost samples.

### Whale remains found in vineyard

The most massive whale fossil ever found in Italy was dug up in one of the country's finest vineyards. Measuring 10 m. in length, the 5 million year-old skeleton was unearthed in the vineyards of Castello Banfi in Tuscany, which make Brunello de Montalcino wine, one of the most famous and highly valued Italian wines.

A fossil seeker, who was granted access to the area, has been credited with the find. Paleontologists have been excavating to retrieve the whole skeleton piece by piece.

The region of Tuscany was under water millions of years ago, and Castello Banfi was the sea bed.

### Ancient solar observatory

The most ancient solar observatory in South America has been discovered, a study reveals.



*Chankillo site*

A cluster of structures was found in the Chankillo archaeological site of Peru. Called the Thirteen Towers, the buildings are considered to be 2,300 years old. They span the annual arc movement of the sun, providing a solar calendar.

Ranging along the ridge of a low hill from north to south, the Thirteen Towers are considerably well-preserved, with each containing a couple of inset stairways to the summit. From two observation points, the long spread of the tower along the horizon corresponds closely to the rise and fall of the sun throughout the year.



*The Thirteen Towers on a hill*

The study, published in the journal *'Science'*, suggests that the ancient civilisation could have regulated a calendar by tracking the time it required the sun to move from tower to tower.

Regarded as a ceremonial centre that was occupied in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC, the site where the towers are situated covers 4 sq km. It is located in the Casma-Sechin river basin by the coast of Peru, and includes buildings, plazas and a fortified temple. Researchers believe that the inhabitants were part of a sun cult.

Historical evidence indicates that the religion of the Incas was based on worshipping the sun, and they were conducting solar observations by 1,500 AD.

### **No milk please, we're early man**

Europeans have been drinking milk for only a few thousand years to date, and not before, scientists reported.

In the *'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'*, researchers from University College London conclude that the quick dissemination of a gene which allows humans to gain the benefits of milk demonstrated evolutionary movement.

Analysis of Neolithic remains suggests that European adults then could not digest milk, but that tolerance to the substance is still uncommon in contemporary times.

A researcher said that the ability to consume milk provided early Europeans an immense survival advantage; the benefits of the evolutionary trait being nourishment; relative safety from parasitical contamination compared to stream water; and its continuous supply as against the uncertainty of seasonal crops.

### **Ancient chilli grains found**

Chillies were used in cooking more than 6,000 years ago, archaeologists in Ecuador said.

Evidence of chilli grains were found in southwest Ecuador that archaeologists said indicated a cultivation for trade and cooking much earlier than presumed.

The discovery suggested that the inhabitants in this region were first in adding the spice to their cooking, rather than the highland people of Peru or Mexico.

These ancient remains of chilli peppers have changed researchers' understanding of prehistoric Latin American cuisine and agriculture, the *'Science'* journal reported. Dated 6,000 years old, the grains show that peppers were among the oldest domesticated foods in the continent.

The report also mentioned that the discovery will prompt a reconsideration on Latin American food, thousands of years before Christopher Columbus arrived. He is said to have had taken chilli pepper to Europe, from where it spread to the rest of the world.

### **Staff strike at Louvre**

Staff of the Louvre museum in Paris went on strike, blocking access to ticket counters, making entry to the museum free of charge for visitors.

Those on strike demanded a bonus for the stress that they suffered in coping with the high number of visitors, particularly attendants managing crowds in the rooms displaying the Mona Lisa or the Venus de Milo, and having to constantly remind the public of the prohibition against the use of flash photography.

*AFP* reported a union member as saying that with the annual average of 7-8 million visitors during the past two years, more new rooms, and the same number of attendants, the demanding work was reduced to only that of crowd control.

The Louvre management said that the strikers were made up of a small percentage of the museum's attendants, and their action was "having little effect".

### Taiwan's museum of treasures reopens

Taiwan's National Palace Museum reopened recently in February after three years of renovation costing \$21m.

The renovations are reported to have elevated the museum, whose collection has been top-rate, into a world class attraction.

Already holding some of the most significant artefacts collected by the ancient emperors of China, the National Palace Museum now has more public areas, larger gallery spaces, many new restaurants, etc..



*A treasure of Taiwan's National Palace Museum*

Relations between authorities in Beijing and Taipei have been controversial with regard to the museum's collection, which were originally part of the treasure trove in Beijing's Forbidden City. As Japan planned the invasion of China in 1933, thousands of the artefacts – in over 3,000 crates – were removed to Taiwan on the order of China's Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek.

There are now more than 650,000 objects in the collection of the renovated museum, of which less than 1% could be viewed at any one time, *BBC News* reported.

### Buried in an embrace

Two skeletons, believed to be 5,000 to 6,000 years old, were found locked in an embrace. Archaeologists uncovered the remains from the Neolithic period at a burial site outside Mantua, south of Verona, Italy.



*The skeletons' bones were discovered interlaced*

Chief archaeologist Elena Menotti told *Reuters* that the find was extraordinary in that double burials during the Neolithic period had never been discovered, and it was an inspiring discovery – two humans, almost certainly a male and a female, buried in the position of a hug.

Flint tools, including arrowheads and a knife, were unearthed next to the couple.

Researchers will investigate the remains, and determine the course of death.

The burial site was found during construction of a factory.

### A new human species

A study has concluded that the remains of human "Hobbits" discovered in Indonesia belong to a completely new branch of our family tree.

The findings were published in 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences', and assert that the bones are those of a separate human species, *Homo floresiensis*.

Dubbed the Hobbits (humans with small anatomy), the remains were found in 2003 at Liang Bua, a limestone cave on the island of Flores, east of Bali. The finds caused a sensation and controversy about whether they were modern humans of tiny stature, afflicted by microcephaly, a brain disorder (characterised by its small size and cognitive impairment).

In the new study, researchers were of the opinion that *Homo floresiensis* evolved from an unknown tiny ancestor, who became small in stature to adapt to the environment, which provided a limited supply of food.

It is believed that the 1m-tall humans survived until around 12,000 years ago, when the region was devastated by a volcanic eruption.

### **Fossil galore in Australia caves**

Limestone caves in Australia have yielded a "treasure trove" of fossils belonging to animals dated to between 400,000 and 800,000 years ago.

The creatures, including twenty-three kangaroo species, eight of which previously unknown to science, and a complete specimen of an extinct marsupial lion, were unearthed in caverns under the arid Nullarbor Plain, in southern Australia. *Nature* magazine has published a paper on the discovery.

Sixty-nine vertebrate species have been identified in three chambers of what is now known as the Thylacoleo caves.

These include mammals, reptiles, and birds. Kangaroos of various sizes, up to 3m, were identified. The continent was once inhabited by an astonishing diversity of giant beasts.

The rare discovery intensifies the debate on what eliminated the population of huge prehistoric creatures (megafauna) in ancient Australia. For million of years, the scorched Australian landscape was inhabited by large animals, such as marsupials, lizards



*The marsupial, about the size of an African lion, was a top predator*

seven metres long, and lions which lived in trees. At around the time of arrival of humans about 45,000 years ago, the number of immense creatures started to decrease, and within a few thousand years, 90% of them disappeared.

### **Pharaoh's hair for sale on internet**

Thinking of selling precious relics on the internet? Don't. A man was recently arrested in France after attempting to sell through web advertising what he claimed was a lock of hair from Egypt's Pharaoh Ramses II. The man informed the he had obtained the item through his father, who was one of the researchers working on the mummy of the pharaoh when it was being treated, in the 70s, for fungus infection.

Police confiscated the relic from the man's house in Grenoble, and specialists said, after testing, that the man's claim might be true.

Advertised as "strands of hair from the mummy of Ramses II," the item was priced at 2,000 euros.

### **Digitizing ancient Sanskrit manuscripts**

US scientists are digitally restoring rare ancient Sanskrit manuscripts on Hinduism.

Members of New York's Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) are applying modern imaging techniques to digitize the 'Sarvamoola Grantha'



which describes the essence of Hindu religion and philosophy.

The 700-year-old Indian palm leaf manuscript is a priceless collection that includes Sanskrit commentaries written by one of India's most respected theologians, Sri Madvacharya (1238-1317 AD).

In addition to the commentaries based on sacred scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Gita, Mahabharata, Brahma-sutras, Puranas, etc., philosophical tracts, writings on daily rites and religious hymns are part of the collection.

The deteriorating artefacts were kept at Phalimaru Matha, a Hinduistic monastic set-up, close to Udupi, a coastal town in the Karnataka state, south India.

### **Last Renaissance paintings found**

Two Renaissance paintings, lost for hundreds of years, have been discovered in a home in Oxford, England.

Valued at over \$1m, the two small pieces were painted by a monk, Fra Angelico, in 1439 and were part of a collection in St Marco church and convent in Florence, Italy. The two panels disappeared during the Napoleonic wars, and were found by Michael Liversidge, a former art history expert at Bristol University. They had been hung behind a door in the spare room of the house of his friend, Jean Preston, a retired academic.

Miss Preston was a museum curator of historic manuscripts when she purchased the two art works for around \$200 in the 1960s. She passed away in 2006 when she was 77.

### **Roman shipwreck**

A Roman ship, wrecked with historical treasures, has been fascinating archaeologists. Found off the coast of Spain, it is the biggest Roman ship (30m long, and holding 400 tonnes) discovered in the Mediterranean.

In 2000, sailors found the ship by accident, when their anchor snagged a jar.

The vessel, believed to have sunk in a storm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century during its journey between Cadiz (southern Spain) and Rome, is in remarkably good

condition, with 60% of it buried in the sea floor mud. It is located just 1.5 km from the coast of Valencia, and in 25 m of water, making the shipwreck amazingly accessible. The Spanish authorities have constructed a steel cage around the vessel to protect it from looters.

A proper archaeological exploration has only been organised in July 2006 after years of preparation, relating to funds, expertise and equipment. Reports indicate that amongst the many items on board were hundreds of jars of garum – a fish sauce that was a favourite condiment for wealthy Romans, and considered an aphrodisiac, as well as an estimated 1,500 two-handled amphorae (clay jars) and lead ingots.

### **Art on catwalk**

Seven young Nepali artists and a Sri Lankan curator, Deneth Pimakshi, have organised a unique exhibition in which the exhibits stroll among the patrons rather than the other way round.

Based on the concept of 'Wearable Art', a range of art was presented on the catwalk, accompanied by carefully chosen music. The evening show was held in a palace garden in Kathmandu, which included one performer dressed as a Roman gladiator, and another who wore a version of Picasso's 'Guernica'.

As part of the exhibition, each of the seven artists selected art from a particular period, such as cave painting, Renaissance, Cubism, and works which were influenced by Buddhism.

### **Latest finds at Saqqara, Egypt**

The latest discoveries from the Saqqara, Egypt, concerning a number of important finds have been made public. Archaeologists uncovered two tombs, dated between 3,000 and 4,200 years ago, that belong to a royal scribe and a butler. The discoveries also include sarcophoguses (of a priest and his female companion) from the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty (1991-1786 BC).

The tomb of the royal scribe dates to the period of Akhenaten, the pharaoh who ruled between 1379 and 1362 BC, before Tutankhamen. Akhenaten was known for discarding the gods of Egypt.

The limestone tomb belonging to the butler, who

died 3,350 years ago, was found with well-preserved blue and orange paints illustrating images of animals and rituals.

Another find, that of the priest Sobek Hat and his female partner, unveiled 4,000 year-old anthropoid wooden coffins painted in light orange with blue hieroglyphics. Anthropoids were known to be used as a substitute body for the dead. The coffins have not been opened yet, and the mummies inside remain intact, it was reported.

Saqqara, the necropolis (city of the dead), lies south of Cairo, and holds a large number of treasures, tombs and temples, with only an estimated 30% of them discovered, despite over 150 years of archaeological exploration.

### Preserving Ta Phnom, the Tree Temple

The Ta Prohm temple is considered by many as the most awe-inspiring among the Angkor Complex monuments, due particularly to the preservation method applied on it by allowing natural forest growth at the site.

In 2006, the Archaeological Survey of India carried out technical studies and investigations on the life-span and conservation of trees (arboriculture), and structural stability of the buildings, reports *Lok To Raja*, a bulletin of the Apsara authority that oversees the Angkor complex.

The group has been assigned to restore and conserve Ta Prohm by preserving both the natural and built heritage, and maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the site (letting trees and monuments co-

exist); and adopting a multi-disciplinary approach in its conservation efforts.

Regarded by the locals as a "Tree Temple", Ta Prohm consists of numerous trees on its site with which the community has an age-old association.

Engineers from Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, have conducted extensive studies on the stability of various parts of the temple, specifically where the trees are growing over the structures.

Stone-by-stone documentation of components of the complex was also made; including construction of wooden stairs and platforms to facilitate tourist movement.

### Conference on international music education

The 16<sup>th</sup> Professional Music Education Conference of the International Society for Music Education (ISME) took place in Hanoi, Vietnam in the latter part of last year, the *Bulletin of Vietnamese Institute for Musicology* reported.

Sponsored by Vietnam's Ministry of Culture and Information, SIDA, and the Swedish embassy (Hanoi), the conference focused on the study of new models for professional music education, modern teaching and study methods, and technological developments in training programmes.

The conference was also concerned with students studying to be composers, and preservation of traditional folk musical instruments. It was held in the Hanoi National Conservatory of Music.

*Illustrations by Pattanapong Varanyanon*



### Editorial and Business Correspondence:

SEAMEO Secretariat

Mom Luang Pin Malakul Centenary Building

920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok

10110 Thailand

Tel: +66-(0) 2391-0144

Fax: +66-(0) 2381-2587

Email: [secretariat@seameo.org](mailto:secretariat@seameo.org)