

SEAMEO-SPAFA 13th Governing Board Meeting Caribou Highland Hotel, Chanthaburi

The SEAMEO-SPAFA REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS held its 13th Governing Board Meeting at the Caribou Highland Hotel, Chanthaburi, Thailand between August 18-21, 1998.

In opening the meeting, Mr Pisit Charoenwonga, SPAFA senior specialist in Archaeology and Officer-in-Charge, touched upon the demise of two SPAFA key officers, former Director Ruang Chareonchai and Finance Manager Buaroong Boonsoranaphol, as well as the retirement of former Governing Board Chair Prof. Dr. Soedarsono of Indonesia. Mr Pisit pointed out the challenges faced by the Centre within the region's changing and more competitive environments.

The Governing Board Member from Malaysia, Dr. Kamarul Baharin bin Buyong, was unanimously elected as the new SPAFA Governing Board Chairman. Prof. Dr. I Made Bandem, the Governing Board Member from Indonesia, filled the position of Board Vice Chair.

Reporting on marketing efforts made, the Senior Specialist in Performing Arts, Zulkifli Mohamad, informed the Board about the construction of the SPAFA website, and making the *SPAFA Journal* available for sale at local bookstores in Bangkok.

Dr Suparak Racha Intra, SEAMES Director, explained the rationale behind the SEAMEO Organization's move to increase its marketing efforts. He said that this step to ensure financial viability is supported by the SEAMEO Council.

The Governing Board Member from Thailand, Mr Nikom Musigakama, suggested that SPAFA identify its target clientele, budget support, marketing strategies, etc. in order to make its marketing efforts effective.

A Resolution was passed by the Board calling for SPAFA to, among other things, make a study on marketing targets, and prioritize programmes and activities.



*Dr. Suparak Racha Intra,
SEAMEO Secretariat Director*



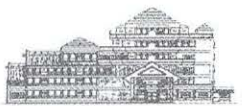
*Dr. Kenson Kwok, Governing
Board Member from Singapore*



*Dr. Kamarul Baharin bin Buyong,
elected as the new SPAFA
Governing Board Chairman*



Visiting the Underwater Archaeology centre



The Board also proposed the establishment of the SEAMEO-SPAFA Endowment Fund (to consist of contributions from both private and public sectors), the interest of which will be used for the implementation of its programmes and activities.

Another resolution requires a review of the programmes and activities of SPAFA 3rd Five Year Development Plan so that priorities can be established, and the appeal of the programmes can be widen.

The issue of the overdue appointment of Centre Director for SPAFA (position vacant since December 1997) was raised by Ms Chinda Nantasenee, SPAFA Administrative Officer during her report on Administration matters.

Ms Beatrice Kaldun, UNESCO representative, reiterated UNESCO's continued support of and collaboration with SPAFA during discussions on linkages and co-operation with other countries and organizations. On this matter, the Board directs the Centre to increase its linkages with national, regional and international government and non-governmental organizations and institutions in its work.

Mr Vayolinh Phrasavath, the Governing Board Member from Lao PDR, also requested that consideration be made on the production of a SPAFA publication on Luang Prabang.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, Elmar Ingles, Senior Specialist in Visual Arts, announced the possibility of a SPAFA special programme on Curriculum Development for Art Education through Distance Education for Primary Schools in Indochina. He said that SPAFA was awaiting final decision on its proposal under the SEAMEO-Canada Programme of Co-operation.

Elmar also presented a paper on 'SEAMEO-SPAFA in the Year 2000' which calls for a review of SPAFA's vision, mission, objectives, and programmes in response to the new era of globalisation. Following which, Mr Nikom suggested a review of SPAFA as a regional centre for culture and arts. He stressed the need to evaluate the Centre both internally and externally so as to determine the direction of the Centre in the future; how to project SPAFA to the international community; and to improve the quality of services and programmes provided by the Centre.

The Board resolved to create a committee to lay the groundwork for discussion and deliberation of SPAFA's new vision, mission, and objectives.



Prof. Dr. I Made Bandem, member from Indonesia

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Mr. Nikom Musigakama, member from Thailand



Ms. Beatrice Kaldun, UNESCO representative