

PROPOSED PROJECT ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES

By far the most important presidential decree passed was the creation of the Intramuros Administration on April 10, 1979, which empowers it to administer the restoration of the Walled City and supervise its restoration and conservation. The Intramuros Administration Project is under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Settlements which is headed by the First Lady Mrs. Imelda Marcos.

The Intramuros Administration Project involves primarily the restoration and conservation of the Walls including the bastions, esplanades, ravelins, etc. It also embraces the rebuilding of the former city by adopting the architectural styles of the former Spanish colonial period.

The Walls cover an area of 4 kilometers enclosing some 60 hectares of land. This was the *Ciudad Murada* or Walled City of the Spaniards from which emanated the laws of the land and the dictates of religion. The rebuilding involves a complicated process of adopting restoration tenets to that of modern urban zoning. It involves as well an enormous amount of research and documentation.

To expand the human resources on such vast restoration projects a total eight Philippine trainees have already been sent to the SPAFA Sub-Centre for Restoration and Conservation of Ancient Monuments in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. A recently held 15-day SPAFA Workshop on Techniques of Monument Restoration held in Indonesia which was designed for top personnel and which involved visits to restoration projects as well as sites of different types of monuments in central and east Java and in Bali, was participated in by four representatives from the National Museum and the Intramuros Administration Project.

With a core of newly-trained underwater archaeological team and conservationists through the SPAFA Thai Training Programme on Underwater Archaeology (IT-1) and Training Programme on Conservation of Underwater Archaeological Objects (IT-2), the National Museum of the Philippines hopes to intensify in the near future investigations of recently-discovered sunken Spanish galleons and other types of ancient sea-crafts in Philippine waters.

