

## *SPAFA Activities*

### **Consultative Workshop on Archaeological and Environmental Studies on Srivijaya**

Another consultative workshop on Environmental and Archaeological Studies on Srivijaya was organized by the SEAMEO Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) Thai Sub-Centre and the Co-ordinating Unit. The meetings were held in Bangkok and Southern Thailand: Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Songkla on 29 March to 11 April 1983.

Additional research proposals to shed more light on the Srivijaya problem were recommended for implementation during the workshop. Suggestions emanating from the workshop are summarized as follows. From Indonesia, the following were recommended for follow-up action: geology and morphology

of flora and fauna of Sumatra; the maritime trade routes in South India, Sri Lanka and Java; the distribution of numismatics and currency as well as their roles in economic exchange; a more detailed study of the inscriptions associated with Srivijaya; identification of religious artifacts such as votive tablets and stupikas and their role in the belief system of the societies which created them; the musical instruments associated with Srivijaya; the architectural styles of houses and their functions in society; and the pre-islamic funeral practices and architecture.

The Philippine participants intended to do a follow-up on studies they already proposed in the preceding consultative workshop.



*H.E. Dr. Kasem Surisumpundh, Minister of Education and Culture, Thailand, officially opened the workshop. Welcome speeches were also given by Khunying Aree Kultan, Director of the Thai SPAFA Sub-Centre; Prof M.C. Subhadradis Diskul, Chairman of the SPAFA National Steering Committee; and Miss Suchitra Vuthisathira, SPAFA Coordinator.*



These focus on Srivijaya character of the Indian images found in the Philippines and a comparative study of coastal riverine communities in Southern Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Southern Philippines.

Thai delegates recommended the broadening of the scope of the Srivijaya study. They suggested an extension of the multidisciplinary approach already being launched such as from the perspectives of archaeology, ethnohistory, cultural history, paleoethnography,

*Upper left : Thai official delegates - Prof.M.C. Subhadradis Diskul, Dr. Thida Saraya, Mr.Kemchati Theppuchai and Dr.Pornchai Suchitta.Lower left: Philippine and Indonesian delegates - Dr. Juan Francisco, Mr.Benjamin Han, Mrs.Satyawati Suleiman, Hadiyati Endang, Mr. Machi Suhadi, and Mr. Pieter Ferdinandus.*

demography, etc. The Thai participants would like to look into the relationship between the data they already have and their use as evidence for the existence of the Srivijayan Empire. This would require a more intensive study of the known archaeological sites, the type and source of the trade items found in the ancient settlements in South Thailand, the types and kinds of medium of exchange used in trade, and the role of the various kinds of forest products and their relations to the localities that produced them.

Dr. Pierre Y. Manguin, French consultant from Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris, articulated the need to shift survey and excavation work of shipwrecks from the east coast of the Gulf of Siam to the east coast of Peninsular Thailand. His recommendation was based on the fact that artifacts recov-

ered from reported wrecks from the latter area generally were of earlier vintage, and that settlements there were more important in relation to the Srivijaya studies.

#### Objectives

The workshop was convened not only to discuss new research proposals but also to present the findings of the on-going studies on Srivijaya and to exchange information on methods of analyses that have been employed by the people concerned. These activities were envisioned to provide the participants/researchers maximum exposure to a variety of materials and situations associated with the Srivijayan studies that will facilitate comparative researches, to make them aware of other useful methodologies that they can adapt in their own work, and to make easier the collation of data which will go into the final report.

Archaeologists who have been in-

involved in the initial studies on Srivijaya since 1979 and other scholars who have conducted researches related to this subject matter participated in the workshop. They were as follows: Indonesia — Mrs. Satyawati Suleiman, Mr. Machi Suhadi, Mrs. Sri Hadiyati Endang Sukatno, and Mr. Pieter Eduard Johannes Ferdinandus; Philippines — Dr. Juan R. Francisco and Asst. Prof. Benjamin A. Han; Thailand — Prof. M.C. Subhadradis Diskul, Mr. Precha Nunsuk, Asst. Prof. Dr. Thida Saraya, Mr. Khemchati Thepchai, and Dr. Pornchai Suchitta.

The experts/consultants who came were Prof. Tatsuro Yamato, Mr. Shoji Ito, Dr. Pierre-Yves Manguin, Dr. J. Dumarcay, Dr. John N. Miksic, Prof. Janice Stargardt, Prof. Dr. Prasert Na Nagara, Assoc. Prof. Srisakra Vallibhotama, Asst. Prof. Thiva Supajanva, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Suebsang Promboon.

### *Training on Analysis of Prehistoric Pottery Conducted*

A training course in the Analysis of Prehistoric Pottery was conducted by the Anthropology Division of the National Museum of the Philippines under the auspices of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Project in Archaeology and Fine ARTS (SPAFA).

The training activities included lectures, actual manufacture of earthenware potteries, field training at a pottery-making village and analysis of sherds from Thailand and the Philippines. Dr. William G. Solheim II from the Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii directed the course.

The lectures provided the 9 participants from the three SPAFA member countries a comprehensive view of the Southeast Asian prehistoric pottery. They focused on the various aspects of pottery pro-

duction and the methods used in their analysis, measurement, description and classification. Lecturers, aside from Dr. Solheim, were staff members of the National Museum.

A part of the training was devoted to the manufacture of pottery. It enabled the participants to become familiar and to experiment with the various materials used for surface treatment of earthenwares which were employed even during the prehistoric times. The materials included shells, bamboos, corded paddles, finger impressions, animal bones, etc. Mrs. Ludy Solheim supervised this portion of the workshop.

Field work was conducted in Barangay Bulala, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, one of the seven barangays in the area engaged in pottery manufacture. The trainees witnessed the

complete process of pottery manufacture from the gathering of the raw materials to the distribution of the finished products. They also undertook a survey which gave them information on the number of people and household involved in this small industry, the way pottery-making skills are passed from one generation to the other, the division of labor by age and sex, the different tools used in pottery-making, and the different steps involved in the firing of potteries.

The group also visited a number of stoneware manufacturing factories, *burnayan* as it is called in the Philippines, where jars, jarlets, bricks and potteries are being produced in large quantities. The method of firing used in these places differ from that of Bulala — the items are fired in large kilns whereas the latter uses open firing.

Following the method taught by Dr. Solheim, the participants analyzed the sherds from the Philippines and Thailand. The analysis involved both macroscopic and microscopic methods and used as basis a description of the various

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## Standardization of Studies on Ceramics of East and Southeast Asia, Focus of Workshop



A description of the ceramic finds in various excavations in the region was the entry point of discussion of the country reports and contributions of various consultants in the SPAFA Workshop to Standardize Studies on Ceramics of East and Southeast Asia held in Cebu City on 15-20 February 1983.

The workshop was hosted by the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. It was organized by the SPAFA Sub-Centre for Pre-history in the Philippines in conjunction with the SPAFA Coordinating Unit. The workshop aimed to standardize

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sherds recovered from a number of archaeological sites in the two countries. It took into consideration the color, temper, surface treatment, form, sherd count and weights, extent of oxidation, description of inclusions and the general sherd condition. The results of the analysis along with the information gathered during the field work were written up at the end of the training.

The participants were as follows: from Indonesia — Agung Sukardjo, R.M. Susanto, and L. Kade Citha Yuliati; from Thailand — Praphid Choosiri, Janya Manavit, and Alisa Ramkomut; and from the Philippines — Alejandro Almendral, Artemio Barbosa and Cecilio G. Salcedo.

studies on export wares which have been recovered from archaeological context, to prepare a syllabus for a training programme in ceramics of East and Southeast Asia and to provide information and documentations on the sources of ceramic materials.

Archaeologists, museum personnel and other scholars who have undertaken some researches on excavated export ceramics attended the workshop. They were as follows: Indonesia — Sri Sujatmi Satri, M Th Naniek Harkantingsih and Abu Ridho; Philippines — Leonisa L. Ramas, Artemio Barbosa and Jaime Reyes; Thailand — Phasook Indrawooth, Bovernet Rungruji and Ratchanee Bannanurany; and Malaysia - Lucas Chin.

Those who acted as consultants/resource persons were: Rosa C.P. Tanazas (SPAFA Coordinating Unit); Alfredo Evangelista, Jesus Peralta, Wilfredo Ronquillo, Mamtua Saber and Marcelino Maceda (Philippines); Sumarah Adhyatman (Indonesia); Tsugio Mikami and Meitoku Kamei (Japan); Natthapatra Chandavij (Thailand); and Wilhelm Solheim II (USA).

*Above left: Dr. Alfredo Evangelista, SPAFA Governing Board member for the Philippines, declares the workshop officially open. Below: The meeting in session and the participants to the workshop.*

