

Conservation of Monuments, Focus of Workshop

The SPAFA Consultative Workshop on Restoration of Ancient Monuments was held in the Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, on 2-7 August 1983 under the joint sponsorship of the Indonesian SPAFA Sub - Centre for Archaeological Research, the Directorate General of Culture and the SPAFA Coordinating Unit.

Recommendations

Its major recommendations were as follows: the conduct of another follow - up workshop on the subject, the implementation of the principles of restoration forwarded during a similar workshop held in October 1980, the retention/establishment of regional training centers for the restoration and conservation of monuments of stones and bricks, and strict observance of zoning and use of land bordering historical monuments.

The proposed new workshop to be implemented by SPAFA is to formulate standards or guidelines for the registration and documentation of historical and archaeological monuments, both movable and

Mr. Ricardo Angeles; Thailand-Dr. Surapong Virulrak, Mrs. So-boon Sukanguan and Miss Saovanut Bhuvanit.

The experts who were present were as follows: Indonesia-Mrs. Yulianti Parani, Mr. A.P. Suhastjarja and Dr. Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri; the Philippines— Dr. Virginia F. Agbayani; and Thailand-Mr. Chaturong Montrisart. An observer from Unesco, Mr. Jukka Miettinen, also came. Miss Suchitra Vuthisathira represented the coordinating unit.

A Ford Foundation grant made the holding of this workshop possible. UNESCO also contributed by providing funds for the experts.



The Borobudur temple, after its restoration, continues to act as the regional training centre for the restoration and conservation of stone monuments.

immovable. It is also expected to formulate the principles and standards for conservation of cultural properties for the conservators which is acceptable to archaeologists and a system of compilation of glossary of local terms used in architecture and archaeology.

Borobudur, according to the workshop participants, should remain as a regional training centre for stone conservation and restoration. It also was proposed that another centre be set up to take care of similar trainings for monuments made of bricks.

The participants emphasized that the government should have full control over the zoning and use of the land surrounding the historical monuments. Another recommendation required graduate students in archaeology to be trained in the technical demands of restoration

and conservation work while their counterpart in the architectural field should be given basic knowledge of archaeology and history.

Country Reports

Country reports from the three participating member countries - Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand - served as take-off points for the discussions. Mrs. Esperanza Gatbonton, a consultant on antiquities of the National Museum, read the Philippine country report. She emphasized that the Philippine government had compensated for the neglect of its historical monuments by creating several agencies to take responsibilities for their restoration and conservation. She described what was done in the

case of the Intramuros Project and pointed out that both the National Museum and the National Historical Institute are undertaking projects of documenting and conserving historical monuments - from churches to residential homes - of the country.

Mr. Uka Tjandrasasmita, Director of the Directorate for the Protection and Development of Historical and Archaeological Heritage, rendered the report for Indonesia. His paper focused on the evaluation of the results of the restoration and conservation projects being conducted in his country.

The presenter of the Thai country report, Mr. Chakrarat Chitrabong who heads the Photogrammetry Working Group of the Fine Arts Department, stated that several restoration projects are currently being done in Thailand. He stressed that the allocation of funds continues to be a problem in the restoration work in Thailand.

The open forum after the presentation of each country report raised issues relevant to the relationship between the restoration work and its effects on the people. The question was asked whether to restrict the utilization of the restored monuments by the people or not. Another issue that came up concerned the fidelity of the restoration work to the original plan of the historical monument.

Special Reports

Aside from the country reports, special papers were read. Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat, project director of the Archaeology Division of the Fine Arts Department, and Mrs. Gatbonton focused on the problem of insuring the availability of adequate funding prior to the restoration of monuments. The latter, however, emphasized the need for an effective management scheme to stretch restoration money.

The rest of the papers relate to the Indonesian experience on restoration and conservation. Mr. Soediman of the Gadjah Mada University spoke on the basic problems encountered in the restoration of Borobudur. The talk was later



One of the Buddha statues found on top of the Borobudur Temple.

expanded to cover discussion of activities undertaken to maintain the temple such as the creation of the Special Centre on Stone Conservation. This centre could also serve as a training venue for conservation and restoration in Southeast Asia. Training schemes for Indonesian conservation staff members was the focus of the talk given by Mr. Boechari, head of the Institute of Archaeology, University of Indonesia.

An overall report on the conservation of historical and archaeological monuments in Indonesia was given by Mr. Samidi, head of the Technical Department of the Borobudur Conservation Projects. It included work being done on monuments made of timber and bricks. The Director of the National Museum, Mr. Bambang Sumadio, concentrated on the conservation and preservation of movable cultural objects. He emphasized the need for a holistic approach to conservation.

Mrs. Sri Soejatmi Satari, head of the Department of Classical Archaeology, explained how documentation is carried out in archaeo-

logy. Her talk spawned discussions on how to standardize the techniques and terms used in documentation.

Two speakers talked on the effects of tourism on the historical monuments. Dr. S. Budhisantoso, Director of the Directorate of History and Traditional Values, mentioned the need for conservation workers to come to terms with tourism since it brings improved economic condition. Mr. Johnny A. Suleiman, Director of the Directorate of Travel Plant and Services Development, stressed that no conflict exists between cultural tourism and the preservation of monuments. He stated that the latter serves to attract tourists, so it is to a country's benefit that the place remains culturally undisturbed.

The presentation of the papers were interspersed with slide and film presentations.

Participants

The representatives of the three SPAFA Member Countries to the workshop were as follows: Indonesia - Mr. Uka Tjandrasasmita, Prof. Dr. R. Soekmono, Dr. R. P. Soejono, Mrs. Satyawati Suleiman, Mrs. Sri Soejatmi Satari, Mr. Soediman, Dr. S. Budhisantoso, Mr. Bambang Sumadio, Mr. Boechari, Mr. Suwandhi Hm, Mr. Teguh Asmar, Mr. Soekatno Tw., Mr. I. Gusti Ngurah Anom, Mr. Th. Aq. Suarto, Mr. Tjokrosoedjono, Mr. I. Made Sutaba, Mr. A. Johnny Suleiman, Mr. S. Nurhidayat, and Mr. Samidi; Philippines - Mrs. Esperanza B. Gatbonton and Mr. Orlando Abinon; and Thailand - Assoc. Prof. Anuvit Charernsupkul, M.R. Chakrarat Chitrabong and Mr. Surapol Dumrikul.

The consultants/experts who attended were the following: Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat of Thailand and Mr. Benito A. Cagahastian of the Philippines.

The following were the observers: Dr. J. Dumarcay, Mrs. Weeranut Maithai, Mr. Abdul Muttalib, Mr. Kamaruding Sihite, Mr. Umar Nur Zain, Dr. Albert le Bonheur, Dr. John Miksic and Mr. Dradjat.

Dr. Rosa C. P. Tenazas represented the SPAFA Co-ordinating Unit.