

## Thai Sub-Centre Holds Training on Conservation

A three-month training programme on "Research Methods for Conservation of Organic Materials" (February - May 1985), was concluded at the SPAFA Thai Sub-Centre in Bangkok. A total of 10 trainees from the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand had the opportunity, in addition to regular lectures, of observing conservation methods conducted at other institutions in Thailand. The training course covered, among others, the following important subject matters: general conservation methods; museum storage; photographic documentation of archaeological objects; radiography; chemical hazards; scientific examination of



*Training Participants*

# SPAFA: From Project to Centre

The SEAMEO Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) will be reconstituted into a Regional Centre. The change in its status was approved by the SEAMEO Council at its 20th SEAMEC Conference held in Manila in February 1985.

The SEAMES Director, Dr Adul Wichiencharoen, was enjoined to spearhead the necessary action to effect the transition of SPAFA to a Regional Centre. He will be assisted by the Ministry of Education of Thailand and the SPAFA Co-ordinating Unit in this effort. The plan of action will be submitted to the Council in the next SEAMEC Conference in 1986 for approval prior to its adoption.

Meanwhile, SPAFA will continue to implement its current five-year Development Plan (1981-1986) and set the stage for the second five-year Development Plan (1986-1991).

The Royal Thai Government, having expressed willingness to host

the Regional Centre, will provide the operating funds of the Centre. All SEAMEO Member Countries are expected to participate in this undertaking. At the moment, only Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand are SPAFA active members.

SPAFA will become the 6th SEAMEO Centre. The five others are, namely: BIOTROP, INNOTECH, RECSAM, RELC and SEARCA. TROPMED will continue to function as a Project.

SPAFA was launched in March 1978. As a Project, its structure comprises of a Co-ordinating Unit which is based in Bangkok and a network of Sub-Centres located in the active Member Countries. In the Present system the Sub-Centres are the actual venues of programmes and activities that were drawn up for implementation in the Development Plans.

organic materials; introduction to insect pests in museums and their chemical control; and factors in the deterioration of organic matters.

The Philippine participants were Mr Rogelio C. Aquino and Mr Renato B. De los Santos from the Conservation Laboratory Department of the National Museum and Miss Cecilia Magboo of the National Historical Institute.

Indonesia's trainees were Mr Roby Aryanto from the National Research Centre of Archaeology in Jakarta and Mr Imam Sunaryo

and Mr. I. Gusti Ngurah Putra from the branch offices for the Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Heritage in Jogjakarta and Bali, respectively.

The participants from Thailand were Mr. Sakchai Sisingha, Mr. Turasak Visitchainusorn and Mr Manoon Songalayanavit from the branch offices of the National Museum in Chiangmai, Kamphaengphet and Songkla, respectively, and Mr Chatchai Romsonthi from the Department of Archaeology, Silpakorn University.