

Museology Training

by Jovita Napao

Today museums play a vital role in transmitting and advancing knowledge. Their collections, researches, publications, sponsorships of lectures, forums, and other outreach programmes including the setting up of regional museums and television shows reveal their dynamic role in the education and cultural advancement of communities.

The society's greater expectations of contemporary museum functions have prompted SPAFA to train museum personnel in Southeast Asia to meet increasing demands from various sectors of the public.

From March 15 - May 15, 1988, therefore, eleven middle-level museum personnel from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand underwent the **SPAFA Training Course in Museology and Museum Contribution to Community** in Bangkok, Thailand.

The training course was organized in coordination with the National Museums Division of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand. It was implemented to provide the participants with professional competence in the field of Museum Administration and to develop in them appreciation of the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. The training course also provided practical experience in the application of the administration and management principles relevant to the role of the museum as an institution for the promotion of cultural identity for the community.



Trainees are shown posing for a group picture with Mrs Somlak (third from right, middle row) and Mr Waterton (second from right, last row).

Aside from the series of lectures and discussions held, the participants visited different museums and other government agencies for first-hand observation of different organizational set-ups. An out of town trip to Chiang Mai and other northern provincial museums further increased their cultural knowledge.

Mr Eric Waterton's assistance in the training course was made possible by the funding and support of the Canadian Government. He is the incumbent Assistant Director of the Provincial Museum of Alberta, Canada. Mr Waterton, together with Mrs Somlak Charoenpot, organizer for the training course and Head of the Bangkok National Museum, and other invited experts from Italy, Malaysia, Sweden, and Thailand comprised the lecturers and resource persons of the training course.

The participants of the training course were : (Indonesia) Tedjo Susilo, Soekartiningsih Soedarno,

Canada's Contribution

Two Canadian experts, with the funds and support of the Canadian Government, assisted as lecturers and resource persons in the training of SPAFA scholars.

Mr Eric Waterton, Assistant Director of Alberta Culture Provincial Museum, assisted in the Training Course on Museology and Museum Contribution to Community held in Bangkok. Mr Mario Poulin, on the other hand, is an Anthropology Department Coordinator and Professor at the Edouard-Montpetit College in Quebec. He assisted in Malaysia at the SPAFA Training Programme on the Promotion and Development of Handicrafts and Folkcrafts for Social Development.

Before taking up their assignments they were brought to villages in Ayutthaya and Ratburi provinces of Thailand for first-hand observation of local handicrafts.



Posing at the ancient Prasat Nakhon Luang Palace during the fieldtrip in Ayutthaya Province are (from left) Assoc Prof Kamthorn Kulachol, Prof Chulatat Payakaranon, Wynette Puntuna, Mr Waterton and Mr. Poulin.

(Malaysia) Zainab Bt Ibrahim, Raiha Bt Mohd Saud, (the Philippines) Dominador Cajucom, Jr and Jovita Napao, (Thailand) Somchai Na Nakhonpanom, Saengchan Traikasem, Phanit Chitlekha, Siriphan Thirasarichot and Sakchai Pojnunvanich.