

SYNOPSES

Experts Meet on Art Education Textbooks Development

Eight educators and curriculum specialists in the field of art recently met at the SPAFA Consultative Meeting on Research on Textbooks Development for Art Education in Southeast Asia (S-R281). Held in Bangkok's Suansunandha Teachers' College Auditorium, this meeting laid the framework for the development of art textbooks in Southeast Asia.

During the meeting, which lasted from February 12 to 15, the experts stressed that art education in the Southeast Asian region should have its own direction, emphasising local experiences and needs. Art students, according to them, should learn how to appreciate, preserve and enhance the cultural heritage so that it could be directed to a more meaningful art activity.

Discussions centred on new directions, strategies and concerns in the setting up of guidelines for art education textbooks development for Southeast Asia. Textbook modules in aesthetics, suitable for the teaching of arts in the elementary, secondary and

tertiary levels of education; the promotion and development of cultural arts heritage through appropriate methods of teaching art education; and the projected plan of networking art education programme information to Southeast Asian SPAFA Member Countries were also

Southeast Asia, it was agreed that:

- * A survey and analysis of existing textbooks used for teaching and learning arts be implemented in the six SPAFA Member Countries, through questionnaires sent to them;
- * The SPAFA Member Countries strongly support the continuity of

the research through the funding assistance of interested UNESCO programmes and projects, particularly those dealing with arts and culture.

* To achieve the ultimate goal of this research, the project shall be undertaken for another two years, to be administered by the SPAFA Regional Centre with the cooperation of the SPAFA Member



Participants of SPAFA'S Consultative Meeting in February 1990.

taken up during the consultative meeting's deliberations.

Among the recommendations made, foremost is the establishment of an Art Education Association in Southeast Asia, organized within the six SPAFA Member Countries, under the umbrella of SPAFA. For the SPAFA Research on Textbooks Development for Art Education in

Countries.

SPAFA Exhibits for SEAMEO Silver Anniversary

Complementing the Consultative Meeting on Research on Textbooks Development for Art Education in Southeast Asia, was the SPAFA exhibition on textbook materials in art education and art education

activities in pictures. Also held at the Suansunandha Teachers' College, the exhibition is part of the year-long celebration for SEAMEO's silver anniversary, which started in early February 1990.

During the length of the Consultative Meeting, SPAFA presented an array of art education materials from the Southeast Asian region. The exhibits, among many others, aimed:

- * To help broaden and intensify the scope of knowledge on the various approaches in art education curriculum programme in Southeast Asia.

- * To develop exchanges of art education information through the sharing of experiences and exhibitions of Art Education Textbooks materials.

- * To promote and cultivate the awareness and appreciation of the cultural heritage through a collaborated exhibition in art education among Southeast Asian countries.

Primarily, displays consisted of elementary grade level textbooks in art education, prescribed by the Ministries of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Also included were art education textbooks, pamphlets, art journals, teaching kits and seminar/workshop papers developed by the Art Education Curriculum Department of the said Ministries of Education.

Thanks to Professor Bertoldo J. Manta, the exhibition became the first collaborated work of SPAFA member countries in the field of art education.

Establishing Links with Australia

The month of February proved to be a busy period for SPAFA's



SPAFA exhibits on textbook materials and art education activities in pictures.

senior specialists. While Professor Bertoldo Manta, SPAFA Senior Specialist in Visual Arts, was in the thick of the Consultative Meeting on Research on Textbooks Development for Art Education, Dr Chua Soo Pong, SPAFA Senior Specialist in Performing Arts, was also doing plenty for SPAFA in Australia.

From February 13 to March 7, 1990, Dr Chua Soo Pong was actively meeting and establishing links with performing arts experts in Australia. Through a study tour funded by the Government of Australia, he explored the possibilities of cooperation between SPAFA and Australian organizations and institutions in the field of Performing Arts. Altogether his 23-day tour paved the way for further SPAFA contacts with 12 educational institutions, 26 arts organizations and officials, six museums and art galleries, and seven individual artistes and scholars in Australia.

GBM Holds Special Meeting

The SPAFA Governing Board Member met for three days, starting May 2, 1990, in Bangkok and Pattaya, Thailand. This special GBM reviewed

the activities planned for the second half of SPAFA's first Five-Year Development Plan and considered programmes proposed for the second Five-Year Development Plan (1992-1997).

Some of the major topics discussed include: Strategic Planning and Future Direction for SEAMEO Centres; An overview of SPAFA Activities (1987-1992); and Discussion on the Policy and Framework of Activities from 1992 to 1997.

Documentation of Non-Printed Materials on Culture

Sixteen participants and four observers from the SPAFA Training Course in the Documentation of Non-Print Materials on Culture have recently completed their two-months training in Bangkok, Thailand. This is the first training programme fully organized by the SPAFA Regional Centre staff.

This SPAFA activity was held from February 19 to April 19, 1990. During this time, participants were exposed to intensive training, from the use and storage of audio-visual

equipment to the production of audio-visual materials and documentation techniques.

More than 60 percent of the training was devoted to practical exercises, made possible through the expertise and facilities provided by The Thailand Cultural Centre, The National Film Archives, Studio 10 Co., Ltd., Institute for Education Technology of Sukothai Thammatiraj Open University, and the Department of Scientific Photography and Printing Technique, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University.

Systematic Presentation of Archaeological Data

Manila, Philippines, also kept the ball rolling for SPAFA from October 16 to December 16, 1989. With the cooperation of the Philippine National Museum, The SPAFA Training Course on the Systematic Presentation of Archaeological Data achieved its objectives.

For two months trainees from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the host country, Philippines, listened to a series of lectures on archaeological theories and methods of measuring artifacts, basic operation of personal computers, and some brief background information on statistics. The trainees also engaged in practical exercises such as in the handling of artifacts and hands-on experience in the processing of data.

Apart from the manual operation of computers, the 15 trainees were instructed on the use of particular programmes. They had the chance to individually handle the computer and process data, by using Dbase 3, Lotus 123, Wordstar, and Statsoft programmes. The last week of training was spent in the interpretation and analyses of



Participants at work in the first training programme fully organized by the SPAFA Regional Centre.

their computer print-outs and also in the writing of a systematic report.

An important and pleasurable aspect of this training was the trips and outings. The SPAFA trainees were able to visit several of the Philippine's museums, historical places and observed a number of cultural presentations.

On the whole, the training course has accomplished much, considering the limited time and resources available. And, no doubt, the stage has been set for a continued effort to upgrade the standard of scientific reports that can be circulated among SPAFA Member Countries.

SPAFA Holds Two Training Courses in Indonesia

The Training Course in Community-Based Conservation and Maintenance of Historic Buildings/Living Monuments (S-T111b) and the Training Programme on the Promotion and Development of Handicrafts and Folkcrafts for Social Development (S-T181b) are being held almost simultaneously in Indonesia.

From May 7 to June 30, 1990,

trainees for S-T111b gain effective conservation techniques through their training in Jogjakarta and their field work in Bali. This SPAFA training course is being implemented through the cooperation of Indonesia's Directorate of Protection and Development of Historical and Archaeological Heritage, Directorate General of Culture, Ministry of Education and Culture. Phase I of the Canadian Pilot Project for Integrated Community-Based Human Resource Development is lending support by sponsoring the services of Mr Mario Poulin, as training course specialist, from College Edouard-Montpetit, Quebec.

S-T181b, on the other hand, is being implemented in Bali, from May 9 to June 30, 1990. Co-organized by Indonesia's Directorate of Art, this SPAFA programme aims to provide technological know-how and organizational skills for the development of handicrafts as possible sources of livelihood for Asian communities. Just like the preceding and similar course (S-T181a), held in Kuala Lumpur in 1988, S-T181b is funded with Canadian contribution. ■