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A SPECIAL ISSUE TO COMMEMORATE THE INAUGURATION  
OF THE SPAFA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING BY  
HRH PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN  
OF THAILAND

# SPAFA



# JOURNAL



A PUBLICATION OF THE  
SEAMEO REGIONAL CENTRE  
FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS





THIS ISSUE OF THE SPAFA JOURNAL COMMEMORATES THE  
INAUGURATION OF THE SPAFA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
BY HRH PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN ON THE  
12TH JUNE 1993



S E A M E O - S P A F A

THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS  
OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
MINISTERS OF EDUCATION  
ORGANIZATION

SPAFA OBJECTIVES

TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES THROUGH THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL ARTS.

TO HELP ENRICH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION.

TO STRENGTHEN PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN THE FIELDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS THROUGH SHARING OF RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA THROUGH JOINT PROGRAMMES IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS.

THE SPAFA JOURNAL

THE SPAFA JOURNAL IS A MEDIUM FOR THE VIEWS, RESEARCH FINDINGS AND EVALUATIONS OF SCHOLARS, RESEARCHERS AND CREATIVE THINKERS IN BOTH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY, PERFORMING ARTS, VISUAL ARTS AND CULTURAL-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

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## COVER

SPAFA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

## LETTER FROM THE SPAFA DIRECTOR

Dear Readers: In 1985, SPAFA, which was a SEAMEO Project from its inception in 1987, was reconstituted by the SEAMEO Council (SEAMEC) to be a full fledged autonomous international body. Its status was up-graded from a trial project into a permanent regional centre under the auspices of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). I was honored to be appointed as SPAFA's first Director.

The task is very challenging. The success of SPAFA today could not have been achieved, had it not been due to the support of the Royal Thai Government, the SPAFA Governing Board Members, and the generous contributions from many donors abroad

as well as those in Thailand. The success is also due to the unflagging efforts of SPAFA professional and general services staff. The number is small, but their devotion to the task of elevating SPAFA to its new status is limitless.

When the Royal Thai Government agreed to host the SPAFA Regional Centre in 1987, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, who was then the Minister of Education, arranged to seek approval from the Cabinet to make

commitment to finance the construction of an appropriate building which would be an expression of regional architectural identity, as well as a functional building having enough space for facilitating the storage of SPAFA resources and the implementation of its activities. During the Ministership of H.E. General Thienchai Sirisampan the building fund was allocated and

construction began in 1991 and was completed in September 1992. The shifting from the old premises, Darakarn Building, Sukhumvit Road, took place in the same month.

The budgetary allocation for construction of the building, unfortunately, does not

include installment of necessary furniture and equipment such as air-conditioners, blinds, carpets, laboratory equipments, library shelves etc, which are essential. But it is very fortunate that when these shortages became known to socially conscious entrepreneurs in Thailand, as well as private foundations which are aware of SPAFA's cultural mission for Thailand as well as the region, contributions, both in cash and kind, began to flow in. These donations make it possible for SPAFA to open the centre and operate its functions effectively. To record our





gratitude for the contributions, the list of our donors is printed in this issue of the SPAFA Journal.

The other important areas on which SPAFA staff members have to focus their attention are the reformation of the organization structure and the implementation of work plan for the first and second five-years. The constraints of time and shortage of manpower required the full attention of the staff concerned. Fortunately, for the planning of the building and the 5 year programme, SPAFA was able to secure technical co-operation from Silpakorn University, which graciously seconded Associate Professor Kamthorn Kulachol to work temporarily on both activities. For the expansion and re-organization of the Library and Documentation Services, Professor Khunying Maenmas Chavalit, former director of the National Library of Thailand, who is now retired, offered to undertake this activity to ensure that SPAFA has adequate library and documentation services.

For any scholarly organizations, in particular those involved with training and researches like SPAFA, the very important integral unit is the Library and Documentation Services. One of the main objectives of SPAFA is to cultivate awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage through collaboration in information dissemination. The SPAFA Library and Documentation

Services, therefore, needs to be reinforced, both in materials and services aspects. Because of the constraints of funds, space and personnel, the old SPAFA Library could not be expanded as it should be. Now, at the new premises the SPAFA Library and Documentation Services occupy two floors; the first and the second floor, thus we now have enough space for books and activities. To enrich the Library collection, I loaned my personal library of books and journals on archaeology, arts and cultural subjects, of approximately 5,000 volumes. I am proud to say that these, together with the original valuable collection, make it one of the best reference libraries in Thailand on archaeology and art history of Southeast Asia.



Another integral unit of an educational institution is the research laboratory. It has been one of the objectives of SPAFA to have a laboratory in our building for conducting researches in such areas relevant to SPAFA's mission. Attempts have been made to obtain funding from international organizations such as UNDP, but without success. Again, it is very fortunate that once I brought the problem to Mr. Bangkok Choakwanyuen, of the Education and Public Welfare Foundation, he immediately offered the amount of one million baht for the equipment of the research laboratory, which by the inaugural time of the building, will be well furnished.

SPAFA will use this laboratory for researches in archaeology and fine arts which are not undertaken in the SPAFA member countries, thus, filling gaps in this area of needs for Southeast Asia.

In spite of some shortfall of budgetary allocation, SPAFA has completed almost 90% of the programme activities of the first five years. We had made plans for the second five years which starts with fiscal year 1992/1993, and have begun to implement them. We were not able to secure funds for the implementation of two projects.

However due to the generosity of donors i.e. Japan, Canada, and UNESCO, we are able to organize two special seminars in 1991/1992, three special workshops in 1992/1993. The contributions of all country donors—Canada, Japan, France, United States are recorded here with much appreciation. Personally, I feel very indebted to our benefactors.



I have mentioned that I felt honored to be trusted with the responsibilities of a newly established centre and to bring it to its recognized status as an autonomous international centre. For a full six years I, and the staff concerned, have given as much of our time and attention to crystalize SPAFA's objectives and ideology. I deeply appreciate the understanding and contributions of the Royal Thai Government, of our country donors, and of Thai benefactors.

I thank you, Dear Readers, for your attention to our Journal, and in particular those who contribute articles to this publication, and give us moral support.

I consider that my responsibilities in establishing a new SEAMEO Regional Centre are completed, and it is time for me to take leave and wish SPAFA a

very prosperous future.

Professor M C Subhadradis Diskul

# S P A F A

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## RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

SEAMEO, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, was born on 30 November 1965, during the time when the Ministers of Education and the Ministers Responsible for Economic Planning from Asian countries came to Bangkok, Thailand, to attend a UNESCO conference on education planning.

H.E. Mom Luang Pin Malakul, then the Minister of Education of Thailand, invited his colleagues of five Southeast Asian countries attending the Conference—Loas, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam, to an informal meeting where, for the first time, the ideas about working together for educational development of the region was conceived. Once this seed of idea was planted, it received much care and attention. It grew into a strong regional organization, SEAMEO, which reached its 25 years of existence in November 1990.

Under the auspices of SEAMEO, seven regional centres and one project were created to implement SEAMEO policies and planning in different subject

areas of vital importance to the region, and thus it constitutes concerted efforts to meet the main purposes and objectives of SEAMEO, which are in Paragraph I, Article I of the SEAMEO Charter:

"To promote co-operation among the Southeast Asian nations through education, science and culture in order to further respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are the birth rights of the peoples of the world."

SPAFA is one of the Regional Centres created by the SEAMEO Council to undertake joint responsibilities to cultivate awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage through collaboration in information dissemination and other relevant programme activities; to promote and help enrich archaeological and cultural activities in the region; to further professional competence in the fields of archaeology and fine arts through regional programmes of activities, and through sharing of resources and experiences; to

advance mutual knowledge and understanding among countries of Southeast Asia through regional programmes in archaeology and fine arts.

SPAFA came into existence, first as a SEAMEO Project on Archaeology and Fine Arts, in March 1978. The launching of its initial operation, the First Development Plan covered a three year phase 1978–1981, with only three member countries—Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand—and focussed on the restoration and preservation of ancient monuments, prehistory, and underwater archaeology. In its Second Development Plan which covered five years, 1981–1986, the programmes in fine arts activities were included. Stress is given to the promotion of the understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of the region. The plan emphasizes archaeological researches as well as researches dealing with documentation of the vanishing forms of the traditional arts, both creative and performing arts, and the continuance of programmes on preservation and conservation of surviving artifacts which abound in the region.

Being a project, the SPAFA organizational structure consisted of a Co-ordinating Unit which was based in Bangkok, and a network of Sub-Centres established in the participating member countries. During the planning stage, in the early 1970s, three Indochina countries, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam were

members of SEAMEO. Around the middle of the 1970s, the political situations in these countries prevented them from continuing their membership. In 1976, there were only five SEAMEO member countries, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. Malaysia and Singapore were not ready to participate in SPAFA.

Arising from the needs expressed by the member states through visits and surveys by the working team to prepare the project personnel, it was decided that in order to achieve objectives, the nature of activities of the project would be in five areas i.e. training; seminar and conferences; research and development, personnel exchange; library and documentation. It was also decided that information about the project activities as well as academic and professional knowledge should be disseminated through publication of a journal entitled SPAFA Digest, and the proceedings of workshops and seminars. These information materials are distributed to scholars, researchers and those interested in archaeology, history and fine arts, within the region as well as outside.

The Project achieved its goals successfully and was well received by SEAMEO member states, SEAMEO associated member countries, donor countries and international organizations having similar purposes such as UNESCO, ICOM, ICCROM, and so on.

Contributions of books for the library, and fellowships were received from France, the Netherlands, and the Bangkok Bank, Thailand. The works of the Coordinating Unit and the Sub-Centres network were duly recognized.

SPAFA, having acquired working experience as SEAMEO's specialized agency in the area of culture, in 1984 began to work out its future plan which would enable it to play a bigger role along with other SEAMEO Centres/Projects for improvement of the quality of life of the peoples in Southeast Asia. The programmes and activities were to be strengthened by reconstituting SPAFA into a Regional Centre. The idea was endorsed by the SEAMEO Council at its Twentieth Conference in Manila in 1985, and the Government of Thailand agreed to host the new Regional Centre, which would be called the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts. The acronym SPAFA, however, was maintained because of its well established recognition.

In the year 1987, the new Regional Centre had the opportunity to welcome two new friends who were not able to join SPAFA before: Malaysia and Singapore. Later, Brunei Darussalam also became a SPAFA colleague. The first 5-year programme of activities, formulated by the working team to reconstitute the project, was ready to be implemented.

In the overview of the programmes and activities of the SPAFA First Five-year Development Plan 1987–1992 it is stated that: “Fully aware of its responsibilities for SEAMEO in the area of culture, SPAFA seeks to understand itself and particularly its role in serving the Southeast Asian region through its programmes and activities on culture. In so doing, SPAFA, first of all views culture as the totality of collective beliefs, values, technology and other means of adapting to the environments, as well as the complex of shared values that link people to their common past and give direction to their future: cultures serve as the integrating and motivating force which can sustain or hinder all development efforts. SPAFA contributes to this effort by focusing on those aspects of culture where it is most able to contribute and where it will not duplicate what other institutions, agencies and organizations are better equipped to undertake.”

The programmes of activities for FYs 1987/1988–1991/1992 consisted of 36 training courses (eight in general cultural fields, 22 in archaeology, six in fine arts) five seminars/workshops (four in archaeology, three in fine arts) five research/development (three in archaeology and two in fine arts.) The total amount of funds required for the implementation of the programmes is estimated approximately US\$ 2,700,000. The capital and operating funds for five years is

approximately US\$ 900,000, non-inclusive of the building budget.

It is stated in the Memorandum of Agreement concerning the operation and funding of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, from July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1992, that the Government of Thailand agrees to underwrite the capital and operating costs of the Centre; SEAMEO through SEAMES, undertakes to raise Special Funds for the implementation of the approved programmes and activities of the Centre. It is also stated that the Centre may seek contributions from third parties to meet its obligations. SEAMES and SPAFA shall continue to co-operate in seeking assistance in the form of experts, equipment and any other forms of assistance from interested donors.

The first SPAFA Regional Centre Director, Professor Subhadhadis Diskul was appointed in July 1987. Immediately after the appointment he took courtesy missions to SPAFA member countries, where he met with officials concerned with the newly reconstituted Centre, and discussed with them the possibilities of financial cooperation to fill the shortfalls of funds needed for the implementation of the programme of activities, as well as the ways of their implementation. The Centre Director also, in his fund raising efforts, contacted the embassies for foreign governments in

Bangkok. He met with some success, though not very encouraging in the beginning. Only later, from 1988, financial constraints were relaxed. SPAFA received contributions from Canada, France, Japan and New Zealand for training courses, staff development and technical assistance.

In the meantime, the work for the planning and construction of the SPAFA Regional Centre Headquarters, and the re-organization of administrative structure began. Two other main concerns of the Centre Director are the strengthening of the Library and Documentation Services, and the establishment of the scientific research laboratory, since these two components are of vital significance for the information on cultural subject fields of SPAFA competency, and for innovative research techniques required for conservation and management of cultural heritage.

The Library and Documentation Centre already formed an integral part of the Regional Project, but for many years suffered from shortage of space, personnel, and budget. However, the Library managed to document and publish promotion materials, proceedings of the workshop seminars, and issue a journal entitled SPAFA Digest. The scientific research laboratory is a new concept and needed to be conceptualized.

For the planning and construction of the building, as

well as the structure of the organization, and the monitoring of programmes of activities implementation, SPAFA received technical co-operation from Silpakorn University which graciously seconded Associate Professor Kamthorn Kulachol to undertake these responsibilities. For the Library and Documentation Services, the position for the Library and Documentation Services Officer had been vacant for two years, despite repeated newspaper advertisements, screenings and tests, due to the high qualifications essentially required for the job. Finally the Centre was able to secure temporary services from Professor Khunying Maenmas Chavalit, who is renowned for her experience in the field of library science and documentation. As for the scientific research laboratory, Dr. O.P. Aggrawal, Director-General of the INTACH Indian Conservation Institute, who is well known worldwide for his expertise in conservation of cultural materials, agreed to act as advisor in the formulation of the project and the project proposal for funding assistance.

The construction of the building was completed in September 1992. The Royal Thai Government did not include budget for the purchasing of furniture, air-conditioners and necessary equipment to make the building functional and operational. However, many benefactors in Thailand who appreciate SPAFA's contribution towards the promotion of cultural heritage appreciation, have generously donated cash and kind.

By the end of May the beautiful six story building will be almost entirely air-conditioned and carpeted. Its library on the first and second floor is modernly furnished. Computer systems have been installed for automated technical services and in-house desk-top publishing activities. The class rooms on the fourth floor, are ready to be used for training. Similarly the rooms on the fourth floor, designed as a research laboratory, is well equipped with essential laboratory tools. Heartful thanks go to the Royal Thai Government for funding the construction of the building, and to all Thai benefactors who furnished it and made it operational.

In pondering efforts to develop the New Regional Centre to meet requirements for its new status, one of the policies decided by the Centre Director is to make the Centre an effective centre for information services, as stated in the SPAFA objectives. The limited budget prevents the purchasing of books and other information materials in subject fields of SPAFA interest. Books and scholarly journals on archaeology and fine arts are very expensive. Research reports and proceedings of seminars and workshops are difficult to obtain; produced by academic institutions and organizations, in general, they cannot be purchased through conventional bookstores. Measures undertaken to strengthen the collection, therefore, are to build contacts with those institutions for exchange of publications, to approach the



governments and organizations for donation. SPAFA's requests were met with good response. We received, for example, from the French Government a large collection of research documents on Indochina countries by outstanding French scholars and historians. The Centre Director himself, to ensure that the SPAFA Library is one of the best reference libraries in Thailand on Southeast Asian archaeology and arts, loaned his own valuable and rare collection to the library, on more or less, permanent basis.

The fiscal year 1991/1992 marks the end of the SPAFA Regional Centre's First 5-year Plan, July 1987-June 1992. During the first five years, SPAFA has completed the construction of the building of its own headquarters, the re-organization of its administrative infrastructure, the strengthening of its Library and Documentation Services, the establishment and strengthening of cordial linkages with donor countries, governmental international organizations, such as UNESCO, ICOM, ICCROM, non-governmental organizations, agencies and institutions.

As for its programmes of activities, in spite of the financial shortfall, the SPAFA Regional Centre, with the co-operation of member countries who offered to host training courses, seminars and workshops, has successfully completed about 90% of the programmes scheduled. Out of 30 training courses, only three were cancelled because of monetary shortfall. Six seminars

and workshops were planned and successfully completed. In addition, with the financial contribution from the Japan Foundation (now the Japan Cultural Centre) two special seminars, were organized. Moreover, SPAFA has cooperated with UNESCO in holding one workshop on the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property, 1970.

The formulation of the Second Five-Year Plan was executed and submitted to the Special Governing Board Meeting in May 1990 for endorsement. The plan was finally approved by the SEAMEO Council at its meeting in 1991. Since July 1992, the programmes for FY 1992/1993 have been implemented.

All is well when it begins well. This can be applied to SPAFA's historical evolution. In line with its objectives, SPAFA has made attempts to promote cultural solidarity among its member states, with the view to strengthening mutual understanding and co-operation for common goals. Through its training courses, workshops, seminars, researches, information dissemination and personal exchanges, it has been possible to establish firm linkages among artists, archaeologists, scholars and other personnel responsible for cultural administration for cultural and development.

SPAFA's success is due to the following factors, which



is hoped, will continue:

1. The adequate financial support from the Royal Thai Government for capital and operational expenses, in particular for the tenure and moral support of SPAFA staff, both professional and general services.
2. The financial contributions from SEAMEO, the members states, and country donors for the effective implementation of SPAFA programmes and activities.
3. The financial and technical contributions from the benefactors, both individuals and organizations, public and private, who appreciate SPAFA's mission.
4. The support of individual scholars who contribute their

knowledge and professional expertise to the SPAFA training courses, seminars, workshops and the publication of the SPAFA Digest (now SPAFA Journal).

5. The devotion and competency of the staff, who, so far, have given much of their time, efforts and knowledge to SPAFA, in spite of some disadvantages in work conditions. Some, after a short time of working, decided to leave SPAFA for better opportunities, but a few remain in order to see that the new Regional Centre has achieved its goals in the first five years.

Taking these factors into consideration, we can be confident of good prospects for SPAFA in the years to come.

# SEAMEO REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS (SPAFA) LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES

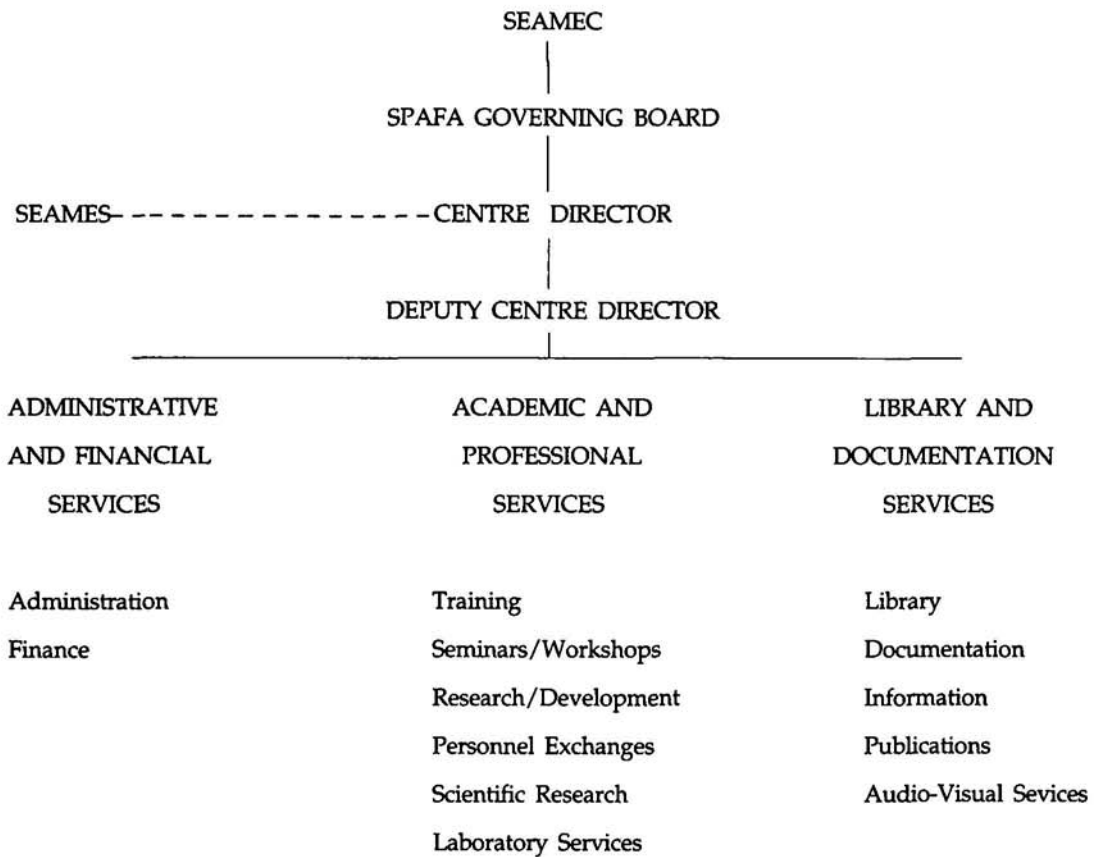


## BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### *Establishment and status*

SPAFA Library and Documentation Services was established in 1986 as an integral component of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, under the immediate supervision of the Centre Director. It superseded the Library and Documentation Centre of the SEAMEO Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts (1976–1985), which was renamed in 1985 when the SEAMEO Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts was reconstituted as the Regional Centre. It was placed on the same status as the other two services, namely, Administrative Services, and Academic and Professional Services.

# THE SPAFA REGIONAL CENTRE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



### *Purposes*

(1) To serve its parent body in the implementation of programme activities designed to meet SPAFA objectives which are as follows: (i) to cultivate the awareness and appreciation of the cultural heritage through collaboration in information dissemination and other relevant programmes of activities; (ii) to promote and help enrich archaeological and cultural activities in the region; (iii) to further professional competence in the fields of archaeology and fine arts through regional programmes and activities and through sharing of resources and experiences; and (iv) to advance mutual knowledge and understanding among the countries of Southeast Asia through regional programmes in archaeology and fine arts.

(2) To collect documents and to undertake documentaries on vanishing forms of fine arts which are being threatened with extinction through neglect and lack of appreciation. (3) To co-operate with libraries and information centres, professional associations and institutions, government and non-government agencies, at national, regional and international levels, in the execution of library and information services in relevant subject fields, with view to improving the "quality of life of the peoples

of Southeast Asia in the years to come" (SPAFA First Five-Year Development Plan 1987–1992. 1988, p. 2).

### *Functions and responsibilities*

(1) To select and acquire books and other information sources in subject fields relevant to SPAFA's interest and programmes of activities i.e. archaeology and fine arts, wherever they are generated. (2) To systematically organize, store and

maintain the information materials acquired as stated, for easy access, e.g. classification, cataloging, shelving retrieving information. (3) To provide library and reference services, such as lending, answering queries, literature search and referral services, document re-prographing. (4) To re-package information in order to build up new

information tools suited to the needs of users e.g. selecting, analyzing, abstracting, indexing and building up data bases. (5) To act as a clearing house of information held or generated by the Centre where and when they are needed, and in a way suitable to meet the user's specific requirements e.g. publications of accession lists, newsletters, current awareness journals, directories, bibliographies, digests, exhibitions, meetings, preparation of audio-visual tools to facilitate transfer of technology.



(6) To take documentation of cultural objects and activities. (7) To publish and disseminate information on SPAFA activities and on subject relevant to SPAFA interests. (8) To undertake user's training in information retrieval skills as required. (9) To undertake researches service and training for development services, as required.

### SPECIFIC ASPECTS

#### *Target audience*

(1) SPAFA Centre personnel. (2) Trainers and trainees of SPAFA's training courses, participants of SPAFA seminars/workshops; scholars, teaching staff, and those undertaking searches in relevant subject fields, initiated and financed by SPAFA. (3) Cultural administrators researchers, scholars in archaeological and fine arts institutions and organizations; teaching staff of educational institutions; interested persons, within and outside SPAFA geographical areas.

#### *Acquisition policies*

Information materials of all types wherever produced: publications, audio-visual materials, magnetic and electronic media, and whichever types and forms of

information sources to be produced in future, shall be collected. Subject areas to be covered are archaeology and fine arts and related fields. Geographical coverage of the subjects is mainly in Southeast Asia.

#### *Units of services*

The new set up of services is divided into four units, namely: the Library Unit; the Documentation and Information Unit, the Publications Unit and the Audio-Visual Unit.



#### *The Library Unit*

The Library collections consist of monographs (books) serials (occasional papers issued in series, professional journals) research reports on seminars/meetings/symposium and training courses, and clippings on archaeology, fine arts and other related subjects. They are cataloged and classified by the Library of Congress classification system. Periodicals are indexed.

The collections are for reference use only. However, photocopies can be provided for education and consultation purposes. Scholars and researchers outside the SPAFA Regional Centre are allowed to use the materials inside the Library.

It is worthy to mention here few unique collections such as the encyclopedic series "The Philippines Island 1493–1898"; the Bulletin d'Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient, almost complete set; the Data Paper Series of the Southeast Asia Programme, Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University. In 1992, Professor MC Subhadradis Diskul loaned to SPAFA his personal library collection consisting of approximately 3,000 valuable books and journals on archaeology and fine arts.

These are of scholarly nature and many are very rare. From the French Government, SPAFA received several publications written by outstanding French scholars and archaeologists.



There are about 6,000 titles, mainly in English. Other languages are French, German, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, and Thai.

The Library's catalogue of materials received during 1975–1989 are in card formats. Also available is a union card catalogue on archaeology and fine arts. Copies of card catalogues from large libraries in the region e.g. the national libraries, the university libraries, were received and interfiled by authors, titles and subjects. From 1990 the cataloging was

computerized and outputs from the bibliographic database will be in the form of computer disk or hard copy as requested by users.

#### The Documentation and Information Unit

This unit concentrates on documentation of two subjects i.e. archaeology (ARDOC) and fine arts (FADOC). The activities include: (1) Selecting and

processing information data on SPAFA's competency. The outputs are in the form subject of bibliographies. Two series were already published and distributed i.e. Series I Prehistory and Archaeology, in two volumes; Series II Fine Arts. These are union lists of collections held in 30 national universities and special libraries in SPAFA member

countries, arranged in alphabetical order under countries. (2) Collecting data on antiquities and compiling directories of historical and archaeological sites and monuments of Southeast Asia. Two volumes were already published, Volume I Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore; Volume II; Thailand. Volume III Indonesia is in the publishing process. (3) Repackaging information on subjects relevant to SPAFA's competency. (4) Compiling reading lists on special subjects for SPAFA training

courses/workshops/researches.

#### Publications Unit

The unit undertakes four main activities: (1) Collecting, editing and publishing information materials relating to SPAFA and its activities such as newsletters, brochures, reports on the Governing Board Meetings, and on the training courses/seminars/workshops. (2) Publishing a journal on subject fields of interest of SPAFA entitled SPAFA Journal (previously SPAFA Digest). (3) Storage and management of publications produced by the unit. (4) Distribution of the publications e.g. packing, mailing, creating and maintaining a mailing list.

#### The Audio-Visual Unit

This unit has audio-visual functions: (1) To acquire, process, maintain and service audio-visual materials in the subject fields relevant to SPAFA competency. (2) To document SPAFA activities in the forms of films, slides, photographs, tape recordings and video-cassette tapes. (3) To document cultural activities, objects and sites in the form of non-print media, including electronic media.

The audio-visual collections consist of 7,560 photos,

8,000 slides, 400 acoustic tapes, 210 video tapes.

The services are mainly reproductions of information materials in the form of photocopies, photographs, audio and video tapes, and slides.

#### UNION CATALOG

A union catalog network was set up in 1980 consisting of interested institutions and libraries in SPAFA member countries. Through this union catalog, the SPAFA Library and Documentation Centre (and later on Services) is able to provide information on various reference materials available not only in its holdings, but also in those of the participating institutions. It has a list of publications and cards on the subjects of archaeology, prehistory, visual arts, performing arts and other related subjects.

The network, however, has not been functioning since 1985, due to the lack of personnel in charge of the Library and Documentation Services. From August 1981 to July 1985, five volumes of SPAFA Union Special



Bibliographical Series were produced. It is hoped that the network will be enlivened, with the co-operation of the former and new network members. The union catalog

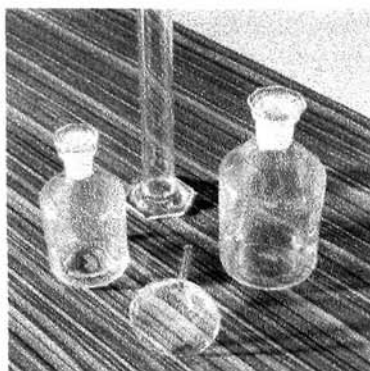
can, then, be updated and made available. In future, the catalog will be computerized and union bibliographic databases will be established.



# APPLIED SCIENCE LABORATORY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS (ASLAFA)

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ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS



## MISSION

- (i) To provide scientific support services in the form of materials identification, dating and sourcing for Southeast Asian institutions and individuals specializing in archaeology, museology, art history and allied disciplines.
- (ii) To conduct research in the field of conservation of cultural heritage.
- (iii) To train persons from SPAFA member countries as well as other developing countries in Southeast

Asia, such as Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, etc, in application of science to archaeology, fine arts and conservation.

## JUSTIFICATION

Modern studies of ancient culture and traditional art are increasingly dependent on scientific data of the kind that can only be obtained through technical laboratory work. In Southeast Asia, the need for scientific laboratory data is experienced by specialists in all of the fields covered by

SPAFA: by archaeologists and art historians seeking dates and sources for excavated objects, by economic historians and material scientists seeking data on ancient technological processes; by museum conservators seeking to identify early and traditional material in order to preserve and restore museum objects; by ethnomusicologists and artists seeking to understand the performance characteristics of materials and media; and by engineers, architects and others involved in the restoration of historical monuments.

The cultural heritage of Southeast Asia is very rich, with a large number of monuments, wall paintings, art objects, archaeological and ethnographical artifacts, etc. The construction materials of these objects are very much different from

those available in other regions of the world. Climate, so very significant in the process of deterioration and consequently in conservation, is hot and humid. There are therefore many problems of conservation to which solutions are not known. ASLAFA would conduct research to find out new techniques of conservation of various types of materials.

The need for laboratory services of these kinds is

therefore widely felt. At present, the need is largely unfulfilled. Museums and universities in all SPAFA member countries have attempted to develop some laboratory capacities in the fields of archaeology and fine arts. The laboratories in question, however, are limited in scope and capability. Those in museums are focused largely on the specific needs of conservation; they lack the funds and equipment and expertise to

conduct more basic research.

Archaeology laboratories in universities are more research oriented but tend to be lacking in space, equipment, and qualified laboratory technicians. Although university-based archaeologists and art historians do sometimes persuade specialists in medical and engineering faculties to perform scientific

analyses for them, this is an unsatisfactory solution in the long run. Laboratories in other faculties have their own work to do and cannot give much time or attention to supporting humanistic research.

Thus, most Southeast Asian specialists in archaeology and fine arts-related fields have little or no access to laboratory services. The proposed scientific and research laboratory of SPAFA will provide those services and will function as



an independent neutral laboratory for SPAFA members.

The main functions of the Laboratory will be :

- i. Technological studies of materials.
- ii. Research in conservation techniques.
- iii. Training in application of science to conservation, archaeology and fine arts. All countries including SPAFA members and others like Laos, Vietnam, etc. can benefit.

## EQUIPMENT AND STAFFING

SPAFA has enough laboratory space along with such basic facilities as water, electrical and gas connections, cabinets, counters, exhaust fans, fume hoods, etc. It will also provide the salaries for a Laboratory Director, two research scientists

and two assistants. The Laboratory Director and research scientists will have a MS or higher degree in a relevant scientific discipline, experience in laboratory analytic techniques, and a demonstrated interest in archaeology and fine arts subjects. The assistants will be at the BS level and will also have scientific backgrounds.

ASLAFa expects to be able to carry out research and training in the areas of art, archaeology and

conservation. Eventually it will have equipment and facilities of the following kinds:

- i. Thin-section (petrographic) analysis of ceramic and stone artifacts.
- ii. Metallographic analysis of artifacts made from bronze, iron, silver, gold and other metals.
- iii. X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis of minerals in stone used for monuments, statues, etc.

iv. X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis of ceramics, metals, glasses, etc. A non-destructive technique for studying surface compositions.

v. Atomic absorption (AA) analysis of ceramics, metals, glasses, etc. A minimal destructive technique which is complementary to XRF, for studying overall compositions.

vi. Thermoluminescence (TL)

analysis. For dating ceramics and baked clay cores of metal statues, etc.

vii. Radiocarbon (C-14) analysis. For dating organic materials.

viii. Conventional microscopic analysis for identification of pigments in paintings, fibres, etc.

ix. Energy-dispersive x-ray (EDAX) or other electron microprobe analysis of metals, ceramics, etc. for studying variations in surface composition.



#### x. Biodeterioration studies

At present, it seems most practical to perform petrographic, metallographic, atomic absorption and conventional microscopic analyses in-house and to farm out the other types of analyses to cooperating specialists in other institutions. C-14 dating, one of the most urgently needed services, can be provided by the Office of Atomic Energy for Peace (OAEP) in Bangkok, but that institution will require a substantial upgrade in equipment. EDAX and similar analytic systems must be performed in conjunction with a scanning electron microscope (SEM). While it may eventually prove necessary to purchase SEM equipment for ASLAFA, several institutions in Bangkok

have such equipment and can make it available for limited use. Studies will be undertaken to improve the presently known conservation techniques for metals, stone, paper objects, textiles, etc. Biodeterioration studies will also be taken up.

Initial special equipment needed will therefore include several types of microscopes (metallurgical, petrological, low-and-high powered transmitted light); modern atomic

absorption spectrophotometric equipment; metallographic and petrographic thin-section preparation apparatus; a comprehensive micro- and macro-photographic setup; several microcomputers; and such other equipment as is needed in the judgement of the steering committee and the director of ASLAFA.

For the laboratory to succeed, it is essential that it

receives close and frequent cooperation from scientists at other institutions within Thailand and in other countries. Thus, funds will be regularly budgeted to pay annual consultants' fees to selected cooperating scientists. Further, ASLAFA will in some cases take responsibility for finding money to provide special equipment for the labora-

tory of cooperating scientists. ASLAFA will also make sure that cooperating scientists receive ample credit for their work by placing their names on publications and publicizing the contributions of their institutions.

#### PROJECTS

The Laboratory will address itself to conduct research to find solutions to problems found in SPAFA member countries. The strategy is to establish at least one Scientific



Research Laboratory for Southeast Asia. Examples of some projects that ASLAFA would undertake for research and training are:

- i. Analysis of ancient metal objects for understanding their fabrication techniques.
- ii. Studies on Biodeterioration of cultural property.
- iii. Effect of environment on cultural heritage.
- iv. Improvement of techniques of conservation of paintings.
- v. Analysis of ceramics—chemically and petrologically.

It will be ensured that the activity conducted by the proposed laboratory will benefit the whole region of Southeast Asia. The research will be of an applied nature and not fundamental.

Fundamental research should be the responsibility of the universities or other scientific institutions. ASLAFA will try to induce these universities and scientific departments to take up fundamental research which might be related to the problems of archaeology and fine arts. The laboratory itself will act as a modal agency.

Further, each country laboratory will participate in the process of research by undertaking a part of the

project. ASLAFA will act as the institution for this purpose also. The equipment which will be available at the Laboratory will be at the disposal of all countries in Southeast Asia. Thus the laboratory will play the role of a catalyst in the region.

#### REQUIREMENT

The basic requirements for any laboratory are:

- i. Staff
- ii. Space
- iii. Equipment and chemicals
- iv. Technical library

#### STAFF

ASLAFA will aim to have a Laboratory Director, two research scientists and two assistants. In the beginning one research scientist and one assistant will be appointed. As

the work progresses, other staff will be taken.

#### CONSULTANTS.

In view of the advanced nature of the work, it is necessary for the initial formative years that a high level international expert who should be experienced in setting up conservation research laboratories and who should have intimate knowledge of the problems of the countries of



Southeast Asia be available for short periods. This consultant will be invited two times for one week each during the period 1992 to 1995. Job requirements of the Senior Consultant will be:

- i. Identification of research training projects
- ii. Formulation of detailed research training projects
- iii. Standardization of equipment
- iv. Guide research training
- v. Training of scientists.
- vi. Set up the research laboratory.

There are certain jobs for which the experts from abroad may have to be invited. These will be according to the needs of particular projects which are taken up from time to time.

#### SPACE

The Laboratory space is already foreseen in the new SPAFA building, which would be functional from 1992. Now the need will be to have specially designed furniture for the laboratory. An amount of \$3,000 in the first year and \$2,000 per annum thereafter can be considered.

#### EQUIPMENT AND CHEMICALS

Equipment will be of two types—one which can be

called the 'core equipment' and the other 'project-based equipment.' Core equipment is that without which a laboratory cannot function, like the glassware, chemicals and small tools. A provision of a budget for the first year may be for \$5,000 and for the coming years about \$3,000 per annum. A list be drawn once the Laboratory gets going.



Project-based equipment is that which is required for a particular project, for example archaeometallurgical studies or research in conservation of wall paintings. The equipment may be more advanced. Some foundations may have to sponsor such projects. Scientists and consultants required may also be included in the

budgets of those projects.

#### LIBRARY

The Library of SPAFA will also have books on conservation and application of science to archaeology and fine arts. Such books will be gradually purchased through projects and donations. An amount of \$1,000 per annum may be assigned for journals.

## SPAFA's BENEFACTORS

*SPAFA's achievements in meeting its objectives and its success in implementation of programmes have been made possible by generous contributions, financial and technical cooperations from various governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies.*

### Governmental Contributors



### International Organizations

Contributions in the form of financial support, provision of expert services for training courses, seminars and workshops, study grants and professional visits for development are from the following countries:

The SPAFA member states Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and from the year 1993 Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Associate Members and regular donors are the Government of Canada, the Government of France, the Government of Japan, the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America.

Main contributors are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNESCO and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property—ICCROM.

There are also country's international organizations which contribute services of experts and funds for convening seminars and workshops, i.e. The Asian Cultural Council (John D. Rockefeller III), the Japan Cultural Centre (previously the Japan Foundation), and the Lee Foundation of Singapore.

## SPAFA's BENEFACTORS



### Benefactors from Thailand

For the construction and partial furnishing of the SPAFA Headquarters building, generous contributions came from:

The Government of Thailand, for the construction of the building and some furniture and equipment.

Bunjurd and Khunying Savali Cholvijarn Foundation, Jim Thompson Foundation, Siam Commercial Bank, for the library shelves, computer systems for information processing and publication, reading tables and chairs, and other library furnitures and equipments.

The Education and Public Welfare Foundation, the Bank of Ayudhya Ltd., the Industrial Enterprises Trading Co. Ltd. and the Takerng Insurance Co. Ltd. for research laboratory apparatus, furniture and equipment.

The Bangkok Bank of Commerce Ltd, the Thai Farmers Bank Ltd, for the furniture of the three class rooms.

The Toshiba Thailand Co. Ltd., for 21 units of air-conditioners including funds for installation.

Contributors who donated funds to be used for general puposes are the Arts Alummi Association of Chulalongkorn University, and the Siam Commercial Industrial Development Corp. Ltd.

Professor MC Subhasdradis Diskul, the SPAFA Centre Director has loaned on more or less permanent basis, his valuable and rare book collections on archoeology, history, art histories and fine arts to the SPAFA Library and Documentation Services, to make it one of the most outstanding reference libraries on Southeast Asian archaeology and fine arts.



## SPAFA Affairs

**March 8–14, 1993. SEAMEO-SPAFA Workshop on Current Developments in Southeast Asian Archaeology.** Twelve participants in the field of archeological studies from SPAFA member states, as well as observers, convened at SPAFA's headquarters to share their researches which reflect current developments in archaeology in the Southeast Asian region.

Members welcomed the participation of two new member states Lao PDR and Vietnam, represented by Mr. Thongsa Sayavongkhamdy, Director-General of the Department of Museums and Archaeology and Professor Ha Van Tan, Director of the Institute of Archaeology, National Centre for Social Sciences, respectively. The presence of these two participants was a valuable contribution to a more comprehensive discussion of researches in the region.

As part of the workshop activities, participants visited two sites, Tha Khae and Non Pa Wai in Lopburi Province, central Thailand. At Tha Khae, current

archaeological excavations are conducted by a joint Thai-Italian team under the leadership of Mr. Suraphol Natapintu and Dr. Roberto Ciarla, also an observer to the workshop. The group was able to observe the archaeologists at work, their methodology, systems of recording, tools and equipment used, including the applications of their new computers (hardware, software and peripherals) in archaeological research.

After the presentation of their reports, workshop members conducted open discussions on important issues affecting archaeological work. Contemporary concerns discussed included the management of cultural heritage, organization of archaeological entities and museums and the current state of archaeological laboratories for scientific analysis in member countries.

These discussions lead to the drafting and adoption of a statement of facts, a statement of principles and recommendations to be implemented by SPAFA and its member states. This special meeting of the region's

## SPAFA Affairs

archaeologists was made possible by the generous cooperation and funding of the Japan Cultural Centre in Bangkok.

### **Advanced Level Labanotation**

From April 16 to May 14 SPAFA conducted an advanced level course in labanotation. The course was conducted in the new facilities of the SPAFA building.

The course coordinator was Dr. Chua Soo Pong, SPAFA Senior Specialist in Performing Arts.

Four instructors were invited to teach the eight participants from SPAFA member states. They are: Rhonda Ryman Kane, Associate Professor of Dance at the University of Waterloo, Canada; Ms. Ilene Fox, Executive Director of the Dance Notation Bureau in New York; Madam Luo Bing Yu, a senior choreographer of the Peoples' Republic of China; Mr. Chong Yoong Keong, an acclaimed teacher and

choreographer for dance companies in Malaysia.

Associate Professor Ryman Kane was the principal teacher for the course. Two years ago she taught SPAFA's Intermediate Level Labanotation Course in Singapore. Her second trip to SPAFA continues her "stimulating learning experience with the trainees [...] with fellow teachers Ms. Ilene Fox [...] and Madam Luo Bing Yu [...] and guest artist Mr. Chong Yoon Keong."

In the four week course, the techniques of labanotation were applied to the widely diverse and beautiful dance forms of Southeast Asia. Trainees were taught to analyze and record their regional dances. Another "goal will be to compile a publication containing several dance scores, one by each trainee," explains Assoc Prof Ryman Kane. "This will serve not only to provide a written legacy of several Southeast Asian dance forms, but also to provide reading material which trainees can take back to their countries. The scores will help the trainees to teach

## SPAFA Affairs

notation to fellow dance artists, and will foster exchange of knowledge about dance forms between the nations of Southeast Asia and beyond, since labanotation is widely used in America and Europe."

Participants explored advanced labanotation theory and its application in the computer with the newly developed LabanWriter programme. This programme can be used to create and edit laban scores.

Students and instructors participated in a programme of fieldtrips to Thailand's indigenous performances. In addition, participants performed their own regional dances for Bangkok's local and foreign community at the American University Alumni Association theatre.

The performance, including demonstrations of labanotation techniques by the course instructors, drew a large audience.

In his summary of the course, course coordinator Dr. Chua Soo Pong remarks that "labanotation, as a system developed with time and technology, will in the future, I hope, be more equipped to record all kinds of movements in more comprehensive ways. To achieve that, experts in the field must find opportunities to exchange views and new research findings regularly. Therefore, it is hoped SPAFA will continue to explore opportunities and resources to conduct special workshops for labanotation to solve specific problems of dance notation in the future."

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Compiled by  
Khunying Maenmas Chavalit

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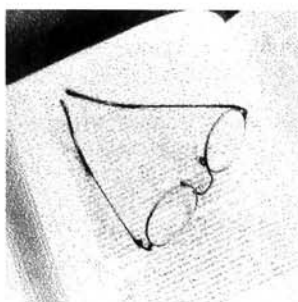
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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY  
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