

**Training Report**  
**on**  
**Cultural Heritage Protection**

**Training Course for Researchers in Charge of Cultural Heritage  
Protection in Asia and the Pacific 2009 – Lao P.D.R. –**

**7 July – 6 August 2009, Nara, Japan**



**Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,  
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)**

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Edited and Published by  
Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,  
Asia / Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

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Printed by Meishinsha

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The opening ceremony at ACCU Nara Office



Measured drawing of earthenware



Scale drawing of the upper foundation platform at Kofuku-ji temple site



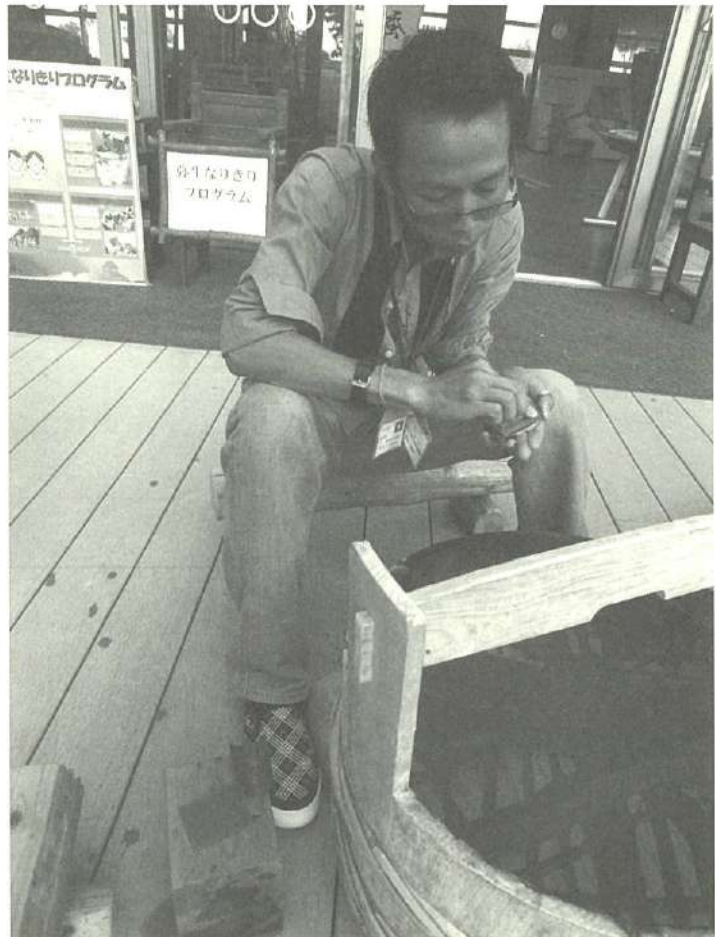
Taking photographs of artefacts at the NNRICP studio

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## Preface



## *Preface*

The Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) was established in August 1999 with the purpose of serving as a domestic centre for promoting cooperation in cultural heritage protection in the Asia-Pacific region. Subsequent to its establishment, our office has been implementing a variety of programmes to help promote cultural heritage protection activities, in close cooperation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan (*Bunkacho*); National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and Nara; the Nara Prefectural Government; the Nara Municipal Government; universities; and museums.

The ACCU Nara's activities include training programmes for the human resources development; international conferences and symposia; the training of young leaders in cultural heritage protection; the website for the dissemination of information relating to cultural heritage protection; and the world heritage lectures in local high schools. In addition to those, ACCU Nara Office offers "the Local Training Workshop" which dispatches a group of lecturers from Japan and implements the practical training on cultural heritage protection on sites. Besides, we annually appoint "International Correspondents" from each country for the purpose of establishing closer ties with the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, who will periodically send latest reports on cultural heritage protection in their country.

Our office has been conducting two types of the training course: for the group and for the individuals. The group training course offers the opportunity to sixteen specialists for about one month with two themes on alternate year: "Preservation and Restoration of Wooden Structures" and "Research, Analysis, and Preservation of Archaeological Sites and Remains." Meanwhile, the individual training course is organized for a few researchers from one country on the specific theme according to their requests.

ACCU Nara learned that one of the most urgent issues currently facing Lao P.D.R. was a shortage of trained experts for cultural heritage protection, and therefore we invited three researchers into the Individual Training Course 2009 for providing them with basic and practical techniques on recording/documentation of archaeological sites and artefacts. They belong to the Division of Archaeology, Ministry of Information and Culture, being



engaged in excavation and research on cultural heritage protection in Lao P.D.R. This programme was also organised so as to provide them with opportunities to be exposed to as many reconstructed or restored heritage sites in Kyoto, Nara and Kyushu districts as possible. They saw with their own eyes how the sites were preserved and managed in Japan. It is hoped that their acquired knowledge and experience will contribute to heritage protection activities back in Lao P.D.R.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan (*Bunkacho*); Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties; the Museum, Archaeological Institute of Kashihara; Office of Yoshinogari National Historical Park; Saga Prefectural Board of Education; Kyushu National Museum; and Dazaifu Municipal Board of Education for their cooperation and support.

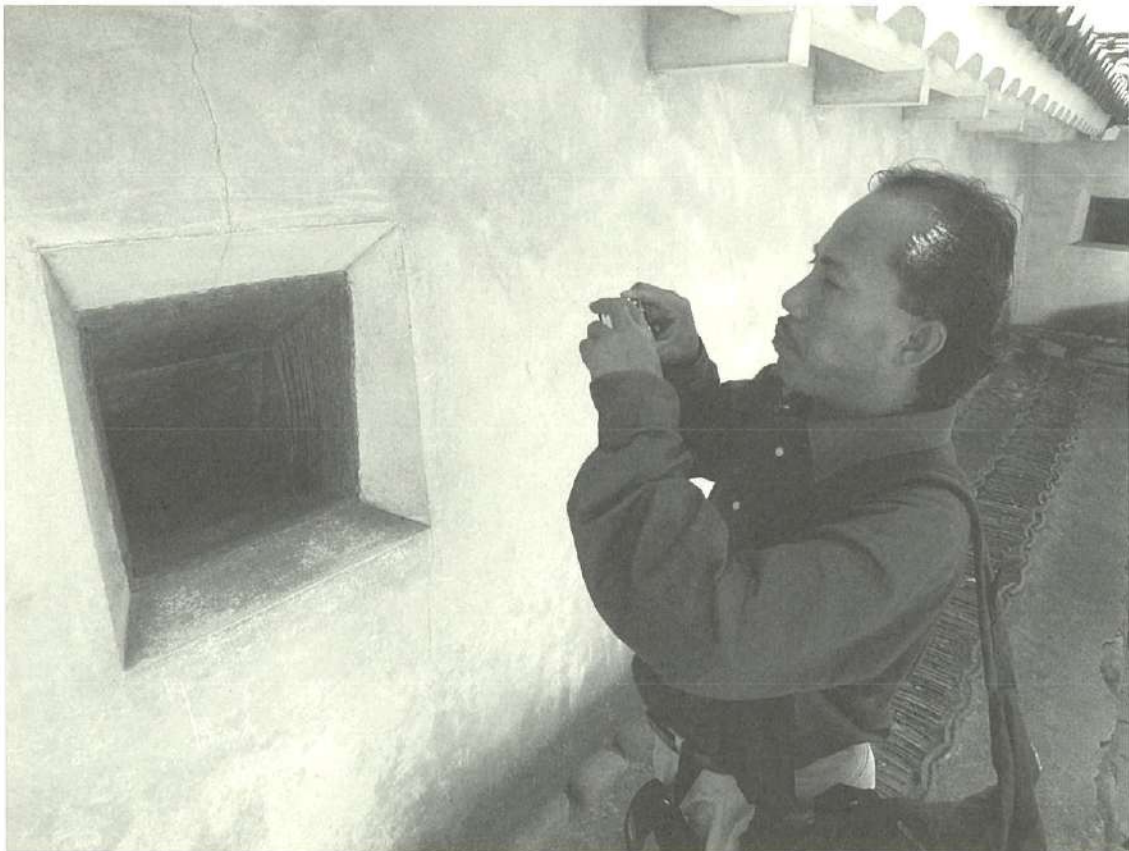
*NISHIMURA Yasushi*

*Director*

*The Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,  
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)*

# I. Introduction

1. General Information
2. Programme Schedule



## **1. General Information**

### **Training Course on Cultural Heritage Protection in Asia and the Pacific 2009 - Lao P.D.R.- (7 July - 6 August 2009, Nara)**

#### **1. Organisers**

The course is jointly organised by *Bunkacho* (Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan); Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU); and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties.

#### **2. Background**

Lao P.D.R. has implemented international projects for cultural heritage protection in partnership with many other countries since the 1980s. While the Japanese government provided grant aid for “the Project of Preparation for Conservation of Vat Phou Archaeological Site” which was inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001, the majority of its aid projects have focused on economic cooperation. To study how the future international cooperation for cultural heritage protection should be, researchers from JCIC-Heritage (Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage) carried out survey in Lao P.D.R. in 2008, which revealed various challenges currently facing the country. According to their report, one of the most serious issues is a shortage of heritage professionals on protection, and therefore related parties in Lao P.D.R express high expectation for Japanese support and cooperation in the field of human resource development.

ACCU Nara has just begun accepting nomination by the members of JCIC-Heritage for annual “Group Training Course”, and considered the possibility of promoting cooperation with them to the “Individual Training Course” in order to make the best use of their research results. Consequently, the organisers have decided to invite three promising researchers from Lao P.D.R. to the above mentioned training course, being highly beneficial to the protection of cultural heritage in the country.

#### **3. Date and Venues**

Date: 7 July (Tue.) to 6 August (Thur.) 2009. [31 days]

Venues: Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, ACCU (ACCU Nara); Facilities and museums of cooperating organisations, etc. Please refer to “Individual Training Course Schedule 2009” for each venue.

#### **4. Objectives**

A sequence of the individual training course aims at mainly providing participants with the opportunity to acquire extensive knowledge and practical techniques on recording/documentation of archaeological sites (namely structural remains and artefacts) such as measuring survey, measured drawing, and photography.

## **5. Training Curriculum**

- Introduction to Recording/Documentation of Sites
- Recording/Documentation of Structural Remains: Measuring Survey, Measured Drawing and Photography
- Recording/Documentation of Archaeological Artefacts: Measured Drawing and Photography
- On-site Lecture and Fieldwork: Management and Utilization of Sites, etc.

## **6. Participants**

### **Thonglith LUANGKHOTH (Mr)**

Researcher, Heritage Department, Ministry of Information and Culture

Date of Birth: 9 May 1966 (Age 43)

### **Souliya BOUNXAYTHIP (Mr)**

Staff, Heritage Department, Ministry of Information and Culture

Date of Birth: 3 March 1985 (Age 24)

### **Souliphane BOURAPHANE (Mr)**

Staff, Heritage Department, Ministry of Information and Culture

Date of Birth: 8 May 1985 (Age 24)

## **7. Process of Invitation**

Mr Thongsa Sayavongkhamdy, Director General of the Heritage Department, Ministry of Information and Culture (Lao P.D.R.), recommended three applicants suitable for the above mentioned invitation programme as participants. Then ACCU Nara Office has determined to invite three applicants as participants through close examination.

## **8. Others (Past achievement to accept participants)**

Since 2000 when the above-mentioned invitation programme started, thirty-two participants from twelve countries have been accepted. This is the first time to invite participants from Lao P.D.R.

## **9. Certificate**

Each participant will be awarded a certificate upon the completion of the course.

## **10. Language**

Lao is the main working language of the course.

## **11. Expenses**

Expenses for the training course will be borne by ACCU and comprise the following:

(1) Travel expenses:

Each participant will be provided an economy-class return air ticket between the international airport nearest to their residence and Kansai International Airport, and domestic transportation costs to and from the airports and between the training venues in Japan.

(2) Living expenses:

Participants will be provided daily subsistence allowances during the training course, beginning from 6 July (Mon.) to 7 August (Fri.) 2009. Arrangements for accommodations will be made by ACCU Nara.

**12. Secretariat**

Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,  
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara)  
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## 2. Programme Schedule

Date		Lecture	Venue		
July	7	Tue.	Opening Ceremony   Orientation to the Programme	ACCU Nara	
	8	Wed.	Facility tour of NNRICP Introduction to Recording/Documentation of the Sites	NNRICP	
	9	Thur.	Recording/Documentation: Measured Drawing of Earthenware	NNRICP	
	10	Fri.			
	11	Sat.			
	12	Sun.			
	13	Mon.	Recording/Documentation: Measured Drawing of Earthenware	NNRICP	
	14	Tue.	On-site Lecture I: Observation of World Heritage in Nara Pref.	Nara Pref.	
	15	Wed.	On-site Lecture II: Management and Utilization of Sites-Heijo Palace	NNRICP	
	16	Thur.	Recording/Documentation of Artefacts: Roof Tiles	NNRICP	
	17	Fri.			
	18	Sat.			
	19	Sun.			
	20	Mon.	(National Holiday)		
	21	Tue.	Recording/Documentation of Structural Remains: Lecture and Practice	NNRICP	
	22	Wed.			
	23	Thur.			
	24	Fri.			
	25	Sat.			
	26	Sun.			
	27	Mon.	On-site Lecture III: Observation of Cultural Heritage in Kyoto.	Kyoto	
	28	Tue.	On-site Lecture IV: Observation of Cultural Heritage in Kyoto		
	29	Wed.	Photography of Structural Remains and Artefacts: Lecture and Practice	NNRICP	
	30	Thur.			
	31	Fri.	On-site Lecture V: Site Museums in Practice	The Museum, ARIKNP	
	August	1	Sat.		
		2	Sun.	On-site Lecture VI: Visiting the Himeji-jo Castle, the World Heritage Site	Himeji
		3	Mon.	On-site Lecture VII: Management and Utilization of Sites in Practice	Yoshinogari Historical Park
		4	Tue.	On-site Lecture VIII: Management and Utilization of Sites in Practice	Kyushu National Museum / Dazaifu Site
		5	Wed.	~ [Travel Day] From Fukuoka to Nara ~	
		6	Thur.	Submission of Final Reports / Closing Ceremony	ACCU Nara

ACCU Nara: Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO

NNRICP: Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

ARIKNP: Archaeological Research Institute of Kashihara, Nara Prefecture

## II. Summary of Lectures



## Summary of Lectures

7 July (Tue.)

### ■ Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held at ACCU Nara Office. Three participants from Lao P.D.R., Mr Thonglith Luangkhoth, Mr Souliya Bounxaythip and Mr Souliphane Bouraphane, had an orientation on the training schedule. After that, they visited World Heritage sites in Nara City: Kofukuji Temple and Todaiji Temple.

8 July (Wed.)

### ■ Facility Tour of NNRICP <SUGIYAMA Hiroshi, ISHIMURA Tomo, TAMURA Tomomi, SATO Yuni, ASANO Keisuke and JINNO Megumi / NNRICP>

- A courtesy visit to Mr Tanabe Ikuo, Director of NNRICP; and Mr Matsui Akira, Director of the Center for Archaeological Operations
- An explanation of the organization and role of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NNRICP) in a conference room
- Participants visited various sections under the guidance of lectures:
  - Archaeology Section 1:  
Organisation and storage methods of unearthed wooden artefacts including wooden tablets
  - Archaeology Section 2:  
Organisation and dating methods of earthenware excavated from sites
  - Archaeology Section 3:  
Organisation methods and dating of unearthed roof tiles
  - Conservation Science Section:  
Modern analytical equipment used for preservation and restoration of metal and wood artefacts
  - Environmental Archaeology Section:  
Identification of animal remains unearthed from sites



The orientation on the training programme and life in Japan at ACCU Nara



A courtesy visit to the Director of NNRIP (right)



At the Archaeology Section 1 of NNRICP



Observing specimens of animal bones stored at Environmental Archaeology Section





Ms Jinno showed various important artefacts



Measuring whole earthenware with rulers



Drawing the layout of designs on the surface

#### 9 July (Thur.)

##### ■ Recording/Documentation: Measured Drawing of Earthenware

<JINNO Megumi / NNRICP>

- After showing how notes were written on earthenware shards, Ms Jinno lectured on measured drawing of earthenware: its principle theory and practical procedures.
- Practical training of measured drawing, using whole *sueki* (*Sue* ware) and *chokeiko* (long-necked jar) as teaching tools along with explanations of important points to remember
- Explanations were also made on how to measure and draw the restored parts of artefact.

#### 10 July (Fri.)

##### ■ Recording/Documentation: Measured Drawing of Earthenware

<JINNO Megumi / NNRICP>

- Lectures on the measured drawing of restored artefacts; how to record the traces of surface finishing remaining outside and inside of earthenware; and the theory of measuring small shards with considerable missing parts
- Practical training by using blue-and-white porcelain; how to record and layout the designs on the porcelain into the grid paper.
- Participants also measured various shaped earthenware and recorded them to acquire basic techniques.

#### 13 July (Mon.)

##### ■ Recording/Documentation: Measured Drawing of Earthenware

<JINNO Megumi / NNRICP>

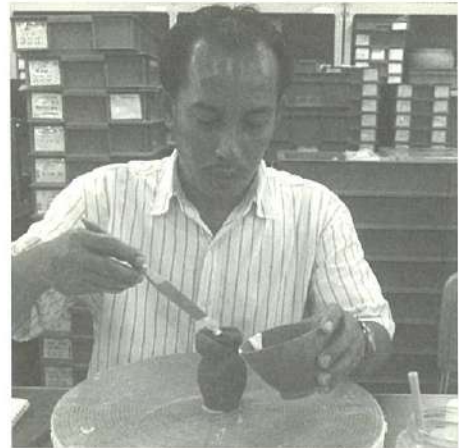
- Practical training on how to draw the layout of designs and motifs on the surface of small shards
- After restoring missing rim with plaster, they became aware of cautions in handling plaster for reconstruction of earthenware.

- Colouring of plastered parts: the useful tips were provided for selection of colour tones to match whole earthenware and for painting.

14 July (Tue.)

■ **On-site Lecture I: Observation of World Heritage in Nara Pref.**<NAKAI Isao>

- Visiting the World Heritage sites in Nara Prefecture: Horyu-ji temple, Yakushi-ji temple and Toshodai-ji temple
- Lectures on preservation methods and techniques of those wooden structures and their fire prevention devices while closely observing facilities



Restoration of earthenware with plaster

15 July (Wed.)

■ **On-site Lecture II: Management and Utilization of Sites: Heijo Palace Site**

<ISHIMURA Tomo and TAMURA Tomomi / NNRICP>

- Lectures on Heijo Palace sites: its history of preservation and excavation research, management and reconstruction of structural remains, and effective utilisation of the sites
- Observation of reconstructed structural remains and on-site exhibition: *Toin Teien* (the garden of the Eastern Palace), Suzaku-mon gate and *zuto* (head stupa).
- Lectures on problems of on-site exhibition, display methods of unearthed structural remains at Daian-ji temple, the site management of Sugiyama *kofun* (burial mound) and exhibition of reconstructed kiln site with on-the-spot observation



At Heijo Palace sites (above), and at Excavation Site Exhibition Hall (below)

16 July (Thur.)

■ **Recording/Documentation of Artefacts: Roof Tiles** <IMAI Koki / NNRICP>

- Lectures on the relationship between roof structures and tiles in Japanese architecture; various types of roof tiles; roofing methods; observation methods of roof tiles; manufacturing techniques of roof tiles; and the archaeological methodology, by taking unearthed



Explanations of observation points on round roof tiles



Ink rubbing of a flat eave tile

roof tiles as examples

- On-site lecture on organization and storage of ancient roof tiles at the storage facilities
- A lecture and practical training on ink rubbing of roof tiles

17 July (Fri.)

■ **Recording/Documentation of Artefacts: Roof Tiles**  
<IMAIKoki / NNRICP>

- Hand-on sessions on measured drawing of *hiragawara* (flat tile) and *marugawara* (round tile) unearthed from Heijo Palace sites
- Lectures on how to decide the cross-section position of roof tiles and to write down their observation notes in the drawing, specific to each roof tile



Measured drawing of flat tiles



Measuring a flat tile with *mako* (left) and a round tile with a triangle ruler (right)



21 July (Tue.)

■ **Writing final reports** <ACCU Nara>

The scheduled excavation at Kofuku-ji temple sites was cancelled because of heavy rain, so participants worked on their reports and studied on their own at ACCU Nara office.



Excavation at the Kofuku-ji site

22 July (Wed.)

■ **Recording/Documentation of Structural Remains:**  
**Lecture and Practice**

<MORIKAWA Minoru, HAKOZAKI Kazuhisa, BABA Hajime, MORISAKI Kazuki and SIBA Kojiro/ Nara City>

- Hand-on training at the excavation site, Nandai-mon gate of Kofuku-ji temple organised by NNRICP
- Basic information of the temple was given: its history, the arrangement of buildings within the cloister, and specific features of the buildings.

- Participants joined the excavation of layers containing structural remains: exposure and detection of remains, close examination and an observation of different soil deposit while carefully shaving the surface.

23 July (Thur.)

■ **Recording/Documentation of Structural Remains: Lecture and Practice**

<MORIKAWA Minoru, HAKOZAKI Kazuhisa, BABA Hajime, MORISAKI Kazuki and SIBA Kojiro/ Nara City>

- Hand-on training at the excavation site, *nandai-mon* (South Great Gate) of Kofuku-ji temple organised by NNRICP (continued)
- After closely examining the foundation platform of the gate from the east, participants confirmed the arrangement of structural remains from differences of strata.
- Drawing the plan view of the remains by measurement with professional guidance



The scale drawing of detected structural remains

24 July (Fri.)

■ **Recording/Documentation of Structural Remains: Lecture and Practice**

<HAKOZAKI Kazuhisa, BABA Hajime, MORISAKI Kazuki and SHIBA Kojiro / Nara City>

Practical training at the Kofuku-ji temple site:

- Measuring structural remains detected on the surface of the foundation
- Drawing survey maps of plans
- Close examinations where the outline of structural remains was not clear
- Carefully shaving the surface stratum of the remains to determine the final plan of structural remains





At Tenryu-ji temple



Observation of floors of Kiyomizu-dera temple



Explanation of basic structures of a camera



Learning effective arrangement of artefacts

### 27 July (Mon.)

#### ■ On-site Lecture III: Observation of Cultural Heritage in Kyoto <NAKAI Isao>

- Site visits at World Heritage in Kyoto: Kinkaku-ji temple, Tenryu-ji temple and Nijo-jo castle
- Lectures on contrasting beauty among those sites and how efforts were made to preserve not only the sites but the surrounding landscape as well

### 28 July (Tue.)

#### ■ On-site Lecture IV: Observation of Cultural Heritage in Kyoto

<NAKAI Isao>

- Site visits at World Heritage sites in Kyoto: Kiyomizu-dera temple and Byodo-in temple
- Lectures on means and efforts to maintain and manage cultural properties on site
- Participants also learned traditional manufacture method of *sake* (Japanese rice wine) at the Gekkeikan Okura Sake Museum.

### 29 July (Wed.)

#### ■ Photography of Structural Remains and Artefacts <SUGIMOTO Kazuki / NNRICP>

- Introduction of photography: lectures on the features of digital cameras films; the objective of archaeological photographs; different types of films
- Participants took portrait photographs of each other for practical training while learning important techniques in interior photography.

### 30 July (Thur.)

#### ■ Photography of Structural Remains and Artefacts <SUGIMOTO Kazuki and NAKAMURA Ichiro / NNRICP>

Lectures on:

- Introduction on basic photographic techniques such as effective arrangements of artefacts and the best shooting angle suitable for each archaeological artefacts
- After the lectures, they took photographs of artefacts applying what they had learned.
- Practical training of whole procedures of photography: developing, printing and enlarging
- Features of a digital camera: its difference from an ordinary camera and cautions to remember



Developing a film in a dark room

31 July (Fri.)

■ **On-site Lecture V: Site Museum in Practice**

<CHIGA Hisashi and YASUHARA Takayuki / The Museum, ARIKNP>

- Lectures on how artefacts were organised and managed in the systematic way in the storage facilities: its challenges and problems
- Observation of the special storage for valuables and for *mokkan* (wooden tablets) as well as the general storage to learn the actual storage situation in the museum
- They also observed exhibits to learn the most appropriate display method and lightening for each artefact under the guidance of lectures



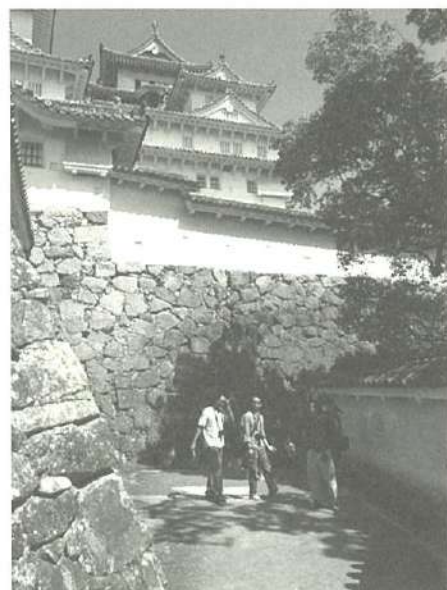
Mr Chiga lectured on how to handle *haniwa* (earthenware figures)

2 August (Sun.)

■ **On-site Lecture VI: Visiting the Himeji-jo Castle**

<NAKAI Isao>

While being lectured how the castle is preserved and managed, participants toured and observed the major buildings of Himeji-jo castle, the World Heritage site.



At the Himeji-jo castle

3 August (Mon.)

■ **On-site Lecture VII: Management and Utilization of Archaeological Sites in Practice**

<MATSUMOTO Katsumi and NAGASAKI Hiroshi / Saga Pref.>

- Lectures on the outline of Yoshinogari sites from its discovery, excavation, preservation and to its

development as a national historical park.

- Observation of restored structural remains in the park with detailed explanation
- At the Northern Burial Mounds Home of God, a lecture was given on display methods of archaeological features uncovered under the roof, its details and challenges.
- Participants joined the workshop held in the park and experienced making *magatama* (comma-shaped bead) and casting a mirror in traditional methods.
- At the Preservation Office of Yoshinogari Site, they intently observed how unearthed artefacts of Yayoi period were organised and managed in the storage.



Observation of reconstructed buildings from inside at Yoshinogari Historical Park

Workshop of casting mirrors



Lectures on utilization of computer graphics in the research of cultural properties



Having a complete view of Mizuki site from the top

#### 4 August (Tue.)

##### ■ On-site Lecture VIII: Management and Utilization of Archaeological Sites in Practice <AKASHI Yoshihiko, IMAZU Setsuo and KIDO Yasutoshi / Fukuoka Pref.>

- Lectures on the concepts behind the foundation of Kyushu National Museum, which is “understand Japanese culture from the point of Asian view”; the overview of exhibition in the museum; and the conservation/restoration laboratories for cultural properties.
- A facility tour of the museum: visiting its backyard and storage while hearing an explanation about equipment for conservation treatment
- Observation of the display methods in permanent and special exhibitions
- At the Dazaifu Governmental Office site, participants had lectures on the brief history of excavation, preservation and management, and

they toured the central area to examine how the site was preserved and managed.

- They also visited the Mizuki site (moats and mounds used for protective purpose in seven to twelve century), and learned preservation principle and the management status on the site.
- Observation of a group of Buddhist statues enshrined in the Kanzeon-ji temple treasure house.



Transcribed stratigraphic profiles, displayed at on-site exhibition hall of Tofuro sites

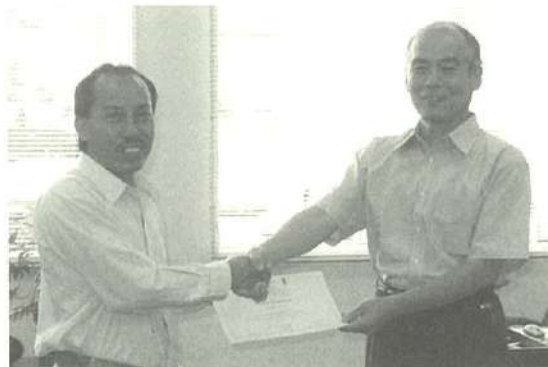
#### 5 August (Wed.)

Participants travelled from Hakata to Nara in a ballet train (*Shinkansen*).

#### 6 August (Thur.)

##### ■ **Submission of Final Report / Closing Ceremony <ACCU Nara>**

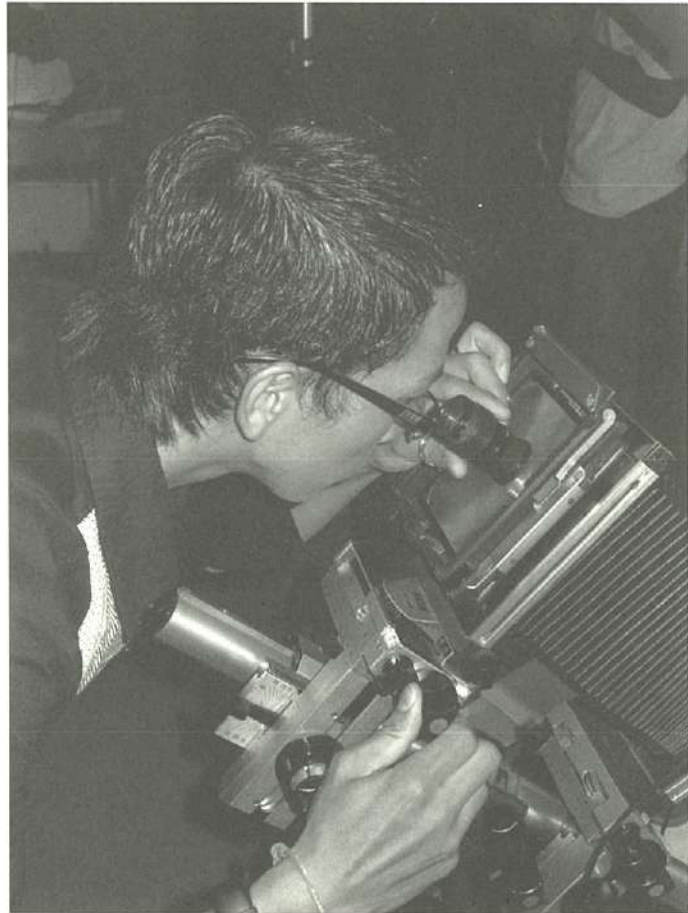
Mr Nishimura, Director of ACCU Nara awarded a certificate of completion to each participant with words of congratulations and appreciated their participation with keen interest in the training programme. He also wished their experience in Japan would significantly contribute to the area of cultural heritage protection in Lao P.D.R.



Mr Nishimura, Director of ACCU Nara, awarded the certificate of completion to each participant praising their efforts in the training course.



### III. Participants' Country Reports



**Thonglith LUANGKHOTH**

*Researcher*

Division of Archaeological Research

Department of Culture Heritage

Ministry of Information and Culture, Lao P.D.R.

## Vat Phou Archaeological Site in Champasak Province, Lao P.D.R.

### Introduction



The ancient complex of Vat Phou lies close to the Mekong river in Champasak Province in the southern part of Lao P.D.R., some 500 km from Vientiane. While the Vat Phou temple is the most famous archaeological site in Champasak, it is only one component of a rich and dense archaeological and cultural landscape extending along both banks of the Mekong river and up to the mountains west of the river.

Many of these temple sites and ritual features have long been known as major examples of both early and classical Khmer architecture, dating from the 7th to 12th centuries AD. Recent research has demonstrated that Vat Phou is the focal point of a complex cultural landscape centred on the Champasak plain and taking in Phou Kao mountain to the west, and the bank of the Mekong river to the east. Other features include temples, water

reservoirs (*baray*), water channels, quarries, field systems and settlement sites as well as an ancient road to Angkor. The area includes a planned, early Khmer period city (hereafter referred to as the Ancient City) of some 400 ha on the west bank of the Mekong river, as well as a second urban settlement directly to the south of Vat Phou, dating from the Angkor period.

### Early Research

**1867:** Francis Garmier, the French explorer of the Mekong river, left the first description of Vat Phou.

**1907:** Etienne Edmond Lunet de Lajonquière (EFEO) made a map and an account of the temple.

## **Scientific Research**

**1986:** Limited survey of the Ancient City

**1991- 1998:** Archaeological activity

- “Project de Recherch en Archéologie Lao” (PRAL), carried out by the French Archaeological Mission led by Marielle Santoni (CNRS Guimet) in cooperation with the Lao Ministry of Information and Culture. Excavations were carried out at the Sacred Spring, around the Sanctuary area, and in different pre-Angkorian temples located in the Ancient City.
- “Territory studies, mapping and survey,” by the Italian Archaeological Mission, led by Patrizia Zolese (Lerici Foundation) in cooperation with the Lao Ministry of Information and Culture. This included mapping of the Ancient City, the discovery of Lingapura City, and mapping of different sites along the Ancient Royal Road to Angkor

## **Lao-UNESCO Preparatory Project**

**1987 and 1990:** UNESCO-UNDP Mission to consider the possibility of restoration. A provincial decree approved the protection of the archaeological site.

**1996-1997:** Lao-UNESCO project (Phase I), subsidized by the Japanese and Italian governments, with the aim to explore, study, and catalogue archaeological remains located in Champasak province.

**1997-1998:** Lao-UNESCO Project (Phase II), subsidized by the Italian government. Training courses in archaeology, history, management, and conservation were provided to the local staff and officers belonging to the Ministry of Information and Culture (Vientiane). Associated activities included the following.

- Inventory and catalogue of archaeological materials in Champasak
- Continuation of surveying and mapping of all Khmer temples in the Champasak area
- Structural analysis of the Sanctuary and the main monuments of Vat Phou
- Hydrologic studies
- Finalization of the Champasak Heritage Management Plan
- Promotion of heritage awareness among the local communities, to encourage participation in the conservation and sustainable utilization of their heritage (in cooperation with Waseda University, Tokyo)

**1998:** The government of Lao P.D.R. adopted the “Champasak Heritage Management Plan,” a guideline for conservation and protection of the proposed archaeological park.

**1999-2000:** UNESCO-Italian-Lao Mission, consisting of scientific research and assistance for nomination as World Heritage.

**1999-2002:** Lao-UNESCO-Waseda University project involving local communities.

**2001:** Champasak Archaeological Park inscribed on the World Heritage list.

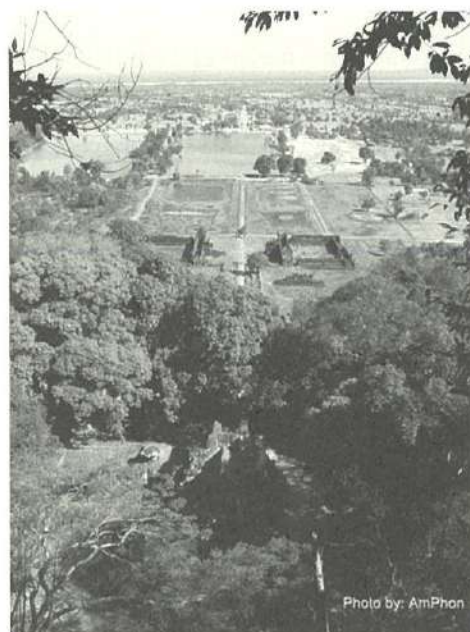
## Phou Kao Mountain



Based on evidence from inscriptions, Lingaparvata is the Sanskrit name given to Phou Kao Mountain (1,416 m) by the ancient Khmer inhabitants. Atop the mountain peak is a natural linga, some 10 m high and visible from far away. It is an aniconic representation of Shiva, the god of fertility. In 1997, the remains of the brick foundation of a temple were found here atop a rock outcrop, with a carved sandstone linga lying at its foot. The oldest known written evidence for Lingaparvata is the Devanika inscription (or stele of Vat Luang Kao,

K 365), dated to the second half of the 5th century AD. According to a Chinese source (the “History of the Sui Dynasty,” which spanned 581-618), a temple dedicated to Shiva Bhadresvara was built on the mountain. The cult of Lingaparvata is confirmed by other inscriptions in the Vat Phou area as well as in Cambodia, dating from the 7th to 12th centuries.

## Vat Phou temple



This temple complex is located at the foot of Phou Kao mountain, overlooking the flood plain of the Mekong river. The shrine itself is built on a natural terrace of Phou Kao mountain, where a freshwater spring gushes out of the rock. The temple complex as a whole is laid out on a linear plan stretching 1.4 km along an east-west axis, rising from the east up the lower slopes of the mountain to impress worshippers with the sanctity of the place, with the Lingaparvata visible behind the temple itself. This axial layout, rare for a Khmer temple, uses the natural terrain to place maximum focus on the Lingaparvata.

Excavations were conducted at the Sanctuary in 1992 and 1994 by the “Project de Recherch en Archéologie Lao” (PRAL). At the lowest level, oriented east-west, there is a large *baray* some 200 by 600 m, probably built around the 10th or 11th centuries.

To the north are two more large *baray* constructed by building up earthen dikes to enclose the area, not by digging into the ground.

The temple complex was built on six terraces. The first, or lowest terrace, is over 130 m deep from east to west. The front third is occupied by two large, rectangular stone buildings flanking an esplanade, 44 m wide. Each building is a quadrangle, measuring 62 by 42 m; the buildings’ long sides face each other and run parallel to the central axis. Judging from the architecture, which is in the style of Koh Ker, these building can be dated to the beginning of the 11th century.

The western part of the first terrace is open and rises slightly towards the foot of the second, or next higher terrace. On the main axis, a walkway is bordered by regularly spaced stone pillars and by the foundations of former galleries which were covered with a timber-frame, tiled roof standing on wood pillars. To the south are the remains of a small, isolated, rectangular sandstone building with pillared porches at its north and south sides, traditionally called the Nandi Hall and dated to the mid-11th century. The second terrace forms a landing flanked with two small structures, which housed the guardian statues known as Dvarapala, and are dated to 13th century. A flight of stairs between retaining walls gives access to the third terrace, which forms the next higher landing. On the main axis, a 75 m-long ramp, which follows the natural slope, rises gradually over 15 m from the third terrace. This ramp is slightly elevated above the open space on both sides.

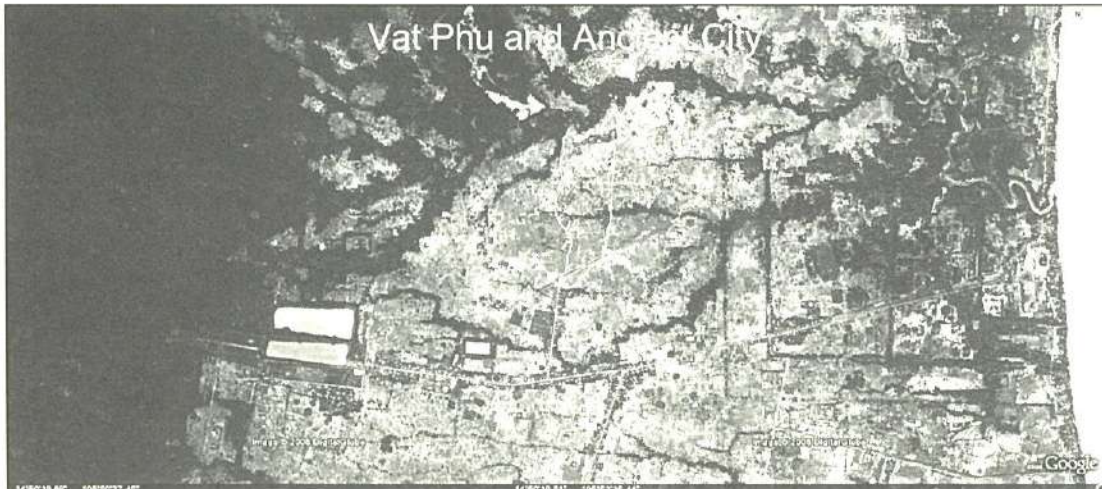
The fourth terrace, about 20 m wide, is retained by a high wall. The original stairway to it, composed of three flights between lateral stone banks, is now encased by a later one made of re-used stone. There are six small brick towers, three on each side of the axial path. The towers are aligned on a common north-south axis. The fifth terrace is also about 20 m wide. A stone-paved landing with Naga balustrades marks the main axis. From the fifth terrace rise a series of seven tiers of retaining walls, with a total height of 15 m. They are axially intersected by seven flights of stairs, of eleven steps each, separated by narrow landings.

The stairs end at a sixth and final terrace located about 75 m above the *baray* and commanding an impressive view over the whole complex and over the plain to the Mekong river and beyond. The terrace is a rough square of 60 by 60 m, with the main sanctuary (shrine) dedicated to Shiva in its centre. It is commonly thought that the remains on the uppermost terrace are the earliest structures on the site, and that the main sanctuary succeeded an earlier shrine of the 7th century.

Recent study of the brick portions of the present shrine indicates that it probably dates from 11th century. Behind the sanctuary, at the foot of an overhanging cliff which dramatically closes the whole sequence, is the spring which accounts for the sanctity of this very site. The spring water was collected in a basin and channeled so that it flowed through the main sanctuary of the temple to wet the Shiva linga kept inside. On the north side, this terrace is extended by a natural shelf of the mountain, on which stands a small modern monastery. Farther to the north along the same natural shelf there are several rock carvings of an elephant, a crocodile, snakes and other forms, as well as some ancient stone structures and foundations which were partly crushed at an unknown date by the fall of large rocks from the cliff above.

### **The Ancient City**

The remains of the Ancient City, tentatively indentified as Shrestrapura, are located 6.5 km east of Vat Phou, on the alluvial plan on the west bank of the Mekong river. The archaeological area covers about 400 ha. The city was originally surrounded on the south, west and north sides by a rectangular double earthen wall, enclosing an area about 2.4 by 1.8 km overall. The wall is 14 m wide at its base and has survived to height of 6 m where it is best preserved



## Conclusion

The monumental complex of Vat Phou developed over a long period of time. The earliest remains found are from the 7th century, as noted above, but much of what has survived is later. There was major rebuilding in the 11th and 12th centuries. The shrines were converted from Hinduism to Buddhism some time after the 13th century, and have retained an important local religious function to the present day. The Ancient City is the only example of a Khmer urban settlement from both the early (Pre-Angkorian) as well as the classical (Angkorian) period for which the plan is known in detail and has been studied. As such, the Ancient City is also of highest importance. The planning of the landscape also demonstrates the interchange between classic Hindu cosmology and local and earlier beliefs about the duality of water and mountains.

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### **Archaeological Research at the Nong Heuathong Ancient City Site, Xaybuly District, Savannakhet Province, Lao P. D. R.**

#### **1. Introduction**

Savannakhet province, located in central Laos, has a variety of natural forest, and has been inhabited by people for many generations, so there is much evidence of their past occupation and immigration in different ages, especially along the river valleys, not only the primary rivers but seasonal rivers as well. Nothing would be known of this past habitation if not for research on archaeological sites and other evidence. None of this evidence would have meaning if people do not know its value, so the Laotian government has recognized the importance of archaeological research and established the Department of Culture Heritage within the Ministry of Information and Culture, whose role includes surveying, salvage excavation, and inventorying sites to be designated as conservation areas and national cultural properties, and to be nominated as World Heritage in the future in the manner of Luang Prabang, the historic city inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1995, and Vat Phou and the Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape, which was inscribed as a second World Heritage site for Laos in 2001.

There are many archaeological sites throughout Savannakhet province which are still being surveyed and identified. These include a salvage excavation at Pheun Bao Loo, Thong Na Ngouck (Dragon Field), Phou Khanong, and the ancient city site of Nong Heuathong. Of these archaeological sites, Nong Heuathong was an ancient city dating from the seventh century and was contemporary with the ancient Sikhottabong Kingdom, while the other sites are in a concession area (of the Sepon gold and copper mining company) in the eastern part of Savannakhet province.

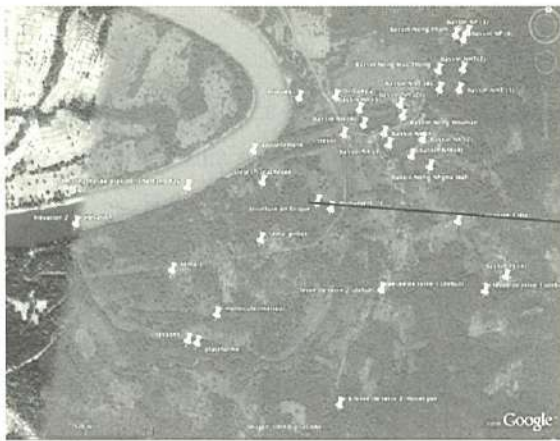
#### **2. Archaeological Research at the Nong Heuathong Ancient City Site**

Nong Heuathong is located in the Xebangpai river valley, Xaibuly district, Savannakhet province, which shares a border with Khammouan province across the Xebangfay river. Nong Heuathong became well known when a villager found artifacts by accident on April 24, 2008, while building a house. The artifacts were made of gold, silver, and copper, and were found underground at about 70



cm depth. Among these artifacts, a golden casket is the greatest in value and most beautiful in its decoration. This find became very famous and every day crowds of people came from all over to see the artifacts, so it was not a good idea to leave them there for long because conditions were not safe enough. Accordingly professional staff from the Department of Culture Heritage, in collaboration with officials from the local authority, together conducted an inventory of the artifacts and kept them as national property.

The lucky discoverer received a reward of 15 percent of the artifacts' value, and a new place for building his house, as the area where he found the artifacts is now owned by the government in order to do research; it should also be noted that this area lies on the ancient city wall.



Map of the Nong Heuathong ancient city site



Source of the artifacts, on a mud wall

### 3. Review of the Historical Record

Nong Heuathong is a small village with houses built spread out among the farms. An interesting aspect of this small village is the historic structure of the ancient city, with seven *nong* (meaning wetlands in Laos, including marshes, reservoirs and ponds). These are Nong Pham, Nong Heua Thong, Nong Nharmar, Nong Thabseuk, Nong Khar, Nong Hunan and Nong Jog. Among these, Nong Heuathong is the biggest and deepest, and there is a myth associated with its name. An elder of the village related that in former times, the king ruling this kingdom intended to build the biggest and deepest *nong*, and also built a golden boat with seven decks to embark on when he needed relaxation and amusement. Finally, the golden boat sank deep to the bottom of the *nong*, and no one was able to pull it out. So the people have called it Nong Heuathong (meaning “golden boat” in English) until the present day.

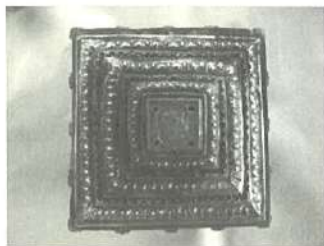
Formerly, there were palm-leaf documents related to the *nong*, inscribed in the ancient Khmer language which some of the elders, knowing a little of this language, could read and translate for other people, but after a number of years all of the documents disappeared.

In this area during the farming season, farmers often found fragments of gold or silver leaves underground, which they thought were flakes of the zinc instead, but these have now disappeared as well.

#### 4. Artifact Inventory

The artifact inventory done at the site required the classification, weighing, and measuring of the artifacts by professional staff from Department of Culture Heritage and the local authority. After this initial part of the inventory was finished, the artifacts were brought to a safe place in the province for further checking and cleaning. To complete the inventory we must take photographs of the artifacts to serve as a visual record of the artifact data. Some artifacts were inscribed in the ancient Khmer language with references to religious beliefs, the basis for dating the most recent of three temporal groups.

##### - Group One (ca 1200 A.D.)



Golden casket



Artifact inscribed in the ancient Khmer language

##### - Group Two (ca 700 A.D.)

The absolute dating of the artifacts of this group is based on the style of pottery used to keep gold and silver leaves, and other small artifacts.

##### - Group Three (ca 200 A.D.)



Bracelet ?



Pedestal

## 5. Archaeological Survey

The survey was conducted jointly by the Department of Culture Heritage, E.F.E.O Institute (École Française d' Extrême-Orient), and UNESCO. The archaeological survey was only exploratory, relying on the statements of informants and site visits, but therefore took just a short time to conduct.

### The archaeological survey results include the following:

#### 1. Sema leaves (leaf-shaped stones used to mark the boundaries of Buddhist temples)



A sema leaf on the bank of the Xebangpai river. The flood of the rainy season had receded.



Sema leaf standing at the centre of a field

#### 2. City walls



A city wall runs along the Xebangpai river for 2,484 meters in length; a second wall has disappeared in some parts and is not clear.

### 3. Abandoned Buddhist structure



The immediate area included bricks, pieces of laterite, earthenware and stoneware potteries, with most of the earthenware being cord-marked or incised pottery. There is a seasonal river not far from the site.

### 4. Octagonal stone pillar



This should be a pillar of an urban structure, located in the heart of the ancient city site.

### 5. Holes for pillars at the bank of the Xebangpai river



The arrangement of pillar holes suggests they belonged to a hall of the king, used as a place for embarking. The holes are similar in size, between 45 cm x 45 cm and 40 cm x 45 cm.

In addition, there are the seven reservoirs mentioned above, and sema leaves found in the Thong Kang village, very close to Nong Heuathong. The archaeological survey was done on the Savannakhet side of the Xebangphai river valley, but the other side, in Khammoaun province, was left to be surveyed next because of limited time and a lack of funds to continue.

## 6. Excavation

An archaeological excavation was conducted to make sure there were no other artifacts remaining. After determining the best area to excavate, a 1 x 2 m test pit was opened, and excavated using standard archaeological tools of mason's trowels, brushes, buckets, archaeological picks, etc., to gradually expose artifacts and features. Various fragments of pottery and a golden container were found at a depth of 50 cm, and excavation continued deeper until nothing was found except brick, pottery, and fragments of silver leaves, so we stopped digging and opened a new test pit, 80 cm x 2 m, in which nothing was found. Some of the artifacts were weighed and counted and returned to the site, while others were collected for further analysis.



Golden container found at a depth of 50 cm



Bricks at the base of the test pit

## 7. Conclusion to the Research at Nong Heuathong

The archaeological research at the Nong Heuathong ancient city site was short-term exploratory research, from which we produced a report for the public, but we could not answer all of the questions regarding the site. The archaeological research was possible only with the collaboration of the local authorities and the villager, and we are moreover very pleased to honor his integrity in dealing with national property.

## 8. Problems and Needs of Archaeological Research in Lao P. D. R.

Most of the problems that affect scientific archaeological research in the country are a consequence of inadequate funds. For this reason, there is a lack of trained specialists to undertake scientific research and analysis of archaeological remains, and as a result, there are many questions that cannot be answered and many problems yet to solve. Most archaeologists in Laos learn general archaeological methods and techniques so they can classify archaeological artifacts and produce reports for public, but they cannot conduct specialized analyses of various materials in detail. Therefore, we need more training in related subjects and more facilities for our research.

**Souliphane BOUARAPHANE**

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### **Archaeological Survey at Suvanna Khom Kham Tonpheung District, Bokeo Province, Lao PDR**

#### **Introduction**

Bokeo Province is located on the northwestern side of Laos, and Houay Xai is its chief town. On the west, it borders with the Shan territory of Burma, and on its south, the Mekong river marks the border with Thailand. On the Thai side of the border are the cities of Chiang Rai and Chiang Saen. To the northeast is Yunnan Province, China, which since around the 2nd millennium BC in the ancient period has been a corridor through which people from eastern and central China have gradually migrated towards the southwest.

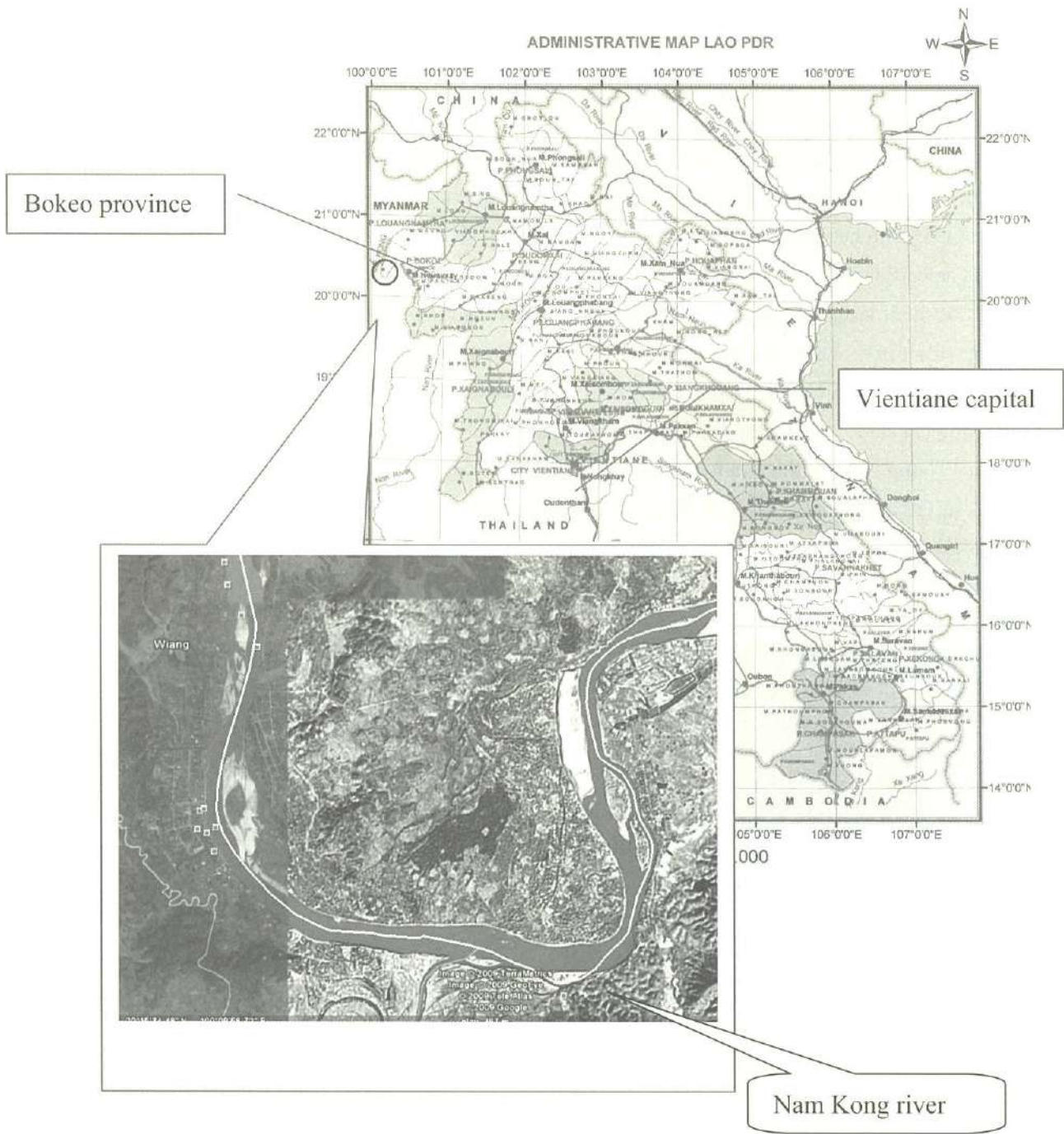
A large portion of the population living in Bokeo is composed of Hmong-Yao, Tibeto-Burmese, and Austro-Asiatic linguistic groups. The province has a mountainous morphology, being an extension of Himalayas range, and studded with river valleys in a landlocked area of the Asian continent. Narrow plains, facing the Mekong river, are composed of deposits of silt, sand and gravel, left by successive river floods. The Mekong has been used in past times as a waterway for caravans coming from China to trade with Thailand and Burma. Even in the present, the river is not a barrier but rather a lively floating market, where Chinese, Thai, Lao and Burmese traders exchange goods.

The archaeological remains of Suvanna Khom Kham are located about 45-50 km west from Houay Xai, where the Mekong makes a loop, forming a sort of peninsula. The remains, located on a plain, face the ancient Thai cities of Chiang Saen and Chiang Saen Noi. It is quite clear that the Mekong, over time, has eroded part of the Laotian side. Some structural remains are in fact visible in the exposed sections of the river bank. Ancient moats and canal systems have been detected during the survey, showing the existence of other settlements, apart from the known archaeological area. The alluvial deposit is quite deep: exposed river sections showed cultural layers at a depth of 1.5 m from present ground level. Ancient river beds were also detected, particularly one surrounding the possible extent of Suvanna Khom Kham city. With the help of aerial photos, it is seen that the area was located in a sort of peninsula, facing the Mekong, and surrounded by another river flowing into the Mekong.

The history of this area is strictly correlated with the history of the Làn Nà kingdom (13th c.), being part, in the past, of the same sphere of influence. The political borders, until the recent past, were constantly changing with the enlargement or the reduction of the land of a *mueang* (city-state) or

*chiang* (walled city) or by the decision of a chief of a *mueang* to come under the protection of another chief/king, believed more powerful. Natural, cultural, tribal or linguistic factors played important roles in the contraction or expansion of a kingdom. This flexibility was partly due to the multicultural complexity of the region, and also to the necessity for adapting to various natural environmental circumstances. The reconstruction of the kingdom's formation is still not clear, as no archaeological evidence has shown the phases of this process. No archaeological materials have been found in Bokeo Province dating before the 14th to 16th century, and no systematic archaeological investigations have been conducted.

The history of Bokeo is based mainly on two late chronicles, those of Mueang Suvanna Khom Kham and Chiang Saen, and on comparative studies with the better known Làn Nà period. This short presentation of a complex historic period shows the need to begin more extensive research, and the remains of Suvanna Khom Kham can provide this opportunity.



Tonpheung district (Suvanna Khom Kham)



## Archaeological survey

The archaeological remains belong to an agriculture area and some structures have been damaged by expansion of the area of production, so the archaeological site was in need being surveyed in order to determine the area for conservation.

From May 1-30, 2009, the staffs of the Department of Culture Heritage and the local authority together conducted a survey at the Suvanna Khom Kham ancient city site, supported by funds from UNESCO. The archaeological survey covered parts of the river valley, the plain, and mountains. There were 42 specific sites listed for protection, and for which GPS points were taken. The structural remains of these sites are very similar, and include main Buddha image statues, *chedi* (stupas), main building structures, and wells. Some archaeological sites were on the river bank and had been eroded by the river, and some structures had been damaged by warfare, flooding, and vandalism. The archaeological survey also included ancient walls (mud walls) throughout the area.

Vat Thong Thip Pattanaram is located in the heart of the Tonpheung district, with structural remains in the temple area, though most have been damaged by looters. The structure remains include a brick mound with fragments of a Buddha image, an ancient wall, and a square platform with multiple holes (possibly a kiln site).

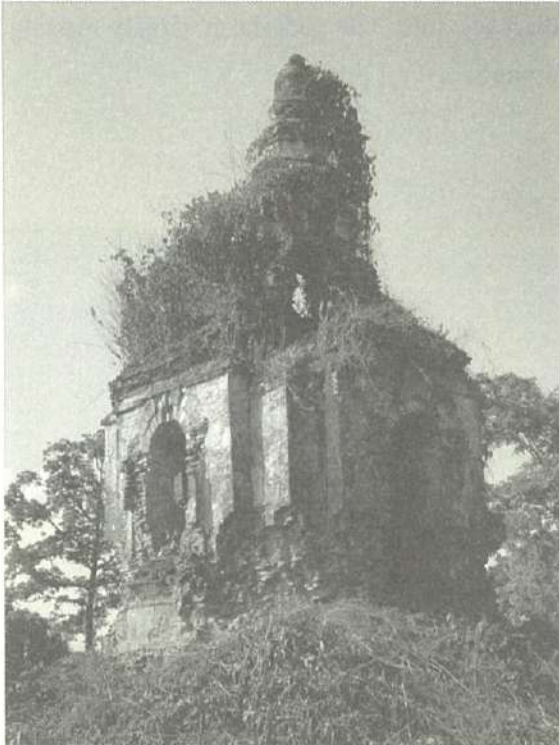


General view

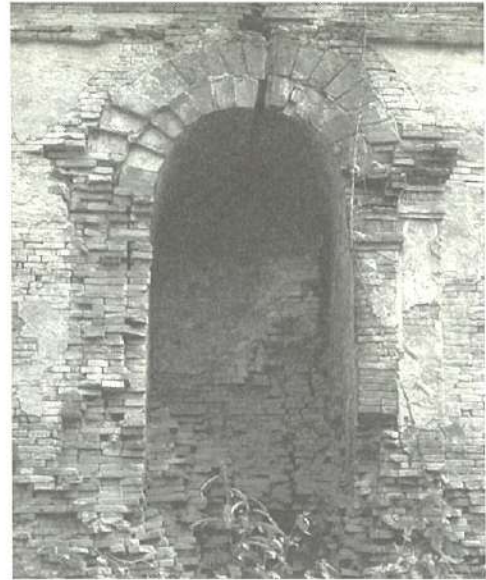


Square platform with holes (kiln site?)

Ban Homyen village has many archaeological sites, but the most impressive structural remains are the That *chai meung* (city temple or *chedi*). The main body of the structure and the roof, showing the bell shaped finial (*anda*), are in fair condition. The building has a square plan, 7 by 7 m, and is around 16 m in height. Four round arched doors face the cardinal points, and the corners are decorated with geometrical floral patterns. Part of the body shows wind erosion. Bricks are smaller than at the other temples, being 1.25 by 16 by 4 cm. The mortar in the joints between the bricks is thinner than observed in previous temples, and the sand is also more fine than usual. There are triple indentations at each corner. The base of the bell is hexagonal, with the point missing.



That *chai meung* (city temple or *chedi*)



Blind door



Buddha's body fragments on the ground

In Ban Donthat village, the most interesting item is the biggest Buddha image of this area, a statue facing east, 7.22 m high, and with a greatest width of 7.1 m. The body is made of bricks and mortar, with an outer plaster revetment (1.5 cm thick). The legs and arms are missing, though one foot is still present. The pose is probably a seated *vajrasana*, with the hands in a Subduing Mara gesture (*maravija*). The breast and navel have been damaged by looters, as has the upper part of the head. The

plaster is partly preserved, and in better condition on the back side. The pedestal is largely missing. Remains of large flat coil curls have been found on the ground.



The biggest Buddha



Buddha curl remains



A vihara is behind the biggest Buddha

### Conclusion

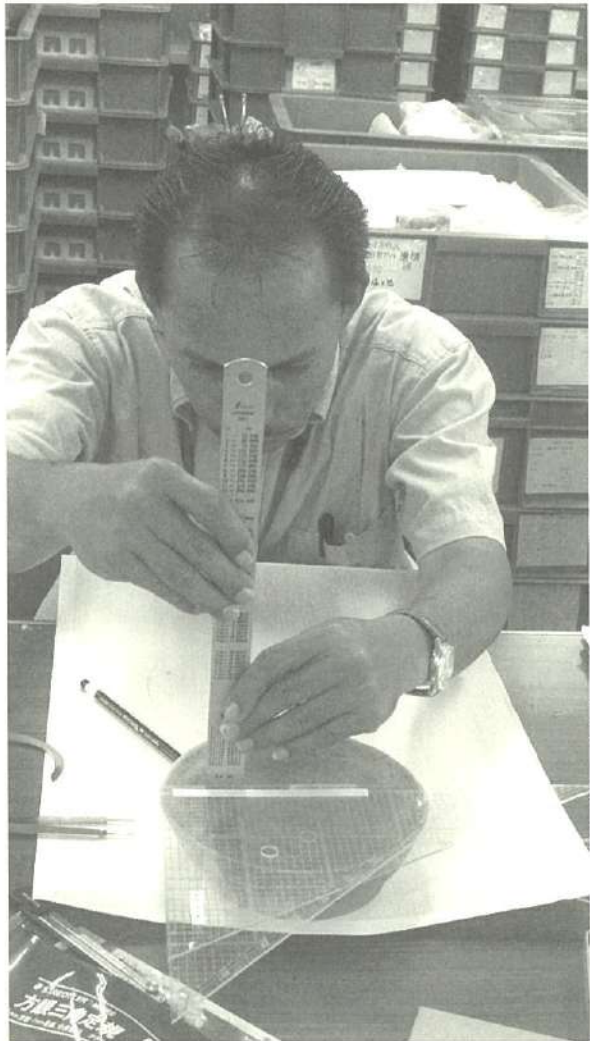
The archaeological survey of the Suvanna Khom Kham ancient city site covered a large area, where there are many abandoned Buddhist structures and artefacts. The abandoned structures consist of vihara, *chedi*, main Buddha image statues and some wells, but all of the structural remains have been damaged by looting, warfare, flooding, etc. Formerly, the ancient city of Suvanna Khom Kham was an influential center of Buddhism and civilization, but the reason for the abandonment of the city is not

yet known, so it has been selected for archaeological research to determine areas for conservation. Subsequently, it may be designated a National Culture Property and nominated as World Heritage in the future.

### **Problems and Needs**

Most of the local people are laborers, so they are not very interested in historic matters such as archaeological sites, and have destroyed such sites when it suits their purpose. Accordingly, we need to inform them of the importance of these sites, but we also lack the necessary local staff and funds to support this activity in addition to archaeological work. Beyond this, we need to learn more about new techniques, methodologies, and facilities for our research.

#### IV. Participants' Final Reports



### Thonglith LUANGKHOTH

With the recommendation of the Director-General of the Heritage Department of Lao P.D.R., three archaeology experts (technical officials) from Lao P.D.R. received permission to take part in an individual training course on the protection of cultural properties (7 July - 6 August 2009) that was co-organized by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan; Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU); and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. The team was subsequently sent to Japan for training. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to take part in the programme that ACCU Nara offered us and the participation was a great honour as well. The programme was organised so as to provide us with valuable opportunities to learn from Japanese distinguished experts in the field of protection and restoration of cultural properties through practical training and lectures.

At the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, I learned how to measure artefacts, restore damaged artefacts, document patterns (ink rubbing) and take photographs. In the photography lesson, I received practical training in shooting actual subjects then developing the film and printing pictures. I also spent two days doing practical training of excavation at the site of the Nandaimon Gate of Kofukuji Temple. Then, under the guidance of the training team from ACCU Nara Office, I observed a number of cultural properties in Nara with detailed explanations. As particular highlights, I visited several temples and shrines with prominent histories such as Kofukuji Temple, Toshodaiji Temple, Horyuji Temple and Todaiji Temple. I also had the opportunity to visit the historic site of Heijo Palace Site and had an on-site lecture about the ancient structural remains that were once there on the sites.

Besides visiting the cultural properties of ancient Nara, I also toured other locations in Japan such as the cultural properties of ancient Kyoto: Kinkaku-ji temple, Tenryu-ji temple and Nijo-jo castle. Also, in Hyogo, I saw Himeji-jo castle. It is a colossal wooden structure surrounded by gates, small and large, and earthen walls. The castle keep is a large wooden structure supported by central columns of about 90 cm in diameter. It has been included on the World Heritage List as a representative wooden structure of Japan with a magnificent silhouette made with a large number of wood members rarely seen elsewhere. After that, I traveled to visit historical sites in Kyushu. I went first to Fukuoka and toured Yoshinogari Historical Park in Saga Prefecture. Next, I toured the Kyushu National Museum. It was the fourth national museum established in Japan and is well-furnished with research equipment and facilities with the latest scientific technological devices. A particular highlight is the X-ray CT scanner used for analyzing cultural properties, which has proven very useful. As an archeologist from Lao P.D.R., I was captivated by how this cutting-age technology was incorporated into archaeology research and was honored to witness it.

This training programme was organised only for researchers from Lao P.D.R. and, because there was field work in addition to the theoretical studies, I was able to acquire some very practical knowledge. Furthermore, because the three of us took part as a group, we obtained the highest results. That is to say, we helped each other when studying and that made it possible for us to efficiently and accurately absorb the programme's content, which we can now apply to archaeology research operations in Lao P.D.R.

We were warmly welcomed by staff and experts in charge at the various sites when touring. They were very polite and considerate in explaining to us the historical backgrounds and instructing us recording and documentation techniques. Of particular interest were the issues associated with operations for protecting and developing cultural properties. In every lecture, we were provided with wonderful materials, texts and experiences that kept us admiring their work. My attention was drawn to the importance that the agencies of the national, regional and local governments placed in the protection and preservation of archeological sites. I was especially impressed by a lecture on policy that covered how various efforts and considerations are shown to explain to local residents the historical value and importance of historically important sites with regards to the development of their villages, and gain their cooperation. Moreover, we did not simply listen to lectures as we were provided with excellent materials, texts and data on CD. This made it possible for us to more deeply understand Japan's history and culture, and I am truly grateful for this consideration.

The content of the training programme was practical and very meaningful, and the instructors were extremely kind in their instruction. I greatly appreciate their having planned such an academically rich programme. in such a limited amount of time. All of our studies were practical and high quality in content. I am looking forward to bringing home and applying the fundamental knowledge I acquired from this training in Japan. I want to put it to good use in operations that will help to advance and develop archeology in Lao P.D.R. On behalf of the Division of Archaeology of the Lao P.D.R. Ministry of Information and Culture, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone at the ACCU Nara and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties for supporting us wholeheartedly from start to finish over this one-month period. Let me add that nothing would please me more than to see this training programme. continue on into the future.

We received kind instruction from the instructors in Japan. I would, therefore, like to reiterate my gratitude to them. I would also like to thank the persons in charge of the historical sites we visited for welcoming us so warmly. And, I would like to say a special thanks to our interpreter who worked perseveringly to make things easy to understand all the way to the end. In closing, I wish for further cooperative relations between the ACCU and Lao P.D.R. Archaeology Division, increased development in the cooperative relations between Lao P.D.R. and Japan, and the success and happiness of all of those there involved.

### Souliya BOUNXAYTHIP

I want to first express my sincerest appreciation to staff members from Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office of Asia/Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU), namely Director, Yasushi Nishimura, Isao Nakai, Wataru Kinoshita and Maki Yoshida, as well as the entire staff at the ACCU and Director, Ikuo Tanabe of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and all of the instructors who assisted us during the training programme in Japan. For three archeologists from Lao P.D.R., the training programme was a good opportunity to learn a diversity of practical archeological techniques from Japan, so it was very worthwhile. Moreover, nothing could please me more than to bring back to Lao P.D.R. the many experiences I had in Japan. I have nothing but praise for the instructors, brothers, sisters and friends we met in Japan.

This training programme was organized by the ACCU Nara Office just for researchers from Lao P.D.R.; therefore this was the first time for them to welcome researchers from Lao P.D.R. into the Individual Training Course. The programme lasted from 7 July to 6 August 2009, and included not only theoretical studies but also tours of various historical sites, such as Horyu-ji temple, which was built in the 7th century on orders from the Emperors Suiko and Shotokutaishi, and registered as Japan's first World Heritage in 1993. There was also Heijo Palace sites, which thrived as the capital from 710 to 784 during the Nara Period, and was listed on the World Heritage List in 1998. Some other sites we visited were Toshodai-ji temple, Yakushi-ji temple, Todai-ji temple and Kofuku-ji temple. A special highlight was at Kofuku-ji temple, where I was allowed to directly take part in the excavation of the Nandaimon Gate, which let me experience excavation work. For three days, we worked together with archeologists and engineers of Japan. Though the time was limited, we made the best possible efforts to adequately absorb the subject matter and to compile numerous experiences as possible. Addition to that, we toured the Museum and Archeological Institute of Kashihara, Nara Prefecture. This museum chronologically puts on display the transition in lifestyles and tools of this region over the ages.

In this training programme, I had the opportunity to visit various locations not just in Nara Prefecture but elsewhere in Japan as well. Take Kyoto for example. Kyoto is an important city for historical reasons, on top of other things. The capital was moved there from Nara in 784 and the city was the center of life in those times. Therefore, a number of important architectural heritage remains amongst the structures. (Seventeen sites are registered as the World Heritage.) Unfortunately, we had only two days to see Kyoto, so we could not see all seventeen sites. What we did visit in great interest this time was first and foremost Kinkaku-ji temple. Kinkaku-ji temple (formally Rokuon-ji temple) was designated as the World Heritage in 1994 and is commonly known as the Gold Pavilion. (The structure is built of wood, but the walls are covered with pure gold leaf.) It most unfortunately burned down 50



years ago, so it had to be rebuilt. For that reason, the temple structure is not included in the World Heritage registrations. Next, we visited Nijo-jo castle. It was built in the Edo Period of the 16th century. *Shogun* Tokugawa built it for his accommodation to have an audience with the emperor who resided in Kyoto. Another important building we visited was Kyomizu-dera temple, which was built on the hills. It is a graceful and delicate temple that fascinates any and all who sees it. After that, we saw Tenryuji Temple, which is a *Zen* temple. We also visited the museum on Japanese *sake*. It preserves and displays the ancient brewing technologies and processes used to make *sake* as basic information of those times.

In final phases of the programme, we took a four-day trip to Kyushu. We began our trip with a tour of Himeji-jo castle in Hyogo Prefecture. It was built in the 17th century and is today the largest surviving castle in Japan. It features various contrivances to protect the castle against outside invaders. Inside the walls, it is a labyrinth of corridors, which demonstrates the military technology of the time as it protected against land invasions by enemies. Yoshinogari Historical Park was a great place to be able to experience the life and atmosphere of Yayoi Period in reconstructed wooden structures everywhere. I was also greatly impressed by the outlines and explanations of how the latest technologies were used in archaeology research. At the Kyushu National Museum, they have introduced the most advanced X-ray CT scanner from Germany for archeological research and it was used for analyzing cultural properties. This museum is the newest national museum in Japan. It was built and opened in 2005, and has seismic isolation structures. There, I was able to view a special exhibit of the *Ashura* Statue, one of the national treasures of Japan. The statue is normally displayed at Kofuku-ji temple, but it just happened to be on loan to the Kyushu National Museum when we were there. I also had the opportunity to have a lecture at the Tofuro Site in Dazaifu. We toured the site under the guidance of Yasutoshi Kido, who was the first person to research the site. I was able to learn the basic techniques of talking with local residents to reconcile conflicting interest and solve various problems.

Over this one-month of training, I believe I was successful in deepening my understanding in various areas in archaeology. In particular, I learned various skills besides archeological mapping and measured drawing. In any case, all that I learned was because of the instructors who taught me on patience. Without the lectures and practical training, I could have never achieved what I did. Therefore, as a final note, I would like to once again express my heartfelt appreciation to the instructors who taught me during this programme for putting their hearts into their work for us despite their busy schedules. Also, we would have never achieved the results we did if not for the hard work of our interpreter Yuko Ryobe. She was a vital part of the success of this training programme. In closing, I deeply thank all of the people who assisted us in Japan. I hope that there will be other opportunities in the future to deepen my understanding of archaeology in Japan. Finally, I wish all of the staff at the ACCU Nara Office and the instructors and others alike at the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties the best of happiness, prosperity and health.

## Final Report

### Souliphane BOUARAPHANE

It was a great honor to have participated in this training programme in Japan from 7 July to 6 August 2009 under the cooperative efforts of the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) and the Division of Archaeology, Heritage Department of the Lao P.D.R. Ministry of Information and Culture. This training programme was just for three persons from Lao P.D.R. and, it was my first opportunity to study abroad (in Japan) since my assignment in the Heritage Department. I was able to study various topics in the programme, i.e., how to measure and restore cultural properties, how to record and transfer roof tile patterns by ink rubbing, the basics of photographing and recording cultural properties and the basics of excavations. All of the subject matter was taught by experts at the forefront of archaeology research in Japan. I learned much of the latest knowledge in archaeology.

One thing that really caught my attention was the use of the latest technology in archaeology research. Besides studying diverse things, the staff from the ACCU Nara showed us several sites in Japan. We visited Nara, Kyoto, Kyushu and Fukuoka, and observed Horyui-ji temple, Yakushi-ji temple, Todai-ji temple, Heijo Palace Site, Himeji-jo castle, Kyushu National Museum and more. At each of the places we visited, I gradually learned about effective method of protecting, managing, restoring and preserving heritage sites. I was particularly impressed by the efforts of local governments to explain to residents the historical importance of sites and issues associated with urban/rural development, as a way for raising their awareness in preservation studies of cultural properties. Moreover, I was both thrilled and honored to see how the latest scientific technology and equipment are being used in archaeology research. It is my hope that such high-tech equipment will be introduced into Lao P.D.R. in the future. My attention was additionally drawn how countries around the world and especially Japan put high priority and efforts on gaining local understanding of preserving historic site in their country.

Though the programme was limited to one month, it was very high quality and a valuable training experience for us Laotian researchers. The entire content of the programme was efficiently planned and managed based on important fundamentals, so I was able to learn a great deal from the training, despite my shallow experience in cultural properties operations,

In closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the people at the ACCU Nara for their great efforts and consideration. I am greatly indebted to them for planning and running this training programme at various locations in Japan. Archaeology research in Lao P.D.R. is said to be in the early development stage, as various problems remain to be solved. We haven't enough trained specialists and expertise in archaeology. Therefore, I hope that this training programme will be further continued so that the quality and level of archaeology research operations in Lao P.D.R. can catch up with other countries.

## V. Appendix

1. List of Participants
2. List of lecturers and Interpreters
3. Staff Members, ACCU Nara



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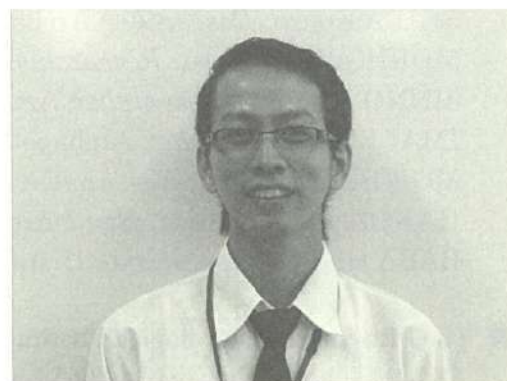
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