

EDITORIAL: THE 16TH CONGRESS OF THE INDO-PACIFIC PREHISTORY ASSOCIATION

Peter Bellwood

The 16th Congress of IPPA is being co-organised with the Department of Museums and Antiquities (Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia), the Malaysian Archaeologists Association (Ikatan Ahli Arkeologi Malaysia) and the Melaka Museum Corporation. It will be held in the Century Mahkota Hotel, Melaka, from 1st to 7th July 1998. Funding has been received so far from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council and the Japan Foundation. The results of other funding applications are awaited. The program of speakers is being arranged by the IPPA Secretary, ably assisted by many session convenors. The within-Malaysia organisation is headed by IPPA Vice-President Adi Taha.

At the time of preparing this issue, in early May 1998, the congress is still two months away. This volume will be printed in Malaysia for distribution to delegates who attend the congress, and other IPPA members will mostly receive it from Canberra after the congress is over. This bulletin does not carry a full program for the congress as it exists so far, since many minor changes are certain to occur prior to the July 1 opening. To print a semi-final version at this point would only cause confusion. However, the major session titles, with their convenors, are as follows:

1. Current Research in Malaysian Archaeology (Zuraina Majid)
2. Pleistocene Archaeology in East Asia (Susan Keates)
3. The Hoabinhian and its Contemporaries (Adi Taha)
4. Environmental Change and Early Agriculture in Southeast Asia (Charles Higham and Bernard Maloney)
5. Early Farming Cultures of South Asia (Vasant Shinde)
6. Recent Advances in the Archaeology of Southern China (Magnus Fiskesjö)
7. Recent Advances in Taiwan Prehistory (Peter Bellwood)
8. Foragers and Farmers in the Japanese Islands (Mark-Hudson)
9. Pottery in Archaeological Contexts: Origins and Distributions, Interpretation and Classification (Brian Vincent)
10. The Emergence of the Early Historic States of SE Asia (Ian Glover)
11. Later Prehistoric Cultures of Island and Mainland Southeast Asia (David Bulbeck)
12. Current Approaches to Sociopolitical Complexity in Asia (Lis Bacus)
13. Ethnoarchaeology in Theory and Practice in the Interpretation of Indo-Pacific Prehistory (Richard Engelhardt and Pamela Rogers)
14. Gender in Asian/Pacific Archaeology (Sarah Nelson)
15. Geoarchaeological Studies of Landscape Change and Human Settlement During the Past 2500 years (Jane Allen)
16. Ceramics and Obsidian in Island Southeast Asia and Oceania (Richard Shutler)
17. Settlement, Oral History and Archaeology in Micronesia (Felicia Beardsley and David Welch)
18. Biological Anthropology in Southeast Asia and Oceania (Kazumichi Katayama and Nancy Tayles)
19. Landscapes and Human Interaction in Oceania (Michael Graves and Thegn Ladefoged)
20. Linguistic Correlations with Archaeological Units in the Indo-Pacific Region (Roger Green and Matthew Spriggs)
21. Cultural Resource Management and Historical Archaeology in Southeast Asia (Douglas Comer)
22. Recent Advances in Bornean Archaeology (Ipoi Datan and John Krigbaum)
23. The Biocultural History of the Orang Asli (Dee Baer)

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24. Archeological Site Management and Heritage Conservation in the Context of the Rapid Urbanization of Southeast Asia (Richard Engelhardt)

This bulletin contains all the abstracts received so far, arranged alphabetically by author. The list is headed by a listing of session and abstract correlations, and each abstract commences with its session number. The enthusiasm with which abstracts have been submitted has been commendable, and it is also necessary to recognise the hard work of many of the session convenors in bringing together speakers for their sessions.

This issue also contains a paper on the history of IPPA by Past-President Jack Golson, accompanied by the current constitution which dates from 1990. This constitution was printed in Bulletin 13 in 1993, but it is printed again here for reference during the congress since there may be matters requiring modification by the Business Meeting in Melaka.

Two other papers submitted recently make up this issue.

Members should also note, if they have not noted already, that IPPA has now gone electronic. We can be

found at

<http://artalpha.anu.edu.au/web/arc/ippa/ippa.htm>

where details of Bulletin contents, an updated Melaka program and other information can be found. This website is permanent and will continue to operate after the congress, as Bulletin issues are produced.

It remains to thank again all those who have been involved in the organisation of the Melaka Congress so far, plus of course all the funding agencies listed at the beginning of this editorial. It is also necessary to thank the Business Manager's Section of the Faculties Administration at ANU and staff of the National Museum of Malaysia for handling the financial affairs of IPPA and the Melaka Congress. Here's to an excellent meeting in July!

IN MEMORIAM

Since the last issue (BIPPA 16, 1997) two of our long-time members have passed away - Asok Ghosh, who served on the Executive Committee from 1988 to 1998, and Fred McCarthy, who was an Honorary Member of the Association. We send condolences to their families and colleagues.