

## EDITORIAL: THE MELAKA PAPERS, VOLUME 6

Peter Bellwood

The 16th Congress of IPPA was 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 was held in the Century Mahkota Hotel, Melaka, from 1st to 7th July 1998. Funding to support the attendance of delegates from developing countries was received from the Malaysian Ministry of Culture Arts and Tourism, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the Japan Foundation (Kuala Lumpur) and Unesco (Asia Pacific Region). The within-Malaysia organisation was headed by IPPA Vice-President (now President) Dr Adi Taha, assisted by his many colleagues in the above-mentioned co-organising Malaysian institutions.

Approximately 225 papers were presented at the conference, in 24 separate sessions, running concurrently three at a time in separate lecture rooms. The speakers represented 35 countries.

This is the first of two final volumes of Melaka papers (numbers 6 and 7), covering a number of themes that for various reasons were either not ready to publish in complete form earlier, or that were relatively small. The final Melaka volume (BIPPA 23) will contain papers on cultural resource management. BIPPA 24 will commence the Taipei Papers, to be published from 2003 onwards.

### THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF IPPA, ACADEMIA SINICA, TAIPEI, TAIWAN

The 17th Congress of IPPA was hosted by the Institute for History and Philology on the Academia Sinica campus in Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan, from 9 to 15 September 2002. Cooperating institutions within Taiwan were the Department of Anthropology at National Taiwan University, the National Museum of Prehistory at Taitung, the Program for Asian and Pacific Research at Academia Sinica, and the National Museum of Natural Science at Taichung.

The institutions that provided financial sponsorship for the IPPA Taiwan Congress are as follows:

In Taiwan: Academia Sinica; Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica; Council for Cultural Affairs, the Executive Yuan, R.O.C; National Science Council, the Executive Yuan, R.O.C; Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Executive Yuan, R.O.C; Asian-Pacific Area Research Program, Academia Sinica; The Himalaya Foundation.

Elsewhere: The Australian National University, Canberra; The Wenner-Gren Foundation, New York; The Asian Cultural Council, New York; Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, Canberra.

The conference was a great success and similar in size and scope to that in Melaka in 1998. For further details, including the conference program and all abstracts, see: <http://arts.anu.edu.au/arcworld/ippa/ippa.htm>.

As this bulletin goes to press we are requesting all Taipei delegates to send in their papers to the IPPA secretariat for publication. Instructions for authors are posted in the IPPA web site.

One piece of sad news was relayed from Dunedin to the Taipei meeting by Charles Higham, concerning the sudden passing away just prior to the meeting of Donn Bayard. Donn will be best known to IPPA members for his research with Bill Solheim at the Bronze Age site of Non Nok Tha in northeastern Thailand. He also made many contributions to Polynesian Outlier prehistory, Southeast Asian archaeolinguistics (see BIPPA 15), and New Zealand sociolinguistics. An account of Donn's life, published by the Otago Daily Times, can be found at <http://www.odt.co.nz/cgi-bin/getitem?date=21Sep2002&object=LKC21C8596NG&type=html>

We intend to dedicate one of the Taipei volumes of BIPPA to Donn's memory (probably the first, since we already have many Thailand and Vietnam papers in hand).

The Taipei congress, as all IPPA congresses, also hosted Executive Committee and General Business meetings. Substantive issues to report from these meetings concern proposed changes to the IPPA Constitution, mainly by streamlining membership rules and by having a 4-yearly rather than 2-yearly election of new Executive Committee members. These changes have already been accepted by the membership and the latest version of the constitution can be found in the IPPA web site. The location for our next conference is still undecided, but a strong bid has been put in by the Philippines. The Executive Committee will consider this soon.

As an outgrowth of discussions in Taipei by participants in the East Polynesian Session, the Association Membership was asked to approve the following resolution regarding stabilization and restoration of archaeological sites:

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This resolution is to place the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association on record as strongly recommending increased systematic and scientific evaluation of archaeological sites, including monuments and other places of cultural value, prior to these sites being stabilized or restored. Members of the Association appreciate the value of and the need for promoting the protection of cultural resources through such projects and encourage close public-government cooperation in broadening education about archaeological and historic values.

Respectfully submitted by William Ayres and Yoshiko Sinoto on 14 September 2002 for Association discussion and approval at the General Meeting, and passed by a quorum of members present.

Joyce White and Chris King also have the following request for IPPA members:

Many of you witnessed the demonstration at the Taipei Congress by Christopher King of the online bibliographic database for Southeast Asian archaeology at <http://seasia.museum.upenn.edu>. Currently the searchable bibliography has over 4600 references. IPPA members can help develop this database further and keep it as up-to-date and useful to our community as

possible by sending hard copy of their publications as they come into print to either Joyce White or Christopher King (addresses below). Hard copy is preferred to emailed citations to ensure the most accurate entry of references into the database. Check out which of your references are already in the database and feel free to send copies of older publications that have not yet been entered. The bibliography is in roman alphabet (and so we also desire publications in other languages that use this script, as well as English), but transliterated/translated entries for references published in other alphabets can be accommodated.

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