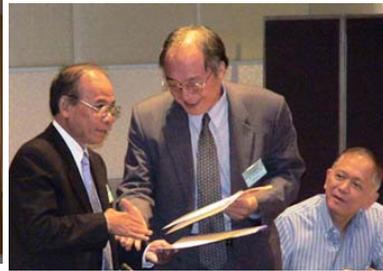


Celebrating
60
YEARS | Because of my
EISENHOWER
FELLOWSHIP...



PISIT CHAROENWONGSA, 1989 THAILAND

Center Director, SEAMEO

Pisit Charoenwongsa became an internationally recognized archaeologist in the 1970s, following a research project he co-directed with the late Dr. Chester F. Gorman from the University of Pennsylvania's Archeology and Anthropology Museum. Together, with their teams from the University of Pennsylvania and the Fine Arts Department in Bangkok, they discovered the Ban Chiang civilization in northeastern Thailand.

Because of this miraculous unearthing, Charoenwongsa came to the U.S. as an Eisenhower Fellow in 1989 as a legendary archaeologist. During his program, he explored how the wealth of heritage resources in the U.S. are managed, courses on Cultural Resource Management (CRM) offered by universities, the formulation of national policies on archaeological and cultural site protection, and the topmost problems faced by policy-makers and managers concerned with cultural resource protection.

Charoenwongsa also interviewed more than 100 cultural resource managers and researchers. He notes two visits that have influenced his career: the Society for American Archaeology in Atlanta, Georgia, and Taos, New Mexico; the latter meeting focused on anti-looting projects. He describes all of his meetings and visits as extremely educational and as a result, substantially beneficial to Southeast Asia, because of the ideas and contacts with which he returned home.

Since Charoenwongsa's fellowship, his career has ranged from lecturer at Silpakorn University's Faculty of Archaeology to Research Chief in the Fine Arts Department, during which time he directed numerous multi-disciplinary field projects. On many occasions, he directed these projects with foreign counterparts from the U.S., England, France, Australia, and New Zealand, which contributed to greatly accelerating the development of archaeological research in the whole of Southeast Asia.

After 45 years of office-based jobs, Charoenwongsa now serves as a committee member in a wide range of councils and commissions in Thailand and abroad that focus on education, archaeology, history, art, and culture. He is also a prolific author, with more than 200 papers and several books (in both Thai and English), some of which were translated into French, Italian, and German.

Through his encouragement and advice, many universities in Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia have instituted courses on cultural resource management, heritage tourism, social impacts on arts and culture, cultural heritage conservation and world heritage education. In addition, in 2000 Charoenwongsa initiated many workshops on peace education. He also worked with Bawa Jain, the secretary-general of the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders to bring Thai delegations of religious leaders to meetings at the UN.

Charoenwongsa's goal throughout his career has always been simple: "to make culture matter in society more". He believes that if we devote more time to understanding our culture as well as the others in the world, as he did on his Eisenhower Fellowship, then we can build relationships of understanding instead those of ignorance.

Leaders bettering the world around them.

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