

ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

MAY 12-16 2014
HONOLULU, HAWAII



Photo: NOAA ONMS

Divers measuring an anchor from an historic 19th century whaling vessel shipwreck site.

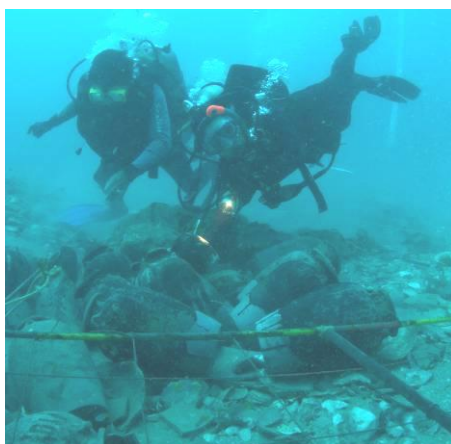


Photo: Thailand UAD

Ceramics and pottery found on many early shipwreck sites in Southeast Asia.



Photo: NOAA ONMS

Sunken aircraft are a part of the aviation legacy of the War in the Pacific.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and University of Hawaii warmly invite you to the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage which will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii,

Underwater Cultural Heritage

Management agencies are increasingly aware of their responsibilities for stewardship of our special ocean areas, and those responsibilities include historical, archaeological, and cultural resources. These properties beneath the sea comprise a unique archaeological and heritage record of our national and international seafaring past. The ocean is a highway, and sea voyaging is transnational and multicultural in nature. Therefore, the broader context for understanding and preserving the underwater cultural heritage in specific locations (like Hawaii) is the Asia Pacific region.

The 2001 *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* provides a basis for international cooperation in underwater cultural heritage. The Convention's Annex, a template for management practices in this field, provide a set of operational rules. This guidance and capacity is needed in the Pacific, where islands often face the combined challenges of lack of funding, visitor impacts, climate change, exploitation of marine resources, looting and more. Understanding heritage resources is a way of preserving cultural identity in times of change.

Preservation of the underwater cultural heritage provides tangible values beyond just archaeological data. Projects often directly engage the public in scientific research and marine stewardship. Nautical archaeology classes provide preservation training for sport divers. Models of responsible heritage tourism have proven economically successful in several other locations. The heritage field, particularly in Pacific Island nations, has measurable socioeconomic benefits.

Conference Needs

Momentum for this regional underwater cultural heritage effort was established at the inaugural UCH conference in Manila, 2011. Building on that momentum means hosting the second UCH conference in a location more amenable to Pacific Island representatives (majority of Asia Pacific participants have been from Asia). The success of the conference requires funds for travel support, locating suitable accommodations, forming the local working group, and confirming venue facilities. In this economic climate this means combining resources from a number of important sponsors. The unique coverage generated by underwater cultural heritage will bring regional and international attention to the heritage preservation field.

The Inaugural UCH Regional Conference in Manila, 2011

The Asian Academy for Heritage Management held the Inaugural Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage in Manila, the Philippines from November 8 – 12, 2011. A wide range of people involved with underwater cultural heritage attended including those from universities, government agencies, museums, NGOs, IGOs, the private sector and the community. Keynote speakers included: Dr Pilar Luna Erreguerena, founder of the Underwater Archaeological Division in Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History; Dr Emad Khalil, director of the Centre for Maritime Archaeology and Underwater Cultural Heritage at Alexandria University, Egypt; and Dr. Tim Curtis, head of the Culture Unit in UNESCO Bangkok office, responsible for the coordination and implementation of UNESCO's Culture Program in South East Asia.

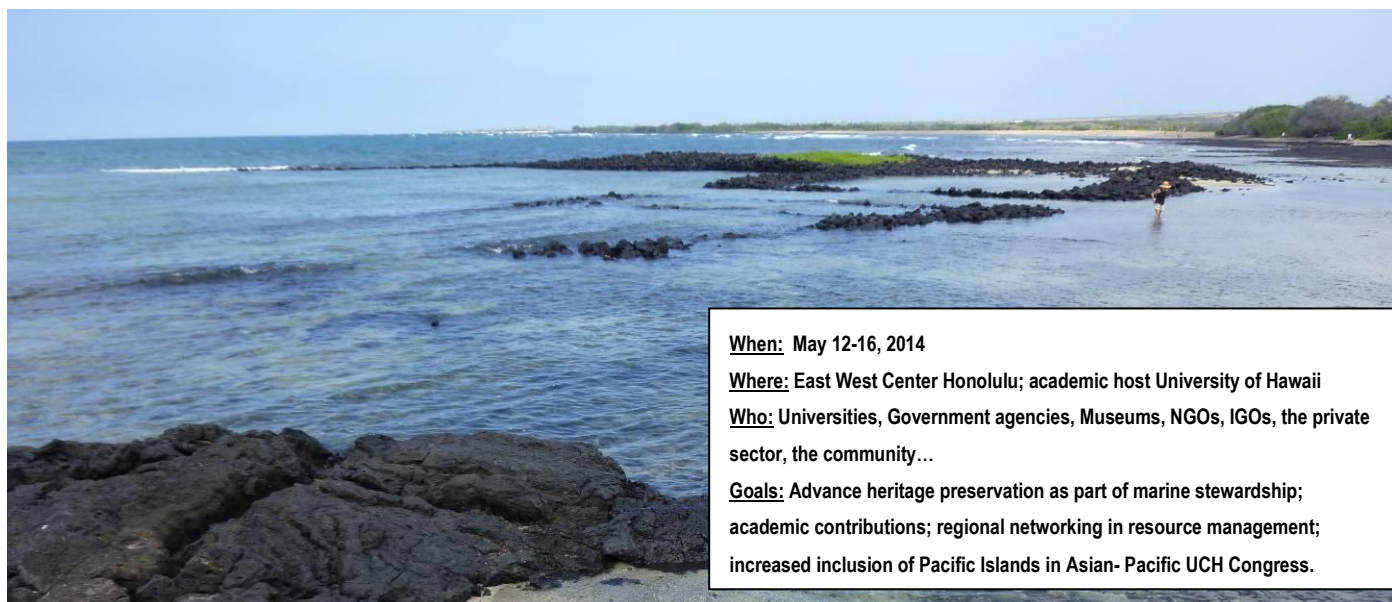


Photo: NOAA ONMS

When: May 12-16, 2014

Where: East West Center Honolulu; academic host University of Hawaii

Who: Universities, Government agencies, Museums, NGOs, IGOs, the private sector, the community...

Goals: Advance heritage preservation as part of marine stewardship; academic contributions; regional networking in resource management; increased inclusion of Pacific Islands in Asian- Pacific UCH Congress.

Archaeological sites like ancient fishponds and fish traps can be found throughout the Pacific; Hawaiian fish traps at Kaloko-Honokohau NHP.

The Location

Honolulu, Hawaii is the prime location for the second regional conference in UCH. Hawaii is a leader in marine conservation, heritage tourism, and ocean awareness, and possesses many underwater historical resources which capture local history and provide the recreational diving industry potential for the future. Also, hosting the UCH conference in Hawaii assures that Pacific Island nations have better opportunities to more fully participate in emerging Asia Pacific regional underwater cultural heritage preservation efforts.

Sponsorship is Essential

The conference, hosted by the University of Hawaii, will attract delegates from across the Asia Pacific region and around the world. For some countries sending delegates will prove difficult and a significant part of the sponsorship

raised for the Conference will support delegates throughout the region...From peninsular countries like Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia--to island nations such as Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea--to the island communities of the Pacific: Tonga, Saipan, Samoa, Fiji, The Maldives, and the Marshall Islands. The Conference Organizing Committee believes that raising the profile of IGOs, NGOs, universities, corporations, government agencies and museums at this major event will yield important dividends in terms of marine resource stewardship, networking, public engagement, scholarly advancement and information sharing.

Follow us!



Conference Contact:

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Conference web site: www.apconf.org

Co-sponsoring Agencies:

National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
UNESCO
Australasian Institute of Marine Archaeology
Others pending

Sponsoring this event will maximize your organization's exposure in the region while providing opportunities to those in need of this wonderful scholarly experience.

For financial contributions, Please contact: Dr. Jun Kimura
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Photo: Jun Kimura

National Museum of the Philippines, site of the 2011 inaugural Asia Pacific UCH conference.



Photo: NOAA ONMS

UNESCO's underwater cultural heritage training center in Chanthaburi, Thailand.



Photo: NOAA ONMS

Resource managers from the Asia Pacific region in the 6-week UCH Foundation course.