

Caring for Borobudur - conserving world heritage in Indonesia By Hubertus Sadirin



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Presented by AusHeritage in association with the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation and Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne.

Monday 27th of June

University of Melbourne,
Old Geology 2 Lecture Theatre 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- opposite Architecture Building. Enter via pedestrian entrance
Gate 3, Swanston Street.

This lecture is FREE

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The Buddhist temple of Candi Borobudur

located in the geographical centre on the Island of Java, Indonesia and dating from the eighth century BCE is one of the world's great heritage sites. Interest in its protection goes back many years and there are records from as early as 1814 when Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles was the chief of the British colonial administration based in Jakarta. A particularly important period in the ongoing management of the site focused on a long and multifaceted project for restoration and ongoing conservation between 1973 and 1983. This program was coordinated by UNESCO and the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The well known text *The Restoration of Borobudur*, Paris, 2005, focuses extensively on this time. This particular intervention in the history of Candi Borobudur halted its complete loss and is considered by many to be the most successful endeavour of its kind ever undertaken.

Borobudur's inscription on the World Heritage List in 1991, eight years after the end of the restoration project, represented a key outcome for the future sustainability of the monument. The completion of the 73/83 restoration program has been followed by numerous initiatives and strategies for the preservation management of the site, especially related to its utilization and the impact of tourism. It is noteworthy that in 2005 Koichiro Matsuura, former Director General of UNESCO, reported that 2.5 million people were visiting Borobudur annually. In addition to the monument's persistent maintenance challenges related to climate and geomorphology, future preservation strategies will focus not only on tangible fabric, but also on intangible culture and tourism development that will benefit Borobudur's local community.



Hubertus Sadirin is an internationally renowned senior conservationist and trainer from the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism. He has represented the Government of Indonesia at numerous international meetings and think tanks on culture and heritage over many years. Hubertus has been extensively involved in the preservation of Borobudur as well as numerous other heritage projects across Indonesia, Southeast Asia and beyond. He has been involved in heritage practice for thirty-seven years and was a key player during the restoration of Borobudur project as Head of the Conservation Laboratory Division, Borobudur Conservation Project 1977-1983 and Project Manager Borobudur Conservation Project 1993-1995. Hubertus Sadirin is in Australia with a group of experts from the Tourism and Culture Office, Jakarta City Government and is visiting Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney to discuss Australian perspectives on heritage conservation.

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