

MINUTES

Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) Programme Board

Meeting 41 (2019-20)

10.00-12.00 | 20th February 2020 | Fountain Room, Imperial Hotel

Membership	
Tamsyn Barton (TB)	Chair of Programme Board
Valerie Amos (VA)	SOAS Director
Stephen Hopgood (SH)	SOAS Pro-Director International
Charlotte Horlyck (CH)	Acting Head of School of Arts
Heather Elgood (HE)	Course Director, Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art
Suzanne Rushforth (SR)	Philanthropy Manger (Art & Collections)
Programme staff	
Alan Goulbourne (AG)	Programme Manager
Olivia Burt (OB) (Secretary)	Programme Administrator
Apologies	
Mulaika Hijas (MH)	Lecturer in South East Asian Studies
Shane McCausland (SM)	Head of School of Arts

Agenda item.	Agenda Item and Notes
1	<p>Welcome - Charlotte Horlyck (CH):</p> <p>TB welcomed CH to the Programme Board in place of SM who is absent on sick leave.</p>
2	<p>Previous minutes and actions (TB)</p> <p>All actions complete.</p> <p>VA requested that Item 3 para. 3 of the draft minutes be amended to read “The Board felt that it was important that the School was seen to be making a contribution to the next Phase of SAAAP from its own resources, should the proposal be forthcoming, the direct costs of...” .</p>

3	<p>Chair’s Report (TB):</p> <p>TB suggested the order of the agenda be amended to so that Item 7. – SAAAP Programme Office-Options for Remainder of 2019-2020 – follows Item 5 Finance 2019-20 in order to make more informed decisions on the future of the office before deciding what funds were available for project applications.</p>
4	<p>Director’s Report (VA) – Update: SOAS: Alphawood Foundation: Phase II Proposals:</p> <p>VA had spoken to Alphawood and had explained to them that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new Director of SOAS had been appointed and they would be fully briefed about the relationship between the Alphawood Foundation and SOAS as well as the position of the SAAAP programme; and • SOAS had consulted the Charity Commission’ guidelines in relation to the proposal for Phase II Alphawood funding and would follow their recommendations. <p>She reported that Alphawood was pre-occupied with other projects at present and that a response to the Phase II proposals had been delayed.</p>
5	<p>SAAAP - Finances 2019-20 (AG) Appendix 01</p> <p>AG updated the board that the performance of the endowment funds had been good in the year to date. At the end of January 2020 the endowed funds were worth £13m. This represented an increase of 3.3% over the previous 6 months. By comparison, the annual CPI index increased by 1.4% in the year to December 2019.</p> <p>AG noted that SOAS had been contributing its own cash to make up shortfalls between current spend on the individual endowed posts and revenue carried forward from the specific funds. Finance reports that these amounts are not clawed back at present. Likewise there was an issue with excess revenue carried forward and unlikely to be spent. SH reported that John Devlin was looking into this issue across all endowments. The issue would be raised with all donors in due course, but at this stage, the priority was to ensure that Alphawood were happy with any viring proposals to enable continued best use of remaining funds to secure the legacy.</p> <p>It was noted that the Academic Support Fund had £90k available with commitments of about £50k. This should be borne in mind when considering applications.</p> <p>The time-limited funds were winding down as projected at the last meeting – with some small balances likely at the end of 2019-20.</p>
6	<p>SAAAP Programme Office – Options for Remainder of 2019-20 (TB) Appendix 09</p> <p>AG and OB were asked to leave the meeting for this Item.</p> <p>In the absence of an agreement with the Alphawood Foundation over the Phase II proposals, the Board discussed how best to manage and administer the remainder of the existing SAAAP programme, with AG’s contract due to end 31 March and OB’s contract due to end 30 April (in effect departing after the European Study Tour, owing to accumulated leave).</p>

It was agreed that there needed to be four months to allow for recruitment and handover to a Grade 6 0.5 FTE six months' post in the School of Arts, which would continue to oversee allocation of funds from SAAAP even if no new funds for scholarships are forthcoming. (From the next academic year, the only Alphawood Scholars would be Ph.D students.) There was also significant Outreach work being planned, including a workshop in UGM in late July, as well as continuing communications work. Accordingly, the Board decided to extend both AG's and PSs' posts until the end of July 2020 when SAAAP responsibilities would transfer over to the School of Art Departmental Office. Plans to secure the legacy of Alphawood's gift to SOAS would be explained to the donor, along with explanation as to how the cost could be met from unspent projected balances in the time-limited funds together with some virement from the endowed funds.

Action 168: AG to draft a proposal on the interim arrangements for the SAAAP office for SH to send to Alphawood.

7 Academic Support Fund: Updates, Reports and Applications

a. UPDATE - Ongoing Projects (AG) Appendix 02

SAAAP031: Pratu

1. There would be two articles ready at the end of February and a third article was ready but pending one image from Leiden University. There were 3 more papers in the pipeline.

SAAAP032: NUS Publication Series

2. First planned publication through the Series, jointly edited with SAAAP alumnus Pangah Ardiyansyah, was now ready for publication. A mock-up of the first volume would be used for a soft launch at the Association of Asian Studies Conference in March 2020.
3. The second volume - the 'Emergence of Theravada' – was scheduled to go to press in the first quarter of 2020. A number of monograph proposals were under consideration.

SAAAP044: NMCPP Critical History

4. The London-based project member, Seang Sokha, had been upgraded from the MPhil and undertook archival research in Paris in December. The project exhibition had been awarded a budget from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in Phnom Penh and was scheduled for 2020.

SAAAP075: European Study Trip 2020

5. Plans for the Study Trip were well advanced and it was scheduled to take place 30 March-4 April. Professor Ashley Thompson would lead a group of academics and Alphawood scholars on visits to institutions in Paris, Amsterdam and Leiden.

SAAAP070: CSEAS-SAAAP Research Event Series

6. The first talk in the series had taken place on 29 January. The subject was 'Tracing Patterns of Textiles in Ancient Java (8th – 15th century) and featured guest scholar Dr Sandra Sardjono. Further events were planned for March and May 2020.

Outreach (Sub-Board 22 January 2020)

SAAAP066 – Creative South

7. All but one of twenty chapters had been received and editing was mostly complete. In March, the MS would go to ISEAS Publishing for further peer-review and copyediting. The ISEAS had agreed to publish the 19 chapters in 2 volumes for the previously agreed contribution cost. Publication was anticipated in Q3/4 2020.

SAAAP062 – Ho Chi Minh Museum Catalogue

8. The project was awaiting official authorisation from the city's Communist Party cultural committee, which is expected shortly. As soon as this was received, consultation would commence over the Museum's list of objects to be included in the work. This SAAAP publication would be in English and Vietnamese and is now planned for publication in 2020.

b. REPORT – SAAAP067 - HCMC Summer Programme (TB) Appendix 03

The 4th Summer Programme had taken place in July 2019 in the Museum of Ho Chi Minh City, which holds the world's leading collection of the art of the ancient Mekong Delta.

The programme sought to bring to international attention the new academic research on the multicultural ancient Mekong Delta region emerging from archaeological and art historical discoveries. The intention was to capture the outputs of the programme in the proposed publication of the HCMC Museum's catalogue. The outcomes of the HCMC SP were the 22 'Introduction' draft papers on the ancient cultures of the region in the HCMC museum catalogue.

c. APPLICATION – SAAAP080 - UGM workshop and Bogem catalogue (TB) Appendix 04

The Board agreed that this would be a worthy publication but the proposed cost was too high given the budget constraints on SAAAP funds. The Board agreed that the application should be scaled back within a budget of £20k.

Approved in principle – application to be re-submitted with a budget limit of £20k.

d. APPLICATION – SAAAP079 - Dating 'Uthong' Buddha Bronze Images (TB) Appendix 05

The Board was content with the revised proposal and lower costs.

Approved.

e. APPLICATION – SAAAP081 - Research Fieldwork: "Angkorean Administration of the ninth and the tenth centuries" (TB) Appendix 06

The Board considered the project to be a strong proposal but were concerned about the relatively high budget.

Approved in principle – application to be re-submitted with a smaller budget.

f. APPLICATION – SAAAP082 - SAAAP In-Region Liaison (TB) Appendix 07

	<p>The Board expressed gratitude for the outreach work of Elizabeth Moore and considered her role to be invaluable, and very good value for money. Members agreed a 12 month extension.</p> <p>Approved – Option 1 extend contract for 12 months.</p> <p>g. APPLICATION – SAAAP083 - Start-up – Bagan Museum Catalogue (TB) Appendix 08</p> <p>The Board was supportive of the Start-Up phase of this project which was expected to result in additional skills for the alumni involved.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
8	AOB
9	Date of Next Meeting – 10.00-12.00 on 7 May 2020.

SAAAP Project Board Actions 2019-2020

Action	Added	Action Points	Deadline	Owner	Complete?
165	12/12/2019	SOAS Phase II proposals to be accompanied by a letter from SH and sent to Alphawood.	December 2019	SH	Complete
166	12/12/2019	Plan for the SAAAP Programme office for the remainder of 2019-20.	ASAP	AG	Complete
167	12/12/2019	Confirm next Programme Board date 20 February 11 -1	ASAP	OB	Complete
168	20/2/2020	AG to draft a proposal on the interim arrangements for the SAAAP office for SH to send to Alphawood.	ASAP	AG	