

MEDIA RELEASE

Conference on Maritime Archaeology in Singapore

18 February 2011, SINGAPORE – The Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore, announces that it will hold an international scholarly conference on the state of maritime archaeology. This will be held in conjunction with the exhibition *Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds* on view at the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which is jointly organised by the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; the Asian Civilisations Museum of the National Heritage Board; and Singapore Tourism Board.

The conference will examine and discuss best practices in maritime archaeology, especially around legal mechanisms, international conventions, and archaeological ethics. The focus will be on Southeast Asia but will also reference new standards being developed in other regions. Besides addressing ethical standards, the conference also plans to consider the practice of archaeology in specific local conditions. In addition, the conference hopes to suggest a framework that might be appropriate for the region, including legislation, policy making, capacity building, scholarship, and preservation.

The conference will be held on Saturday 18 June 2011 at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. It will be chaired by Julian Raby, Director of the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, and Alan Chong, Director of the Asian Civilisations Museum. Speakers will include scholars, practitioners, curators, and heritage professionals from Southeast Asia, China, and the Mediterranean.

Further details on speakers will be announced later.

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About the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM)

The Asian Civilisations Museum's mission is to explore and present the cultures of Asia, in order to promote awareness and appreciation of the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans and their links to the world. The Asian Civilisations Museum first began its operations at Armenian Street in 1997 and re-opened in 2008 as the Peranakan Museum. The ACM's flagship at the historic Empress Place Building opened in 2003.