

# Conference Programme

## Day 1 - 19th January 2008

0830-0900	<b>REGISTRATION OF CONFERENCE</b>	1100-1130	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	1440-1520	<b>Prof Dong Yuxiang, China</b> Senior Research Fellow and Archaeologist Gansu Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Institute, China <i>The Production and Spread of Buddhist Sculptures from India to China</i>
0900-0910	<b>Opening Address: Dr Kenson Kwok, Singapore</b> Director, Asian Civilisations Museum	1130-1210	<b>CENTRAL ASIA:</b> <b>Dr Rajeshwari Ghose, Canada</b> Retired Professor, University of Toronto <i>Kucha-the Hospitable hall for the Weary Pilgrims in the 1st Millennium</i>	1520-1550	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
0910-0940	<b>Keynote Address: Prof Sugata Bose, USA</b> Gardiner Professor of History Harvard University <i>Artistic Expressions of Asian Universalism</i>	1210-1250	<b>Dr Khau Ming Rubin, UK</b> School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London <i>Glimpses of Mara's Army in the early Buddhist art of ancient Xinjiang, China</i>	1550-1630	<b>Dr Teoh Eng Soon, Singapore</b> Buddhist scholar <i>The Chinese Assimilation of Avalokiteshvara</i>
0940-1020	<b>INDIA:</b> <b>Dr Gauri Krishnan, Singapore</b> Senior Curator of South Asia and Research, Asian Civilisations Museum <i>The Roots and Legacy of the Art of Nalanda</i>	1250-1350	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	1630-1710	<b>Prof Ho Puay-peng, Hong Kong</b> Professor, Department of Architecture Chinese University of Hong Kong <i>Housing the colossal images of Mahakaruna Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva in 10th century China</i>
1020-1100	<b>Prof Amarendra Galla, Australia</b> Professor of Museum Studies, The University of Queensland <i>Amaravati - Understanding its Significance</i>	1400-1440	<b>CHINA:</b> <b>Prof Wang Bangwei, China</b> Dean of Oriental Studies, Beijing University <i>Nalanda and the Mulasarvastivadin: Yijing's Accounts with Further Consideration</i>	1710-1730	<b>Q&amp;A and End of Conference Day 1</b>

## Day 2 - 20th January 2008

0830-0900	<b>Registration of Conference Day 2</b>	1100-1130	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	1400-1440	<b>CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE:</b> <b>Ven Bhikkuni Dhammananda, Thailand</b> Abbot of the Songdhammakalyani Temple <i>Role of Women in Theravada Buddhism: India, Southeast Asia</i>
0900-0940	<b>CHINA:</b> <b>Prof Frederick Asher, USA</b> Professor, Department of Art History University of Minnesota <i>Re-Thinking Xuanzang at Nalanda</i>	1130-1210	<b>Prof John Miksic, Singapore</b> Associate Professor, Southeast Asian Studies National University of Singapore <i>On Srivijaya in Sumatra and Central Java</i>	1440-1520	<b>Mr Jack Chia, Singapore</b> Department of History, National University of Singapore <i>The Study of Buddhism in Singapore: A State of the Field Essay</i>
0940-1020	<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA:</b> <b>Prof Tansen Sen, USA</b> Department of History, Baruch College, The City University of New York <i>Buddhist Networks in Asia and World History</i>	1210-1250	<b>Dr Peter Skilling, Thailand</b> Ecole française d'Extrême Orient de Bangkok Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre <i>Writing and Representation: Inscribed Objects in the 'Nalanda Trail' Exhibition</i>	1520-1550	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
1020-1100	<b>Prof Nik Hassan Suhaimi, Malaysia</b> Senior Research Fellow and Archaeologist Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia <i>Buddhism in the Bujang Valley (5th - 10th centuries)</i>	1250-1350	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	1550-1630	<b>Dr Ravindra Panth, India</b> Director of Nava Nalanda Mahavihara <i>Vipassana and its important role in contemporary Buddhist Practice</i>
				1630-1700	<b>Q&amp;A and Closing Address and End of Conference Day 2</b>

# INTERACTION & PRACTICE

A Conference in conjunction with the exhibition, "On the Nalanda Trail: Buddhism in India, China, & Southeast Asia"

19 - 20 January 2008 (Sat - Sun)  
9.00am - 6.00pm

Asian Civilisations Museum, Ngee Ann Auditorium

The two day conference will focus on the spread of Buddhism with special reference to the role of Nalanda as a centre of learning, in conjunction with the exhibition - *On the Nalanda Trail: Buddhism in India, China and Southeast Asia*. Interconnections between India, China and Southeast Asia will be explored and re-examined through this conference. There will be papers highlighting new findings or new interpretations of Buddhist art, architecture, history and literature in India, Central Asia, China and Southeast Asia. Scholars will be discussing on the multidimensional and multicultural significance of Amaravati, Nalanda and Srivijaya; the iconography of paintings at Kizil and Xinjiang in Central Asia; and the Chinese assimilation of Avalokiteshvara into Guanyin.

Contemporary discussion such as a new reading of *Siyuki (Xiyouji)* and Samuel Beal's translation of Xuanzang's notes, *views of women's role in Theravada Buddhism and the importance of Vipassana in contemporary Buddhist practice* will also be explored. As a result, the conference will cover different focal points from ancient history, archaeology to art and living practice, offering a wide spectrum of reference points on the trail of Buddhism in Asia. The conference will have a line-up of both internationally and locally renowned scholars who have led the way in related research and education.

Registration can be done via our website or personally at the museum's Front Desk by 13 January 2008. We regret that we cannot register participants over the phone. Registration for the conference will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis and the fee is SGD \$100. The fee includes admission to all programmes during the two-day conference; complimentary entry to the ACM galleries; conference kit; light refreshments and lunch. FOM and MV members, full-time students and concession pass holders are eligible for a 20% discount (SGD \$80).

Participants are requested to be at the venue by 8.45am. For more information, please call us at (65) 6332 3284 or email [nhb\\_acm@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm@nhb.gov.sg).

## Getting To Us

**Opening Hours**  
Mon 1 pm - 7 pm  
Tue - Sun 9 am - 7 pm  
(to 9 pm on Friday)

**Admission Charges**  
Individual Admission  
Adults \$10.00  
Concession \$5.00  
(Full-time students and age 60 years and above)

**Group Admission**  
(for groups of 20 and above)  
Adults \$7.50  
Concession \$3.50  
(Full-time students and age 60 years and above)

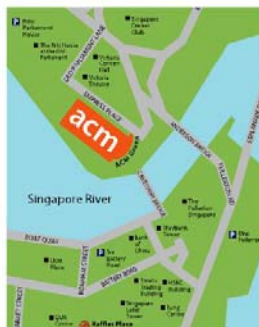
Free admission to children 6 years and below.  
Discounted admission every Friday, 7 pm - 9 pm.

**Guided Tours**  
Guided tours are not available on public holidays.

English: Mon 2 pm  
Tue - Fri 11 am, 2 pm  
Sat & Sun 11 am, 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm  
Mandarin: Sat and Sun 11.30 am, 2.30 pm, 3.30 pm  
Japanese: Tue - Fri 10.30 am

**Group Tours**  
For groups of 20 and above, please call Visitor Services at (65) 6332 2982 or email [nhb\\_acm\\_vs@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm_vs@nhb.gov.sg) to arrange. Please make booking six weeks in advance. Bookings are subject to availability.

**Services for Visitors with Disabilities**  
Parking is available on request. Lift access to all floors. Accessible restrooms.

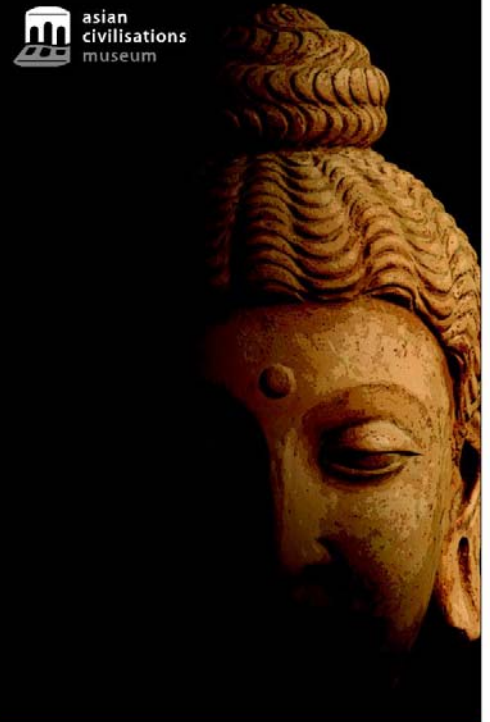


**For programme registration and payment:**  
Log on to, or come to our Front Desk during museum opening hours.

**For more information about our programmes:**  
Tel: (65) 6332 3284 | Fax: (65) 6339 7528  
Email: [nhb\\_acm@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm@nhb.gov.sg) | Website: [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

**For general information about the museum:**  
Tel: (65) 6332 7798, (65) 6332 2982 | Fax: (65) 6883 0732  
Email: [nhb\\_acm\\_vs@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm_vs@nhb.gov.sg) | Website: [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

All information in this brochure is correct at time of printing. The museum reserves the right to make changes and modifications to the programmes without prior notice. The views and opinions expressed by the speakers, facilitators or artists in the talks, workshops or performances do not represent the position of the Asian Civilisations Museum.



# INTERACTION & PRACTICE

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