



# **SPAFACON2021**

**Papers from the SEAMEO SPAFA International Conference on  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINE ARTS**

**13 - 17 December 2021**

**Editor: Noel Hidalgo Tan**

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# INTRODUCTION

This volume contains the extended abstracts from the papers presented at the SEAMEO SPAFA International Conference on Southeast Asian Archaeology and Fine Arts, which was held online from 13 to 17 December 2021. Also known as the SPAFACON2021, this conference was organised online due to the pandemic. Despite the disruption brought about by Covid-19 to our in-person events, training programmes and field research, it is heartening to see that archaeology and cultural heritage has continued under new modes of communication and collaboration.

This fourth iteration of the SPAFACON is also scheduled a year earlier than our usual triennial cycle to commemorate the 50th anniversary of SEAMEO initiating a centre dedicated towards archaeology and the fine arts. Over the past year, SPAFA has also been highlighting this legacy of international cooperation and capacity-building by sharing our photographic archives on our social media.

I am delighted by the high level of enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity brought by the participants to the conference. During our call for papers we received close to 90 submissions, but owing to the pressures of time and the online format, we were only able to accept 34 papers for the conference. The variety of papers present here, although a small set compared with our usual proceedings, reflects the breadth of the centre's ambit – covering not just archaeology, but also performing arts, visual arts, museum studies, and other aspects of Southeast Asian cultural heritage.

I would like to thank all the participants, without whom this conference would not be possible in its present form, in particular, our Governing Board members who represent every country in Southeast Asia, and to the Ministry of Culture, Thailand and the Ministry of Education, Thailand for their long-standing support of SEAMEO SPAFA and its activities.



Mrs Somlak Charoenpot

Centre Director

SEAMEO SPAFA



# **Geological Museum Innovations to Dealing with Covid-19 Pandemic**

## **Inovasi Museum Geologi dalam Menghadapi Pandemi Covid-19**

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### **Abstract**

Bandung Geological Museum as the thematic earth museum in Indonesia has been established on 16 May 1929. This museum has 417,882 collections, there are mineral and rock collections, vertebrate, invertebrate, paleobotanical fossils, and artifacts. As a government museum, the Geological Museum has a duty to disseminating geological information. This article aims to identify the Geological Museum's activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. After the temporary closure in March 2020, the museum activities were carried out virtually, including Collection Talk, Day and Night at the Museum, virtual tours, Bincang Museum, virtual geoscience socialization, and introduce the collections by social media.

Museum Geologi Bandung sebagai museum kebumian di Indonesia telah berdiri sejak 16 Mei 1929. Museum ini memiliki 417.882 koleksi, berupa koleksi mineral dan batuan, fosil vertebrata, fosil invertebrata, fosil paleobotani dan artefak. Sebagai instansi yang bertugas menyebarluaskan informasi kegeologian, dimasa pandemi Covid-19, Museum Geologi berinovasi melakukan kegiatan-kegiatan edukasi dalam bentuk virtual. Tujuan penulisan artikel ini adalah melakukan identifikasi kegiatan dilakukan Museum Geologi selama pandemi Covid-19. Pasca penutupan sementara Museum Geologi pada bulan Maret 2020, kegiatan yang dilakukan berupa kegiatan virtual diantaranya: Collection Talk, Day and Night at the Museum, virtual tour, Bincang Museum, sosialisasi kebumian secara virtual, dan pengenalan koleksi melalui sosial media.

### **Keywords**

Geological Museum; Covid-19; collections; virtual

## Introduction

The museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible, and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for education, study, and enjoyment (International Council of Museums n.d.). Meanwhile in Indonesia, based on PPRI No 66 Tahun 2015, the museum is an institution that functions to protect, develop, utilize collections and communicate them to the public (Peraturan Pemerintah (PP) 66 Tentang Museum 2015).

The Geological Museum is the thematic earth museum in Indonesia that was established on 16 May 1929. This museum has 417, 882 items in its collection, there are mineral and rock collections, vertebrate, invertebrate, paleobotanical fossils, and artifacts. Some of these collections have been registered as Public Assets, so those collections must be protected and conserved. There are several signature collections of the Geological Museum, such as the skull that is almost intact of *Homo erectus* from Sangiran, stone collections from Antarctica, etc (Suharyogi et al, 2021). This museum building is also a cultural heritage building in Indonesia.

Since 2 March 2020, the government of Indonesia announced that Covid-19 has entered Indonesia (Pranita, 2020). Because of this pandemic, the Geological Museum was temporarily closed from 16 March 2020 until today. With the temporary closure of this museum, the public cannot come to visit the Geological Museum. To overcome these problems, the Geological Museum makes innovations so that the museum's purpose of disseminating geological information can still be carried out. This article aims to identify the Geological Museum's activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research uses a qualitative method. This method is used to obtain data based on factual conditions, field observations and describe data in documents form.

## Innovations to Dealing with Covid-19

There are many innovations to keep people's interest in the Geological Museum during the pandemic, such as Collection Talk, Day and Night at the Museum, virtual tours, Bincang Museum, virtual geoscience socialization, focus group discussion, and social media improvement. All of these events are broadcast virtually.

The Collection Talk is the event that displays collections from the Geological Museum that are not only in exhibition rooms but also in the storages (Figure 1). This event presents collections and explains in detail about the descriptions, where and how it was found, and



Fig 1. The Collection Talk's poster. Source: Geological Museum.

the significance of those collections for science. The Collection Talk is broadcast virtually from the Geological Museum and where the collections were found.

The event of Day and Night at the Museum (Figure 2) has been made by the Geological Museum before the pandemic which was held at the museum. This event, especially Night at the Museum aims to provide a special experience and sensation for museum visitors at night. Since the pandemic, this event has been done virtually. This event consists of many activities, such as a virtual tour and talk show. The other innovation is Bincang Museum (Figure 3). This talk show is to share information about what a museum worker does in the Geological Museum and their experiences.



Fig 2. a) The Day and Night at the Museum's poster, b) live broadcast the Day and Night at the Museum event. Source: Geological Museum.



Fig 3. The Bincang Museum's poster. Source: Geological Museum.

Virtual geoscience socialization is a socialization about geology to government, geoscience junior and high school teachers, and also students from some regencies. This activity is the dissemination of geological information in regency where the participants work or live and virtual tours to locations that are geologically unique in those areas (Figure 4).

To improve the quality of collections information, the Geological Museum conducts a focus group discussion. This activity is carried out by presenting experts to discuss a type of collection and how to make the information clearer. With this improvement, it is hoped that the public can more easily understand the collection of information.

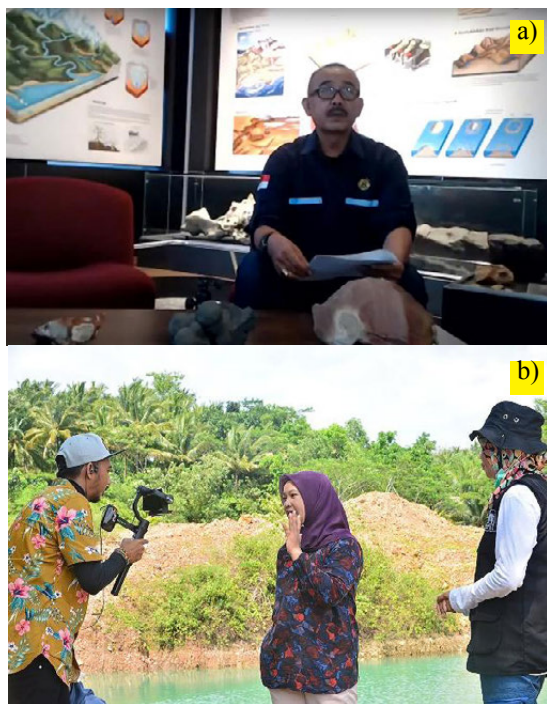


Fig 4. Virtual geoscience socialization lives from a) the museum and b) the field. Source: Geological Museum.

Geological Museum improves in social media. Now the museum's social media such as Instagram not only contains activities that were held in the museum but also a short description of the collection and information about geological history in Indonesia since the Dutch East Indies era (Figure 5).





Fig 5. Social media improvement. a) description about an amethyst, b) poster about the first vertebrate paleontological research in Indonesia. Source: Geological Museum.

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