

Networking in Asian Prehistory

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The inter-congress UISPP Conference “Asian Prehistory Today: Bridging Science, Heritage and Development”, held in 2025 in Salatiga (Indonesia), underscored the need to strengthen regional UISPP activities through a clearer interdisciplinary approach. This includes linking long-term studies on human evolution, dispersals, and adaptations with contemporary issues in heritage conservation and development.

The discussions also highlighted several priorities for the Scientific Commission “Southeast Asia: Human Evolution, Dispersals and Adaptations”, while retaining its geographical particularities:

- the need to address these themes in close collaboration with UISPP members across the wider Asian continent, including colleagues from China, Korea, India, Sri Lanka, and beyond, in order to foster Asian wide cooperation;
- the importance of engaging with relevant thematic commissions, such as the “History of Archaeology”;
- the value of strengthening relations with active regional and international initiatives in heritage conservation, including organisations such as ICOMOS Malaysia.

The session places strong emphasis on academic, institutional, and thematic networking. It aims to facilitate the exchange of new data, analytical methods, and interpretive frameworks; encourage cooperation between universities, research centers, and heritage authorities; link prehistoric research with broader conversations on sustainability, cultural landscapes, and development, including the role of museums as the link between science and community. These integrated forms of networking aim to establish long-term partnerships and promote a more cohesive research environment across Asia.

One year after the Salatiga meeting, this session welcomes scientific papers or reports that address these issues, whether in part or in full, with the aim of enriching the Commission’s collective reflections and clarifying emerging research trends.

NB. Final documents and abstracts about the Salatiga conference will be made available soon (uispp2025@uksw.edu)

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