SAFEGUARDING MY SON WORLD HERITAGE

- Demonstration and Training in the Application of International World Heritage Standards of Conservation at My Son Group G Monuments -

- 2005 –

Technical and Progress Report
April 2005
Contents

1. Introduction and Recommendations, Mauro Cucarzi…………… p. 3
2. Activity of Archaeological Working Group, Patrizia Zolese… p. 6
3. Activity of Architectural Working Group, Luigia Binda … p 31
6. Attached 3 Copy of Letter to M.Me Ho Thi Thanh Lam…………………p. 53
1. Introduction

During this first quarter of the this year project the main activities have been
- Archaeological excavations on east side of G area, around G5 and G1. (see Zolese’ Report)
- Geometrical survey of G1, G4, G5 and E7 (see Binda’ Report)
- Continuation of G3 restoration (see Binda’ Report)
- Organise a preliminary Scientific Board Meeting on April 25th (see Cucarzi Report)

1.1 Remarks

Unfortunately once again I have to remark the inadequacy and the incapacity of the Vietnamese Project Management Board to solve very important but in the meantime simply administrative and bureaucratic issues.

Store Room issue.

During 2004 we waited more than three months before to have a store room where to store the archaeological artefacts coming in large quantity from archaeological excavation. During 2004 five hundred objects have been inventoried, stored in the so called “Italian house” inside the archaeological area.

This year before to start the activity we presented to the National Director, Mr. Phanh Thanh Bao and to the Project Manager, Mr. Hy the necessity to have a new store room because the previous one has already full and starting the new excavation campaign we would find many artefact to be stored and inventoried.

The archaeological excavations started and the store room has not been given. We have remarked this urgent issue to Mr. Ricardo Favis, UNESCO Bangkok Office, during his visit on 23-24 of March. Mr Favis immediately sent a letter to Mr. Bao requesting to urgently solve this problem, but nothing happened so far. In the meantime I had a new meeting with Mr. Phanh Thanh Bao and he assured me that “tomorrow will be done”.

Meanwhile 150 artefacts have already came from the excavation and temporary stored in and open area with a very high risk to be damaged or stolen.

On April 21st I have again informed of this unacceptable situation M.me Ho Thi Thanh Lam, Vice-Chairwoman of People's Committee of Quang Nam Province, but I didn’t receive any reply.

This situation is producing a serious delay in carrying out the programme and serious responsibility for us whether some piece would be damaged or stolen. For this reason
because this situation is not changing we do not take on the responsibility of anything could happen to the artefacts.

**Personnel issue**

One more serious problem is that so far the Ministry of Culture didn’t sign the 2005 contract. This means that they cannot receive the money instalment from UNESCO. In the meantime the Vietnamese Project Management Board is going to say to the workers hired for the project that they have money to pay their salary because they are waiting money from UNESCO. For the same reason they do not provide for the already established number of architects and draftsman, the necessary tools, material, etc. All of this is producing very discontent inside the Vietnamese personnel and a lot of difficulties to carry out the project according with the agenda already presented and approved by the Vietnamese Authorities as well.

The table shows the requested number of experts and the list of those they gave us

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**1.2 Activities and schedule**

During this period the different activities have been carried out with a large team of experts and workers:

**From the Italian side:**

2 Chief architects: P. Pichard, L. Binda  
5 architects: P. Condoleo, L. Cantini, E. Core, A. Sengphachann, S. Xayasane.  
1 Chief archaeologist: P. Zolese  
3 archaeologists: C. Brunelli, F. Barocco, S. Pozzi.  
1 Geophysicist: M. Cucarzi  
Workers: 10 workers

**From the Vietnamese side:**

1 chief architect: Khánh Ngọc  
2 architects: Than Van Binh, Toan Sy  
1 draftsman: Le Van Minh  
2 archaeologists: Ta Quoc Khanh, Nguyen Viet Cuong

Workers: 40 workers
Attached n. 1 shows the updated weekly working schedule for April and May.

Attached n. 2 is the draft of proposals (with attached updated working schedule) done during a preparatory meeting of Scientific Board. At the meeting held on April 25th participated Mauro Cucarzi, Patrizia Zolese, Pierre Pichard, Hoang Dao Kinh, Dang Khanh Ngoc.
This meeting has been called because Arch. Pierre Pichard will be not present during the Scientific Board Meeting organised by UNESCO on 12-13 May at My Son being for thata period in France.
Archaeological activity carried out at Mi So’n

By Patrizia Zolese
CTA-UNESCO Project
The archaeological team is composed by:

- Dr. Patrizia Zolese (CTA, UNESCO Project- Lerici Field Director);
- Dr. Caterina Brunelli (archaeologist, Lerici Foundation);
- Dr. Federico Barocco (archaeologist, Lerici Foundation);
- Dr. Silvia Pozzi (archaeologist, Lerici Foundation)
- Arch. Amphol Sengphachanh (Lao Ministry of Culture-Lerici Foundation)
- Eng. Sinthewa Xayasane (Lao Ministry of Culture-Lerici Foundation)

Introduction

The archaeological research is covering the whole top-hill area, where G group is placed. (see grid map).

The opening of such large area is due to the fact that the area will be opened to the public, to show the complete layout of the site, including architectural features still buried. Rubble and collapses must be removed in order to obtain a regular ground surface, as much similar as possible to the original one.

Moreover, post-war rubble (sometimes reaching a height of 1 m along a perimeter of 90 m.) is covering ancient monumental collapsing, that are often maintaining their original trend. In this case, the bricks must be numbered and carefully removed to be replaced, during the conservation work, in their original location.

For these reasons, the excavation must face with a great range of necessities pertinent not only to the archaeological problematic, but related also to the necessities of the architect-conservators and in synchrony with the time estimated to ultimate the project.

The necessity to open all G area has given also the possibility to acquire, for the first time in Mi So’n, a bulk of data able to reconstruct the whole process of formation and decay of this site, until the present day.

The opportunity to investigate in Mi So’n one hundred years after its first discovery, justifies the methodology here applied, consisting in stratigraphic excavation, linking human and natural actions in diachronic sequence.

The monuments are not considered as a single entity but as the result of a planned project, begun since the selection and the preparation of the area, carefully prepared by the ancient architects, according with ritual and symbolic rules, and practical geotechnical exigency. The monuments moreover not only implied an act of devotion but also an expression of power, being ordered by royal class, and their use was often limited to rare occasions.

For this reason, monumental areas, as Mi So’n, dissociated from secular habitation sites, needs a careful archaeological researches to obtain as much information as possible, for a more complete picture of the social context.
The area under excavation is covering about 2500 m² (ca 70m x 35 m), and during the past has been submitted to different events, that produced the present day state of deterioration.

The main events can be summarised in these points:

1. site abandonment (end of XIII c.?);
2. post - abandonment spoliation (in different periods) and vegetation damages;
3. French investigation at beginning of XX cent. (excavation and dump);
4. decay after the ’50s (vegetation growth and some collapse);
5. American bombing in 1969 (collapse of G1- G2 and walls destabilization);
6. general rubble cleaning performed by the Polish Mission in the ‘80s (dump).

The archaeological activity carried on Group G has been mainly focused to dig the buried architectural features, and to remove the past collapses and debris, in view to arrange the whole area for the future public visibility.

The excavations have provided new data both about the history of the group and the building material that will be re used during the conservation work. Priority has been given to northern side (30 m. long x 6m. width), covered by a high debris resulted by the continuative clearance of the surface.

In the meantime has been performed an accurate cleaning on the standing monuments and theirs immediately surrounding area. Loose bricks, soil and minor vegetation covering the masonry have been carefully removed.

Moreover, the documentation and the record of every single phase of excavation, is requiring a long time both for the area’s extension and for the nature of the findings (bricks and architectural documentation).

The documentation is including:

1. plan and section of monument (by S. Xayasane);
2. grid photogrammetry of the different layers encountered during the excavation (2 map every trench) (by S.Pozzi and F.Barocco);
3. grid geometrical adjustment (C.Brunelli, F.Barocco, S.Pozzi);
4. section drawings;
5. AutoCAD restitution and drawing (by F.Barocco and A. Sengphachanh);
6. general and special feature pictures (S.Pozzi, F.Barocco, C.Brunelli);
7. datum elevation and topographic maps (by A.Sengphachanh and F.Barocco).

On march-april 2005 campaign season more than 200 architectural decorations have been found, including terracotta sculptures representing Hindu divinities. Because the local authorities have not provided a shelter where to keep and to catalogue the artefacts, we are in great delay with the inventory.
After many requests delivered by the CTA and by UNESCO regional office, about this irresponsible behaviour, we deny every responsibility in case of damages, theft or lost.

The work actually in progress is mainly focused on the following points:

- Archaeological excavation along northern side and recovering of the enclosing wall;
- Cleaning and excavation of G1 cella and of outer basement;
- Cleaning and excavation inside and around monument G2;

1. Archaeological excavation along northern side and recovering of the enclosing wall
The excavations started last month along G1 northern side, mainly interesting squares B/C 10-14. have been enlarged to comprehend the whole area previously covered by the high debris resulted by Parmentier’s excavation, and by the material cumulated after the American bombing.

Fig. 1 G group map
As described in the previous report, the edges of the hill were partially occupied by the enclosing wall. The enclosing wall is an important element characterising the Hindu religion, because it marks the holy area. A high precinct is surrounding the main shrine along its perimeter, closing against the North and South sides of the Gopura (entrance). This wall has the function to protect the divinity against evils, and to prevent the entry of worshippers with the mind not purified by bad thoughts. Often, as in India or in Cambodia, the enclosing wall was monumental, having four entrances in correspondence of the cardinal points, with elaborated tympana and decorations. Few cases still in fair condition are known in Cham context. In the case of G group, the enclosing wall is still buried, except for a short stretch visible around G4.

The past excavation season put in light the stretch along the eastern and southern sides, so that it has been possible to detect its typology and its original height. The enclosing wall was built by seven rows of laterite blocks, 75 cm. large, and the elevation (around 2.50 m) consisted of bricks. This is a unique sample found in My So’n of mixed material technique. The laterite was used only in G group, to decorate also the main shrine, the gopura and the mandapa. It is possible to suppose that the wall was decorated by terracotta finial and two mouldings on the base. During the past researches carried out by the French archaeologists the wall has not been excavated, and the area where it is placed has been used as dumping area. After the 1969 bombing the resulted debris overlapped the French one, producing a high cordon of more than 1 m. height and 4 m. large. After the removal of these two layers of dumping we have found the old filling covering the wall.

Eight trenches (C1-C8), measuring m. 6 x 3 each, have been opened on the basis of the grid, to put in light the trend of the laterite enclosing wall along the northern side of the hill.
The excavation has been articulated in two phases:

1. Removal of the superficial and mixed debris, resulted by Parmentier and post war dumping, covering the whole north edge of G hill, around 1 m. high from the present day ground level;
2. Archaeological excavation from the base of dumps, to recognize the ancient unexcavated surface.

The dump was covering a layer of filling deposit (about 20 cm.) covering ancient collapse, happened after the abandonment. Incoherent collapsing, mainly composed by complete and fragmented bricks, laterite blocks and architectural decorations in terracotta, have been exposed.
A high concentration of artefacts has been found in trench C1, in correspondence of the enclosing wall SW corner. Architectural decorations, mainly including terracotta accents, have been found after the removal of the recent dumping, piled against the base of the laterite wall. It is possible to hypotise an old spoliation, undertaken after the abandonment of the site.

Carved accents, fragments of lotus-shaped cornice, *makara* heads and inscribed tenons have been carefully documented, sorted and recovered.
Figs. 7-11 Architectural decorations exposed in trench C1
The enclosing wall recovered during the work preserves only few rows of laterite, and it is showing a high degree of erosion.

Figs. 12-13 The laterite enclosing wall recovered during the excavation

Among the most interesting archaeological finds recovered during the excavation must be noticed a doe’s head fragment, found out in trench C6, a perfectly preserved terracotta finial, similar to the samples put into light during 2004 excavation on the southern side of the hill, some pottery sherds and tympanum decorations representing a female deity seated in the Indian position.
Figs. 14-15 Doe’s head found out in trench C6

Figs. 16-18 Terracotta finial and pottery sherds exposed in trench C2
Pottery sherds and samples of Chinese glazed covered boxes (XI- XII cent) have been detected, in the outer side of wall.
- Grid setting and photographic documentation

A careful photographic documentation has been performed on each trench, to record the subsequent phases of excavation and have a detailed picture of the laterite wall’s trend.

Figs. 22-23 Recording and levelling of the wall’s trend

According with the grid restitution, the different pictures have been joint together and traced on paper.
As clearly demonstrated by the pictures above, the wall appears to be better preserved into trenches C1-C4, where some stretches still show rows in connection, and the insertion of half bricks among laterite blocks, a building technique previously noticed on the wall exposed in the past excavations performed on the southern side of the area.
Fig. 27 A stretch of wall showing half bricks insertion

Some terracotta accents and antefix fragments, probably topping the wall itself, have been recovered under the collapsing laterite blocks.

Fig. 28 Antefix fragments and terracotta accents found under the collapsed laterite blocks
2. Cleaning and excavation of G1 cella and of outer basement

Three trenches (A4, A5, A6, see map below) have been settled along the northern side of G1. This area was covered by the collapse of the elevation, covering also the N stair and the lion reversed on ground.
By excavation has been also possible to relate the original ground between the kalan and the enclosing wall. As previously pointed out, the poor condition of G1 masonry, seriously damaged by the bomb shell that mainly affected the northern side of the building, required a careful cleaning.

An archaeological clearance has been then carried out to free the northern entrance from the high debris resulted from different collapsing occurred after the American bombing.

After the removal of about 2 m. of incoherent and loose bricks, a previously not visible *Kirthimukha* mask, related to niche n. 50, has been recovered.

Figs. 33-35 Recovering of two *Kirthimukha* masks
The high amount of bricks that covered this area actually preserved the mask in a good state of conservation, if compared to other samples visible around G1 basement that often appear to be strongly damaged. Together with this sample, another Kirthimukha fragment has been found out in the NE corner between the vestibule and the body of the kalan itself. Unfortunately only the lower jaw of the mask is nowadays preserved.

**G1 – Cella**

About 1 meter of rubble, covering the cella, has been removed. The cella is a square room, housing the divinity. (3x3m).

![Figs. 36-37 G1 cella before and during excavation.](image)

A fragmented line of bricks is the only remain of the floor, that has been broken by the treasure hunters in the past. Under the floor was “foundation deposit” where was preserved the offering for the god.

**Foundation deposit:**

Under the floor starts the foundation deposit, made by two projected square layers of walls, 1.30 m. deeper than the floor surface. On the middle of the wall, in axis with the cardinal points were carved vertical lines, to indicate probably the centre where the pedestal should be standing. The bottom of the foundation room (2.20 x 2.23 m.) is paved by bricks: on each corner of the room two large bricks are placed diagonally, to mark the intermediate directions. The floor is showing a hole, probably due to the spoliation. Under it is visible the original filling composed by sand and gravel.
Figs. 38–42 Interior cella and floor paving the foundation room’s bottom
Figs. 43-45 Bricks posed diagonally to mark the intermediate directions

3. Cleaning and excavation inside and around monument G2
G2 is the Gopura or the entrance, placed in axis with the entrance of the shrine. This building is usually a miniature model of the main temple, and is marking also the joint between N and S sides of the enclosing wall. The group G gopura is at present in very deteriorated and unstable condition. Only the basement is present, once decorated by Kala mask of the same type of those of the sanctuary. The building is composed by two stairs of 7 steps each, located on west and east sides. Part of the elevation, still standing in the early XX, is collapsed. The interior has been cleaned from the rubble and the thresholds recovered. The collapsed walls fell outside have been removed and stored for the next conservative intervention.

Figs. 46-47 The gopura before and after the cleaning

NE Corner: At the base of NE corner, two terracotta accents of big dimensions, two smaller ones, one sandstone corner antefix and a small tympanum representing a female
A terracotta fragment of doe’s body has been exposed close to the northern side of the step. These architectural decorations were resting on the base of the old Parmentier’s trench, and probably left by him at the end of the excavation performed around the gopura.

The edges of the old trench have been recognised because of a filling more soft in comparison with the ancient one, dry and hard. The corner and the elevated wall collapsed after Parmentier documentation.

**N Side:** The N side of the gopura is showing, in correspondence of the false door, the joint of the enclosing wall. Also in this case, this side has been previously excavated by the French architect. On the right side of the northern wall is resting a sandstone accent and others in terracotta.

Few rows of the enclosing wall are still preserved (80 cm high and 75 cm large). The joint is composed only by bricks, and the laterite was put only at the base maybe to facilitate the joint with the gopura wall facing.
Figs. 50-51 NE enclosing wall and the joint in bricks
E Entrance: The eastern entrance is composed by 7 sandstone steps facing the main entrance of G1. The doorway is composed by a threshold (H 23 cm, L max. 134 cm, W 36 cm.). On the edges are carved two holes (D 8 cm, thick.3 cm) to post quadrangular pillars, sizing at the base 27 x 27 cm, as seen by carved frames. The threshold is placed in correspondence of laterite cyma that was marking the end of the gopura basement, and the beginning of the gopura body. The steps are roughly carved with evident sign of chisel marks. At the base of the steps, a short paved passage long 1.47 m and large 1 m. has been recovered. It is composed by sandstone slabs and by 3 sandstone rectangular blocks, probably reused.

S Side

The max height preserved in this side is 1.50 m. The laterite cyma is lost while are preserved the two projected walls siding the enclosing wall and this side is the model of the projected body under the false door of G1. On their faces are placed the niches of the Kala.

SW Corner

After the removal of the NW wall collapse, partly happened after Parmentier period, has been found another ancient collapse, probably happened after the site abandonment. Between the rubble was a fragment of a very interesting terracotta sculpture, showing a standing divinity, with the leg over two crossed makara.

The iconography shows interesting elements, at the moment not comparable with other similar representations in Cham art. A rectangular metope is showing the half lower part of a masculine divinity wearing a short sampot, with a central folding kept by a double belt decorated by pearl shaped elements. The dress is recalling the so called “Thap Mam” style of XI-XII cent. with also some Khmer reminiscences. The figure is standing with one’s legs apart and the feet turned up, as dancing. The feet are over the head of two makaras, represented with the body of aquatic snake. The left arm of the figure is elongated and is wearing a bracelet on the wrist. The open hand has the palm facing inwards. The iconography can be related to a god of direction (Kubera?)
Figs. 52-53 Terracotta sculpture exposed during the excavation in G2 SW corner
TEMPLE – G1

GEOMETRICAL SURVEY

The geometrical survey of the temple required a first cleaning of the superficial surfaces (especially horizontal surfaces) from soil deposit (Figs. 1, 2). After removing the damaged materials, it was possible to take the first measurements of the most important building elements to have a preliminary evaluation of the geometry of monument. To proceed forward with the geometrical comprehension of the temple, the rubble materials inside and outside the buildings have been removed (Figs. 3, 4).

To define the correct procedure to survey such a complex geometry, first sketches were studied to understand the volumes which build up the monument: this first analysis was used to define the main geometrical parts which form the different levels of the monument.
**PHASES OF THE WORK**

Considering Temple G1, the most preserved among the other structures, it is possible to identify three main bodies of the building:

- the basement, until 1.35 m height overlined by a layer of laterite;
- the main body of the temple, characterized by the entrance and the cella;
- the roofing of the temple, that is totally lost. It is possible to recognize only few elements at the end of the main façade which introduce a geometrical decoration with a horizontal development that represents a gap between the main facade and the roof of the temple.

Recognising these elements, it was possible to plan a correct survey using the total station. To represent this complex geometry, it was not possible to build a polygon of points for one level of the building. In this case the difficulty of the 3D representation of the different levels of the monument required a strategy that is summarized in the following steps, describing the survey carried out on the basement.

The first step was to make the survey of the basement profile, where the monument preserved the original development of the external decoration (Fig. 5).

The second step was a geometrical 3D model representation, of the basement, drawn by AutoCad (Fig. 6).
The third one was the survey of the main lacks on basement surfaces. To perform the survey, an ortho-photographic documentation of each part of the basement. By the picture was possible to define and to locate the perimeter and the depth of each lack. This documentation has been drawn back in a correct scale by AutoCad program. The representation provides a 3D model of the basement of the present day state of conservation.

As final action, the total station (Fig. 7) was used to control the development in the space of the main elements of the building. Some points were taken by the total station vertically, on the external profile of the basement, twice for each side. This strategy permitted to define the correct position of each different plan which compose the geometry of the basement and to verify the linear measurements.

This procedure was applied also for the other levels which compose the building, in order to obtain the correct horizontal section of each level. The final result of the described procedure is shown in figure 8.

The topographic survey of the area was performed by the total station: figure 9 shows the relationships between buildings and the archaeological trenches.
Fig. 7 – Survey by the total station

Fig. 8 – Realistic 3D model of the basement of G1

Fig. 9 – Survey of the buildings in G-Group made by the total station

GROUP G
Scaffoldings, built to prevent possible collapses of the structures during the monsoon season, have been removed. A new provisional structure was built to save the new excavation near the leaning wall of the main stair of the monument. (Figs. 1, 2)

**COLLAPSING REMOVAL**

After cleaning infesting vegetation and rubble materials, consistent pieces of structures have been cleared. Very large masonry portions have been found into the collapsing along the north side of G1.

To allow archaeologist’s works and to preserve the displacement of these masonry portions, an accurate survey of the collapsed wall has been performed. The reconstruction of the collapsed structure can provide information about the shape of the external moldings.

The bricks of the collapsed wall portions has been numbered to allow a precise reconstruction in a free area of the site. (Figs. 1, 2) The aim is to study the original profile of the external wall in order to understand the original development of the moldings. By the recognition of these lost parts, it will be possible to place them in their original positions, on the G1 north facade. (Figs. 3, 4)
GOPURA G2
COLLAPSING REMOVAL

All the bricks and the small wall collapsed around the Gopura G2 has been removed, cleaned by brushes and stored in apposite storeroom to be preserve and riuse. (Figs. 1, 2)
MANDAPA - G3

SCAFFOLDING

The provisional covering built last year to protect the building from the rainy monsoon season has been dismantled (Fig. 1). This decision was taken to avoid dangerous influences of the roof on the masonry during this period, characterized by hot temperature and wet climate.

A covering has been built on the masonry of the North-East corner (Fig 2) to protect the workers and the structures during the execution of the intervention.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WALL OF G3

The reconstruction of the wall, started during last season, whit the N-E corner, is going on, following the principles of anastylosis techniques. Existing detached bricks are numbered, dismantled (Figs. 1, 2) and after the survey of each element, replaced in the correct position. (Figs. 3, 4). All the North and half of the West side wall is done.
In the nearest of the north-west corner, the dismantling work went deeper than in the other parts, because of the presence of a very damaged masonry. This situation allowed to perform an inspection to the laterite layer under the wall. It was found that the laterite-stone foundation crosses the masonry section. (Figs. 5, 6)

1.1 Fixing of North-East corner of G3 - Mandapa

The fixing of the bricks of the North-East corner is started on following the procedure decided last year. First of all, bricks are numbered, cleaned by air compressor and then fixed by a thin joint of natural glue (Figs 1, 2)

When the glue has been dried, it is possible to continue to fix the internal part of the wall by mortar, made by lime and bricks powder, (Figs. 3, 4, 5) and broken bricks. (Figs. 6, 7)
Fig. 3 – Lime

Fig. 4 – Bricks powder

Fig. 5 – Mortar

Fig. 6 – Mortar inside wall

Fig. 7 – Broken bricks inside wall
The reconstruction of the corner, started during last season, is going on. First of all, bricks are numbered, cleaned by air compressor and then fixed by a thin joint of natural glue. (Figs. 1, 2)

When the glue has been dried, is possible to continue to fix the internal part of the wall by mortar, made by lime and bricks powder, and broken bricks. (Figs. 3, 4)
G4 - TEMPLE

CONSIDERATION ON THE USE OF HERBICIDE ON THE TREES

The treatment made by poison gave good results (Fig. 1). The injected trees died and the poison did not have any negative result on the surrounding vegetation (Fig. 2).
1.2 Tree and infesting vegetation removal

The removal of trees grew into the building masonries is going on. The trunk into the south-east corner of G1 has been cut. (Figs 22, 23)

Other roots emerged during the dismantling of the north side masonry of G3. The roots have been cut and injected by poison. (Figs 24, 25, 26, 27)
The main problem for the building is the exceptional number of trees grown inside the walls (Figs. 3, 4). It has been decided to dismantle one leaf of the wall in contact with a tree root (Figs 5, 6). The tree was already treated with poison during the past season. Being the extension of the roots not deep (Fig. 7), and the trunk no more alive, the trunk was cut off and the remaining alive roots treated again by poison. In this first case only a small part of the wall has to be repositioned again. The operation will be repeated step by step carefully everywhere in G4 in order to avoid invasive interventions.

Fig. 3 – General view of temple G4 after cleaning
Fig. 4 - Example of tree born inside the wall

Fig. 5 – Numbering the bricks

Fig. 6 - Dismantling the masonry

Fig. 7 – Not extended roots inside the masonry
Geometrical Survey

The geometrical survey of the temples is going on made by the team of Vietnamese architects.

1. Research of New Compatible Materials

To complete the consolidation and the reconstruction of the ruins, the rescued bricks coming from the collapsing are not sufficient. Many of those bricks can be used for the internal filling of the masonry, because their faces don’t present the correct characteristics for the exposed surfaces.

For this reason the research was focused on the availability of new bricks in the surroundings of My Son. Brick producers are available near the sanctuary, but actually they use clay obtained by second industrial use. The solution is to find a clay with the right characteristics required for the buildings conservation and to use it to produce new bricks.

The research for the mortar to apply inside the filling is also going on. After testing lime mortars available in the nearest of the sanctuary, it was decide to test new types coming from the north of the country: My Son area is located 40 Km far from the sea and for this reason it is not easy to find lime obtained from mountain stones, while the tested mortars presented a high salt content due to the sea origin of the material.
1. Introduction

With letter of April 14th Mauro Cucarzi, International Project Co-ordinator, called for an urgent meeting of the Scientific Board. Being impossible for all the members to be present at the meeting on May 12-13 called by UNESCO Bangkok Office, because of a prior engagement, Mauro Cucarzi asked for a preliminary-preparatory meeting with available members on April 25th at My Son. The following experts participated to the meeting:

- Mauro Cucarzi (Lerici Foundation)
- Patrizia Zolese (Lerici Foundation)
- Hoang Dao Kinh (Vietnam Architect Association)
- Pierre Pichard (Unesco/EFEO)
- Dang Khanh Ngoc (Institute of Conservation Monument)

The necessity of an urgent meeting is due because the project is entering into the second half of the last year and it would be very important to discuss and decide the priorities before the end of this phase.

The reason to take of choice is mainly due because of two motivations:

- The necessity to archaeological excavate a very large area, more than expected
- After the excavation all monument presented much more damaged zones that before because were hidden by debris, etc.

For these reasons it is necessary to approach to the problems with mainly two perspectives:

- Arrangement of whole G archaeological area and visibility
- Conservation and consolidation of the monuments more in danger.

2. Inspection to the site

After a site inspection on the morning, a technical meeting was held in the afternoon:

Patrizia Zolese confirmed that archaeological excavations will be completed by the end of May/beginning of June. The site will then be available for a final levelling work around all buildings and inside the boundary wall, with the aim to allow its presentation to the public and to improve the evacuation of rainwater.
Conservation activities

The works on G3 will be completed by the end of July, going on with the methodology applied since last year. Provision for the drainage of the floor of the building will be carried out during the conservation of the north and south walls, by inserting a pipe under these walls.

The remaining base of the small building G5 should be restored by the end of June, allowing the stone stele (inscription C-100) to be re-installed at its centre (as shown on an ancient photograph, Parmentier/Efeo) after repair of its socle.

Consolidation works will be carried out on the main building, G1, to improve the stability of several parts in dangerous condition. The metal shoring installed last year on its north face will remain, pending the consolidation of the north-east corner. The north-west corner of the base should be rebuilt in priority, starting by the end of June, to support unstable masonries in the wall above. Unstable bricks on the east face should be dismantled, numbered and stored.

The gateway G2 should be considered as a conservation priority, being conspicuously placed in the axis of the site between the two main buildings G1 and G3. The four corners of its base should be rebuilt to ensure the stability of the building, and the remains of its walls should be safely consolidated. This should be done during the months of August and September.

Site presentation

It has been agreed that all debris and recent accretions will be removed from the site, which at parts will be levelled down to the bedrock, while some soil will remain at other places. The final level of presentation will be taken at the base of the buildings in order to expose their plinth, and will extend with a sufficient gradient (at least 2 cm p.m.) to ensure the evacuation of rainwater towards the sides of the hill. Inside the boundary wall in laterite enclosing G1 and G4, stabilized and compacted soil and gravels will be laid out to materialize the courtyard clearly and to distinguish it from the outer area, outside the boundary wall and around G3 and G5, where a low grass will be planted.

Conference

On 15th June 2005, a conference is planned in My Son to present the achievements of the project so far and the future activities to a selected audience.
## UPDATED WORKING PLAN

### Tentative schedule

*From May to September 2005*

**Number of workers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
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<tr>
<td>Archeological Excavation</td>
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<tr>
<td>G3</td>
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<td>G5</td>
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<td>G2</td>
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<td>G1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtyard and Boundary wall</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>E7</td>
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<td><strong>Total workers</strong></td>
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# MYSON UNESCO CONSERVATION PROJECT
## WEEKLY WORKING SCHEDULE
### APRIL – MAY 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>ITA. TEAM</th>
<th>VIET. TEAM</th>
<th>VIET. WORK.</th>
<th>G1</th>
<th>G2</th>
<th>G3</th>
<th>G4</th>
<th>G5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Archaeological excavation &amp; Documentation - Architectural Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Cucarzi</td>
<td>Workers: 44 + 10-15</td>
<td>Architectural Survey</td>
<td>Prosecution of Restoration</td>
<td>Executive Project</td>
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<td>1-6</td>
<td>Zolese Amphol Sinthaua Brunelli Pozzi Core Barocco</td>
<td>Dang Khanh Ngoc 2 Architects 1 Draftsmen 2 Archaeologists ?</td>
<td>Side Est: Archaeological excavation Side Sud: Start Archaeological excavation</td>
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<td>Pozzi Core Barocco</td>
<td>Archaeological excavation</td>
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