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## Crossing Borders in Southeast Asian Archaeology

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13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
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### Overview: Horst Liebner Underwater archaeology in Southeast Asia

Fronting the countless issues related to maritime research in Southeast Asia, it seems the highest of times to start a serious discussion around possibilities, objectives, targets and realities of marine archaeology in Southeast Asia. The roundtable proposed here is envisaged not as a row of ready-made presentations and papers, but as a forum for a discussion around the existing problems and concerns, as e.g.:

- How do archaeologists and historians place themselves in a domain run by commercial, profit-orientated salvage companies?
- How practical are the UNESCO recommendations for Underwater Cultural Heritage facing the unremitting looting of underwater sites and the –often enough quite huge– financial outlays necessary to explore, preserve, study and/or salvage marine archaeological sites?
- What efforts are made by the governments in the region to safe-guard their maritime heritage, and how are these implemented?
- Will the scholarly community be given access to finds already surfaced, and will scientists be involved in upcoming projects? What would and should be the conditions of such an involvement – e.g., administrative procedures (and possible endorsements?) by the involved governments, ethical standards of scholarly work in a profit-orientated environment, willingness of commercial salvagers to involve (and heed advice by!) scholars?

Presenters will be recruited amongst archaeologists and historians active in the field as well as representatives of the involved governments and salvage companies; a major focus of the discussion should be the developments in and prospects for the Nan-Han/Cirebon find, as, to follow Pierre-Yves Manguin, this example case “should be settled if we want progress to be made” in the field of marine archaeology in Southeast Asia. Aim of the dispute should be a first draft catalogue of scholarly recommendations and resolutions that could become basis for further discussions and elaborations, and a possible roadmap for these – at its best closely linked to, as John Miksic very recently put it, “the practical problems of how to deal with projects already under way, as well as future possibilities”.