

HAROLD THWAITES**Professor, Faculty of Arts, Sunway University, Malaysia**

Harold Thwaites is Professor and Advisor to the Faculty of Arts at Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. Originally from Canada, he was a tenured Associate Professor in the Communication Studies Department at Concordia University in Montreal for 31 years. Here in Malaysia, he was Dean of the Faculty of Creative Multimedia at Multimedia University, from 2006 to 2012 and at University of Malaya (2012-2015) the Director of the Centre for Creative Content and Digital Innovation. Thwaites served as President of the International Society on Virtual systems and Multimedia (VSMM) 2003-2010. His research and teaching comprise media production,

information design, digital heritage, biocybernetic research, and 3D spatial media. He was the first overseas researcher at NHK Science and Technical Research Labs in Tokyo specializing in 3D HDTV, in addition to being the recipient of a Fellowship from the Telecommunications Advancement Organization of Japan. He now continues to share his experience and passion to innovate new projects and fields of research, with staff and students at Sunway University.

The Atlas of Maritime Buddhism Project

This multi-partner international project is based on the compelling story of the spread of Buddhism through the seaports of Eurasia, supported by never- before-seen archaeological evidence. The focal point of the exhibition is an interactive installation, staged inside a 360-degree 3D presentation screen. This groundbreaking and powerfully immersive display system will integrate archaeological data from the Atlas of Maritime Buddhism project, together with panoramic 3D imagery of significant sites found along the maritime routes. While historic routes for the expansion of Buddhism extend across Eurasia, this exhibition will emphasize South and Southeast Asia nodes of what is referred to as 'The Great Circle' The exhibition counter-balances the well-researched overland routes for Buddhism along the Silk Road, with locations that were initiated and supported by seafaring traders, practitioners and monks. Importantly, this exhibition makes the connection between greater India, Indonesia and South China, apparent in both trade items found in these respective locations, in the accounts of Chinese seafaring monks that travelled to India and, in Indian monks known to have initiated monasteries in China. This proliferation of exchange in Buddhist knowledge, subsequently exported from China to Korea and Japan, completes the journey of discovery in the Panorama of Maritime Buddhism.



ATLAS OF
**Maritime
Buddhism**
ELECTRONIC CULTURAL ATLAS INITIATIVE

