The Sukhothai Ceramic Trading Along the Ocean Silk Road

Tharapong Srisuchart
and
Surat Lertlum
Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Objective
- Current Plan
- Conclusion
Introduction

The Sukhothai ceramic had been considered to be one of the most important goods for exporting during Sukhothai and Ayuttaya period. This presentation will describe the research proposal to analyze trading route for Sukhothai ceramic in the form of spatial analysis, including the development plan for the research on this subject as part of the ocean Silk Road study.
Sukhothai
Sukhothai World Heritage Site
Sample Klin Site at Si Satchanarai
Introduction to Sukhothai Caramics

• Sukhothai is an ancient capital of Thailand during the 13-14 century period. The art and culture of Sukhothai period has been known throughout the world, especially ceramic, which is called “Sunkalok” in Thai. The Sukhothai ceramic industry was one of the main incomes of the country during and after the period. The ceramic had been exported to countries in Asia, for example, Indonesia, Philippines, and Japan.
• The Sukhothai ceramics were found in these countries, as well as ship wreck in the sea and from the habitation layer from archaeology sites of these countries.

• In addition, this ceramic trading was also recorded in the diplomatic document “Rekidai Hoan” of Ryukyu in the same period. The “Rekidai Hoan” also shows that the commodity exchanging between Siam, China, and Japan had been carried out on the sea route of Silk Road.
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Celadon from Si Satchanalai Kiln, 14 - 15 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Cylinder saggar from Sukhothai and Si Satchanalai kiln
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Plate, black paint under glaze in floral and animal motif from Sukhothai kiln
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Shred, black painting under glaze from Si Satchanalai kiln
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Double spout vessel from Si Satchanalai 14–15 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Kendi, 16 - 17 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Jar, brown glazed from Si Satchanalai, 14 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Decorative terra cotta in white glaze from Si Satchanalai, 16 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Covered jar with olive glaze from Si Satchanalai, 14 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Stoneware box in bicolor floral decorative from Si Satchanalai, 14 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Underglaze bowl in black paint from Sukhothai, 15 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Kendi, under glaze black paint in floral motif from Si Satchanalai, 15 century
Sample Sukhothai Ceramics

Sukhothai Ceramic Comparing to Southern China Ceramic
Objective

- To develop Detail Database about Sukhothai Ceramics which include:
  - GIS database of klin sites
  - Database of ceramics found at each kiln site
  - Database of sites that Sukhothai ceramics were found
  - Database of information related to Sukhothai ceramics

- To Analyse the gathered information in order to identify the distribution and relationship of Sukhothai ceramics and ocean silk road
Current Plan

- Development of GIS Database of
  - Kiln sites (from magnetic survey)
  - Locations of ship wreck that Sukhothai ceramics were found, and ceramics found
  - Locations of places that Sukhothai ceramics were found outside Thailand, and ceramics found
Analysis of Sukhothai Ceramic Trading
Conclusion

• This is the start of the development that can open a new way of thinking about archaeology

• Preliminary work has been started to collect available dataset

• The collaboration is welcome