



*In occasion of the 10th anniversary of the
UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*

Evening Conference **Amazing History under Water**

This evening conference on submerged archaeological sites will join three of the most reputed underwater archaeologists worldwide. They will relate their experience of astounding historic places under water. They will give their accounts of ancient sunken wrecks of Kublai Khan, destroyed by the legendary Kamikaze wind, of sunken cities and prehistoric landscapes now covered by the water and of the famed luxury liner Titanic, which's sinking will have its 100th anniversary next year.

The Centenary of the *Titanic* – descending to a famous gravesite

James Delgado, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, USA

The legendary luxury liner *Titanic* sank in 1912 after hitting an iceberg. Since then the *Titanic* catastrophe has inspired many films and books. The remains of the ship were sought in vain over many years and were not located until 1985. Much happened with the *Titanic* wreck since its discovery including artefact salvage, filming, research and international efforts for preservation. The *Titanic* will have the 100th anniversary of its sinking on 14 April 2012.

Sunken cities and prehistoric landscapes under the sea

Nicolas Flemming, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK

More than 150 sunken cities are located on the shores of the Mediterranean alone. Some of them are in size as big as Pompeii and some are up to 5,000 years old. There are however also many much older sites, like the traces of humans left on 12,000 year old Doggerland, the enigmatic country which once linked the English coast with a stretch of Continental Europe from Denmark to Normandy, but which now lies beneath the North Sea. Recent discoveries show that even pre-humans lived on the floor of the North Sea and abandoned their stone tools there more than 300,000 years ago.

Finding Kublai Khan's lost fleet

Kenzo Hayashida, Asian Research Institute of Underwater Archaeology, Japan

Kublai Khan was the fifth Great Khan of the Mongol Empire from 1260 to 1294 and the founder of the Yuan Dynasty in China. In the spring of 1281, he sent two separate fleets to conquer Japan; an impressive force of 900 ships containing 40,000 Korean, Chinese, and Mongol troops set out from Masan, while an even larger force of 100,000 sailed from southern China in 3,500 ships. The now-famous kamikaze, a massive typhoon, destroyed much of the fleet. This story was long thought to be a legend, but now a wreck from one of these fleets was discovered close to the coast of Japan.

12 December 2011, 19.00, Auditorium QC, building Q, campus of the Free University of Brussels (VUB), Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium, Metro 5: stops Pétillon/Delta or train station Etterbeek. The conference will be held in English language. Entry is free.

Please register with Marine Bardon m.bardon@unesco.org or Rik Lettany hlettany@vub.ac.be.





James P. Delgado, Ph.D., Director of Maritime Heritage, has led or participated in shipwreck expeditions around the world. His undersea explorations include RMS *Titanic*, the discoveries of *Carpathia*, the ship that rescued *Titanic's* survivors, and the notorious "ghost ship" *Mary Celeste*, as well as surveys of USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbour, the sunken fleet of atomic-bombed warships at Bikini Atoll, the polar exploration ship *Maud*, wrecked in the Arctic, the 1846 wreck of the United States naval brig *Somers*, whose tragic story inspired Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*, and Sub Marine Explorer, a civil war-era find and the world's oldest known deep-diving submarine. His archaeological work has also included the excavation of ships and collapsed buildings along the now-buried waterfront of Gold Rush San Francisco.

Dr. Delgado is Director of NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program. Previously, he was the President and CEO of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University for nearly 5 years, and was the Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum for 15 years. Before that, he was the head of the U.S. Government's maritime preservation program and was the maritime historian for the U.S. National Park Service. During his nearly 14-year tenure with the VMM, Dr. Delgado co-hosted the TV series *Sea Hunters* along with best-selling author Clive Cussler, from 2001 to 2006. Other television credits include specials for the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Explorer, A&E, the History Channel, and ABC.



Dr Nic Flemming has been diving on underwater cities and submerged prehistoric caves for more than 50 years. He has dived in over 20 countries, and worked additionally with manned submersibles and autonomous underwater robotic vehicles. His surveys in the Mediterranean have provided archaeological data on 411 coastal and submerged cities, and his work on submerged prehistoric sites has resulted in the discovery of stone age tools underwater ranging from 10,000 to 300,000 years old. He has published over 300 scientific papers and reports on sea level change, coastal earthquakes, human occupation on the continental shelf, diving technology, ocean economics, and ocean forecasting. At present he is active in the European project "SPLASHCOS" which is studying the whole European sea area out to a

depth 150m to search for prehistoric settlements which were occupied during the Ice Age. Nic Flemming is a Research Fellow at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton.



Kenzo Hayashida is Director of the Asian Research Institute of Underwater Archaeology (ARIUA), which he founded as the Kyushu Okinawa Society for Underwater Archaeology (KOSUWA). A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Hayashida has worked since the 1980s on a variety of archaeological projects in Kyushu, most notably leading the excavation and analysis of the remains of the Mongol Invasion fleet of Kublai Khan at Takashima Island. Since 1991 he conducted annual field seasons at Takashima, surveying the bottom of Imari Bay and performing excavations to gauge the number of potential wreck sites and the range of material culture remaining on the seabed after centuries of typhoons

and generations of fishermen using dragnets and trawls. In 2001 the years of fieldwork paid off with the discovery of ship remains. After 20 years of investigation, the waters of Imari Bay finally yielded, albeit in more than one piece, one of Kublai Khan's ships. A new wreck of the invasion fleet was found in 2011.

Opening and Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Dries Tys, Free University, Brussels
Dr. Ulrike Guérin, UNESCO