

Digital Database for Cultural Atlas Research

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- **Introduction on Vietnam Ecai**
- **Project on Cultural Buddhist sites**
- **Ongoing works and some of the results**

Introduction on Vietnam Ecai

Project started since 2007 by Dr. Lewis Lancaster from Berkley California.

Project on Cultural Buddhist sites

- The building of co-ordinates database.
- Manipulating and collecting the database.
- Collect steles, head stones from various sources, digitalize and organize them.

Ongoing works and some of the results

- **Step 1:**
 - Working on the raw data from various sources.
- **Step 2:**
 - Equip the group with GPS and GIS devices.
 - Training.
 - Update sites with coordinates and details.
 - Input from the backup raw data.
- **Step 3**
 - Add details and customizing.
 - Collect data, photos on headstones, epitaph, lacquered board....
- Data 522: some databases being processed to form a standard template.
- Convert to database to be ready for the atlas.
- Some of the results from our collected coordinates
- Some of the images from the collected monasteries
- Some of the data and images for head stones.

Cultural facts

- Vietnamese temples are mostly located in the outskirts of the town, cities...
- Those pagodas being built on a location which believed to be in Feng Shui (風水) positioning.
- A numerous of pagodas were formed and managed by lay Buddhists. Abbots are not monks, only Buddhists who practiced home dharma; but those temples were still established and functioned like major Buddhist temples.
- Some temples were formed on land offered by lay Buddhists, so called Cải Gia Quy Tự (改家归寺)
- Some temples originally developed from small huts, hermitage and later becoming temples.

They are some characteristics of the cultural facts derived from the above databases.
Thank you for your attention.

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(Buddhist name: Thiện Phước)