**Scientists Discover 7,000-year-old Tools Off Australia’s West Coast**

**科学家在澳大利亚西海岸发现7000年前的工具**

Scientists say they have found Australia’s first underwater archeological areas off the country’s west coast.

科学家称，他们在澳大利亚西海岸发现了首个水下考古区域。

The sites are believed to be 7,000 years old. The area where they were found was once dry land.

据信这些遗址已有7000年历史，而且科学家们发现的地方曾经是旱地。

Archeologists say study of the hundreds of found objects will increase understanding of the culture and technological development of Australia’s aboriginal people.

考古学家们表示，研究考古发现的数百件文物将增加我们对澳大利亚土著人文化和技术发展的了解。

The two ancient sites are now underwater in the Dampier Archipelago island group. Divers from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, made the discovery.

这两个古代遗址现在位于丹皮尔群岛的水下区域。来自南澳大利亚阿德莱德弗林德斯大学的潜水员发现了这一遗址。

The area was already well known for its rich ancient history and its rock-art carvings. However, the two sites are the first confirmed underwater places holding evidence of human civilization in Australia and the area around it.

这个地区因其丰富的古代史和岩石艺术雕刻而闻名。然而，这两个遗址是首个确认保存着澳大利亚及其周围地区人类文明证据的水下遗址。

Michael O’Leary is a marine geoscientist and co-director of the project to study the tools. He told Reuters that his team wants to study “the skill, the technology, how they made these tools, to see if they represent a different cultural approach to tool making that we haven’t yet identified in Australia,”

迈克尔·奥利里是海洋地球学家，也是此次研究被发现工具的项目共同负责人。他告诉路透社，他的团队希望研究“（这些工具的）技术工艺，以及他们是如何制造这些工具的，以了解它们在工具制造方法上是否代表了一种不同的文化，一种我们尚未在澳大利亚发现的文化形式。”

Archeologist Jonathan Benjamin also leads the project. He said the scientists have found cutting and grinding tools that are thousands of years old.

考古学家乔纳森·本杰明也是该项目的领导人。他说，科学家们已经发现了几千年前的切割和研磨工具。

“You can start to recreate what the people were doing and how they were making their life way in their economy,” Benjamin said.

本杰明说：“你能够重现当时人们的所作所为，并还原他们在当时的经济形态中的生活方式。”

Information from the discovery is being studied to find out how old the objects are. However, the radiocarbon dating method and study of sea-level changes show the areas are at least 7,000 years old.

科学家们正在研究发现的文物，以查明这些文物的年龄。放射性碳测年法和海平面变化的研究表明，这些遗址至少有7000年的历史。

Benjamin said the majority of objects remain on the seabed. The ones taken have been scanned for further research. They will then be given to the indigenous landowners, the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.

本杰明表示，大部分物体仍留在海底。被取走的物体已经过扫描，以便进行进一步研究。之后它们将被移交给当地土著所有者——穆鲁朱加原住民公司。

I’m Mario Ritter Jr.

小马里奥·里特报道。

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