Virtual Field Trip Platform for Online Teaching-Learning Enhancement: Yim Tin Tsai Island as a Site of Tourism Education
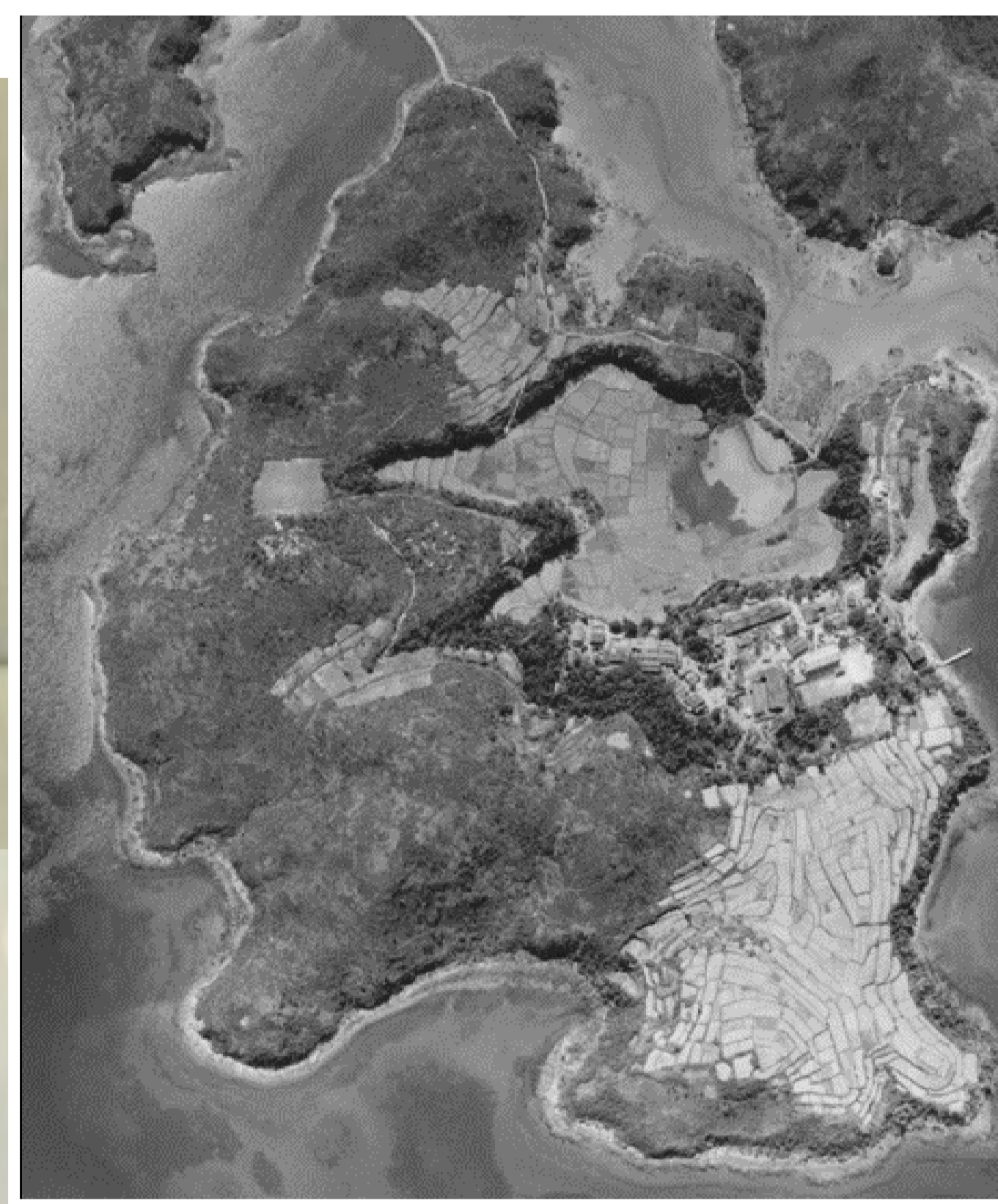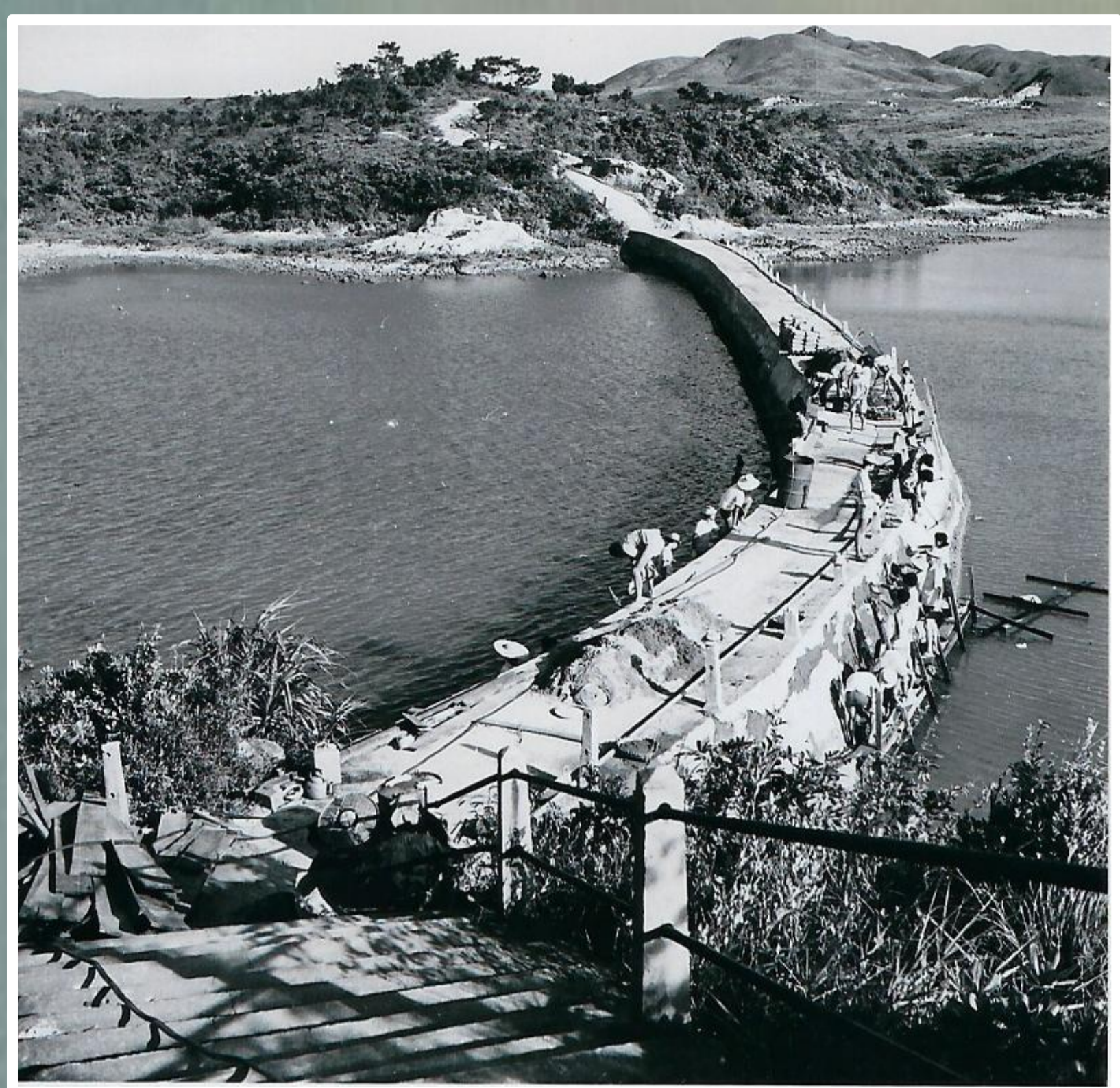
Video here!

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Background

- The COVID-19 **pandemic** has caused **suspension** of in-class **lecturing** and outdoor **field trips**. This issue largely affects the teaching-learning process of many tourism-related courses, which require field experience to enhance learning and development of students. To cope with such need for **off-site field investigation**, an interactive and sustainable virtual field trip platform is necessary for transforming the crisis of teaching-learning into an **innovative** opportunity for tourism education.

Objectives

1. To produce a Virtual Reality (**VR**) and Augmented Reality (**AR**) interactive field trip platform for YTT; and
2. To allow students to conduct virtual trips to YTT out of classrooms

Deliverables: Special Features and Functions

- **Themes** (Catholic **religion**, Hakka **culture** and **ecology**) for resource revitalization and destination development.
- **Innovative features** including VR-based self-paced tours, attraction selection function, pop-up questions for discussion and a set of AR-driven features about the main attractions, stories and history of YTT

VR

(38) 鹽場 (蒸發及結晶池) Salt-field (evaporation and crystallization pools)

AR

紅樹林圍堤 　(34) 紅樹林　(35) 往鹽場之小徑　(36) 往鹽場之小徑　(37) 鹽場入口

1. Download the app
2. Scan the image

Significance in e-Learning and Teaching-Learning Enhancement

- Platform utilized across **UGC-funded** tourism, geography, resource management and general education **courses**
- **Integration** of field trips, location-based study and VR/AR applications
- The **role of teachers** as both lecturers to deliver knowledge and facilitators of interactive class or online discussions without any geographical, weather or resource constraints

Expected Outcomes

- "**Study from Home**" and incorporation with Zoom and other online teaching modes
- Comparison between onsite field trips and virtual field trips – **Research potential** on advantages and disadvantages
- Stimulation of **learning interests**
- In-class or online **discussions** about the site
- More options for onsite field trips in addition to virtual trips
- **KPIs**: Student feedback and comments

3. Videos, e-book, 3D images