

Our Contributors

Ms. Zaha AHMED

is an Assistant Architect at the Department of Heritage, Maldives and has been working there since 2007. She is part of a team that works on a project to nominate coral stone mosques in Maldives to the World Heritage List. She also works as a lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment of the Maldives National University.

Mr. Anurag CHHABRA

holds a Masters degree in Computer Applications from Gujarat University, India and is currently working as a manager at IBM India Pvt. Ltd in Bangalore. He has 16 years of experience in the field of software and solution design, development and management. Apart from professional commitments, he spends time in propagating positive thoughts and techniques based on traditional knowledge and teachings. He is a certified instructor for the Path of Divine Life course offered by Maharshi Arvind Foundation and has conducted several workshops at corporate, government and academic institutions.

Ms. Nirekha DE SILVA

is currently working on her PhD thesis on ‘Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sri Lanka,’ at Griffith Law School, Australia. She has extensive research experience on cultural diversity, human rights and marginalised communities by engaging in National and International research projects conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka, SAARC, United Nations, University of Colombo and various other international organisations. She served as the Research Officer at SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo from 2010-14. She has also worked for Save the Children, Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister’s Office, Sri Lanka. She was awarded research fellowships from Sri Lanka Foundation Institute and Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace, India.

Mr. Daya DISSANAYAKE

is a bilingual writer from Sri Lanka writing in English and Sinhala. He is the winner of the SAARC Literary Award 2013 and the only Sri Lankan writer to have won the State Literary Award three times in 1998, 2007 and 2013 for the best English novel. He was also the joint recipient of the Swarna Pustaka award for the best Sinhala novel in 2007. He is the first Asian to publish e-novels in

English and Sinhala. He is a columnist for Daily News and writes frequently for a number of both English and Sinhala newspapers. To date he has published nine English novels, six Sinhala novels and a collection of English Poetry.

Ms. Shahida KHATUN

is a folklorist and Director of Bangla Academy, Bangladesh. Her areas of research include Women, Children, Social Welfare, Traditional Culture, Oral Tradition and History, Folk Literature, Art and Culture, and The Liberation War of Bangladesh. She has to her credit many articles published in journals and edited books and has acted in the capacity of an editor for over 50 publications. She was an official delegate of Bangladesh in the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22-29 November 2011.

Dr. Firoz MAHMUD

is a historian, museologist and folklorist. He helped re-organize four galleries in the Bangladesh National Museum and establish four new museums in Bangladesh during 2010-2013. He is the architect of the digital documentation system in the Bangladesh National Museum and has also written the text of its dynamic website. He co-authored with Henry Glassie, a leading folklorist and ethnographer of the world, two books (*Contemporary Traditional Art of Bangladesh* and *Living Traditions*) and an article published in *South Asian Folklore*. He has to his credit nine other books and numerous articles. He worked for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He is currently a Consultant/Specialist/Researcher for the Bangla Academy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr. Shabnam Bahar MALIK

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Ms. G.P.P.G. MANUSINGHE

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Mr. Satish SELUKAR

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Prof. Kalinga Tudor SILVA

holds a BA from the University of Peradeniya and a PhD from Monash University, Australia. He is a senior professor in Sociology at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka which has been his primary base for the past 30 years. Apart from giving leadership in the discipline of Sociology in Sri Lanka, he has served as Head, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya from 1984 to 1992 and 2004 to 2005 and as Dean, Faculty of Arts from 2006 to 2009. He served as the Executive Director of the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) from 2002 to 2003 and the Executive Director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies from 2009 to 2011. His research areas include ethnicity, caste, social inequality, problems of poverty and development, social aspects of tropical disease and sociological analyses of suicide in Sri Lanka. He has over 100 local and international publications to his credit.