

Editorial

The SAARC Cultural Centre which was established in 2009 has been diligently working for the promotion and protection of culture in South Asia and has achieved commendable success in all its activities and programmes implemented to date. In keeping with the SAARC Agenda for Culture which underscores the inherent common cultural continuum of great antiquity for sustaining harmonious relations among South Asians, the Centre has been engaging in diverse activities for the last three years and has been able to stand for composite culture as well as its intricate diversity, heritage, and unity. A range of programmes were implemented and in a short span the SAARC Cultural Centre has become a Centre for promoting culture and research into wide-ranging areas both traditional and contemporary in nature.

The SAARC Cultural Centre brings an array of activities for the year 2013 starting with the SAARC Artist Camp in Maldives in March. SAARC Regional Seminar on Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge is the research project for the year 2013 and will be a brainstorming session on the key issues to moot research questions of traditional knowledge of South Asia. SAARC Film Festival, Film Days, and SAARC Song Festival are scheduled to be held in the second quarter of the year. As we enter into the third year of our Newsletter the SAARC Cultural Centre would like to thank all the Member States for their cooperation in organizing various activities of the Centre.

-Editor

News in Highlight...



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Achievements: Research Fellowships 2012/13: Diasporic Cultures of South Asia during 18th to 20th Centuries- Research Grants Review Meeting

SAARC Cultural Centre, as part of its mandate in promoting cultural diversity in South Asia and part of its research project for 2012-13 invited proposals for research on various aspects of the Diasporic Cultures of South Asia during 18th to 20th Centuries. Accordingly Eight research proposals were selected from Bhutan, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka on various themes and sub-themes. The selected Research proposals are;

- Assessing South Asian Diaspora during the Twentieth Century; A case Study of Bhojpuri speaking people in Eastern India by Dr. Waseem Raja, Assistant Professor in History, Centre of Advanced Study in Medieval History, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P., India, India
- Greater India or the Global Indian: Reflecting on Indian Ocean journalism in the 19th and 20th Centuries by Prof. Lakshmi Subramanian, Centre for Study in Social Sciences, Kolkata
- You are what you eat? Gustatory Negotiations and Articulations of Identities in Indian Diaspora in London (UK) by Dr. Amit Kumar Mishra, Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, P.O. Central University, Gachibowli, Hyderabad (India)
- A Socio-Cultural Profile of Pakistani Diaspora in Hong Kong by Prof. Minhaj ul Hassan, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.
- Conceptualizing Diaspora: Interconnectedness of 'home' and 'host' culture by Ms. Aishath Shafina and Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed, Maldives
- Temple Culture, Religious Practice and Cultural Circulation: An Anthropological Study of Three Selected Temples among the Indian Tamil Diasporic Communities in Sri Lanka by Mr. S. Pathmanesan
- The Integrated Cultural Identities: Malays in Sri Lanka by Dr. Upul Lekamge
- Tibetan Diaspora in Bhutan and its historical dynamics by Ms. Tshering Choki and Ms. Sonam Yudon



Achievements: SAARC Art at Kala Pola

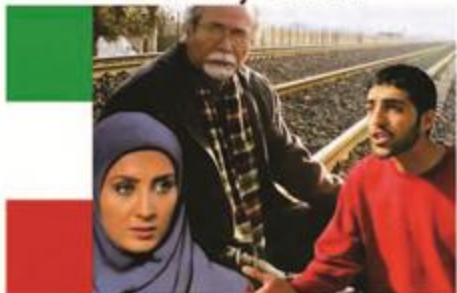
Kala Pola, Sri Lanka's annual art fair presented by George Keyt Foundation in collaboration with the John Keells Group was held for the twentieth consecutive year on Nelum Pokuna Mawatha, January 26 and 27. Over 300 reputed and emerging local painters and sculptors from across the country, including the North and East participated in the Kala Pola 2013. SAARC paintings were also showcased at the fair and it was an opportunity for to give exposure to SAARC works of art.





SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN,
OBSERVER TO SAARC PROUDLY PRESENTS

* NADER MOGHADDAS FILM Family Bond



22 Feb 13 @ 6.30 pm
National Film Corporation Cinema Hall
Colombo 7

Achievements: Iran Film Day

The SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a special screening of an Iranian Film Observer State of Iran. The film called Family Bond directed by Nader Moghaddas was screened at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall in Colombo on the 22nd February 2013. Prior to the screening, a reception was hosted under the distinguished patronage of H.E. Dr. Mohamed Nabi Hassani Pour, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The film was well received with a good audience, and also brought about good reviews. The Iranian Film day is part of the SAARC Film Day series, where films from the SAARC Region as well as observer states are screened to create wider awareness to the general public.

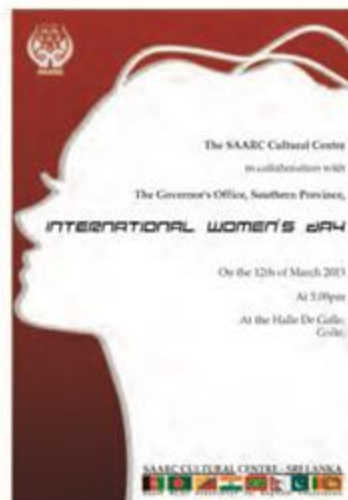


Achievements: Celebration of International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated by the SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Governor's Office, Southern Province, Galle on the 12 March 2013 at the Halle de Galle. Commemoration of International Women's Day, brought about a good gathering of women from all walks of life, who assembled at the Halle de Galle, for an enriching dialogue of women, focusing on entrepreneurship, culture and social services. The Chief Guest for this event was H.E Madam Kumari Balasuriya, the Governor of the Southern Province. The panel consisted of the following eminent personalities from the Southern Province:

1. Mrs. Saraswathi Managalika, Principal, Sangamitta Girls School, Galle
2. Mrs. Samadani Kiriwadeniya, Chairperson, Sanasa Development Bank
3. Mrs. Shirani Gallella, Editor, "Sirikatha Newspapers"
4. Mrs. Eueni Wickremage, Beautician

Each of the panellist spoke for a duration of 15 minutes and the floor was opened for discussion and interaction with the audience. Following this there was an entertaining Cultural Programme performed by female dancers followed by a reception and giving away of floral tributes to all speakers.



Achievements: SAARC Artist Camp, 25 to 28th March 2013



ARTist camp & Exhibition 2013



Organized by:
SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE - Sri Lanka
in collaboration with

Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture & National Centre for the Arts



The SAARC Artist Camp was organized by SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and National Centre for the Arts. This camp was held in the Maldives at Kuda Bandos Island. The Exhibition of paintings were held at the Natinal Art Gallery of the Maldives. For the first time, this programme saw representation from all eight SAARC Countries, and this representation brought about the best in interaction amongall artists. A total of 41 artists were represented at the Artist Camp. The theme for the Artists were : 'Tropical Paradise', 'Futuristic Vision' and 'Need for Change'. The on site location was at the idyllic island of KudaBandos which is about 30 minutes boat ride away from Male City. The artists painted on site for four days and the beauty of the sea in its shades of blue was clearly an influence on the work of the artists. They drew inspiration from the emerald, turquoise to deep blue sea and ocean of Maldives while enjoying the scenic beauty of the location and swimming at the emerald sea and lashing waves at the shores of the island. Daily interactive sessions were held where artists voiced their thoughts on promoting art in the region, as well as learnt from one another about art in the different countries. Together with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the National Centre for the Arts, the United Artists of Maldives also played a vital role in putting together the logistics of the Artist Camp.

The Chief Guest at the Inauguration was Hon. Minister Ahmed Adheeb, Minster for Tourism Arts and Culture. The gathering was further honored by the presence of Hon'ble Minister of National Heritage from Sri Lanka, Mr. Jagath Balasuriya and the Governor of Southern Province, Galle, Madame Kumari Balasuriya. The Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr. A.H.M Azwer also was present for occasion, representing the Minister of Culture, Hon. T.B. Ekanayake at the Artist Camp.

The Artist Camp concluded on the 28th of March 2013, with an exhibition of the paintings worked on site, and the drawing of a collage by all artists at the National Art Gallery in Male under the distinguished patronage of Mr. Ali Waheed Hassan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for the Arts. On the final day, all paintings that were worked on site was exhibited at the National Art Gallery Male, and will be on exhibition till Mid April 2013.





Achievements: Research Project on Diminishing Cultures of South Asia

Six research reports have been completed under the SAARC Research project for 2011/12 under the theme of Diminishing Cultures in South Asia (See box). Two research projects are to be completed in April and will be submitted for review. The research reports bring out an in-depth study and analysis into diminishing cultures in South Asia and provide recommendation for protecting productive components of the Diminishing Cultures in South Asia.



Diminishing Food Traditions in Bumthang

Ms. Jigme Choden, Bhutan



Attars: The Fading Aromatic Culture of India

Dr. Jyoti Marwah, India



Bio-Cultural Aspects of Kaffirs in Sri Lanka

Dr. Charmalie Anuradhe Dona Nahallage, Sri Lanka



The Musico-Religious Expression through the Sama Veda Singing

Dr. Subroto Mihir Chandra Roy, India



Tamasha: Folk Theatre in Maharashtra, India

Prof. Susannah Malkan, India



The Biological Indicators of Nature and How they are Associated with Folklore and Myths

Mr. Asitha G. Punchihewa, Sri Lanka

SAARC Research Fellows, 2011-12

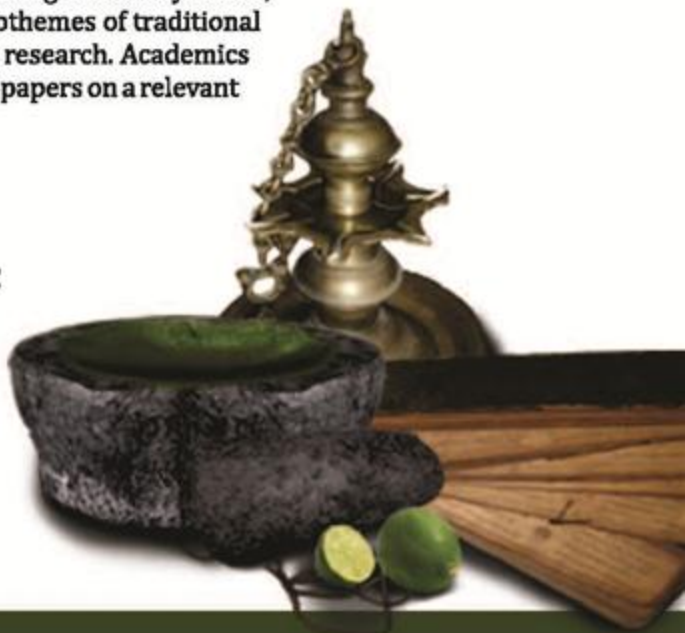
Announcements: SAARC International Seminar on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

INTRODUCTION

The SAARC Regional Seminar on 'Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE)' will be organized as a platform to brainstorming on the key issues, to moot research questions and also to identify themes and subthemes of traditional knowledge of South Asia that merit independent and in-depth research. Academics and experts on the subject are invited for the Seminar to present papers on a relevant theme.

OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR

- To identify the TK and TCE in and of the Region;
- To identify current situation of TK and TCE in the SAARC Member States;
- To analyse the applicability and impact of prevailing international and national instruments in protecting traditional knowledge;
- To examine the role and the impact of Government institutions and Non-Government Institutions actions related to safeguarding TK and TCE;



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- To identify effective ways of safeguarding traditional knowledge in South Asia.
- To identify research topics and questions related to TK and TCE in the Region that need further investigation; and
- To recognize research approaches and methods for further research in TK and TCE of the region.

THEMES FOR THE SEMINAR

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Traditional healing | • Traditional culinary art |
| • Traditional livelihood | • Traditional costumes |
| • Traditional engineering | • Traditional music |
| • Traditional agriculture | • Traditional art and design |
| • Traditional handicrafts | • Traditional dance |
| • Traditional architectural forms | |

DATES AND VENUE

The SAARC Regional Seminar on 'Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions' will be held in Camellia Resort & Spa, Sigiriya, Sri Lanka for 2 days from 29 to 30 April 2013.

POST-SEMINAR TOUR

One day Post-Seminar tour will be organized on 01 May 2013 to Traditional Potters Village in Panditha Rabawa, Traditional Orthopaedic Healing Centre at Horiwila, Traditional Handicraft Village and Sigiriya: The world heritage site.

For more information on participation visit our website: www.saarcculture.org

Announcements: Research Review Meeting

Research Review Meeting of the SAARC Research Grant awardees will be held on 2-3 May 2013. Eight research proposals that were selected for the year 2012/13 will be reviewed by a panel of expert members. The objectives of the Review Meeting are to view the progress of research work and to give constructive feedback to the researchers so that they are able to fulfill the objectives of the research project and are able to prepare their reports in a publishable format.

Announcements: SAARC Film Festival 2013

The SAARC Film Festival held in Colombo, has over the last two years gained momentum for promoting some of the best films from the SAARC Region. The SAARC Film Festival marks an event unique to the region, where through the medium of cinema, the festival has become forum for people interaction, as well as understanding and savoring of culture through the medium of cinema, where films from the SAARC Countries, will not merely be a tool of entertainment, but rather one of cultural awareness. A reputed panel of adjudicators select the best film and awards are given as incentive to continue producing good films for the region. The SAARC Film Festival will focus on promoting some of the best films featured from 2010 - 2012, from all Member States and will take place at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS - 2nd May 2013. Interested parties are advised to contact the relevant Ministries (Culture/Information and Broadcasting) in the respective Member States for further information.

For more information visit: www.saarcculture.org





Announcements: Photographic Exhibition and Competition

Photography is fast becoming an art by itself, with many modern advances to photography. The Centre hopes to encourage photographers in the SAARC Region, by having a competition of photographs of 1) Historical sites of the SAARC Region, 2) Natural Landscapes of the SAARC Region. An open entry will be called for, and all interested parties will be able to submit photographs through e mail. An award recognizing the best in the two categories will be given. Winners will be invited to attend the exhibition as well as interact with other local photographers. This exhibition is scheduled to take place in September 2013.

Await more details...



Announcements: SAARC Workshop on World Heritage Sites

World Heritage Sites (WHS) are places of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to humanity. Outstanding to the extent that it means cultural or natural significance that transcends national boundaries. These sites are also the most important symbols of the long standing cultural ties that existed in the region for centuries. Most of these sites are still part of the living heritage of the communities and are strongly linked to the contemporary life. The permanent protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage is of high importance to present and future generations.

As on 16 January 2013, the UNESCO World Heritage List includes 962 properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage. These include 745 cultural, 188 natural and 29 mixed properties in 157 Countries. Out of these 52 properties (41 cultural properties + 11 natural properties) are located in the South Asian region. India has the maximum number (29) of World Heritage Properties (22 Cultural Properties + 6 Natural Properties), while Afghanistan has the minimum (2). Bhutan and Maldives do not have any property listed in the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Committee has also decided to include 38 properties on the List of "World Heritage in Danger" in accordance with Article 11 (4) of their CONVENTION. These include two properties located in Afghanistan.

In addition, the World Heritage Committee has listed 1,571 Properties in 170 States under a Tentative List. These include 78 properties spread over six nations in the South Asian region. Once again no property from Bhutan and Maldives has been listed in this list.

INTRODUCTION

With a view to promoting conservation and management of World Heritage Sites in South Asia through capacity-building amongst the mid/ senior level professionals from South Asian countries, the SAARC Cultural Centre would organize a 6-day Workshop on 'Management Systems of World Heritage Sites in South Asia', in Pakistan, (Date to be announced).

The Workshop will focus on the shared understanding of the diverse systems and mechanisms in the SAARC region that exist for the management of a variety of sites (monuments, religious places, archaeological sites, cave sites etc.). It would then aim at developing and improving these systems with a view to guarantee the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage Sites. The purpose of this program would be to help promote the conservation and management of World Heritage Sites in the region and transmit them to future generations in accordance with the Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention.





AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Workshop are to:

- DISCUSS the country situation (of the SAARC Member States) related to World Heritage Sites;
- IDENTIFY challenges in management of World Heritage Sites in the SAARC region;
- SHARE AND IMPROVE management skills of the Heritage Professionals of the region;
- RECOGNIZE the role of Non-State stakeholders as well as that of the allied sectors (e.g. tourism, handicrafts etc.) in the management of World Heritage Sites in the SAARC region; and
- SUGGEST ways and means to improve the capacity and effectiveness of government and other funding agencies to optimise resources required the management of World Heritage Sites in the SAARC region.
- ADVOCATE the use of World Heritage Sites in South Asia to promote the SAARC spirit.



STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop will be structured on building/ sharing knowledge through lectures, discussion, and case studies on existing management systems relating to the World Heritage Sites. It will consolidate the gained knowledge through developing improved management systems for the World Heritage Site in participants own countries. The Workshop will also take into consideration the World Heritage Guidelines 2008, when discussing potential policies and management plans. Based on these documents the Participants can then review the current situation of management of World Heritage Sites in their respective countries. Discussions will be held on both positive and negative aspects of the management systems which include:

- three elements (legal, institutional, resources),
- three processes (planning, implementation and monitoring), and
- three results (outputs, outcomes and inputs).

Announcements: Call for Contributions for SAARC Culture, Vol. 4: 2013



SAARC Culture is an annual research journal of the SAARC Cultural Centre Colombo, which seeks to provide a platform to the academics, practitioners and policy makers of culture in the region to present their research findings and to debate on issues of mutual and common interest. The journal is widely disseminated as an on-line publication and also as hard copy to project cultural richness and cultural diversity of the SAARC Region.

The first two issues of the journal were thematic in nature, viz.:

- Vol. 1: 2010: 'Rituals, Ethics and Societal Stability in the SAARC Region', and
- Vol. 2: 2011: 'Diminishing Cultures in the SAARC Region'.

From the third issue onwards, The SAARC Culture focuses on various aspects and dimensions of cultures of the South Asian Region.



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SUBMISSIONS

Research articles and book reviews are invited for the next issue of the SAARC Culture (Vol. 4: 2013). Please refer to the Guidelines for Contributors in SAARC Cultural Centre website (Announcements).

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION

5 September 2013

FOR MORE DETAILS

Visit SAARC Cultural Centre website- www.saarcculture.org or

Write to journal-scc@sltnet.lk or sccpublications@gmail.com

Announcements: SAARC Collections of Contemporary Short Stories and Poems 2013

South Asian Countries are very rich in poetry and other art forms, although they are not widespread outside the region. The SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo has launched a programme to promote South Asian Literature. A Collection of Poems and Short Stories featuring contemporary poets and writers in the SAARC Region will be published annually, by the SAARC Cultural Center, Colombo in partnership with the leading publishers in the field to open avenues for international exposure to poets and short story writers in Member States. All Member States are requested to send poems on any theme, in original language with an English translation to represent the Country. Only English translations of Short Stories will be accepted for publication.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The following information should be submitted with each short story or poem.

1. Author's/ poet's name, affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone numbers
2. Brief biographical entry of the author, not exceeding 100 words (This will be published with the poem/Short Story)
3. Title and the poem (in native language and the edited version of the English translation)
4. Translator's name, to be published
5. Editor's name, affiliation and brief bibliographical entry
6. Software to open the text in native language

The short stories/poems should be sent to the SAARC Cultural Centre, 224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. (or e-mailed to - sccpublications@gmail.com)

All short stories/poems should be submitted as a hard copy and an electronic format. The electronic document could be e-mailed or sent via a CD. The document should be saved in Microsoft word, Rich Text Format.



News: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards 2012 for four heritage structures of South Asia

Four heritage structures of South Asia have won the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation for 2012. These include three sites in India and one in Pakistan.

About the Awards

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognize excellent achievement in successfully conserving or restoring heritage buildings and properties in the region by the private sector or by public-private initiatives.

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In 2005, UNESCO launched the Jury Commendation for Innovation. The Jury Commendation recognizes newly-built structures which demonstrate outstanding architectural design that is well-integrated into historic contexts. Since 2000, UNESCO has received 469 entries from 24 countries. A total of 148 projects have received Awards for exemplary conservation efforts, while 8 projects have received the Jury Commendation for Innovation. The Award winners span a wide range of conservation projects from private residences to palace complexes. Over the years, the projects illustrate the increasing momentum and level of conservation in Asia and the Pacific. The Awards set technical and social benchmarks for cultural heritage conservation in the region. Award-winning projects serve as catalysts and a source of inspiration for private individuals and institutions in conserving cultural heritage throughout the region.

2012 Awards Winners

India

2012 Award of Distinction

Sethna Buildings in Wadia Street, Mumbai, India

"The repair and renovation of the early 20th century residential buildings in Wadia Street, represents an outstanding model for protecting and extending the use and life of historically-significant social housing under threat of demolition from urban renewal and development."



Historic Water System of Hampi, Vitthala Precinct, Hampi, Karnataka, India

"The holistic approach to historic site interpretation and the rehabilitation of a culturally significant water system for contemporary use are features that set this project apart. The fact that this occurs within a living cultural landscape make it exemplary and standard-setting."



2012 Honourable Mention

Har Raj Ji Mahal, Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan, India

"Responding to the threat posed by the progressive decay of the fabled 17th century Har Raj Ji Mahal, which had suffered from the ravages of time in an unforgiving desert environment, the project has heroically rescued and restored the oldest and most majestic palace of the imposing Jaisalmer Fort."





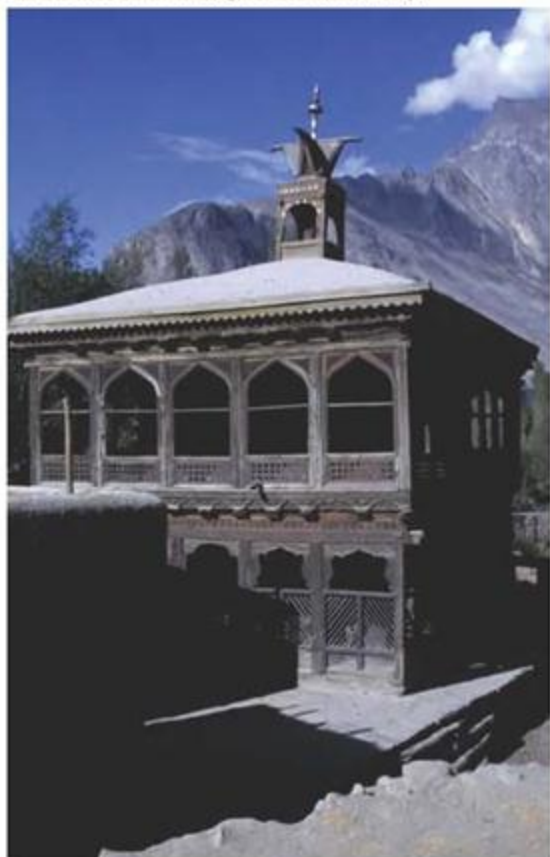
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2012 Award of Merit

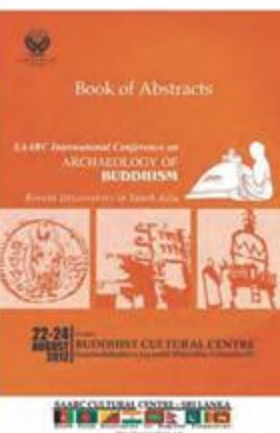
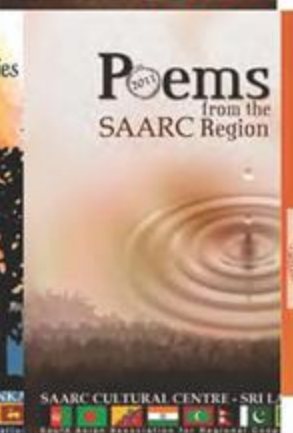
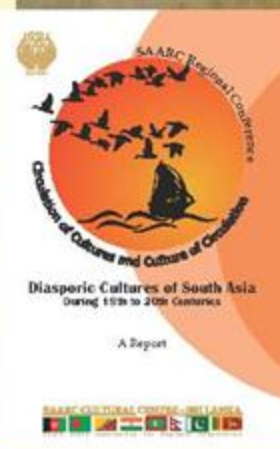
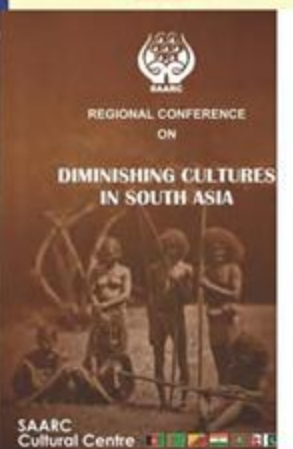
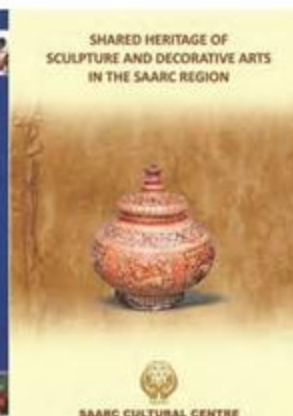
Pakistan

Khilingrong Mosque, Shigar, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

"Constructed four centuries ago, Khilingrong Mosque was in an advanced state of deterioration when the Aga Khan Cultural Service of Pakistan began much needed restoration work. Not only has the project reinstated the religious function of the building, it has also reinvigorated an important public space for day-to-day social interactions among the community."



Our Publications



New Publications

SAARC Artist Camp 2013

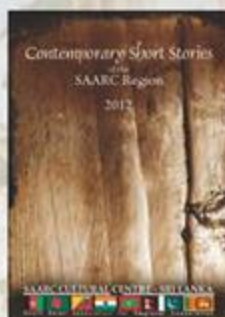
Artist Camp and Exhibition of Paintings of the SAARC Region - is the catalogue featuring the renowned artists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka who participated in the SAARC Artist Camp and the Exhibition 2013 held in Maldives.



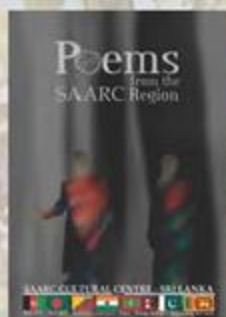
Forthcoming Publications



**Archaeology of Buddhism:
Recent Discoveries in
South Asia (Monograph)**



**SAARC Collection of
Contemporary Short Stories 2012**



**SAARC Collection of
Contemporary Poems 2012**



**Diasporic Cultures of
South Asia - Conference Report**



Wheel of Life



SAARC Culture, Vol. 3 - 2012

Culture Quote



“Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.”

- Jawaharlal Nehru
Indian Prime Minister. 1889-1964

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