

EWSLETTER

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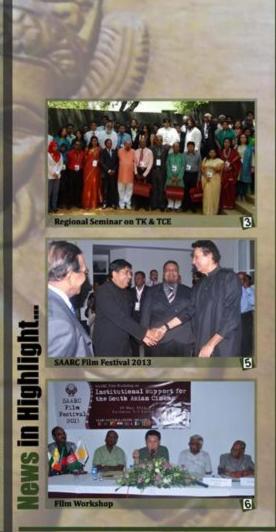
Editorial

uring the second quarter of the year SAARC Cultural Centre's calendar adorned with a number of activities and programmes. The third Research conference of the SAARC Cultural Centre was held in April under the theme of SAARC Regional Seminar on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions of South Asia' and was an important platform for the academics and practitioners in the field to present their findings, share their views, and create awareness on latest research on Traditional Knowledge. The Seminar was a proactive approach for the academics to discuss the most pressing issues with regard to Traditional Knowledge in South Asia that is facing a threat of extinction in the hands of globalization and modernity.

SAARC Film Festival 2013 was held for the third successful year with the participation of films and documentaries from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the SAARC Cultural Centre has been accorded the observer status by the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. The representation of the SAARC Cultural Centre at the World Heritage Committee would help preservation of heritage sites in South Asia in the long run.

For the first time, the SAARC Cultural Centre has opened its doors for the undergraduate and post graduate students in South Asia an internship opportunity with the SAARC Cultural Centre with the objective of giving them exposure to activities in the Centre as well as for furthering cultural cooperation across the region.

-Editor



Achievements: SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka accorded Observer Status by the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee



LW Samarusinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre, with Mr. Alshore Director, World Heritage Committee (left), and Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy for Research when they net at the 37th Session of the World Heritage mittee at Siem Reop, Cambodia.

The SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka has been accorded Observer Status by the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, at the 37th Meeting which was held in Cambodia from 16 to 27 June 2013. The Director of the SAARC Cultural Centre and the Deputy Director, Research attended the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee, at Phnom Penh and Siem Reap (Cambodia):

The World Heritage Committee has 21 State Members, in which only one South Asian Country (India) is represented.

The Agenda of this meeting included consideration of two properties from the SAARC region (both from

India) for inscription as World Heritage. Out of these, the nomination of the Great Himalayan National Park (India) was referred back to the State party, while other - Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) - was inscribed as World Heritage under 'Cultural Property' category. This addition brings the total number of World Heritage properties in India to 30 and those in South Asia to 53.

The Officers of the SCC also had a brief meeting with Mr. Kishore Rao, Director of the World Heritage Committee. Mr. Rao welcomed the participation of SAARC in the World Heritage process and expressed hope for a continued engagement with that body. The Officers of the SCC also met the Indian delegation led by Ms. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, and Mr. Praveen Srivastava, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, and held discussions on a wide range of issues, including the logistics of the events proposed by the SCC for 2014. Informal meetings with Mr Stefano De Caro, DG, ICCROM and Dr Gamini Wijesuriya, Project Manager (Sites Unit). were held wherein avenues of cooperation between the two organizations were discussed, including the ICCROM's technical support in organizing capacitybuilding programmes for the benefit of the SAARC region, especially for the forthcoming Workshop on 'Management of World Heritage Sites' that is scheduled to take place in Islamabad (Pakistan).









Hill Forts of Rajasthan inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

Six Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) have been inscribed by the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee during its 37th session held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia (16-27 June 2013), to which the SAARC Cultural Centre was invited to attend as Observer. With this addition, the number of World Heritage properties in India has gone up to 30 and those in South Asia to 53.



Chittorgarh





Kumbhalgarh Sawai Madhopur









Jhalawar

Amber (Amer) Fort, Jaipur

Jaisalmer

This serial site, situated in the Indian state of Rajasthan, includes majestic forts of Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Jhalawar, Jaipur, and Jaisalmer. The eclectic architecture of the forts, some up to 20 kilometres in circumference, bears testimony to the power of the Rajput princely States that flourished in the region from the 8th to the 18th centuries. Enclosed within defensive walls are major urban centres, palaces, trading centres and other buildings, including temples that often predate the fortifications within which developed an elaborate courtly culture that supported learning, music and the arts. Some of these urban centres have survived, as have many of the site's temples and other sacred buildings. The forts use the natural defenses offered by the landscape: hills, deserts, rivers, and dense forests. They also feature extensive water harvesting structures, largely still in use today.

As many as 86 Cultural and Natural properties from the eight SAARC countries have now been included in the Tentative List of the World Heritage Committee. It includes 86 properties from the South Asian Countries: Afghanistan (4), Bangladesh (2), Bhutan (8), India (34), Maldives (1), Nepal (15), Pakistan (18) and Sri Lanka (2).

Achievements: SAARC Regional Seminar on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) Concludes Successfully

The SAARC Cultural Centre organized 2-day SAARC Regional Seminar on 'Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions of South Asia' at the Sigiriya Museum, Sigiriya from 29-30 April 2013. Hon. Dr. Jagath Balasuriya, Ministry of National Heritage Sri Lanka, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. In his inaugural address, he said:

"We are in an era Traditional Cultural Expressions and Knowledge are threatened by various forces and gradually diminishing. Therefore this is a very valuable step taken forward by the SAARC Cultural Centre to Safeguard Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions."

The Keynote address was delivered by Professor Sunanda Mahendra, Emeritus Professor of Mass Communication, at the University of Kelaniya and presently a Member of the Board of Directors of the Sri Lanka Press Council. In his address, Prof. Mahendra stressed upon the need to link traditional knowledge with the education system, and said:



...



"...some educationists have traced the value of traditional knowledge acquisition as a basis for better teaching techniques such as some aspects like outdoor classes, field trips, improving of observation skills, use of folklore material such as discussing tales and parables in lessons and collection them for the analysis of traditional knowledge they envelope as human experiences, could be influenced from the traditional methods of teaching."-Prof. Sunanda Mahendra

At the 2-day seminar, which was attended by delegates from all SAARC Member countries (except Afghanistan and Nepal), a total of twenty-nine papers were presented on diverse themes such as: Understanding Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Healing and Well-being, Traditional Living and Livelihood, Traditional Music and Dance, Traditional Art and Design, Traditional Costumes, and Traditional handicrafts. Two Round Tables were organized on: 'Legal Safeguards for Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions', and 'Role of Modern Practices and Technologies in Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions'. A Special Lecture on Traditional Knowledge and Bio diversity was delivered by Prof. Sarath Kotagama.

After two days of deliberation, research topics were selected during the plenary session as part of its annual research programme. Based on selected themes, SAARC Cultural Centre has called for Research Proposals by mid-May 2013.

On 1 May 2013 the delegates were taken on a Post-Seminar tour to the Traditional Orthopaedic Healing Centre at Horiwila, Traditional Handicraft Village, Sigiriya and to the world heritage site of Sigiriya.



Achievements: SAARC FILM FESTIVAL concludes with "Paan Singh Tomar" from India bagging the Best Feature Film in the SAARC Region 2013, and "Cost of Climate Change" from Bhutan, bagging the trophy for Best Documentary

The SAARC Cultural Centre successfully concluded the Third SAARC Film Festival on the 31st of May 2013, with an Awards Ceremony. The Film Festival commenced on the 26th of May, and screened films from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Feature and Documentary Films were screened.

The Film Festival is yet another SAARC Cultural Initiative, which aims to provide a platform for exchange of ideas and points of view from Film Directors of the Region. The SAARC Region has produced some films with a standard of excellence. The SAARC Film Festival focused on promoting some of the best films featured in 2010 - 2012 from all Member States. A call for 2 feature films and 2 short films from each SAARC Member State was made and nominations were received from 7 countries. A panel of International Jury Members from Singapore, Russia and Iran adjudicated at this festival and an award was made to the Best Feature Film in the region for the year 2013. A Silver and Bronze medal was also awarded to the feature film category. A trophy for the Best Documentary, Best Director, Actor and Actress were also awarded. Films were screened free of charge to the general public at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall from the 25th - 31st May 2013.

The Awards Ceremony was held under the distinguished patronage of Hon Minister Dhilan Perera, Minister of Foreign Employment, Promotion and Welfare. In addition to the Film Festival, a very

successful workshop was also held with eminent speaker Dr D.B. Nihalsinghe as keynote speaker. All visiting Film Directors and adjudicators were also taken on a field tour to the National Telecinema Park in Sri Lanka.

The Best Feature Film was awarded to India - "Paan Singh Tomar" for its fascinating plot and strong direction that imaginatively combines the sports and action genre within SAARC Film Festival 2013: Final Results

Special Jury Certificate of Recognition Kaushal Oza (Director - Afterglow) India

Trophy for Best Director

Tigmanshu Dhulia (Paan Singh Tomar) India

Best Actor

Thisal Moragoda (Mouse) Sri Lanka

Best Actress

Aamina Sheikh (Seedlings) Pakistan

Best Documentary Film

Cost of Climate Change - Directed by Tshering Penjor BHUTAN

Best Feature Film Bronze Medal

Mouse - Directed by Wasantha Moragoda - SRI LANKA

Best Feature Film Silver Medal

Seedlings - Directed by Mansoor Munjahid - PAKISTAN

Best Feature Film Trophy

Paan Singh Tomar - Directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia - INDIA

the background of post-colonial India" For "capturing the human drama of a difficult subject with emotional impact" "Cost of Climate Change" from Bhutan was awarded the Best Documentary. A list of other awards are listed below. The SAARC Cultural Centre hopes to have many such festivals in the future in

order to promote feature and documentary films in the region.



TOUSE

SAARC Film Festival: Workshop on Institutional Support for South Asian Cinema



A Workshop on the topic "Institutional Support for South Asian Cinema" was held to coincide with the Film Festival held on 29 May, 2013 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo. This workshop examined the above topic, within the perspective of the South Asian Cinema, The welcome address was delivered by Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC), Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director (Research) SCC introduced the topic of the Workshop. He informed the workshop that this film festival is growing in popularity where all different levels of cinema scholars who debated on the subject of Institutional support for the south Asian cinema. The keynote address was delivered by Kalakeerthi Dr. D.B. Nihalsinha, one of the pioneering Film Directors in Cinema in Sri Lanka. Dr. Nihalsinha, reminded the audience that Cinema is known as an art, revered and respected for that capacity and despite being an art, cinema is nonetheless a technological process which enables the creative practice which transports the audience into a realm where they enjoy a sense of illusion of reality.

The Workshop was steered by three eminent cine personalities from Sri Lanka, Mr. Kalakeerthi Mr. Ediwin Ariyadasa, Pro£. Chandrasena Palliaguru and Mr. Phillip Cheah Adjudicator from Singapore and a Singapore-based Film critic of international repute and editor of BigO Singapore's only independent pop culture publication. International Adjudicators Mr. Alexander Volkov of Russia and Mr. Abbas Rafei of Iran and visiting Film Directors from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka also participated in the Workshop. The workshop was very successful as there was much interaction and exchange of knowledge on the selected topic. The workshop attendees were based on those who registered for the workshop, thus keeping it exclusive for those interested in the topic. The workshop saw in attendance over 85 participants.

The vote of thanks for the workshop was delivered by Mrs. Soundarie David Rodrigo, Deputy Director (Programmes), SCC.





Announcements: Saarc Capacity Building Workshop on Management Systems of World Heritage Sites in South Asia (Islamabad, Pakistan, 26-31 August 2013)

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 in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, would organize a 6-day Workshop on 'Management Systems of World Heritage Sites in South Asia', in Pakistan.

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), including 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.

For further details. Please visit our web site

Announcements: Development of Cultural Industries – Handicrafts September 22nd-27th 2013 Dhaka, Bangladesh

With an aim to promote local handicrafts, also in terms of social regeneration and social cohesion through the Handicraft Industry, this year, the SAARC Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of Bangladesh, will hold an Exhibition and workshop on Handicrafts in the region. Lying at crossroads between the arts, business and technology, the creative industries sector comprises a large variety of creative fields, from those heavily industrialized such as advertising and marketing, broadcasting, film industries etc, to less industrialized – like cultural industries. This sector is increasingly important for the benefit of the people of the region, from an economic point of view, and the SAARC Member States are yet to realize its full potential.

Bearing this in mind the centre will promote local handicrafts and craftsmen of the region over a period of 6 days in Dhaka, Bangladesh at a Handicraft Exhibition, workshop and Buyers/Sellers meet. The SAARC Cultural Centre will embark on these programmes to not merely promote cultural industries in the region, but also provide useful tools that would promote interaction, create a platform for fading traditional crafts of the region, and provide a data base for interested parties.

SAARC Exhibition on Handicrafts

Project Overview

The programme on Cultural Industries will consist of four main components/projects

- SAARC Exhibition on Handicrafts (Handicraft Village) in the SAARC Region
- Design Workshop

- 3) Buyers/Sellers Meet
- Review Meeting on SAARC Map of Cultural Industries

For further details please visit our website.

Announcements: SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia 'The Future of Archives & Archives of the Future' (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 9-11 October 2013)

Background

Archives are memory of a nation. They are an incredible resource of human activities and an irreplaceable witness to the past events that are crucial for underpinning democracy, the identity of individuals and communities, and human rights. But these are also fragile and vulnerable. In recent years, there has been a seachange in the creation, management and use of records and other archival resources.

The on-going shift from manual to electronic records, the emerging trends of democratization of information, development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, changes in the structure and distribution of knowledge caused by mass digitization, etc. has revolutionized the archives management. At the same time, it has also made the task of future archivists and records managers more arduous than ever before.



Archivists everywhere now find themselves at a crossroads, caught between their mandate to preserve the best of the analogue past, and the growing need to capture the vital ephemera of the digital world – from emails and social media chat sites to from image sites, and from Twitter exchanges between public figures to the propaganda websites of the political parties, NGOs, Citizen Forums and the like.

The Conference

INTRODUCTION

In most of the South Asian Archives, there is a general lack of appreciation or incapacity to accept archives in non-traditional formats, especially digital, and also film and sound at present. Most of these repositories also lack the competency and skills to take proper care of such formats, even if they take them in. Though there can be no single solution for various common and specific challenges faced by the archival repositories in the region, yet developing their digital capacity lies at the core of the strategic planning for the future.

The SAARC Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Department of National Archives, Sri Lanka, would organize the SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia, entitled, "The Future of Archives and Archives of the Future' in Colombo (Sri Lanka).

This Conference will provide a platform to the key stakeholders in the field of archives and records management in the region to assess their preparedness, share their challenges and problems, showcase their achievements, voice their concerns and learn from the experts for effectively managing their existing and future collections over the long-term.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY

Photographic Exhibition

An Exhibition of digital prints of historical documents and photographs of archival value in South Asia will be mounted at the Conference venue.

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR

A full day Post-Conference tour will be organized on Saturday, 12 October 2013 to the World Heritage City of Galle, for the participants of the Conference.

DATES AND VENUE

The Conference will be held at the National Archives, No. 7, Philip Gunawardena Mawatha, Colombo, Sri Lanka for 3 days from 9 to 11 October 2013.

For further details. Please visit our web site



Announcements: Call for Proposals for Research on Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions of South Asia (2013-14)

SAARC Cultural Centre, as part of its mandate in promoting cultural diversity in South Asia and part of its research project for 2013-14, is pleased to invite proposals for research on various aspects of the Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) of South Asia. The research will give an opportunity for the Member States to conduct in-depth studies on their rich cultural heritage of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions and identify and utilize the productive components of the research for the benefit of their people.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Research project are:

- To identify and document various forms of TK and TCEs of South Asia;
- To study and analyse all forces (colonial influence, industrialization, globalization) that have impacted TK and TCEs;
- To discuss and debate the productive characteristics of TK and TCEs; and,
- d. To present innovative measures of safeguarding TK and TCEs.

RESEARCH THEMES

 $The me: Safeguarding\ Traditional\ Knowledge\ (TK)\ and\ Traditional\ Cultural\ Expressions\ (TCEs)\ of\ South\ Asia$

Sub Themes:

- 1. Traditional cultural education
- 2. Traditional culture, religion and belief systems
- 3. Traditional agriculture and its sustainability
- Traditional forms of communications of TK and TCFs
- Traditional arts and designs

 Traditional signs and symbols
 - b. Traditional textiles and costumes
- Traditional architecture
- 7. Social structure and TK and TCEs
- 8 Conservation of material culture
- Legal mechanisms and safeguards for TK and TCEs

- Role of indigenous and minority groups in sustaining TK and TCEs
- 11. Documentation and conservation of TK and TCEs
- 12. Indigenous medicines and spiritual healing
- 13. Traditional games
- 14. Traditional arts, crafts and designs
- 15. Traditional rituals, ethics and ceremonies
- 16. Traditional living and livelihood
- 17. Languages, scripts and traditional identity
- Commercialization, globalization and changes, and TK and TCEs
- 19. Modern technology in the protection of TK and TCEs

BUDGET

Each researcher will be granted US\$3,000

TIMESCHEDULE

11 months (Starting from 1 October 2013)

Call for Proposals

Deadline for accepting research proposals

Approval of the research project

Commencement of the Project

Submission of Progress Report and Review Meeting

Submission of Final Report

For more information visit: www.saarcculture.org

10 May 2013

31 August 2013

15 September 2013

1 October 2013

March 2014 (date to be announced)

31 August 2014



Announcements: Call for Contributions for SAARC Culture,

Vol. 4: 2013

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 websitewww.saarcculture.orgor Write to journal-scc@sltnet.lk 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 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.

- Author's/ poet's name, affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone numbers
- Brief biographical entry of the author, not exceeding 100 words (This will be published with the poem/Short Story)
- Title and the poem (in native language and the edited version of the English translation)
- 4. Translator's name, to be published
- Editor's name, affiliation and brief bibliographical entry
- 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 emailed 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: SAARC Cultural Centre marks the 6th International Archives Day (June 9)

June 9 is the International Archives Day.

A decision to celebrate 9th of June as the International Archives Day was taken by the International Council on Archives (ICA) in its Annual General Meeting in November 2007. This date also marks the establishment of the ICA in 1948 under the auspices of the UNESCO.

Mandated to preserve and promote the cultural cooperation amongst the people of South Asia, the SAARC Cultural Centre, rededicates itself to the conservation and optimal utilization of the rich documentary heritage of South Asia. The Centre is also pleased to announce that in collaboration with the Department of National Archives, Sri Lanka, it will be organizing the SAARC International Conference on the Development of Archives in South Asia (Colombo, 9-11 October 2013). (Please await more details to be posted on our website soon).

On the occasion of the 6th International Archives Day, the SAARC Cultural Centre also affirms its support to the Universal Declaration on Archives which was adopted by the 36th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO on 10th November 2011. The Declaration is an important step in improving understanding and awareness of archives

among the general public and key decision-makers. It is a powerful, succinct statement of the relevance of archives in modern society. It:

- DEFINES archives to include all recorded decisions, actions and memories in all formats including paper, digital, and audio visual;
- RECOGNISES the uniqueness of archives in the way they provide authentic evidence of human actions;
- EMPHASISES the key role of archives in ensuring administrative transparency and democratic accountability; supporting democracy and human rights, and preserving collective social memory.
- EXPLAINS the role of archivists as skilled professionals who care for archives and provide access to them;
- HIGHLIGHTS the key requirements for good archival management.

(For details, see http://icarchives.webbler.co.uk/14300/international-archives-day/the-international-archives-day-in-2013.html)

You can also show your support for the Universal Declaration on Archives by 'signing' the online register either as an individual or on behalf of an institution, organisation or association at the website of the International Council on Archives (ICA):

http://icarchives.wufoo.com/forms/register-your-support-for-the-uda/

Feature Article: Hospitality: The Sri Lankan experience

Having never been to Sri Lanka I relied heavily on vague descriptions unearthed from travel blogs, and partisan compliments by Sri Lankan friends in Delhi before deciding to spend two months as an intern at the SAARC Cultural Center in Colombo. I was excited to experience all the sights and sounds that the "the pearl in the ocean" had to offer. But with such a rich history and ecology no one could ever agree on what is a must see. What was interesting though was that the phalanx of travel blog all echoed the legend of Sri Lankan hospitality.

While all peoples pride themselves for being generous there are certain cultures that really stand out. It is hard to define what makes a people hospitable; perhaps it can only be experienced. What is known, however, is that the culture of hospitality is a central feature of the cultural ethos of a community. How they treat strangers among them is a custom that is engrained into the society by values that have been passed down through generations.

Perhaps it is this long history of welcoming foreigners in Sri Lanka that the culture of hospitality is so strong here. After all Buddhism too came to the nation only when Prince Mahindra was welcomed by King Devanampiya Tissa.

Although –and it is obvious –that I have not met most Sri Lankans I generalize that hospitality is engrained in their social DNA because here being kind to a stranger is a norm and not an exception. From experience I present this example. Having arrived in Sri Lanka on the 3rd of June, totally unprepared for the internship: with no place to stay, no prior contacts, no phones, and hardly any money, we found ourselves surrounded by incredibly helpful people. It was quite a sight to see an entire office in frenzy over finding an apartment for my fellow intern and me. I take it its amazingly difficult to find a decent, safe and reasonably priced apartment in Colombo (that too near the office), and yet with around half a dozen members of the SAARC Cultural center sending off e-mails, and making desperate calls we found a house and were quite settled in within a day.

And what an apartment it is; a wonderful landlady who climbs 50 steps to the third floor at a young age of 79. And she is never empty handed. With one hand on the railing and the other holding sweets she makes her way up, slowly but surely, to ensure all is well with "her children".

While we mostly associate culture with heritage sites, folk-lore, music and dance, I find that the nature of hospitality is great indicator of the culture as well; and not simply an academic study of the rituals of hospitality but also the depth and sincerity with

which the society engages in it. As far as the legends of Sri Lankan hospitality go, I am glad it's true.

> Slok Gyawali S Cultural Centre,

Intern at SAARC Cultural Centre, South Asian University, Department of International Relations, New Delhi



New Publications



SAARC Culture Vol. 3-2012 the annual journal of the SAARC Cultural Centre has reached its third year. The Journal brings out 11 articles written on various subjects on culture and allied areas.



Book of Abstracts - Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions - contains 36 papers that were accepted for presentation during the SAARC Regional Seminar on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions held in 29-30 April 2013.

Forthcoming Publications



SAARC Film Festival 2013 - is a brochure of information on films screened at the SAARC Film Festival 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka.







Culture Quote



6 6 Who are your friends? Who go with you? Which land is vour home?

What place do you seek, Traveler? With what news do you roam?"

"My friend is decent diligence. Courage comes with me. All world's my home. To heart-land I roam with hues of **Humanity**

Maha Kavi Laxmi Prasad Devkota (1909-1959) Nepali poet and scholar

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