

NEWSLETTER

September 2014 | Vol 4, No. 3



Editorial

I am pleased to present the third issue of the SAARC Cultural Centre's Newsletter for 2014. The Centre has been able to maintain high standard of performance in all its programmes placing continuity and quality as priorities. Recently concluded Workshop on Preparation of Proposals for New Sites for New Sites of World Heritage Sites was a reaffirmation of the recommendations made by the First SAARC Capacity Building Workshop held in Islamabad, in 2013. Taking on a step further, Centre's proposal to establish a SAARC Heritage Committee under the auspices of the SAARC Cultural Centre will no doubt add extra value in the pursuit of establishing a common regional commitment towards management of World Heritage Sites in South Asia.

Among the upcoming programmes is the second Cultural Festival organized by the Centre in New Delhi, India, with a view to promote performing arts in the region by sharing among the general public the rich traditions of Dance in the SAARC Region. SAARC International Conference Development of Museums will be held in October in collaboration with the Department of National Museums, Sri Lanka. This is the third in sequel of the series of international conferences organized by the Centre and this year's theme would focus on 'Curating Culture for Present and Future'. Preparations are also underway to hold the second SAARC literary festival in Islamabad, on Children's Literature in South Asia in December and the SAARC Collections of Poetry and Short Stories are due to be released in the last quarter of 2014. I welcome all our readers to be in touch with the latest activities and programmes of the SAARC Cultural Centre on our website and facebook page.

-Editor

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News in Highlight..

H. E. Mr. Arjun B. Thapa calls on the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre

His Excellency, Mr. Arjun B. Thapa, the Secretary General of SAARC visited the SAARC Cultural Centre on the 14th of August 2014. During his visit to the Centre, he met with Director, SCC, Mr G.L.W.Samarasinghe, Deputy Director (Programmes) Ms Soundarie David Rodrigo, and other senior staff members of the SAARC Cultural Centre.

He acknowledged the crucial role of culture within the SAARC Region, and commended the SAARC Cultural Centre on the work it has done in bringing together the people of the region through culture and acknowledged the centres as being vibrant and active. The discussion also focused on upcoming programmes, and the need to have more participation from all countries at the many cultural events organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre. Director, SCC, Mr Samarasinghe, gave a brief report of the work done by the centre, in terms of its many programmes as well as publications.

During his stay in Sri Lanka, the Secretary General also paid a courtesy call on President Mahinda Rajapaksa, on the 11th of August in Kandy, and held discussions with the Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, Mrs Kshenuka Seniwiratne, as well as Minister of External Affairs, Prof. G.L. Peiris.



Achievements: SAARC Capacity Building Workshop on Preparation of Proposals of New Sites for Inclusion in the UNESCO's World Heritage List, Lumbini, Nepal (3-8 August 2014)

SAARC Cultural Centre is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the SAARC Capacity Building Workshop on 'Preparation of Proposals of New Sites for Inclusion in the UNESCO's World Heritage List' held at the Buddhamaya Garden Hotel and Resort, Lumbini, Nepal, from 3-8 August 2014.

This was the second Workshop organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre as part of its efforts for building capacity of the participants drawn from mid/ senior level professionals involved in cultural/ heritage sites management in the

SAARC Member States to prepare proposals for new sites for the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. The first SAARC Capacity Building Workshop on 'Management Systems of World Heritage Sites in South Asia', was held at Islamabad, Pakistan, from 25-31 August 2013.

Both these Workshops were held with the technical support of World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), Shanghai (China).

The Workshop at Lumbini was organized by the SAARC Cultural

Centre in collaboration of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal. It included lectures, Country Presentations and Open Discussions on protection and conservation of World Heritage Sites and was attended by over 40 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Inaugural Session

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Ranjan Krishna Aryal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Nepal. Welcome Addresses were delivered





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by Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre on behalf of the SAARC Cultural Centre and Mr. Bhesh Narayan Dhahal, Director General, Department of Archaeology, on behalf of the Government of Nepal. Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director, Research, SAARC Cultural Centre proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Academic Sessions

A total of 12 special lectures, 8 country presentations, and 4 Round Table Discussion sessions were held for the purpose of improving capacity and skills required to develop the potential World Heritage Sites in the SAARC Region and to undertake the prescribed nomination process, to share practical knowledge on lessons learnt on Heritage Sites Conservation and Management and to share the existing knowledge on the prevailing systems among the



Dr. Jukka Jokilehto

countries and to learn from each other.

Special Lectures were delivered by four renowned experts, viz.

Dr. Jukka Jokilehto

Consultant and Lecturer in Architectural and Urban Conservation, Professor at University of Nova Garcia (Slovenia), Honorary Visiting Professor at

University of York and Special Advisor to ICCROM, Rome;

Dr. Ayesha Pamela Rogers

UNESCO Chair in Management of Historic Towns and of the collaborative UNESCO-WHITRAP-Office of Commissioner, Rawalpindi Historic Urban Landscape Project and Professor, National College of Arts, Rawalpindi, Pakistan;

Dr. Rohit Jigyasu

UNESCO Chair Professor at the Institute for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, Senior Advisor at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), and President, ICOMOS-India; and

Architect Kai Weise

Chairperson PAHAR (Planners' Alliance for the Himalayan and



Dr. Ayesha Pamela Rogers

Allied Regions), Nepal, Consultant, UNESCO, for Management of World Heritage properties, President ICOMOS-Nepal, and Member ICOMOS ICORP (International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness).

The Special Lectures covered following topics:

1. Introducing the World Heritage Convention

2. Working with World Heritage from 2003 to 2014 - Lessons Learnt

3. WH Convention's Theoretical and Methodological Framework within UNESCO's Mandate, Structure, Other Conventions and Recommendations

4. Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the WH Convention

5. Nomination Process: Criteria, Boundaries, Nomination Dossiers, New Trends and Issues

6. Evaluation of Nominations by Advisory Bodies and Decisions by the Committee

7. Global Strategy, Trans-boundary and Serial Nominations

8. Legislative, Regulatory and Institutional Arrangements and Conservation Planning



Dr. Rohit Jigyasu

9. Assessment of State of Conservation through Indicators, including Concepts of Authenticity and Integrity

10. Reactive Monitoring and Periodic Reporting Processes

11. Management Systems and Management Planning

12. Site Interpretation Strategies, and Operational Aspects related to Tourism.

Group Discussion and Presentations

As part of Group Discussion, the participants were divided into four groups and were asked to suggest at least three aspects of historical and cultural spaces and linkages within South Asia with common attributes that bear outstanding heritage significance at SAARC regional level. Then they were requested to suggest at least three principal requirements for their recognition as heritage and their recommendations regarding initiating such a project at SAARC level. The groups were also asked to discuss and present three most common issues and challenges for preparing nominations for this unique shared heritage in SAARC region. Finally, they were asked to provide three suggestions to build the capacity of SAARC member countries to prepare successful World Heritage Nominations. Each Group Discussions was followed by Feedback and Q&A session.



Field Trip

As part of the Workshop, the participants were taken to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama that are included in the Tentative List of the World Heritage Sites for on-site discussion of issues related to: criteria, boundaries, state of conservation, site management and presentation, among others. The Field trip was guided by Architect Kai Weise and was facilitated by the Lumbini Development Trust.



The Plenary Session

At the conclusion of the Academic Sessions, a Plenary Session was held on 8 August 2014 as a closed door session in which all Resource Persons as well as a representative each from official delegations from the Member States were invited. It was chaired by Dr. Jukka Jojhilehto. The Plenary Committee summarized the main suggestions emerging out of the deliberations and prepared a set of recommendations for the SAARC Member States. Recommendations covered a wide array of areas including continuation to work in close cooperation with WHITR-AP Shanghai (China), on different aspects of capacity building and research in the field of heritage management in the region, working closely with the proposed UNESCO's Category 2 Centre (C2C) - ASPAC Regional Centre for Conservation and management of World Heritage Sites (ARCOM-WHS) - at the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), New Delhi (India), especially in view of the fact that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), for cooperation in the field of culture has already been signed between the SAARC and UNESCO on 29 January

2008 and the setting up of the SAARC Heritage Committee (SHC) under the auspices of the SAARC Cultural Centre and to that effect a Working Group formed by the SAARC Cultural Centre will be formed at the earliest to work out its structure, membership format, funding aspects, etc. as well as activities based on a consolidated Terms of Reference

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the Workshop was held on 8 August 2014 at Buddha Maya Garden Hotel, Lumbini. Hon. Mr. Bhim Prasad Acharya, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Nepal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and distributed certificates and mementos to all participants of the workshop. The event was also attended by other dignitaries and distinguished invitees from Nepal. A Cultural Programme, followed by dinner hosted by the Hon'ble Minister concluded the Workshop.



Achievement: SAARC Culture Ministers Meeting & SAARC Senior Officials Preparatory Meeting, 24-25 September 2014, New Delhi, India

The Third Meeting of Senior Officials and Culture Ministers from the SAARC countries was held in New Delhi on the 24th and 25th September 2014. Senior officials from the SAARC Cultural Centre were also present at the meetings. Given that the meeting was convened after eight years, it represented an important historical occasion.

At the Senior Officials meetings, Mr. M.J.H. Javed, Director and representative of the Secretary General of SAARC delivered a statement from H.E. Arjun B. Thapa, Secretary General of SAARC. In his statement, he thanked the Government of India, for its laudable initiative to convene the Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Culture after a gap of seven years, during which significant progress has been made in the field of culture.

Mr. G.L.W. Samarasinghe, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre made a presentation regarding the Centre and its activities since establishment. The Senior Ministers revised the SAARC Agenda for Culture and recommended its adoption by the SAARC Ministers of Culture. The Senior Officials meeting also considered the draft Delhi Resolution submitted by Member State India, which was submitted to be endorsed by the Ministers of Culture meeting.

As per the SAARC practice, Hon. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State, Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), Government of India, and the leader of the Delegation of the Host country, India, was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his opening remarks, he reiterated on the role of culture in shaping the development vision of a nation, as it reinforces shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. The Culture

Ministers approved of greater co-operation and collaboration in the diverse fields that are clubbed under culture, and recognized the role of the SAARC Cultural Centre in bringing the people of the region together through culture. The Ministers adopted the New Delhi Resolution as a roadmap for cultural relations in the SAARC Region, for the period 2014 - 17. The Ministers further emphasized that culture is an integral component of multilateral relations in the SAARC Region, and a simultaneous interchange of a culture's true ambassadors - its artists, writers and performers, and that it is extremely necessary to preserve the cultural integrity of the region as well as create an atmosphere of warmth and goodwill among neighbors. They also stressed on the importance of SAARC Cultural Festivals to be held in different Member States.

The SAARC Culture Ministers also resolved the following

- To declare 2016-17 as the SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage
- To further enhance the SAARC Agenda with additions and revisions, and thereby adopted the Revised Agenda for Culture.

The meeting welcomed the offer of Bangladesh to host the Fourth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Culture in the last quarter of 2015, preceded by the Fourth Meeting of Senior Officials Preparatory to the Fourth Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Culture.



Achievement: SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance – 26-28 September 2014, New Delhi, India

The cultural festival on traditional dances started coterminous with the Ministerial meeting from 26 to 28 September 201 with 113 participants from 6 Member States.

The event was organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in New Delhi. The highlight of the event was the presence of all the dignitaries on all 3 days felicitating the dancers from the Member States. The Chenda Melam dancers welcomed the guests on all the 3 days at the welcome gate Copernicus Marg at Rabindra Bhavan.

A one day workshop was also held at Megdoot Theatre on the second day of the festival on the theme: Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Context of SAARC.

The workshop was well attended by all the participants from the member states with the paper presentation by Ms Sudha Gopalakrishnan, a classical dance exponent and the expert Chhau exponent and national awardee Guru Shashadhar Acharya from the Sangeet Natak Akademi.



The 6 participating member states performed various traditional dances at the Meghdoot Theatre for 3 days. Parallel to the event was an exhibition of pictures of all dances performed in the past at the lawns adjacent to the theatre.

A day long trip was organized on 29 September and the dancers were taken to see the Taj Mahal in Agra and Agra Fort.

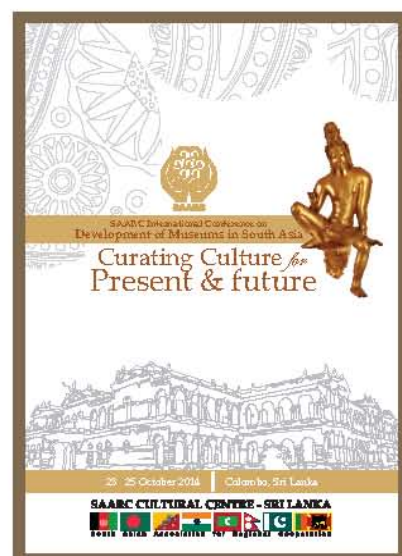


Announcements: SAARC International Conference on Development of Museums in South Asia Curating Culture for Present & Future, 23-25 October 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka

With a view to sharing new developments in the management, administration and research in various cultural sectors, viz. archaeology, archives, museums and historical architecture, the SAARC Cultural Centre has drawn an elaborate 5-year programme to organize an international conference on an identified theme on an annual basis. Thus, in 2012, the Centre had organized SAARC International Conference on 'Archaeology of Buddhism: Recent Discoveries in South Asia' (Colombo, 22-24 August 2012) and in 2013, it organized SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia 'The Future of Archives and Archives in the Future' (Colombo, 3-5 December 2013).

As per the approved programmes for 2014 the SAARC Cultural Centre will be organizing SAARC International Conference on Development of Museums in South Asia. The proposed Conference is conceived as a platform to discuss research findings, the existing mechanisms and recommended strategies to better manage museums in the South Asian Region. It is for the first time that such a conference devoted exclusively to the study of Museums in South Asia is being held in Sri Lanka.

For more details, please visit www.saarcculture.org



Announcements: SAARC Handicraft Exhibition & Handicraft Village, 20-25 November 2014, Kathmandu, Nepal

Following the success of two earlier exhibitions on preserving the art, as well as developing new designs of weaving in New Delhi and handicraft products in Dhaka in Bangladesh, a Handicrafts Village exhibition is scheduled in October in Kathmandu in Nepal.

The SAARC Cultural Centre as per Art 6 of the SAARC Agenda for Culture reads

“6. Cooperation in the field of product development and promotion of cultural products.”

1. Cooperation among the Member States on development of creative cultural enterprises, creative industries, through product development, creation of market opportunities, exchange of information and networking arrangements in accordance with the relevant SAARC instruments and processes.

2. Identify best practices in production and management of art and crafts across the region and documentation for wider dissemination.”

Bearing this in mind the centre will promote local handicrafts and craftsmen of the region over a period of 5 days in Nepal at a Handicraft Exhibition, and workshop. 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.

Objectives

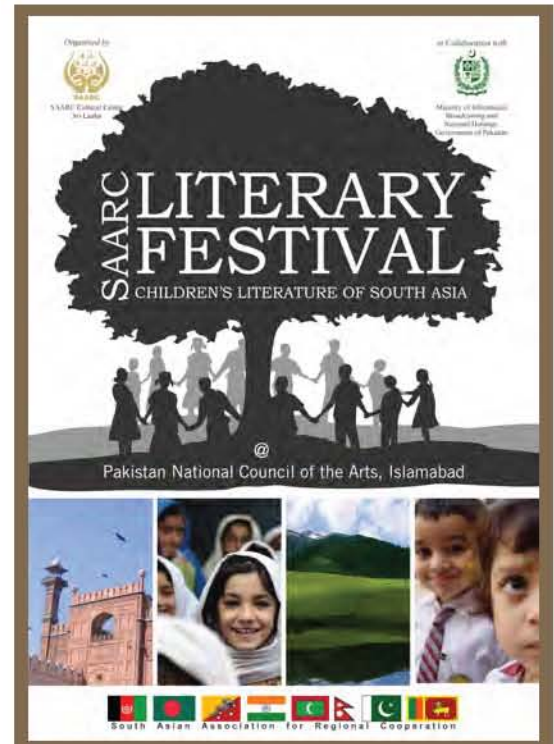
1. To identify, nourish and protect the fading traditional art of crafts, with specific focus on handicrafts of the SAARC Member States to posterity.
2. To look into the various aspects of cultural Industries, such as the economic, legal, technological, and educational aspects of the product of Cultural Industries
3. To collect data on Cultural Industries, and release a source book/directory, that would be useful to prospective buyers.
4. To produce and publish a well researched document on Cultural Industries, identifying areas that need promoting in the region, as well as studying issues of concern within these dying traditional crafts and arts.
5. To execute and display the skills of the craftsmen, of the SAARC Region, all in one location.
6. To bring the above mentioned, in one platform for interaction, and help them find their patrons.
7. To educate visitors, both domestic and foreigners about the unique and fascinating technique and skills involved and to highlight the Handicrafts of the region.
8. To promote knowledge sharing through workshops, that would highlight newer techniques and designs while still maintaining the authenticity of handicrafts.



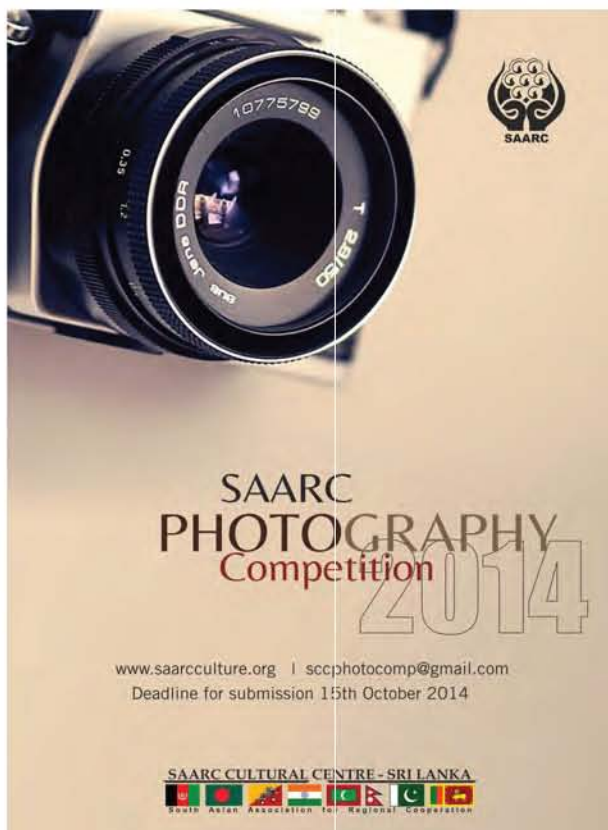
Announcements: SAARC Literary Festival on Children's Literature of South Asia 12-14 December 2014, Islamabad, Pakistan

As part of the approved programmes for the year 2015, the SAARC Cultural Centre will organize a 3-day Children's Literary Festival in Islamabad (Pakistan). The Festival will be a forum for writers, literary critics, and children themselves to discuss the current status of South Asian Children's Literature and to indulge in exploring the beauty of the childhood as depicted in it.

The proposed SAARC Literary Festival will provide a platform to the poets, authors, animators and illustrators of the children's literature, child psychologists, and literary enthusiasts in the region to share their thoughts, insights, voice their concerns and learn from the experts of the Children's Literature of South Asia. Since children's literature cannot be discussed in the absence of children, the Festival will be open for the children and a special book reading session will be conducted for children aged 4-15 where they can bring their own stories and share it with others. It will also hold sessions in the schools of Islamabad (Pakistan) where adult authors and story tellers will narrate amusing stories to the children. It is hoped that with a mix of formal and informal interactive sessions, the Festival will promote critical thinking and creativity among children, as well as sensitize the adult authors to look at the Children's literature from children's perspective.



Announcements: Photography Competition 2014



Photography has become an art by itself, with many modern advances to photography. The SAARC Cultural Centre hopes to continue encouraging photographers in the SAARC Region, by having a competition of Photographs. This would be an open category, with no specific theme, however, it is important that applicants are nationals of one of the SAARC countries, and photographs should try to promote culture and the SAARC Region in general.

The best photographs will be on Exhibition in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 8th of December, which is SAARC Charter Day. A cash award and certificate will be given to the best three, and short listed photographs will be showcased at the exhibition, and on all publications pertaining to the competition. This is an attempt to promote the SAARC Region to the rest of the world

All SAARC Member States-Relevant Ministries are kindly requested to circulate to all relevant institutions and interested parties.

The Deadline for submission of photographs will be the 25th of October 2014. Winners and selected photographs will be announced by 25th November 2014. The Exhibition will take place on the 8th of December together with an award Ceremony.

Announcements: Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards 2014 for Four Heritage Structures from South Asia

Four Heritage structures from South Asia have won Awards of Merit and Honorable Mention in the 2014 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards 2014. These include one site from India which won the Award of Merit while Honorable Mention made for three sites one each from Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.

About the Awards

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme recognizes the efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully restored and conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the region. By recognizing private efforts to restore and adapt historic properties the awards aim to encourage other property owners to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or by seeking public-private partnerships.

The winners were selected based on how the projects reflected a clear understanding and application of various criteria, such as the articulation of the spirit of place, technical achievement, appropriate use or adaption, and the project's contribution to the surrounding environment as well as the local community's cultural and historical continuity.

Eligible projects must be more than 50 years old and the restoration must have been completed within the past 10 years. Buildings with a new use must have also been in viable use for at least one year from the date of the awards announcement.

Further information about the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation and this year's winning entries can be found at: www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards

2014 Award Winners

Award of Merit: INDIA



Project Name:
Shri Sakhangad Niwasini
Devi Temple Complex

Location: Kinhai Village,
Maharashtra, India

Honorable Mention:

AFGHANISTAN



Project Name: Shahzada Hussain Mausoleum
Location: Karez Village, Helmand Province,
Afghanistan

INDIA



Project Name: Esplanade House
Location: Mumbai, India

PAKISTAN



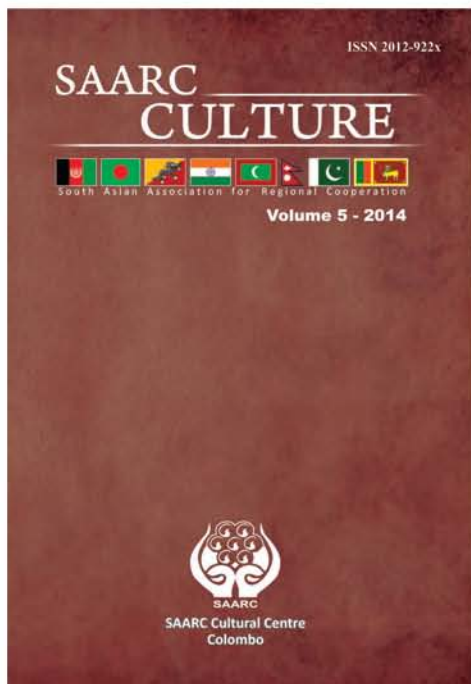
Project Name: Gali Surjan Singh
Location: Lahore, Pakistan

For further information please visit

<http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards>

The Call for Entries for the 2015 UNESCO Heritage Awards shall be made in October 2014, and further details will be available on the awards website.

Announcements: Call for Contributions for SAARC Culture, Vol. 5: 2014



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. The first four issues of the journal (2010-2013) can be viewed online

Submissions

Research articles and book reviews are invited for the next issue of the SAARC Culture (Vol. 5: 2014). Please refer to the Guidelines for Contributors.

Last date for submission- 30 September 2014

For more details-
sccpublications@gmail.com

Activities in Progress: SAARC 'Translation of Classics' Programme

As part of the approved programmes for the year 2013, the SAARC Cultural Centre launched a programme for translation of classical literature of South Asia into English as well as other national languages of the Member States. It would be a continuous programme. In the first phase of this programme, literary masterpiece(s) from the principal languages of the Member States would be translated into English, which, in turn, will serve as bridge for their translations into other national languages of the Member States. For the purpose of this programme, the Member States would be requested to identify literary masterpiece(s) from any of the principal languages of their country. The classical works for which translations in English language are already available would generally be not included in the first phase of this programme, unless the editor is of the opinion that the existing translation in English language would not serve the purpose of its further their translations into other national languages of the Member States; or it is adjudged that the previous translation is lacking in some aspects. The duly edited translations would be published by the SAARC Cultural Centre under its regular publication programme.

Following is an overview of the translation work that has been completed and underway.

Translations in Progress:

Dambadeni Asna

Translated from Sinhala by: Prof. Rohini Paranavitana

Edited with an introduction by: Prof. K.D. Paranavitana

The Dambadeni Asna relates the historical and other related events that took place during the reign of King Parakramabahu (1234-1270) who had his seat of government in Dambadeniya located in the present district of Kurunegala. It condensed the story of the king's accession to the throne, the wars he had with invaders from Kalinga,

Tamalingamu and Java where he was outshined as the victorious hero mixed with many more things. The pious offerings made by the King to the 'Sacred Tooth Relic' after his victory and the miracles occurred afterwards have been elucidated.

Though the work is small in size, it is of great historical, cultural and linguistic interest. The text includes a valuable list of sciences, arts, crafts and trades that were known at the time. An exhaustive list of flora found in the region, names of musical instruments, weapons and the names of different kinds of cloth are also



mentioned. The borrowed words from the languages such as Pali, Sanskrit and Tamil are abundant in the text.

The original Sinhalese text has been edited and published for the first time by Ven. Kongastenne Ananda Thera in 1997 using a selection of ancient palm leaf manuscripts. The work has not been translated into English so far. The text is approximately fifteen (15) printed pages.

Bhanubhaktako Ramayana (Translation in progress)

Translated by: Prof. Govinda Raj Bhattarai

Bhanubhakta Acharya (AD 1814 - AD 1868) is regarded as the first poet (Adi Kavi) in Nepali literature. He was born in western part of Nepal in a scholarly Brahmin family. He transcreated the Sanskrit Valmiki Ramayana into contemporary Nepali tongue. He freed Nepali from Sanskrit and laid the foundation of modern Nepali literature. His work gained immense popularity though it was published posthumously by Motiram Bhatta. To his credit there are some lyrical poems and long poems but his Ramayana is a matchless masterpiece. Every Nepali household keeps this with great reverence, most of earlier generation learnt language through this and even illiterate people sing the rhymed verses of devotion, love, ideals and moral teaching. He chose the most colloquial words from the vernacular. Nepal owes to Bhanubhakta much as his Ramayana is culminated in making Nepali the national language of Nepal.

It is a great coincidence that Nepali people throughout world are observing the 200th birth centenary of Bhanubhakta this year. And this year SAARC Translation Project has decided to render the works of such highly honoured classical Nepali poets like Banubhanka (and Motiram). Bhanubhakta's Ramayana has been rendered into more than a dozen local languages except in English (except few extracts)

Bishad Sindhu (Translation in progress)

Translated by-Prof Fakrul Alam

Translation of Bishad Sindhu or "An Ocean of Sorrow", a work written by Mir Moshareef Hossain. Hossain (1847-1912) was a Bengali novelist, playwright and essayist who was born in a village in Kushtia, a district

that is now part of Bangladesh. Bishad Sindhu is without doubt his most important work and is widely acknowledged to be a classic of Bengali literature, the first substantial work of fiction produced by a Bengali Muslim writer, and one of the earliest Bengali novels. It is a work of epic sweep based on historical events that are often presented poetically. It centers on the assassination of Husayn ibn Ali and Hasan ibn Ali, Prophet Mohammad's grandsons, the tussle over the succession of the Caliphate, and the battle of Karbala. These events are treated imaginatively and even at times in the romance mode. The work also shows the influence of the popular puthi literature of nineteenth century Bengali literature as well as elements derived from Michael Modhsudan Duitt's 1861 Miltonic epic, Meghnadbadh Kabya, that is based on an episode from the Ramayana. There has been no previous attempt to translate this masterpiece of literature.

Life of Poet Bhānu Bhakta Ācharyā

Written by Moti Rām Bhatta

Translated by Bal Rām Adhikari

This biography, Life of Poet Bhānu Bhakta Ācharyā is the first authentic text written on the life of First Nepali Poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya.

A Tale of Prahlād's Devotion

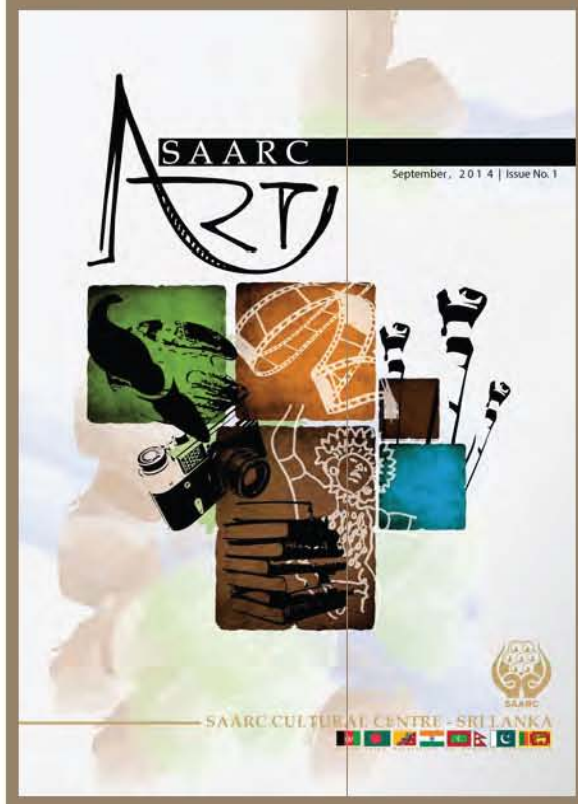
Pikdoot: The Cuckoo Messenger

Written by Moti Rām Bhatta

Translated by Bal Rām Adhikari

A Tale of Prahlād's Devotion and Pikdoot: The Cuckoo Messenger are some lyrical poems and ghazals by Moti Ram as he was the first to introduce the tradition of Hindi and Urdu ghazal into Nepali literature, and his lyrical poems changed the trend Nepali poetry from the devotional to the passionately romantic sentiment.

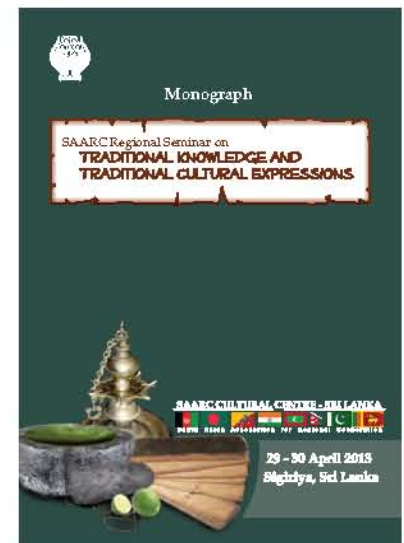
New Publications



Forthcoming Publications



SAARC Monograph on Archives contains full papers of the abstracts that were presented during the SAARC International Conference on Development of Archives in South Asia: the Future of Archives and the archives of the future



SAARC Monograph on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expression (TK & TCE) in South Asia contains full papers presented during the SAARC Regional Seminar on TK & TCE held in Sigiriya in April 2013.

Culture Quote



“

Yesterday is but a dream,

Tomorrow is only a vision.

But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

”

Kālidāsa

Classical Sanskrit Writer, Poet & Dramatist

4th Century CE - 5th Century CE

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