



## **ICOMOS - SRI LANKA**

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## **Annual General Meeting of ICOMOS Sri Lanka - 2018**

### **Secretary's Report 2017 – 2018**

#### **Office Bearers and the Council**

Office Bearers and the Council for the session 2017 – 2018 were as follows:

Archt. Jayatissa Herath, President  
Prof. Gamini Adikari, Senior Vice President  
Archt. Plnr. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya, Vice President  
Archt. Dr. Nilan Cooray and Archt. S. P. G. Chandraratne, Joint Secretaries  
Archt. D. B. Navaratne, Treasurer  
Archt. H. K. Balachandra, Assistant Treasurer  
Prof. Senarat Dissanayake, Immediate Past President  
Archt. Dr. Locana Gunaratne, Council Member  
Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Council Member  
Archt. Prasanna B. Ratnayake, Council Member  
Prof. B.D.Nandadeva, Council Member  
Mr. Bandu Weerawardene, Council Member  
Archt. Sumedha Mathota, Council Member  
Archt. D.P. Chandrasekara, Council Member  
Prof. Prishantha Gunawardhana, Council Member  
Prof. Jagath Weerasinghe, Council Member  
Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe, Council Member

#### **1.0 Council Meetings**

Eleven (11) Council Meetings were held during the session, chaired by the President.

#### **2.0 Workshop Series on Heritage Conservation and Management**

During the session, ICOMOS Sri Lanka continued to hold the series of one-day workshops initiated during the previous session to share the experience of current trends in approaches and practices on heritage conservation and management. The overall aim of the workshop series is to equip the heritage conservation and management professionals in Sri Lanka to update their professional knowledge and to discuss how best the new approaches and practices could be adopted for current professional practices.

The fourth workshop titled ‘Criteria for Assessing World Heritage Values’ was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the PGIAR. Archt. Dr. Nilan Cooray was the chief coordinator with Prof. P. B. Mandawala as the chief resource person. Archt. Prof. Kapila Silva, a member of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, currently serving in USA also provided expert input as a guest resource person. The workshop was attended by participants from the Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund and University of Moratuwa and it was a successful event among the young professionals.

### **3.0 ICOMOS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The council decided to hold an International Conference to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ICOMOS in Colombo. The draft theme for the conference will be “Universalizing the Heritage” with Dr. Roland Siva as the keynote speaker. The council is exploring the possibilities of obtaining financial assistance from possible funding agencies. Archt. D. P. Chandrasekera is coordinating this work.

### **4.0 New Members**

The Council decided to enroll following applicants as new members of ICOMOS (SL) during the session:

- Dr. Susantha Goonatillake
- Ms. K. H. Sonali Rangika Premarathne
- Ms. Janani Namal Seveviratne

### **5.0 Documentation and Publications**

#### ***Documentation of Orotarian-influenced Churches in the Northern Province***

Following the public lecture for the month of November 2016 by Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe, a project to document the Orotarian-influenced Churches was undertaken with the funding assistance from the Central Cultural Fund. The team leader for the project is Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe and bulk of the field work has now been completed and interim report has already been submitted to the CCF. It is expected that the whole documentation project will be completed in April 2018.

#### ***Inventory of Heritage Buildings***

Archt. Plnr. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya is in the process of coordinating the publication titled ‘Inventory of Heritage Buildings’ covering Western and North-Western Provinces prepared by the National Physical Planning Department. Council is exploring the possibility of printing this as a joint ICOMOS - CCF publication with due acknowledgement to the authors.

***Publication of Articles of distinguished Past Presidents:*** Publication by composing of the articles of Dr. Roland Silva, Prof. Seneke Bandaranayake, Archt. Ashley de Vos and Prof. Nimal de Silva in a single volume will be coordinated by Archt. D. P. Chandrasekera and it is expected that the launch of the publication will be possible by June 2018.

### **6.0 Public Lecture Series**

The monthly public lecture series conducted following the Council Meeting on every second Thursday of the month is increasingly becoming a popular public event. Following public lectures were held at the PGIAR during the session:

- May 2017: *Engineering aspects of Ancient Sri Lankan Stupas* by Prof. M. P. Ranaweera
- June 2017: *An Overview of Sri Lanka's Industrial Heritage* by Mr. Kusumsiri Kodituwakku
- July 2017: *Two Inner Core Insulated Building Types of Kandyan Period: The Monks' Residences and Image Houses on Stone Pillars in Kurunegala District* by Archt. D. P. Chandrasekera
- August 2017: *Total Museum and Sustainable Tourism in Southern Sri Lanka: Seascape and Landscape Interface for Heritage Initiatives* by Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne
- September 2017: *Dilemma of Planning Living Heritage Sites: the Anuradhapura Experience* by Archt. Plnr. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya
- October 2017: *Ancient Iron Technology of Sri Lanka* by Dr. Thusita Mendis
- November 2017: *Ancient Coins of Sri Lanka* by Dr. Kavan Ratnatunge
- February 2018: *Safeguarding the heritage with Portuguese influence in South Asia* by Dr. Joaquim R. Santos of University of Lisbon

The Council very much appreciates the lecturers for their voluntarily input.

In addition, a special guest lecture titled “Community based Conservation: Indonesia and the Netherlands Case Studies by dra. Hasti Tarekat Dipowijoyo, MSI (Heritage Hands On, the Netherlands, Pan-Sumatra Network for Heritage Conservation, Indonesia, ICOMOS – the Netherlands) was also organized by ICOMOS Sri Lanka in corporation with the Department of Archaeology on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the auditorium of the Department.

## **7.0 International Involvements**

### ***Visit of Ethiopian Team of Professionals***

On the request of the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism, ICOMOS Sri Lanka facilitated an experience sharing visit of an Ethiopian team of professionals to Sri Lanka. This was a component of a project titled ‘Promoting Heritage for Ethiopia's Development’ funded by the European Union. The visit took place from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 and they visited some of the World Heritage Sites, tea and cinnamon plantation, wild life sanctuaries etc. They also had discussions with relevant institutions involved in heritage management, to observe and study how Sri Lanka is promoting, communicating and presenting heritage to the tourists. This was also a great opportunity for ICOMOS Sri Lanka to meet the heritage professionals from a neighboring continent, and to popularize ICOMOS in Ethiopia (as Ethiopia does not have a National Committee of ICOMOS so far). Dr. Nilan Cooray coordinated the program with the support of Mr. Bandu Weerawardene, who accompanied the team to various heritage sites.

### ***Study visit by the undergraduate students from Macao***

At the request of Institution of Tourism Studies in Macao a study visit by the undergraduate students following the course on heritage management of the Institution of Tourism Studies in Macao was facilitated by ICOMOS Sri Lanka from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The students visited several heritage sites in Sri Lanka. Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, Archt. Prasanna Ratnayake and Dr. Nilan Cooray provided on-site inputs at Dambulla, Sigiriya and Galle respectively. Archt. Jayatissa Herath, Dr. Roland Silva, Archt. Ashley de Vos, Archt. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Prof. B. D. Nandadeva and Dr. Nilan Cooray were present during the interactive session on 4<sup>th</sup> February at the conclusion of the study tour.

### ***Labeling of display objects at Metropolitan Museum in New York***

With regard to some incorrect labeling of display objects originated from Sri Lanka at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, at the request of the Council of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, carried out an extensive web search and the images of the displayed objects and related text. His findings were also presented at one of the Council Meetings. As directed by the Council, Prof. Nandadeva has written to the Metropolitan Museum to inquire their willingness to work with ICOMOS Sri Lanka to improve the text. A positive response from the Metropolitan Museum in New York is anticipated.

### ***General Assembly 2017***

Arch. Jayatissa Herath represented ICOMOS Sri Lanka at the General Assembly of ICOMOS International held in December 2017 in New Delhi, India. Although it was planned to have a considerable representation of ICOMOS (Sri Lanka) in New Delhi, as it was held in South Asia only for the second time in 24 years after its successful Assembly held in Colombo way back in 1993, none of the other members could not attend the General Assembly due to funding issues. The efforts to obtain funding assistance from the CCF also did not materialize.

### ***Honorary Membership of ICOMOS International***

Following a proposal by ICOMOS Sri Lanka at the General Assembly of ICOMOS International, held in New Delhi in December 2017, ICOMOS International has conferred Honorary Membership of ICOMOS International upon Prof. Prematillake, for his contribution to the life of ICOMOS and his distinguished service. This is the first time that a member of ICOMOS Sri Lanka is elevated as a honorary member of the international body.

### **8.0 Felicitating Dr. Roland Silva and Prof. P. L. Prematillake**

The Council decided to felicitate Dr. Roland Silva and Prof. P. L. Prematillake, two of our distinguished Past Presidents at a special event preceding the AGM and it was held in the most successful manner.

### **9.0 Identity Cards to the members**

The Council has decided to issue identity cards to the members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. The Council will negotiate with the Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, National Museum etc., to allow free entry to the heritage sites and the museums managed by these institutions for the members who hold the ICOMOS Sri Lanka Identity Cards. With this in mind, a membership update form has already been circulated among the membership to obtain the most updated data to be included in the identity cards. The Members are kindly requested to cooperate in this.

We very much appreciate the support and advice extended to us by the President and the Council in performing our duties as Joint Secretaries. Special thanks shall go to Ms. Ramani Withana for her dedicated service as the administrative secretary till her resignation due to her retirement from her position at the PGIAR.

***Dr. Nilan Cooray/Arch. Gamini Chandraratne***

Joint Secretaries,  
ICOMOS- Sri Lanka  
24.03.2018