



# ICOMOS SRI LANKA

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

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## Annual General Meeting of ICOMOS Sri Lanka - 2019

### Joint Secretaries' Report 2018 – 2019

It is our pleasure to report the achievements and progress on activities and programs of ICOMOS Sri Lanka of the Session 2018-19.

#### **1.0 Council Meetings**

Eleven (11) Council Meetings were held during the session and the attendances of the Council Members are as follows:

Prof. Gamini Adikari, President (9/11)  
Arch. Jayatissa Herath, Immediate Past President (3/11)  
Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Senior Vice President (4/11)  
Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, Vice President (9/11)  
Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary (10/11)  
Arch. Sagara Jayasinghe, Joint Secretary (8/11)  
Arch. H. K. Balachandra, Treasurer (1/11)  
Arch. Sumedha Matota, Assistant Treasurer (0/11)  
Dr. Locana Gunaratne, Council Member (5/11)  
Arch. PInr. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya, Council Member (2/11)  
Dr. D. P. Chandrasekara, Council Member (4/11)  
Arch. S. P. G. Chandraratne, Council Member (0/11)  
Rev. Radavane Sri Sumangala Thero, Council Member (5/11)  
Arch. Prasanna B. Ratnayake, Council Member (2/11)  
Mr. Bandu Weerawardene, Council Member (8/11)  
Prof. Prishantha Gunawardhana, Council Member (0/11)  
Dr. Rose Solangaarachchi, Council Member (8/11)  
Ms. Chitra Dambadeniarachchi, Council Member (3/11)

#### **2.0 Membership**

During the session under review, it is with deep sorrow that we record the demise of following members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, who rendered immense contribution to the field of heritage conservation and particularly to ICOMOS Sri Lanka during its formative years:

- Archt. M. D. Lalchandra
- Archt. Chris de Saram

During the same session, following 28 applicants were enrolled as new members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka:

- Dr. Kavan Ratnatunge
- Mr. Prasad Fonseka
- Ms. W.K. Sewwandika Suvimali
- Mr. Amila Anuruddha Bandaranayake
- Dr. Chandima Bogahawatta
- Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamua
- Mr. Chryshane Mendis
- Ms. R.K. Nishamani Dilhara
- Mr. A.V. Indika Indrakumara
- Ms. K.V. Janitha Koshalee
- Mr. Jayampath Senanayake
- Mr. D.S.K.K.R. Weerasekara
- Mr. Inoj Kaushalya Abeynayake
- Mr. Pushpika Lahiru Meegoda
- Mr. Harendralal Namalgamuwa
- Mr. Niranjana Rathnayake Bandara
- Ms. Sakuni Yashodha Hatharasinghe
- Mr. V. Shayamal Iroshana
- Archt. Susil Lamahewa
- Ms. Thathsarani Rasangi De Silva
- Ms. T.H. Thilini Ayesha
- Mr. W.M. Tikiri Bandara Wijepala
- Ms. Umanga Roshani Rammungoda
- Mr. H.G. Wasantha Saman Kumara
- Ms. Bindu Urugodawatte
- Ms. Ayesha Abdur-Rahman
- Mr. Hasan Tharanga Anuruddha Naimbalage
- Mr. Wijayamunige Chandraratne

This is a record in terms of the number of new members joining ICOMOS Sri Lanka in a single session and is an indication of increasing popularity of the Institution due to its active role and the programs initiated, particularly during the last four years.

With these new members, the total membership of ICOMOS Sri Lanka as at present stands at 125.

### **3.0 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 fifth workshop titled '*People-centred Approaches to Conservation and Management of Heritage*' was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 at the PGIAR. Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya was the chief resource person. The workshop was attended by participants from the Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Urban Development Authority and University of Moratuwa and it was a successful event among the young professionals.

#### **4.0 ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites**

A special workshop was organized by ICOMOS Sri Lanka to mark ICOMOS international Day for Monuments and Sites on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 on the theme “**Heritage for Generations – Cultural Heritage in the Virtual World: Proactive Role of the Youth**” at the PGIAR. The students and young practitioners from the Central Cultural Fund, Department of Archaeology, PGIAR, Universities of Rajarata, Jayewardenepura, Moratuwa, Ruhuna and Kelaniya participated. Mr. Dilina Janadith, Lecturer at University of Moratuwa was the expert resource person. It was highly successful workshop with active participation of the youth.

#### **5.0 Public Lecture Series**

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

- May 2018: *Changing Winds in Heritage Practice* by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya
- June 2018: *Sri Lanka's Ancient Irrigation Works* by Eng. Lalith de Alwis
- July 2018: *Sri Lanka's Pre-historic Settlements* by Dr. Siran Deraniyagala
- August 2018: *Heritage of Kotte: Significance and Challenges for Sustainable Protection* by Mr. Prasad Fonseka
- September 2018: *Uncovering Underwater Cultural Heritage of Sri Lanka's Eastern Sea* by Mr. W. M. Chandraratne
- October 2018: *Conservation Issues of Mirror Wall at Sigiriya* by Dr. Arjuna Tantilage
- November 2018: *Sri Lanka's Ancient Road Network* by Dr. G. Widanapathirana
- December 2018: *Evolution of Sri Lanka's Painting Conservation Tradition* by Mr. Dias Wagachchi
- January 2019: *Sinhalese Battle Strategies and Firearms During European Occupation* by Mr. Chamikara Pilapitiya
- February 2019: *Sense of Place: A Concept of Heritage Stewardship* by Dr. Janaka Wijesundara

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

In addition, following Guest Lectures by international speakers were also held during the session under review:

- *"The LIDAR and Excavations Work in Angkor"* by **Dr. Wayne Johnson**, Archaeologist/ Historian of ICOMOS Australia on 10th August 2018
- *"Bodhgaya in 2018: The Shifting Significance of Ruins"* by **Prof. Janice Leoshko** of University of Texas at Austin on 5th October 2018

- **‘Introduction to 3D Documentation Techniques for Heritage Preservation ’** by **Mr. Max Rahrig**, Research Assistant, Center for Heritage Conservation Studies and Technology, University of Bamberg, Germany on 7th November 2018
- **‘Archaeological Discoveries at Nateshwar Buddhist Site of Wikrampur in Bangladesh’** by **Prof. Li Yiyunan** of Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology in China on 11th January 2019

## **6.0 Documentation and Publications**

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

The first phase of the project to document the Orotarian-influenced Churches in the Northern Province carried out with the funding assistance from the Central Cultural Fund was completed during the session. The work involved under the first phase of this project included preparation of measured drawing and photographic recording of the current condition of the selected 10 churches in the Districts of Jaffna and Mannar. The documentation was handed over to the Central Cultural Fund. A copy of the documentation was also presented to the Department of Archaeology to convey the importance of declaring them as protected monuments. Prof. Mandawala as the DG of the Department of Archaeology agreed to declare the most representative churches as protected monuments. The process to gazette the monuments has already been commenced by the Department of Archaeology. The preparation of the art work for publication, which is the second phase of the project is in progress and scheduled for completion in June 2019. The team leader for the project is Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe.

### ***6.2 ‘Our Heritage’, the Journal of ICOMOS Sri Lanka***

ICOMOS Sri Lanka has planned to publish its bi-annual journal titled “Our Heritage”. The first volume of the Journal will feature the articles of distinguished Past Presidents Dr. Roland Silva, Prof. Senake Bandaranayake, Archt. Ashley de Vos and Prof. Nimal de Silva. Although its launch was planned during the AGM, due to some technical issues, the launching of the journal have to be delayed. The new date of the book launch will be notified to the membership in due course. The issue editor of the first volume is Dr. D. P. Chandrasekera.

### ***6.3 Booklets on heritage sites***

It was also decided to publish small booklets (A5 size with 16 pages each) targeting school children and general public, so that they could arrange one day trips to such heritage sites. As a start, it was decided to prepare the first booklet in Sinhala covering the sites of Varana, Attanagalle and Pilikuthuwa. Ms. Chitra Dambadeniarachchi, Council Member is coordinating this work while Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe will prepare the layout and art work once the text and the images are ready.

### ***6.4 Translation of selected books to Sinhala***

It was also decided to translate some of the important publications covering the subjects of conservation and heritage management to Sinhala language targeting the university students who follow undergraduate and postgraduate courses in conservation and heritage management. As a first step, selected works of Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya on the subject will be translated and published.

## **7.0 Identity Cards**

The Council has decided to issue identity cards to the members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. The Council will also 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.

## **8.0 International Conference**

The Council has planned to hold an International Conference in Colombo on a current theme related to heritage conservation and management. It is expected to invite internationally renowned speakers as well as academics and professionals, particularly from Asia. However, the main issue in organizing such a conference is lack of funds. The efforts in obtaining an appointment to meet the Hon. Minister in-charge of Culture to secure funding have failed. With the change of cabinet portfolios, Council is planning to meet Hon. Sajith Premadasa, the current Minister of Cultural Affairs to obtain the funds through the Central Cultural Fund.

## **9.0 Revisions to the Constitution**

Arch. Jayatissa Hearth is currently drafting the revisions suggested at a special Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 taking into consideration of the Constitutions of ICOMOS International and other National Committees such as India, Canada and Australia. Once the draft revisions are made it will be forwarded to the general membership for review and approval.

We are very much thankful to the President and fellow Council Members for all the assistance given for us to carry out the functions as Joint Secretaries during the session.

We very much appreciate the support extended by Dr. T. R. Prematillake and the staff of the PGIAR for allowing us to use the facilities available at the PGIAR to hold the workshops, monthly lectures and to carry out the secretarial work of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. Special thanks shall go to Ms. Sonali Premaratne for her dedicated services as the administrative secretary of ICOMOS Sri Lanka and her support staff.

*Dr. Nilan Cooray*

Joint Secretaries,  
**ICOMOS Sri Lanka**  
07.03.2019

*Arch. Sagara Jayasinghe*