



# ICOMOS SRI LANKA

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

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## Annual General Meeting of ICOMOS Sri Lanka - 2020

### Joint Secretaries' Report 2019 – 2020

It is our pleasure to report the achievements and progress on activities and programs of ICOMOS Sri Lanka of the Session 2019-20.

#### **1.0 Council Meetings**

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

Prof. Gamini Adikari, President (8/11)  
Arch. Jayatissa Herath, Immediate Past President (7/11)  
Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Senior Vice President (7/11)  
Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, Vice President (8/11)  
Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary (9/11)  
Arch. Sagara Jayasinghe, Joint Secretary (9/11)  
Arch. H. K. Balachandra, Treasurer (1/11)  
Arch. Sumedha Matota, Assistant Treasurer (0/11)  
Dr. Locana Gunaratne, Council Member (5/11)  
Arch. Plnr. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya, Council Member (1/11)  
Dr. D. P. Chandrasekara, Council Member (1/11)  
Arch. S. P. G. Chandraratne, Council Member (0/11)  
Rev. Radavane Sri Sumangala Thero, Council Member (5/11)  
Arch. Prasanna B. Ratnayake, Council Member (4/11)  
Mr. Bandu Weerawardene, Council Member (8/11)  
Dr. Rose Solangaarachchi, Council Member (10/11)  
Ms. Chitra Dambadeniarachchi, Council Member (3/11)  
Dr. Chandima Bogahawatta, Council Member (6/11)

#### **2.0 Membership**

During the session under review, it is with deep sorrow that we record the passing away of Dr. Roland Silva, the founder President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, the first non-European President of ICOMOS International for three consecutive years from 1990 to 1999, Former Commissioner and the first Director General of Archaeology, Founder Director General of the Central Cultural Fund and a great mentor for several generations of heritage practitioners and Prof. P. L. Prematilleke, Past President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka and Honorary Member of ICOMOS International.

During the same session, following 5 applicants were selected for enrollment as new members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka:

- Ms. Sarala Fernando
- Mr. P. Tharindu Madushan Peiris
- Mr. N. A. D. N. Dharmasena
- Ms. Tharangi Lanka Weerakkody
- Mr. Kelum Nalinda Manamendra-Arachchi

With these new members, the total membership of ICOMOS Sri Lanka as at present stands at 129.

### **3.0 Public Lecture Series**

The monthly public lecture series conducted on every second Thursday of the month following the Council Meeting is the most popular public event of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. Following public lectures covering wide range of subjects and topics related to cultural heritage were held at the PGIAR during the session:

- June 2019: *'Paleo-Climate and Extinct Fauna in Sri Lanka'* by Mr. Kelum Manamendra-Arachchi
- July 2019: *'Ellanga: The Cascading Tank System of Sri Lanka's North Central Province'* by Mr. M. U. A Tennakoon
- August 2019: *'Sri Lanka's Paleo-Bio Diversity: Conservation and Tourism Development'* by Prof. Gamini Adikari
- September 2019: *'Water Utilities of Ranmasu Uyana: A Multifarious Review'* by Dr. Chandana Jayawardana
- October 2019: *'New Findings on Sri Lanka's Wall Painting Techniques'* by Prof. B. D. Nandadeva
- November 2019: *'Resurrecting Vidiyebandara's Citadel in Sathkorale'* by Prof. Samitha Manawadu
- December 2019: *'Ancient Iron Technology of the Kiri-Oya Basin, Sigiriya'* by Dr. Rose Solangaarachchi
- February 2020: *'Oru – PARU – Yathra': A forensic re-appraisal of the "Paru: the work-horse of the waterways"* by Mr. Somasiri Devendra

The Council very much appreciates the voluntary input of all the lecturers.

### **4.0 International Events**

The International Symposium on 'World Heritage Properties, Programs and People in the Asia-Pacific Region' connected with the Inaugural Event of the Network of Heritage Practitioners of the Asia-Pacific (*HeritAP*) organized by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) in partnership with ICOMOS Sri Lanka was held in the most successful manner from 7 – 10 December 2019. The symposium was attended by 27 international participants from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Malaysia and 42 local participants representing ICOMOS Sri Lanka, Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Universities, Galle Heritage Foundation, National Trust, State Engineering Corporation, Strategic Cities Development Project, Royal Asiatic Society etc. Dr. Webber Nodoro, the Director General of ICCROM

attended as a special guest in this international event. One of the highlights of the Program was the celebration of Dr. Roland Silva which was attended by more than 100 national and international heritage practitioners. As part of the program, the international participants made excursions to the World Heritage Sites of Sigiriya and Kandy. The Council wishes to extend appreciation to Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya for his personal efforts in persuading WHITRAP to hold the symposium in Colombo, and it was the first international event organized by ICOMOS Sri Lanka in 15 years.

## **5.0 Publications**

During the session, ICOMOS Sri Lanka was able to publish following publications:

### ***Our Heritage: 1<sup>st</sup> Volume of the ICOMOS Sri Lanka Journal***

Publication of selected articles of Dr. Roland Silva, Prof. Senake Bandaranayake, Archt. Ashley de Vos and Prof. Nimal de Silva, distinguished Past Presidents of ICOMOS Sri Lanka was ceremonially launched on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 5.00 pm at the PGIAR. Dr. D. P. Chandrasekera, the issue editor of the journal delivered the keynote speech titled ‘Vernacular in Contemporary Context’ at the launching ceremony. The publication is on sale at Rs. 450.00 per copy. Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, the issue editor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volume of the publication is currently working with the authors and it is expected that the journal will be published in the first half of 2020.

### ***Roland Silva: a Genius of an Era***

The book jointly authored by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Dr. Nilan Cooray and Archt. Jayatissa Herath recording the landmarks of the long and illustrious journey of Dr. Roland Silva was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to celebrate and felicitate his immense contribution to safeguard not only Sri Lanka’s cultural heritage, but that of the globe, as part of the program of the International Symposium on World Heritage Properties, Programs and People in the Asia Pacific Region held in Colombo, December 2019. The book is on sale at Rs. 1000.00 per copy. ICOMOS Sri Lanka is planning to prepare a comprehensive account of Dr. Roland Silva.

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

The initial work to publish small booklets (A5 size with 16 pages each) targeting school children and general public is being coordinated by Ms. Chitra Dambadeniarachchi, Council Member.

### ***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.

## **6.0 Revisions to the Constitution**

Draft revisions to the Constitution of ICOMOS Sri Lanka taking into consideration of the Constitutions of ICOMOS International and other National Committees such as those in India, Canada and Australia were made during the session under review. The draft revisions have already been circulated among the General Membership for the process of adopting them. The Council appreciates the specific inputs provided by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, the Senior Vice President and Archt. Jayatissa Herath, Immediate Past President in this regard.

## **7.0 Identity Cards**

The first batch of ICOMOS Sri Lanka Identity Cards is ready for issuance on the day of AGM to the members who have requested Identity Cards. The Council extends appreciations to Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe, Joint Secretary for designing the Identity Card and Dr. Chandima Bogahawatte for coordination work enabling the printing of the ID Cards. The Council is in the process of negotiating

with the Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Department of National Museums etc. to allow free entry to the heritage sites and museums managed by them for the members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka holding valid Identity Cards of ICOMOS Sri Lanka and or ICOMOS International.

## **8.0 Other activities**

### ***Revisions to the Antiquities Ordinance***

ICOMOS Sri Lanka has decided to provide the professional input to the Department of Archaeology to revise the Antiquities Ordinance, taking in to consideration the wide range of heritage values associated with cultural properties, particularly the heritage properties that are not 100 years old and the heritage protection laws of China, Japan, Korea etc. during the revision.

### ***“Cultural Heritage in the Virtual World: Proactive Role of the Youth”***

As a follow up to the decisions made at the special workshop held by ICOMOS Sri Lanka to mark ICOMOS international Day for Monuments and Sites on the theme “Heritage for Generations – Cultural Heritage in the Virtual World: Proactive Role of the Youth, another workshop is scheduled in late April 2020 to arouse interest amongst the youth on this issue. A face book account will also be opened to facilitate this activity.

### ***Web page***

Currently ICOMOS Sri Lanka is in the process of revising and updating its existing web page. Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe is taking the responsibility in this regard with Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, assisting in preparing the text.

### ***Resolutions proposed by Dr. Susantha Goonatillake***

A special discussion was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at the PGIAR commencing at 5.30 pm to discuss about the contents of the two resolutions proposed by Dr. Susantha Goonatillake at the previous AGM of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. Dr Goonatillake elaborated the contents of the two resolutions with an illustrated presentation. There were comments and clarifications from the audience since there were several information gaps. The key message that Sri Lanka needs to revisit the definitions, institutions and processes available to study, research and protection of our heritage. There was a need to revisit/further develop existing rules and procedures for archaeological investigations by the local as well as foreign personal. A proposal was made to revisit the two resolutions and re redraft them in order for ICOMOS to take further actions.

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

We very much appreciate the support extended by the Director and the staff of the PGIAR for allowing us to use the facilities available at the PGIAR to hold the discussions, monthly lectures and to carry out the secretarial work of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. We also wish to appreciate the assistance given by the National Trust, Sri Lanka for agreeing to sell the publications of ICOMOS Sri Lanka through their network. 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**  
13.03.2020

***Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe***