



ICOMOS SRI LANKA

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

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Annual General Meeting of ICOMOS Sri Lanka - 2021

Joint Secretaries' Report 2020 – 2021

It is our pleasure to report the achievements and progress on activities and programs of ICOMOS Sri Lanka of the Session 2020-21.

Despite the impact of unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic which rocked the entire globe and the Country was locked down almost immediately after the holding of the Annual General Meeting of ICOMOS Sri Lanka on 14th March 2020, we are happy to record that ICOMOS Sri Lanka has taken immediate initiative of resuming the activities using Zoom on-line platform to conduct council meetings, public seminars, public lectures as well as attending to the regular activities of the secretariat.

1.0 Council Meetings

Ten (10) Council Meetings were held, all of them as on-line meetings, during the session. The attendances of the Office Bearers and Council Members are as follows:

Office Bearers

Prof. Gamini Adikari, President (3/10)
Arch. Jayatissa Herath, Immediate Past President (10/10)
Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Senior Vice President (9/10)
Prof. B. D. Nandadeva, Vice President (10/10)
Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary (9/10)
Arch. Sagara Jayasinghe, Joint Secretary (10/10)
Arch. H. K. Balachandra, Treasurer (3/10)
Arch. Sumedha Matota, Assistant Treasurer (0/10)

Council Members

Dr. Locana Gunaratne, (6/10)
Arch. Plnr. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya, (3/10)
Dr. D. P. Chandrasekara, (7/10)
Arch. S. P. G. Chandraratne, (0/10)
Rev. Radavane Sri Sumangala Thero, (1/10)
Arch. Prasanna B. Ratnayake, (4/10)
Mr. Bandu Weerawardene, (0/10)
Dr. Rose Solangaarachchi, (1/10)
Ms. Chitra Dambadeniarachchi, (2/10)
Dr. Chandima Bogahawatta, (7/10)

2.0 Membership Matters

During the session under review, it is with deep sorrow that we record the passing away of Archt. Thilina Kiringoda, who served as the Joint Secretary for the term 2012-15.

New Membership

During the same session, following 6 applicants were enrolled as new Full Members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka:

- Full Members
 - Mr. Ravinda Shehan Thilakarathna
 - Prof. H.M.Y.V. Kumarihami
 - Archt. Pubudu Rangani Samanthilaka
 - Ms. Prabuddhika Harshani Hendawitharana
 - Prof. Indrika Gayathrie Panangala Rajapaksha
 - Ms. Ama Hasini Vanniarachchy

As per the provisions of the new Constitution of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, which was adopted at the previous Annual General Meeting held on 14th March 2020, following applicants were enrolled under new categories of membership:

- Associate Members
 - Major General Ajith Manohara Perera
 - Mr. Chamikara Pilapitiya
 - Mr. D.N. J. C. J. Gunaratna
 - Mr. Mohamed Rilwan Raza Mohamed
- Student Members
 - Ms. Ravini Nimaya Wimalasuriya
 - Mr. G.M.S.Viraj
 - Ms. M.R.N.Jayasinghe
 - Ms. K.D. Binoli Navoda Nimnadi
 - Ms.N.H.L.K.Thathsarani
- Honorary Members

Considering the outstanding contribution for the protection and conservation of Sri Lanka's Cultural Heritage, the Council of ICOMOS Sri Lanka conferred Honorary Membership upon Eng. Gamunu Silva.

With these enrollments, the membership of ICOMOS Sri Lanka at the conclusion of the session 2020-21 is as follows:

Honorary Members:	001
Full Members:	125
Associate Members:	004
<u>Student Members:</u>	<u>005</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>135</u>

International Membership

Following Full Members have obtained the International Membership of ICOMOS for year 2021:

1. Dr. Chandima Bogahawatta
2. Ms. K.V. Janitha Koshalee
3. Mr. J.D.A.I. Piyadasa
4. Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe
5. Dr. Kapila Dharmasena Silva
6. Mr. M.D.I.K. Abeynayake
7. Ms. Melanie Dissanayake
8. Dr. Nilan Cooray
9. Dr. Dhammika.P. Chandrasekara
10. Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya
11. Archt. Nimal Veranjan Kurukulasuriya
12. Dr. Kodithuwakku Arachchige Kusumsiri
13. Archt. Ashley De Vos
14. Archt. Jayatissa Herath
15. Rev. Radavane Sumangala Thero
16. Archt. Dayapriya B. Navaratna

The other Full Members of ICOMOS Sri Lanka are also encouraged to obtain the International Membership of ICOMOS.

3.0 Impact of Covid-19 on Cultural Heritage

With the country was on lock down status due to Covid-19 pandemic, ICOMOS Sri Lanka took the lead role and the initiative to focus on the impact (both positive and negative) of Covid-19 on Sri Lanka's cultural heritage and to discuss the ways and means to face the challenges in protecting and managing the cultural heritage. The first discussion was held on-line on 12th May 2020 to assess the condition of the heritage sites through discussion and inquiry from the staff of the Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Universities etc. The Panelists for the discussion were:

- Prof. Senarath Dissanayake, Director General of Archaeology and Past President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka
- Prof. Gamini Adikari, Director General, Central Cultural Fund and current President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka
- Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Senior Vice President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka
- Dr. B. D. Nandadeva, Vice President, ICOMOS Sri Lanka
- Dr. D. P. Chandrasekera, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa and Council Member, ICOMOS Sri Lanka
- Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary, ICOMOS Sri Lanka

As a follow-up to the initial discussion, a second discussion was held on-line on 23rd May 2020 focusing mainly on the issues surfaced as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic on cultural heritage and to obtain the views and comments of the heritage practitioners, university staff teaching subjects related to the field of heritage and the general public in protecting and managing Sri Lanka's heritage during the post-Covid period and to discuss the ways forward. The program which was held on-line was very much interactive and it provided lot of insights to the Department of Archaeology and the Central Cultural Fund, the two premier institutions dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of Sri Lanka's Cultural heritage to device programs in this regard.

4.0 Public Lecture Series

The public lecture series remains 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 on-line commencing at 7.00 pm. With the public lectures conducted on-line, we have noted that there is a dramatic increase of the number of attendees, at times reaching the 90's, compared to the lectures conducted physically at the PGIAR during the pre-Pandemic period. The on-line lectures gave the opportunity for the members and the public currently outside the Island to attend as well as ICOMOS Sri Lanka to arrange lectures by international lecturers.

- 14th May 2020: *'Managing Panted Heritage of Dambulla'* by Dr. B. D. Nandadeva
- 18th July 2020: *'Faunal Diversity as Depicted in Stone Carvings at Anuradhapura'* by Mr. Kelum Nalinda Manamendra-Arachchi
- 5th August 2020: *'People Centered Approach for not to Isolate Heritage'* by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya
- 19th December 2020: *'Heritage of Dual Parent-ship as context for International Collaboration'* by Dr. Robert Parthesius
- 29th December 2020: *'Radiographic Investigation of Sri Lanka's Historic Bronze Images'* by Ms. Anusha Kasturi Arachchi
- 14th January 2021: *'Treasure hunting and Antiquities Ordinance'* by Mr. Rohana Kariyawasam
- 24th January 2021: *'3D Documentation and Virtual Reality Presentation of the Sigiriya Wall Paintings'* by Dr. Max Rahrig
- 14th Feruary 2021: *'Chinese – Sri Lanka Relationships (from 2nd century BC to 15th century AD)'* by Dr. Chandima Bogahawatte
- 28th February 2021: *:'Temples of Tamilnadu: An Unending Dialogue between its Past and Present'* by Archt. Kunkuma Devi Kishore

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

5.0 International Events

20th ICOMOS General Assembly

The sessions of the 20th General Assembly of ICOMOS International was held on 3rd, 7th and 16th December 2020 for the first time as an on-line event. Following members attend the General Assembly:

Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Senior Vice President
Prof. Samitha Manawadu, Past President
Dr. B. D. Nandadeva, Vice President
Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary
Archt. Susil Lamahewa

ICOMOS ADCOM Meeting

Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary, represented ICOMOS Sri Lanka at the Advisory Committee Meeting of ICOMOS International held on-line on 3rd November 2020 and made a remembrance speech on late Dr. Roland Silva highlighting, particularly his influential role at the international level.

HeritaAP Webinar 2020

HeritaAp Webinar titled “The Impact of COVID-19 on World Heritage Sites and Moving Forward” organized by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific was held on-line from 19-20 November 2020. Dr. Nilan Cooray, Joint Secretary, represented ICOMOS Sri Lanka at the webinar by making the country presentation on “Approaches to Conservation and Management of Sri Lanka's Cultural Heritage in the Context of ‘New Normal’ following Covid 19 Pandemic”. Archt. Ashley de Vos, Dr. B. D. Nandadeva and Archt. Jayatissa Herath also attended the webinar as participants. Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya was one of the key organizers of the Webinar.

6.0 Publications

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

Translation of selected articles to Sinhala

Selected articles covering conservation and management of cultural heritage authored by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya were translated in to Sinhala and following books published by ICOMOS Sri Lanka are currently available for sale at the Secretariat of ICOMOS Sri Lanka:

- Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage: Current Trends - Rs. 500.00
- Re-inquiry of International Conservation Principles - Rs. 600.00

The Council of ICOMOS Sri Lanka appreciate Dr. Wijesuriya for not only of his efforts in translating the articles, but advancing funds to print above mentioned two books. Translation of two more books to Sinhala has been completed by Dr. Gamini Wigesuriya and they are also planned for publication subject to the availability of funds. The primary target group of these publications are the university students engaged in undergraduate and postgraduate studies related to cultural heritage.

Oratorian Churches

Archt, Sagara Jayasinghe has completed the artwork and layout of the book titled “In Search of Vanishing Heritage: Oratorian Churches in Northern Sri Lanka”. This is a follow up to the Documentation Project, which was implemented by ICOMOS Sri Lanka with funding assistance from the Central Cultural Fund. The Council of ICOMOS Sri Lanka appreciates Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe, the Joint Secretary of ICOMOS Sri Lanka for leading a team to document the lesser known heritage of Sri Lanka’s Northern Province.

Other Publications on Sale:

Following publications of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, published previously are available for sale at the Secretariat of ICOMOS Sri Lanka:

- *Our Heritage: 1st Volume*, containing 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 - Rs. 450.00 per copy
- *Roland Silva: Genius of an Era* authored by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya, Dr. Nilan Cooray and Archt. Jayatissa Herath – Rs. 1000.00

Members may purchase copies of the above ICOMOS publications.

7.0 National Scientific Committees

National Scientific Committees on various themes and subjects corresponding to those of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees were set up during the session. The first meeting of the National Scientific Committees were held on-line on 27th February 2021 with the participation of the Chairpersons, Co-Chairs and members of each Scientific Committee. The objectives of setting up these National Committees are to gather, promote and disseminate information concerning principles, techniques and policies as well as to carryout scientific research/ inquiry and develop best practices on these subjects/ themes to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage protection and management, in fulfillment of the goals of ICOMOS Sri Lanka as well as ICOMOS International. The Chairpersons, Co-chair and members of each Scientific Committee are given in the attachment. While thanking the members who have already joined the Scientific Committees of their preference, the Council invite those who have not yet joined the Scientific Committees to join a/ several Scientific Committee(s) depending on their field(s) of interest.

8.0 Young Heritage Professional of the Year

During the session under review, the Council of ICOMOS Sri Lanka launched an annual program to appreciate its young members for their contribution to realize the aims of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. The objectives of the appreciation program are to recognize, encourage, motivate and nurture academic/ professional talent of the young members and thereby to build their academic/ professional confidence to take up the challenges in their career ahead, in protection, conservation and management of Sri Lanka's cultural heritage. Based on the evaluation of the entries submitted by the young members, the 'Young Heritage Professional of the Year' will be declared and appreciated. As per the announcement made, four entries have been received for the year 2021 for evaluation.

9.0 Appreciations

Respecting Late Dr. Roland Silva

An international event titled "Tribute to Roland Silva" was held on-line on 5th June 2021 to commemorate Late Dr. Roland Silva, the Honorary President of ICOMOS International and Founder President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka, on his 87th Birth Anniversary. Several International professionals including those of the ICOMOS International Secretariat, religious dignitaries, and those who have worked with him including Dr. Silva's family members also attended the event.

Together with the Central Cultural Fund, ICOMOS Sri Lanka, also organized an on-line program in view of the first death Anniversary of Dr. Roland Silva on 1st January 2021 via Zoom.

Felicitating Eng. Gamunu Silva

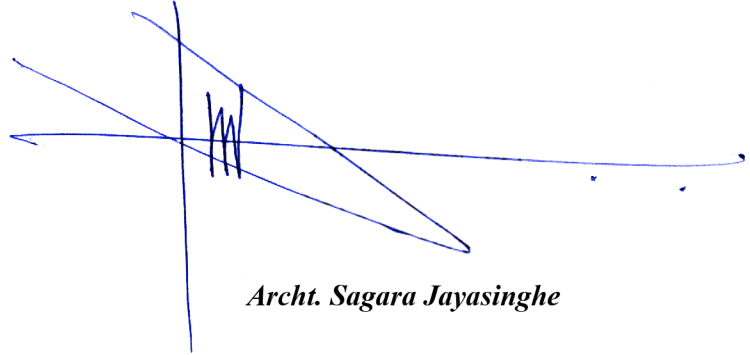
In appreciation of outstanding contribution to the field of cultural heritage, the Council of ICOMOS Sri Lanka has unanimously decided to award Eng. Gamunu Silva the Dr. Roland Silva Memorial Medal in 2021 and to confer upon him, the first ever honorary membership of ICOMOS Sri Lanka. The felicitation ceremony was held preceding the Annual General Meeting.

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. On behalf of the President and the Council, we very much appreciate the pivotal role played by Archt. Jayatissa Herath, Immediate Past President, for initiation of the on-line activities of ICOMOS Sri Lanka when the country was locked down. Without of his enthusiasm and dedication, most of the programs that were held on-line (some involving international audience) throughout the session were not possible.

We very much appreciate the support extended by the Director and the staff of the PGIAR for allowing ICOMOS Sri Lanka to use the facilities available at the PGIAR to hold meetings and discussions, to carry out the secretarial work of ICOMOS Sri Lanka etc. 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



Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe

Joint Secretaries,
ICOMOS Sri Lanka
20.03.2021