



2019/2020 ICOM SPECIAL PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE

Towards the Development and Integration of Museum Policy for (Regional) Museums

Study Case – (Regional) Museums in Nepal.

APPLICANTS

Dr Irena Žmuc, ICOM ICR, ICR Chairperson

Mr Bijaya Kumar Shahi, ICOM Nepal Chair

BUDGET OVERVIEW

- a) total budget: 11,000 €
- b) Budget 2019: 9,000 €
- c) Suggested ICOM contribution: 5,500 €

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project addresses the ICOM/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, November 2015.

The Special Project aligns with ICR's MISSION to encourage »the development of regional museums for the benefit of their communities, through providing a forum for communication, co-operation and information exchange among curators, museums, and other organisations.«

The previous Special Project conference *Regional Museums' role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake*, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, January 2017 and organized by ICOM, ICR, ICOM Nepal and UNESCO Kathmandu Office and supported by ICOM China, ICOM Japan and Museum Association of Taiwan Museums, resulted in 4 recommendations:

- **to support the adoption of new sustainable legislation on Nepali museums;**
- **to include museology as part of the education of Nepali museum professionals;**
- to support a new building for the Ethnographic Museum in Kathmandu;
- to promote the repatriation of stolen cultural objects.

This application is designed in response to needs identified by Nepali colleagues during the 2017 workshop.

This Special Project 2019/2020 will advance the first two recommendations above. ICR continues to support efforts of Nepali (regional) museums.

However, a new Legislation on museums is urgently needed. The first and only legal recognition dates back to 1956, and does not address the forms, functions, roles and responsibilities of museums in the 21st century.

The overall aim of this Special Project is to work with Nepali and other museum colleagues to work out a plan for how the International Committee for Regional Museums can play an active part to empower Nepal museums to advance professional and public interest in the value of legislation to establish, support and protect museums as key players in preserving and communicating the cultural and natural heritage of Nepal. The longer term objective is for Nepal to draft an updated law governing its museums. The principal outcome of this project is to produce Guidelines/Manuals for how to work collaboratively and how to involve different museum professionals, political levels and decision-making government services.

Following the devastating earthquake of 2015, Nepalese communities had many desperate needs. Museums' priorities were the security, safety and rebuilding of their structures. Museums need to prove their relevance to local, regional and national authorities that are dealing with many competing issues and claims on their limited resources. Museums and museum staff also need to demonstrate their commitment to ICOM CODE OF ETHICS in the daily museum practice, through their active institutional or individual membership. In order to raise awareness of good museum policy and practice, ICR and its partners will collect and analyse existing resources gathered from museums and museum organisations internationally. A selection of good examples will be made available for reading online and for downloading on a new web-based platform. Content will include: examples of national museum legislation; national museum policies; effective structures for national museum professional organisations;

PROJECT PARTNERS

UNESCO Kathmandu Office

Natural History Museum, Kathmandu

Nepal Museum Association

National Museum Chhauni

OUTPUTS

Three phases are proposed for the project:

a) Theoretical phase

- Overview of Nepali museums (national, regional, local, community, private) and museum professionals
- Challenges, gaps and needs of Nepali museums
- Description of terms using concepts relevant to the Nepali context: heritage, cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible heritage of Nepal
- Introductory research on Nepali museum situation: number and kinds of museums), range of collections, number of museum professionals and their backgrounds, relationships to kindred organisations (universities, libraries, heritage institutions)
- Sharing experiences of neighboring countries on national museum policy framework: Mongolia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China
- Further collaboration and verification with colleagues in the ASPAC region

b) Practical phase

- Analysis and distribution and of 5 questions in the questionnaire (following The ICOM Standing Committee of Museum Definition, Prospects and Potentials)
- Heritage, cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible heritage of Nepal (updated definitions)

- General objectives and principles of cultural policy for museums, general presentations
- Museum and cultural heritage policy

c) Final phase

- Developing recommendations for adoption of a sustainable museum law in Nepal
- Editing manuals, a framework document which can assist the development of cultural policy

At the workshop all results of the phases of the project will be debated at the end of workshop and through 2020 in line with museums' missions, visions and core values of the museums in Nepal.

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS AND COLLABORATORS

Members of ICOM Executive Council, ICR, ICOM Nepal, Association of Museums of Nepal, Department of Archeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Lumbini Buddhist University, UNESCO Kathmandu Office, Natural History Museum, ICOM Bangladesh, China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan.

WHAT VALUE WILL YOUR PROJECT BRING TO ICOM AND ITS ACTIVITIES? AND TO THOSE OF OTHER COMMITTEES?

- The main focus is to implement ICOM Code of Ethics in the museum legislation in order to introduce good practices in museum work based on ICOM's crucial document
- The goal of the project is to raise professional interest and level of awareness of museum practice among museum work of colleagues in Nepal on the ICOM basis.
- There is a need for a collaborative platform for museums in general (not only regional museums) where good policy and practice can be shared within ICOM regions.
- The project will widen the knowledge of the ICOM community in areas that are seldom supported by ICOM programmes. Awareness and theoretical knowledge about heritage in general is crucial, especially about Nepal's »living« heritage, which is at risk – tourists are buying and exporting items of significant cultural value for little money, diminishing the cultural resources available to Nepal's museums.
- Links and contacts will allow partners to stay in contact
- The project has been designed to build more cooperation in the ASPAC area.
- The project will result in readily accessible Manuals with a final goal of providing important published resource material to assist the drafting of a sustainable museum law in Nepal.

HOW IS THIS PROJECT LINKED TO THE 2016-2022 ICOM STRATEGIC PLAN?

The project is linked to the ICOM Strategic Plan 2016-2022 by supporting its main objectives and specific aims, and Strategic objectives #2, #3 and #4: INDEPENDENCE-INTEGRITY-PROFESSIONALISM.

ICR would like to use the ICOM Code of Ethics as an efficient tool ICOM countries.

The Special Project's goal is, firstly, to strengthen awareness of, and guide compliance with, accepted museum practice and ethics across the world through development and support of a research programme resulting in a downloadable online resource manual that can assist professionals in (regional) museums.

Secondly, to diversify relationships and intensify cooperation with stakeholders that can provide support and practical advice when needed most and, thirdly, to develop strategic partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional partners.

The final goal is to provide relevant readily accessible resources to inform the development of effective legislation to govern a sustainable museum system in Nepal – thus enlarging ICOM's resource base.

The longer term outcome will be the development of an on-line platform.

WORKSHOP

In November 2019 ICOM Nepal should present results of the questionnaire, which will be linked to The ICOM Standing Committee of Museum Definition,

Prospects and Potentials. ICOM Nepal will conduct in advance a workshop or a round table discussion among the members and museum professionals in Nepal (til June 2019). As part of the workshop or formal discussion. ICOM Nepal will explore the future of museums and how museums and societies intertwine and impact each other. In the workshop we will get a general view on their activities, possibilities and wishes. They can discuss these issues with colleagues from neighboring countries as well.

Nepali museum professionals will be requested to answer 5 questions:

- What do you think are the most relevant and important contributions which museums can make to society in the coming decade?
- What do you think are the strongest trends and the most serious challenges faced by Nepal in the coming decade?
- What do you think are the strongest trends and the most serious challenges faced by museums in Nepal in the coming decade?
- How do you think museums need to change and adapt our principles, values and working methods over the next decade to meet these challenges and enrich our contributions?

ICOM Nepal will add a fifth question:

- What aspects of museum responsibilities, activities and functions should be considered by the Government of Nepal when developing cultural heritage policy and legislation?

At the same time we will include some references from the Kyoto 2019 General Conference and new orientation gained by the ICOM Standing Committee of Museum Definiton, Prospects and Potentials.

LANGUAGE

English

PROVISIONAL PROJECT TIMELINE

Project proposal for the grant – 13 December, 2018
 Confirmation of the speakers – March 2019
 Time schedule for the activities – March 2019
 Arrangements with the host, accomodation – March/April 2019
 Preparation of the event – April/November 2019
 Collecting good practice examples for the manual – September/October 2019
 Workshop – November 19-24, 2019
 Collecting feedback from the participants – December 2019
 Reporting to supporters – December 2019
 Dissemination of results – throughout 2020
 Meeting of the editorial group for Manuals: 2020

ANTICIPATED PROGRAMME

Phase 1, November 19 – 23/24, 2019

November 19: Arrival in Nepal, meeting of the ICR participants and ICOM Nepal
 November 20: Workshop Day 1
 November 21: Travel to Pokhara, visiting regional museum, workshop
 November 22: Workshop Day 2/final words, going back to Kathmandu
 November 23/24: Departure of the participants

Estimated numbers of participants: max 20

Participants' profiles and nationalities:

Most of the participants will come from Nepal and neighbouring countries.

Speakers will be invited from ICOM International and National Committees.

Phase 2, 2020

Meeting of the editorial group to finalize the resource material for publication, 2020

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

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1. Current museum situation in Nepal, ICOM Nepal;
2. Results of the round table workshop/questionnaire Help of ICOM Executive members on the matter;
3. How to prepare the documents – help of UNESCO, ICOM Executive board members;
4. Excursion to a regional museum, discussion on site;
5. Results of the 2 – days workshop;
6. How to proceed, presentation to the ministries;
7. Printed Manuals 2020.

ANTICIPATED PARTICIPANTS

Bijaya Kumar Shahi, ICOM Nepal Chair

Irena Žmuc, ICR Chair

Christian Manhart, Chief, UNESCO Kathmandu Office

Alberto Garlandini, ICOM Vice-President

Vinod Daniel, ICOM Executive Council

Jal Krishna Shrestha, Head of Department of Museology, Lumbini Buddhist University

Prem Singh Basnyat, Nepal Museum Association

Saubhagya Pradhananga, Chief of National Archives, Department of Archaeology

Ramesh Prasad Dawadi, lawyer, ICOM Nepal board

Birendra Mahato, ICR member, Regional Museum Tharu Cultural Museum and Research Center Chitwan

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Swosti Rajbhandari Kayastha, Lecturer, Lumbini Buddhist University

Santa Man Maharjan, Chief of Jyapu Museum (community museum)

Rajan Joshi, Mountain Museum (private museum)

Jane Legget, ICOM New Zealand Chair, ICR member

Suresh Suras Shrestha, Under Secretary, Department of Archaeology,
Government of Nepal.

Jayaram Shrestha, Chief, National Museum, Chhauni, Kathmandu

Dharma Raj Dangol, Natural History Museum, Swaymbhu

We will consult on the the topic matter colleagues from ICOM India, Mongolia, Bangladesh, China and Pakistan

Suresh Man Lakhe, Patan Museum

ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

The Special Project has been developed in response to needs identified during ICR's 2016/2017 Special project *Regional Museums' role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake*

a) STRATEGY

We envisage the entire range of professionals dealing with museum law in the ASPAC region and in general as our target audience

We intend to organize a workshop with participants who are coming from ICOM organisations and neighbouring countries, Nepali museum professionals

and university lecturers (museology). From the start we have to present our initiative to representatives of Nepal's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. We will include a Nepali lawyer on the organizing board to advise on any special aspects related to, and consistent with, Nepali internal laws.

b) PRACTICE

Delivery of a workshop programme including lectures, participatory sessions and excursions for field exercises.

- Results of the questionnaire, museums' situation in Nepal, workshop, excursion to a regional museum, hearing problems of other museums (national, private)
- In 2020 we will prepare Guidelines to serve as a basic document to inform drafting of legislation for a sustainable museum system in Nepal.

c) TARGETED AUDIENCE

The primary target audience consists of museum professionals from Nepal and the ASPAC area together with delegates from ICOM countries with established museum law. Participants are envisaged as belonging to all types of Nepali museums – state, regional, local and private. In addition to lectures, the project envisions active workshops and an excursion as allowing for more interactive and participatory methods, including on-site exercises.

d) GEOGRAPHICAL IMPACT

The impact in a geographical sense is broad as we expect participants from countries that otherwise have difficulties in attending conferences due to costs, transport and other geographical constraints. Moreover, invited speakers from Asia and Europe will cover any possible geographical imbalance and enable mutual networking.

e) ANTICIPATED SPEAKERS

In order to create a constructive learning atmosphere and a space for exchange, the workshop will be organized and led by recognised ICOM experts coming from different countries, including ASPAC Region and Europe.

f) ANTICIPATED ORGANISATION SCHEDULE

The workshop will be organized by ICOM ICR, ICOM Nepal and UNESCO Kathmandu Office, Nepal Museum Association and Lumbini Buddhist University, Natural History Museum.

HAS YOUR COMMITTEE ALREADY RECEIVED A SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT?

- 1) 2016 (realized January 2017): ICOM SAREC 7,000 € and 3,000 € from the budget of ICR. Partners were ICOM China, ICOM Japan and The Chinese Association of the Museums of Taiwan (they provided flight costs for 2 participants/experts).

Theme »**Regional Museums' role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake**«. We invited museum professionals with expertise in recovering from disasters.

Final report was sent on 25 December 2017, proceedings sent to ICOM HQ and ICOM Archives.

<http://online.fliphtml5.com/xdjw/ohwz/>, June 2018

In November 2018, the Proceedings were also produced in hard copy by ICOM Nepal.

- 2) Special Project together with CAMOC and CAM Migration : Cities – (Im)migration Arrival Cities – CAMOC as leading partner.

ICR led a subproject *Regional museums on the Balkan route of migrations*, in cooperation with ICOM SEE. ICR contributed a 9 minutes film, case study on Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana, *Ljubljana – on the crossroad* (migrations through museum objects).

ICR coordinated the ICOM Balkan countries: we collected information on museums' contribution to migrations crises in Europe. Migrations are a political issue. Regardless, we received some responses from museums that joined in solving the migrant crisis in Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Austria.

ICR contributed a speaker and a session chair to a CAM-led subproject in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in June, 2017 on *Museums and Migration*.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROVISIONAL FUNDINGS AND PARTICIPANTS

FUNDING

Committees are encouraged to identify additional funding from other sources, as well as the names of those sources. Please note that ICOM cannot fund more than 50% of the overall budget.

AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM

ICOM: 5,500 €

OTHER RESOURCES:

Please indicate the amounts and specify if they are provisional or confirmed.

(Please include the letters of intent)

IN-KIND SUPPORT:

ICR: 3,000 €

ICOM Nepal: 2,500 €

TOTAL FUNDING

EXPENDITURES

Description of expenditures

TYPE AND AMOUNT OF

EXPENDITURES THAT WILL BE FINANCED BY ICOM:

Travel costs for invited speakers

Workshop organization in Nepal
(accommodation, meals, stationery, transportations in Nepal)

TYPE AND AMOUNT OF OTHER EXPENDITURES:

Publishing costs (printed materials, proofreading, partly traveling costs, small expenses)

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

RESULT (*must be balanced*) 11,000 Euro

TABLE OF EXPENSES

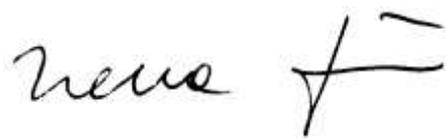
These are provisional costs as at November 2018

FLIGHTS, 5 foreign participants	4,000
Organizational expenses, for excursion day – transportation, lunch, 1 accommodation in Pokhara, petrol etc.	1,200
FOOD (lunch, dinner, all participants, 3 days)	1,000
ACCOMODATION (invited speakers) 6 persons, 4 nights	2,000
PRINT (programme brochure)	500
Other small expenses	300
2020 Meeting of the editorial group for Manuals: designing, language editing, printing (100 copies)	2,000

SUMMA	11,000 Euros

ICOM ICR Chair

Irena Žmuc



Irena Žmuc

ICOM Nepal Chair

Bijaya Kumar Shahi



Bijaya Kumar Shahi

Ljubljana, Slovenija, December 2018