





ICOM ICR Special Project Kathmandu, Nepal

Regional Museums' role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake

January 17 - 22, 2017

Partners:



中華民國博物館學會
Chinese Association of Museums

**Regional Museums' role in assisting
to rebuild their local communities
after an earthquake**

Programme

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January 17 Arrival in Nepal, registration of the participants
.....

January 18

Venue Hotel Marshyangdi Hotel Conference Hall,
Thamel, Kathmandu

08.30 - 08.55 Arrival of Guests

.....
09.00 - 10.00 Opening Ceremony

Commences of formal programme

Welcome addresses

Mr. Bijaya Kumar Shahi, Chairperson of ICOM Nepal
ICOM Representative

Inauguration of conference by lighting the butter lamp (Panas)
by Chief Guest

Mr. Prem Singh Basnyat, Ph. D., Chairperson of Nepal
Museum Association, member of ASPAC

Mr. Chen Jianming, Ph. D., ICOM China

Mr. Christian Manhart, Country Representative of UNESCO,
Kathmandu

Ms. Irena Žmuc, Ph. D., Chairperson of ICR

Conclusion of Inauguration Ceremony

10.00 - 10.30 Coffee | Tea break

.....
10.30 - 12.30 Session 1

Moderator Ms. Leire Beltran Sagaseta, UNESCO Nepal
office

Keynotes

10.30 - 11.00 Tri Ratna Manandhar, Nepal:
Thematic Classification of Museums in Nepal

11.00 - 11.30 Christian Manhart, UNESCO:
Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage after the
Earthquake

11.30 - 12.00 Michele Trimarchi, Italy:
Museums, Cultural Heritage and Urban Texture
Under Threat, Between Natural Dangers and
Economic Diseases

12.00 - 12.30 Discussion

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

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13.30 - 17.30 Session 2

Moderator Ms. Orit Shamir, ICR Board member

13.30 - 14.00 Suresh Lakhe, Nepal:
Patan Museum and Earthquake 2015

14.00 - 14.30 Saubhagya Pradhanaga, Nepal:
Government Policy and Legislation regarding
Museums

14.30 - 15.00 Prem Singh Basnyat, Nepal:
The Role of Museums in Conflict Prevention

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee | Tea break

- 15.30 - 16.00 Ge Jiaqi, China:
Seismic Protection Technology and Application
for Museum Collections in China
- 16.00 - 16.30 Irena Žmuc, Slovenia:
The Day Before
- 16.30 - 17.30 Discussion

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January 19

Venue Hotel Marshyangdi Hotel Conference Hall,
Thamel, Kathmandu

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08.00 - 12.30 Session 3

- Moderator Mr. Kenji Saotome, ICOM Japan
- 08.30 - 09.00 Paihsing Hsiao, Taiwan:
Eco-museum as an Important Strategy for
Cultural-Social Reconstruction in Ruins: A
Practical Perspective from the Architecture of
Historical Geography
- 09.00 - 09.30 Feng Zhengbi, China:
China's Story, Inheriting China's Spirit, Passing
China's Power
- 09.30 - 10.00 Coffee | Tea break
- 10.00 - 10.30 Eddie Wei-Chun Lai, Taiwan:
Earthquake Reconstruction and Community
Museum Development Experience in Taiwan
- 10.30 - 11.00 Purushottam Lochan Shrestha, Nepal:
Museum of Nepal in Historical Perspective
- 11.00 - 11.30 Kanefusa Masuda, Japan:
Natural Hazards and CH-DRM Network Japan
(National Task Force for Japanese Cultural
Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network)

- 11.30 - 12.00 Stefanos Keramidas, Greece:
"Run for the objects!" : Experiencing
Earthquakes and Securing Movable Heritage in
Greek Museums
- 12.00 - 12.30 Discussion

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

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14.00 - 18.00 Session 4

- Moderator Mr. Eddie Wei-Chun Lai, The Chinese
Association of the Museums in Taiwan
- 14.00 - 14.30 Prem Kumar Khatri:
Museums and Universities: Playing
Complimentary Roles
- 14.30 - 15.00 Kenji Saotome, Japan:
Network for Historical Documents - Their
Continued Efforts to Preserve Documents
Damaged by Natural Disasters
- 15.00 - 15.30 Coffee | Tea break
- 15.30 - 16.00 Orit Shamir, Israel:
Archaeological Exhibits outside Museums
in Israel
- 16.30 - 17.00 Ganes Man Gurung, Nepal:
The Role of Civil Societies on Museum
Development: The Case of Nepal
- 17.00 - 18.00 Final words
Kanefusa Masuda Ph. D., ICOM Japan
Mr. Bijaya Kumar Shahi, Chairperson of ICOM
Nepal
Irena Žmuc Ph. D., Chairperson of ICR

January 20 Excursion

Basantapur Durbar Square

Basantapur Durbar Square is located in the heart of the Kathmandu city; it is also known as Hanuman Dhoka Durbar Square. The name came from the statue of Hanuman established by King Pratap Malla in 1672. The nine-storey residence was built in 1770. The palace was renovated many times in the past and suffered severe damage during the earthquake in April 2015. It is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Patan Museum

Patan is an important city of Kathmandu Valley. The official name of the city is Lalitpur "City of Fine Arts". Patan Durbar Square is located in center of the Lalitpur city. Patan Museum is located in the 1734 Palace of Keshav Narayan Chowk. The museum survived the earthquake in 2015, and today is open for the public. The stone temple of Krishna, a highly impressive and exquisite monument was built by King Siddhi Narasingh Malla in 1636. This temple was partially damaged due to the earthquake in 2015. It is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

January 21 Excursion

Bhakatpur Monument Zone

Bhakatapur, "the city of devotees" is the third major city of the Kathmandu Valley. It lies about 15 kilometers east of Kathmandu city. Bhaktapur, the cultural capital of Nepal, is a virtual museum of arts and architecture. Each and every piece of art tells the history of the city. The city has suffered greatly from earthquakes, especially those of 1808, 1833, 1934 and 2015. With a history dating back to the early 8th century, it was the capital city of Nepal from the 12th to the 15th centuries. Until the early 18th century, the city was a sovereign country, surrounded with boundary walls and a number of city gates. It is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Changu Narayan Monument Zone

Changu Narayan Temple complex is one of the oldest and most significant sites in Kathmandu valley, dating back to the 4th century. The temple complex is actively used by devotees every day. Another attraction, the Living Traditions Museum (LTM), was the home of invaluable collections of traditional ethnic artifacts, artworks and photographs. The earthquake in April 2015 severely damaged the Narayan temple and The LTM Museum (LTM). The museum immediately evacuated over 400 museum objects, lest aftershocks destroy the building. However, The LTM has been restoring

the buildings in the area and plans further restoration in the coming year. It is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Closing Ceremony

Ms. Irena Žmuc, Chairperson of ICR

Mr. Christian Manhart, UNESCO

Abstracts

Tri Ratna Manandhar, Ph. D., Retd. Professor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Thematic Classification of Museums of Nepal

A museum is a building, place and institution devoted to the acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition and educational interpretation of objects having scientific, historic, and artistic value. Museums bring the past to life and enable the visitors to touch, feel, see, hear, or experience and smell the past, thus satisfying their desire to study the past from different angles. With the widening of academic horizons, museums are classified into different themes to satisfy specialized visitors.

Archaeological and historical museums preserve inscriptions, manuscripts, and items discovered through excavations, whereas Art museums display paintings, sculptures, and other forms of artistic pieces. Objects related to natural and physical science are displayed in science museums, and the ethnographic museums preserve the items representing the socio- cultural life of different ethnic groups. Other forms of museums include Army and arsenal museums, Biographic museums, in situ museums, Numismatic museums, Cultural museums, Childrens museums etc.

Museums are deeply related to tourism, because tourists form the main part of museum audiences. A general museum cannot satisfy the tourists interested in specific objects, and hence, the thematic classification of museums is necessary to attract tourists from different disciplines. My paper will discuss the thematic classification of museums, specially related to Nepal.

Christian Manhart, UNESCO Representative to Nepal

Presenting the work that has been carrying out after the earthquake, the impact on the heritage and the museum areas in Kathmandu.

Michele Trimarchi, Ph. D., (with Margherita Pianezza) Professor of Cultural Economics of Bologna University Alma mater, Italy

Museums, Cultural Heritage and Urban Texture Under Threat,
Between Natural Dangers and Economic Diseases

Museums and cultural heritage are strictly connected to the urban texture in the Italian experience. Since the Roman Empire and through the varied civilizations that conquered Italy and left their signs and symbols in buildings, monuments and works of art, Italy has often been subject to natural events such as big earthquakes. In 1908 Messina and Reggio almost disappeared. In 2010 L'Aquila was destroyed and its heritage irreversibly harmed. Many damages can be also attributed to the insufficient technical care, or even to corruption. Natural events and human mistakes should be investigated together, in order for rules and regulations to combine a sound technical approach and a tight legal framework: in such a way the negative fallout of many natural events such as earthquakes could be effectively prevented and limited.

Suresh Lakhe, MA, Patan Museum, Nepal

Patan Museum and Earthquake 2015

Patan is a historic site, a unique satellite city. Patan Durbar Square is located at the heart of the city. The place is a favoured meeting point for locals in the vicinity of temples and a place where major religious events including traditional dances, feasts and festivals take place. It has the most diverse variety of temple architecture, a royal palace dating back to the medieval period, a stone water fountain and much more reflecting the artistic and architectural skills of the talented Newari (local people) craftsmen of Patan.

Situated in the heart of this city, the Patan Museum is listed as a heritage site. Museums should prepare disaster risk management plans covering pre-disaster, during the disaster phase and post-disaster phase considering earthquakes as the major natural hazard to the cultural heritage sites of Kathmandu Valley. Nepal is the 11th most earthquake prone country in the world. In 2015, such a disaster management plan was implemented in Patan: fortunately the museum building was not destroyed. First priority for the museum team was saving human lives inside the museum complex, then it was immediately mobilized to rescue and restore its cultural heritage.

Saubhagya Pradhanaga, National Archives, Nepal

Government Policy and Legislation Regarding Museums

Nepal has a diverse ethnic, cultural and geographic composition: more than 123 ethnic groups with 103 languages. However, the development of museums is a fairly recent phenomenon here. The modern concept of museums in Nepal was founded only in 1938. There are few museums within the Kathmandu Valley, others are outside the valley in Pokhara, Gorkha, Surkhet,

Kapilvastu, Dhanakuta and they are all in initial stages of development. The earthquake in 2015 caused massive loss of human lives and cultural heritage, damaging most of the museums in Kathmandu Valley. Due to a lack of clearly defined policy and legislation regarding museums, we faced many problems to rescue, manage and salvage cultural property during the earthquake. We did as much as possible with what we have. No separate policy or acts have been made regarding museums in Nepal since the Monument Preservation Act in 1956, in which only few words speak about museums. Some semi-government museums are running under the Development Committee Act (Bikas Samiti Ain 2034) and most of non-governmental museums have been registered according to Registration Act in 1978. For sustainable museum development in Nepal, it is essential for the government to prepare policy and legislation covering museums.

Prem Singh Basnyat, Ph. D., Professor, Kathmandu University Nepal

The Role of Museums in Conflict Prevention

The UNESCO General Conference Paris 17 November 2015 adopted ICOM's recommendation "Further affirming that museums and collections contribute to the enhancement of human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular its Article 27, and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular its Articles 13 and 15". In other words, it could be considered as "conflict prevention through ICOM". In this regard, a museum can be an effective psychological means for conflict prevention, possibly changing the hearts and minds of people since it is a »non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, reserarches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment.«

**Ge Jiaqi, MA, (with Ma Botao, Wu Laiming), China, China
Aviation Planning and Design Institute Group Co., Ltd.**

Seismic Protection Technology and Application for Museum Collections in China

A museum is a window to display social and historical civilization. Currently there are more than 4900 in China. The large number of removable cultural relics preserved in these museums, while conducive to the protection and restoration of cultural relics, also greatly increases the risk of concentrated damage.

In seismic protection of museum collections, the concept of "shock wave + buildings + showcases + cultural relics" whole-system anti-seismic design concept is put forward, which is different from the "seismic wave (+showcase) + cultural relics" in other countries. The dynamic amplification of the structure of a multi-floor building, and the dynamic coupling of the building wall and the showcases along the wall should be considered under earthquake conditions. As we know, the spectral characteristics of earthquake actions differ regarding each museum collection. Therefore, museum collections require personalized design to minimize damage due to earthquakes.

Anti-seismic design for museum collections must consider the controlling factors of building structure, which are shear and overturning actions, in addition to the acceleration effect of earthquake action on floating museum collections. The safety of buildings can not guarantee the safety of museum collections. In this research, anti-seismic design methods for the building and the showcase are put forward respectively. The three control indexes of floating object slippage, overturning and strength of destruction should be considered.

In the aspect of anti-seismic measures and equipment, the application scope and mechanics calculation methods of traditional anti-seismic measures are discussed, such as bonding, lashing, card fixing and gravity reduction in combination

with the specific situation of the museum collections. At the same time, technical measures regarding the isolation of museum collections and the design method are given.

Requirements for making buildings and collections earthquake proof extend from the planning and construction of the museum to the architectural design of the museum, as well as the design of the exhibition and the processing and production of the anti-seismic device. Specification systems for seismic protection of museum collections, include the Museum Construction Standard Design Code for Museum Buildings (JGJ 66—2015), Specification for Seismic Protection of Museum Collection (WW/T 0069-2015) and Seismic-protection for Museum Objects Seismic-protection Facility - Technical Requirements (T/WWXT 0021-2015). Also, the preventive protection and emergency rescue management measures are put forward.

**Irena Žmuc, Ph. D., Muzej in galerije mesta Ljubljane,
Slovenia**

The Day Before

Metaphorically speaking the day before is the every day work of museum professionals: documentation and preservation - our domain is not only the direct preservation of movable/immovable and intangible heritage, but includes large number of measures aimed at incorporating heritage into modern life, presenting it to the public and developing awareness of its value. Natural disasters such as earthquakes are in most cases unpredictable. We have to be ahead of the eventual disaster, especially in hazardous regions. And we have to be organized to combine preventive and acute measures for protection. Turkey and the Mediterranean Region can provide models regarding how to protect (as much as possible) our heritage before any natural disaster.

Paihsing Hsiao, Ph. D., Associate professor & former chairperson, Dept. of Architecture, Huafan University, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Eco-museum as an Important Strategy for Cultural-Social Reconstruction in Ruins: A Practical Perspective from the Architecture of Historical Geography

After the Taiwan earthquake in 1999, the presenter participated in architectural investigations and the restoration of Chi-chi train station in Nan-Tao. In addition, since then, the presenter has also joined some community empowerment projects and planned and designed of creative tourism projects across the Strait. Through these experiences, the presenter realized that the architectural hardware is just the vehicle of spatial software after all.

Therefore, it is indispensable not only to focus on the physical rehabilitation of buildings, but also to grasp and penetrate into their social-historical context while reconstructing local societies. Architectural planning and design is based on historical geography. Treating localities as eco-museum or eco-villages provides the opportunity to reestablish local communities through repairing spatial context.

Feng Zhengbi, Director of management center, 5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake Memorial Museum, China

China's Story, Inheriting China's Spirit, Passing China's Power
5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake

The Memorial Museum is a post-disaster reconstruction project, the only national-level earthquake memorial museum in China. Its multiple functions include serving as a memorial, propagandizing, and promoting education and scientific studies. In recent years, the museum has focused on works telling the progress of earthquake relief work and post-disaster

reconstruction work. The museum's goals are to lead the direction of national disaster prevention, mitigation and public safety education; to promote studies of disaster prevention and mitigation work; and to be one of the best places to study comprehensive disaster prevention, education and training in the world. It aims to make a contribution to international disaster prevention and mitigation work.

Eddie Wei-Chun Lai, Huafan University Fine Arts and Cultural Creative Industry Department, Taiwan
Earthquake Reconstruction and Community Museum Development Experience in Taiwan

Taiwan is a region where natural earthquakes occur frequently. On September 21, 1999 we encountered the largest earthquake in record book of Taiwan history. After the earthquake, Taomi community located in the epicenter faced a major task of post-disaster reconstruction. Taomi community took a professional intervention strategy: preservation of earthquake materials as a museum display materials. The community also re-invented all community resources and developed Newland community education center and tourism. The gift of a paper dome which survived the major earthquake in Kobe, Japan recognized the continuation of Taomi community. Several years later, in 2014, their architects with reconstruction experience assisted the Wenchuan earthquake area in Sichuan Province, China.

Purushottam Lochan Shrestha, Ph.D., Prof., Nepal
Museum of Nepal in Historical Perspective

A museum is a mirror and an identity of a nation. It is an institution that exhibits items of various importance concerning humanity. Exhibitions are one of the main characteristic features

of museums. The main purpose of museums is the collection, conservation, preservation and display of items (tangible and intangible heritage) for the public. According to ICOM (The International Council of Museums), "A Museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment." In this respect, ancient and medieval monasteries and temples can be considered as open air museums where a variety of valuable old items are collected and exhibited.

Museums entered a crucial phase with the great earthquake in April 2011 and the continued aftershocks, particularly a major aftershock in May 2011, which ruined the country. Several monuments and museums were demolished and many were badly damaged. In fact, almost all the museums which were housed in historic monuments were severely damaged. We are still suffering, passing through a year of recovery and opportunities. The historically and culturally important classic buildings of our museums continue to inspire. We must restore them. They are all world-class, fabulous and incomparable. They are our pride, symbols of our own national entity and cultural identification. When we lose these priceless museums we lose ourselves and will be nowhere. So let us restore, conserve and preserve our museums for our future generations as well as our present lives.

Kanefusa Masuda, Ph.D., Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network, Japan

A Case Report from Japan: Natural Hazards and CH-DRM Network Japan (National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network).

How can regional museums work efficiently with national and local governments and volunteers organizations after an earthquake? This is a very important question.

To respond to the urgent need for quick and effective rescue activities for cultural heritage after disasters, in July 2011 we in Japan established a new national headquarters; CH-DRM Network Japan (National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network) at NICH (National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, located in Tokyo National Museum) with the support of central government ACA (Agency for Cultural Affairs).

The Great East Japan Earthquake with Magnitude 9.0 in 2011 damaged 744 designated or registered cultural properties, 236 local museums, 251 libraries and 984 community centers. A total of 6,000 or more voluntary participants joined the Cultural Property Rescue Project under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA). Government sponsored activities took place at more than 40 locations around Miyagi Pref. If we include the individual activities of NGOs such as the Historical Materials Network and of museums in each prefecture, rescue activities were carried out in over 100 locations.

After the temporary coordinating committee for these activities, we still needed a more long-term organization, and CH-DRM Network Japan was created to prepare for future natural disasters, and also to study risk management systems and international coordination.

In March 2011, Japan hosted The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai Miyagi Prefecture, severely damaged by the 2011 earthquake. Within the framework of this conference, NICH together with UNESCO, ICCROM ACA, and supported by ICOM and ICOMOS, organized an International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities. The Recommendation adopted as the conclusion includes many points related to local community

resilience and how heritage can encourage the people. Under these recommendations, we have joined PDNA in several countries, and are preparing Blue Shield Japan. Regional and local museums are essential, key factors to work for the recovery of damaged communities, and these organizations should also be prepared for future disasters as mutual supporting networks. Central and local governments are expected to support these networks according to the Recommendations.

Stefanos Keramidas, MA, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, Greece

“Run for the objects!”: Experiencing Earthquakes and Securing Movable Heritage in Greek Museums

Since the dawn of civilization, Greece has experienced numerous earthquakes of varied intensity and consequences. Some of them were devastating and even changed the geography of whole regions or played a crucial role in the decline of thriving communities and the emergence of new civilizations. The domination of this uncontrolled power of the earthquake over human creations is constantly detected in archaeological remains all around Greece. The latter not only represent the magnificence of the elite but also constitute significant records of the varied aspects of everyday life and, thus, greatly enrich our historical knowledge. Within this landscape, contemporary museums in Greece have been committed to the safeguarding, conservation, and display of this important cultural heritage. However, these museums still remain vulnerable to the power of earthquakes. The current paper will focus on two main axes. Firstly, it will attempt to present some characteristic examples of earthquake incidents that marked the country’s cultural portrait, focusing on the diverse consequences caused for the museum objects and the hosting institutions themselves. Secondly, and in regard to

the aforementioned cases, it will discuss the immediate measures that had been taken by the local government and will also aim to put these into the perspective of the international codes of ethical and responsible action in the case of natural disasters.

Prem Kumar Khattry, Ph.D, Professor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Museums and Universities: Playing Complimentary Roles

Traditionally, a museum is an institution for learning in a more practical set up. Particularly, one could call it a place for self learning through observation, guided tour or secondary sources. In Nepal the history of museums goes back more than six decades. Starting as an arsenal for limited public viewing, the National Museum located at Chhauni, Kathmandu began to grow as a collection of art objects, coins, royal and other paintings and weaponry. Today the form, function and meaning of a museum are expanding, giving the museum the status of an academic institution for enhancing the scope of knowledge. The paper will highlight the evolution of the museum's academic role in Nepal with special focus on the two universities – Tribhuvan and Lumbini Bouddha where museology is taught at the Masters level. Some thoughts will also be given on the academic role of some museums in Kathmandu and other places.

Kenji Saotome, MA, Suita City Museum, Japan
Network for Historical Documents - Their Continued Efforts to Preserve Documents Damaged by Natural Disasters

In February 1995 a non-profit organization, the Information Network for Preserving Historical Documents (Presently named the Network for Historical Documents) was established to preserve regional/local historical documents damaged by the

devastating Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 1995. Its secretariat was set up at the Amagasaki Municipal Archives, which is a regional history museum.

The purpose of the paper is to introduce the history of the organization to verify the reasons why the network continued until present day. This paper then suggests the importance of daily preservation practices to protect regional and local history and to prepare for future disasters, as well as daily efforts to strengthen networks amongst regional/local museums, libraries, archives, and communities, central and regional/local governments, and universities, etc.

Orit Shamir, Ph.D., Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel
Archaeological Exhibits outside Museums in Israel

In Israel there are about 300 archaeological museums and exhibits around the country, some of which are decades old. Since the establishment of the State of Israel almost 70 years ago, archaeological museums and exhibits have become very popular. Public interest in archeology led to the creation of large collections, some of which are presented in museums. All the archaeological artifacts in these museums are registered at the Israel National Collections of the Israel Antiquities Authority. In order to increase public awareness and interest in the country's archaeological heritage, we monitor these archaeological displays and assist in updating them. These exhibitions have educational and cultural value, as they enable people to appreciate the historical material culture of the environment. The Israel Antiquities Authority lends out archaeological artifacts and encourages the establishment of exhibits around the country: museums, national institutions, public institutions, research and educational institutions, national parks, visitor centers, schools and more. Exhibits in local and regional councils allow residents to recognize the remains of the

cultural heritage of their surroundings. Exhibits in schools often supplement textbook material. Construction of visitor centers at cultural heritage sites and national parks complement visitor experience such as at the Masada Museum.

Many of the exhibits are held in open gardens with architectural items, agricultural installations and mosaics. Sometimes the exhibits are held in enclosed spaces, displayed in show cases containing small artifacts such as candles and coins. Over the years awareness for these exhibits has grown. Last year for example, 150 applications for borrowing artifacts were submitted, for both short term and long term exhibition.

Ganes Man Gurung, Ph.D., Tyanglaphand, Kirtipur Municipality, Nepal

The Role of Civil Societies on Museum Development: The Case of Nepal

Nepal, a Himalayan country along with high-mountains, hills, and lowland Madhesh/Terai, has been characterized by diverse people in terms of language, social values, religious beliefs and practices, clothing and housing patterns or food culture. For many years, the beauty of nature as well as socio-cultural diversity has attracted foreign researchers and tourists to visit Nepal but the rapid spread of tourism across many parts of the country also brought a threat of disappearance of ethnographic materials with a challenge that the future generation will not get opportunity to understand their ancestral culture. Therefore, a committee consisting of representatives from civil societies was formed to address the urgent need to establish an ethnographic museum in Nepal. Since formation the group has been actively working to collect ethnographic materials from different ethnic groups of Nepal before they disappear under the attack of global change. In addition, the documenting the cultural legacy of the various caste and ethnic groups in Nepal through collection,

conservation and exhibition is directly related to enhancement of human right and inclusive democracy of Nepal under federalism with republican government based on pluralistic principles. Therefore, the proposed museum is expected to address today's ethnic voices searching for Identity and ultimately, the Identity of Nepal - unity in diversity in global context. The present committee, created with the participation and representation of multiple actors, has been supported by the Nepal government, which cannot sufficiently support the completion of this huge project.

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