

EDITORIAL

The year 2023 appears to witness a new development in the ISVS movement. On the one hand, the ISVS seminar is moving into Thailand, to be held in the 'land of smiles', in November 2023. It has started to be held every year instead of every two years which was the case before. This is the third consecutive year in which it is being held: twice in India: Bhopal in 2021, Navrachna in 2022 and now in Bangkok in 2023. Needless to say, there will be many research activities into the vernacular settlements, and some of these papers will look at the ISVS e-journal as a potential avenue through which to reach the scientific community. Simultaneously, the international society for the study of vernacular settlements will have a lot more new members.

On the other hand, the ISVS e-journal has received an increased interest from those who research into the human settlements. This issue has received 12 papers on vernacular, and they have come immediately after the special issue 9.5 in December 2022. With this enthusiasm and response, it is likely that the journal may need to be published every month. Coincidentally, I am retiring from full time teaching and will take up the editorship of the journal full time which will make it possible to increase the volume of the publication to facilitate this interest. Indeed, I am delighted to be doing so.

The papers in this issue numerous examine the social, cultural and environmental issues in human settlements. They range from the vernacular materials and technologies as well as the employment of local wisdom as laws to manage disputes in vernacular settlements. Some focus on the examination of the sustainable tourism involving vernacular settlements, construction techniques, stilt style architecture, place attachment, forms and meanings, and the conservation of heritage values.

These papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture and traditions as well as unique practices that had existed and continue to exist in the vernacular settlements. Interestingly, there appears to be a dominant country-specific orientation in these studies in that they often come from authors in either India or Indonesia. However, the paper of Warebi Gabriel Brisibe and Ibama Brown on the U-shaped Bungalow as a vernacular evolution in post-colonial Port-Harcourt in Nigeria as well as the paper of Haneen A. Abdulali & Haitham Abdul Hussein ALShamar on the lost and added values in conserving vernacular architectural heritage presenting insights from Iraq are noteworthy. To this, Tiba Basil Dahham and Susan Abed Hassan add a very interesting perspective of how soundscapes of vernacular traditional settlements contribute to their attractiveness providing insights from Baghdad, Iraq.

Indeed, one of the most intriguing contributions come from Ali Moazzeni Khorasgani, Maria H. Villalobos & Ghazal Asadi Eskandar, who are offering a new theoretical perspective and an approach employing the Ideas of landscape and place to sustain historic cities about with vernacular. It is hoped that these perspectives will inspire the others to look at the vernacular settlements with new eyes.

Overall, this issue of the ISVS e-journal—as it always is—has been a collection of very meaningful studies into the vernacular settlements bringing out insights hitherto not available. A new trend however has to be observed. That is the popularity of the journal in territories such as Iraq, Iran and we are most encouraged by their contributions; indeed, we are also thankful to our usual authors contributing.

We look forward to sustaining this new interest in the vernacular settlements and providing a reliable and supportive academic platform to share your research and findings to illuminate the world with new insights demonstrating the relevance of traditions and the vernacular in the modern world.

Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne
Editor-in-Chief