

## Editorial

In this editorial, I am quoting and rephrasing what I wrote for the ISVS e journal vol. 1 issue 1, because it seems what I said then seem so appropriate for the present situation too. I said, 'By now, ISVS has come a long way from its modest beginnings in 1999 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Over *the fifteen years, seven conferences* (edited) have been held, first three circulating around Indonesia itself, and subsequently moving into India and Sri Lanka. Many dedicated participants have been coming together every two years, in search for, and wanting to share their passion for the vernacular settlements. Many others have joined in over the years too, and I have been lucky to have joined in from the very beginning to learn from them. A movement had begun when it was first launched, conceptualized by the team led by Prof. Gunawan Tjahjono of University of Indonesia, although perhaps unknowing what its potentials were, and how it would evolve. Undeniably, the movement really took off when Prof. Miki Desai joined us in Indonesia, and proposed the challenging task of setting up a secretariat which we achieved in Ahmadabad, India in 2008. Had it not been for Prof. Pratyush Shanker, who shouldered the great responsibility of being the Secretary however, perhaps its current presence and visibility would not have been possible. Just this year, in 2014, we had yet another great seminar at the Istanbul Technical University, Turkey which was another turning point.

'One of the obvious objectives of the ISVS has been to share our passion for the vernacular settlements which provide places for habitations for the vast majority of the people on the planet, and to generate and share knowledge on the richness and relevance of these for the modern world. Those of us flocking around the ISVS believe that the traditions and the vernacular are as much as, if not more important to the designed settlements, from where the greater lessons for the modern human civilizations could be delineated. It is with the intention of generating such an understanding that the ISVS embarked upon the e-journal in 2010'. Now that ISVS e-journal has been there for four years, it has established itself as a formidable publication promoting the aspirations of the ISVS.

This publication shows the wide variety of issues the ISVS community is focusing attention to and the multitude of approaches they are taking. Noteworthy is the article of Cut Nuraini, who has brought into vernacular research the phenomenological approach which had hitherto been paid little attention. This approach, it is argued, provides holistic understanding in comparison to conventional observations. Velika asks a very pertinent question about the reproduction of vernacular which keeps happening all over the world often with the intention of showcasing the origins of traditions. But can such new villages really do it? This is an appropriate question to which the obvious answer is no; nevertheless, such villages are popular and they provide a semblance of the traditions which would otherwise have been completely lost. Where do we stand on this issue and what do we advocate? Warebi on the other hand shows us how the Ijo Fishing Settlements in Nigeria, facilities, numerous spaces and activities in and around water. This brings in a new perspective when he shows us how the Ijo culture of Nigeria has been a unique component of its vernacular river settlements. He offers interesting insights through the mapping activities of the Ijo community who knows nothing but water and posits how gender plays a role in the formation and articulation of the activities. In contrast, Selina takes up the issue of the transformations of vernacular, which often lead to the loss of their ability to respond to the immediate environmental aspects. Selina argues that traditional houses in Turkey could be transformed with modern ideas and techniques to improve their energy consumption although they are already good in this respect. Together, they enrich our understanding of the vernacular settlements across the world and will hopefully ensure their continued existence and contribution to the human habitats.

I am grateful to all authors, who have made great efforts in facing the numerous editorial demands in revising the papers. I have great faith that the Journal could now be nurtured and look forward to your papers to do so.

**Ranjith Dayaratne, editor-2014.**