

## EDITORIAL

Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Udayana University of Bali, led by Ayu Suartika, Indonesia, the ISVS-9: ICCCS-1 was aptly concluded in November 2018. ISVS-9 however was a very special event, for a number of reasons. First, of course, it was a unique place to hold the ISVS. Bali is rich with vernacular, and has unique vernacular settlements, where temples co-exist in the domestic spaces. The inspiration the participants gained while being in Bali is unmatched; with the visit to the vernacular settlements still lived and yet preserved. Then we also had a great opportunity to visit a unique setting where vernacular houses had been hand-picked and reconstructed for a display of the rich variety of vernacular in Indonesia. Designed by the father of the ISVS movement, Professor Gunawan Tjahjono, it was indeed a tribute to the vernacular settlements of Indonesia. Then, there was the participation of very special keynote speakers from Prof. Jon Lang from Australia to Prof. Abidin Kusno, from UK, the other end of the world. As an organization, ISVS, which was somewhat relaxed in the participation at the conferences, had a full house in Bali, where new initiatives and directions were mapped out. Most of all of course, the participants of the Conference were the most enthusiastic we had met at ISVS events. So much so, more than forty participants wanted to publish in the ISVS e journal, a recognition that the journal has come of age and is providing a versatile platform to share research on the vernacular settlements.

Thus, this issue of the ISVS e journal sets in motion a new direction: it intends to publish four issues in 2019 and maintain that momentum as we grow. All papers published here were first presented at ISVS-9, subsequently re-reviewed and revised to bring up to the standards expected of the ISVS e journal. Indeed, there are some unique perspectives being presented in this issue that sets out a new set of re-definitions of the subject matter of vernacular settlements, in the same way the conference attempted to do through its theme: 'reframing the vernacular'

The first paper explores a new idea; that of learning from vernacular settlements to address issues of contemporary housing. In this paper, Ina Helena Augustina et al, argue that how the social values in the Magersari settlement in Indonesia can indeed provide clues as to how such may be inculcated in the modern low-income housing situations. While debatable, it does provide fresh perspectives on both royal compounds and low-income housing. The second paper is unique in that it looks at the livelihoods that have been sustained in the settlements around the Narmada river in India, and maps out how the river gives rise to a series of landscapes and in turn fashions different trades, crafts, skills, tools and livelihoods. Tiwari, S. et al argue that many of these livelihoods are under threat and propose to develop region-specific community biodiversity registers, networks as well as participatory strategies to sustain them. The third paper examines the meaning of home: privacy, modesty and hospitality in traditional Malay house, West Borneo, Indonesia, and presents how houses are more than shelter and act as repositories of social community. Indah Sari et al point out the complexity of their manifestations in the houses in Borneo. The fourth paper, place Identity in the eclectic style interiors of vernacular courtyard shop-houses in Heritage City, George Town, Malaysia are carefully analyzed. This paper is unique in that it is one of the rare papers that focuses on the interior spaces of vernacular buildings when more often than not, our attention is to the forms and their details. The last paper written by a linguist, takes us back to Bali, where the main economic activity is tourism. I Wayan Mulyawan shows that tourism has serious consequences for not just culture and built-form but also on the vernacular languages. He traverses Ubud, one of the beautiful suburbs of Bali to observe that the landscape is over loaded with the languages appealing to the foreigners and the tourists, making the vernacular languages to subside and almost disappear.

Overall, the papers in this issue show the wide variety of aspects the ISVS community is exploring in order to understand the implications of the struggles of the vernacular settlements to sustain themselves, with the values they cherish.

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