Travelling the World since 1999

ISVS Seminar

The International Seminar on Vernacular Settlements now known as ISVS was launched at the University of Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia in 1999. It was the brainchild of the then Associate Professor of architecture of the University of Indonesia, Prof. Gunawan Tjahjono. ISVS has since held fourteen seminars across the world from Jakarta, Surabaya, Ahmadabad, Colombo, North Cyprus, Turkey, Makassar, Bali, Bhopal, Gujrat, and Thailand until 2024, supported and promoted by an International Advisory Board.



Prof. Gunawan Tjahjono was the Professor of architecture of the University of Indonesia from 2002-2012, and since retirement, has held many academic positions in other universities. Since 1999, he led the seminars for 25 years giving rise to an international movement to draw attention to the relevance of traditions and vernacular in the contemporary world. His interest has always been in social and cultural factors of architecture and urban design. He has published widely and has delivered lectures across Asia.

Following are some of his selected publications.

- Expressions of Islam in Buildings: The Indonesian Experience
- Vernacular Architecture: The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies
- Peran Arsitektur dan Antropologi dalam Tata Ruang Kota Indonesia Abad Antropologi Indonesia
- Potent Landscapes: Place and Mobility in Eastern Indonesia. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2013. Trans: Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia, 2016
- Semiotik dan dinamika sosial budaya
- Wacana Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia, Oct 2, 2014
- Architecture in Java: Encyclopaedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures, 2016
- The House and the Megalith: On the Myth and Reality of the Sumbanese Architectural Tradition
- Context, Change, and Social Responsibility in the Work of Eko Prawoto in Journal of Architectural Education, 2010.

Despite his retirement, he still remains as the de-facto leader of the ISVS seminars.