

EDITORIAL

We are well on the way to the year 2024, having published the ISVS e-journal a complete year on a monthly basis. This demonstrates that the interest in vernacular has increased manifold confirming our assertion that the ISVS seminar and the ISVS e-journal are achieving its aim of promoting knowledge about vernacular, at its best. In the way it is progressing, nothing will stop it.

In this issue, the papers examine many built-environmental issues in Indonesia, India, Thailand and Malaysia. They all deal with numerous aspects of the built-environments and demonstrate that the issues of our surroundings are complex and need to be examined through multiple lenses. Issues are numerous and range from the vernacular as well as the issues of beliefs and arts, community organizations, traditional knowledge, local wisdom and ornaments in the vernacular settlements.

In more specific terms, the papers in this issue have focused on the following. Pharitporn Kawkamsue et al. examine the impact of beliefs and arts on the cultural landscapes. They look specifically at the case of Wat Chedi's Stucco Chickens of Thailand. They conclude that Wat Chedi is a creation of a sacred space, although frequently turned into a spiritual tourist attraction. Jotirmay Chari & Tanvi Katre examine vernacular architecture of Bhutan as a brand looking specifically at the paradigms and paradoxes. They show how the successful examples of promoting vernacular architecture from Bhutan can be used as a model or strategy for conserving culture and built heritage.

Aniendya Christianna et al. examine the coastal settlements and Javanese vernacular art. They look specifically at the historical and cultural analysis of Damar Kurung Gresik in Indonesia. They conclude that coastal settlements have transformed Damar Kurung into a captivating vernacular art that represents Gresik's cultural identity. At the same time, Asmawi Ibrahim et al. examine building community organizations to engage indigenous communities in ecotourism. They bring insights from the Batek community in Malaysia. They show that the survival and development of the Batek people in ecotourism depend on good leadership. In a similar vein, Afnan Rasyidi, Abd Thalib et al. examine the issue of protecting traditional knowledge of the vernacular communities. They look specifically at the government role in safeguarding the Siak's Weaving Art in Riau, Indonesia. They conclude that the government has failed to provide legal protection to Siak's weaving art.

Maknun et al. present strategies for creating settlements for the slum fisherman of Tallo Village, Indonesia. They show that the settlement of Kampung Nelayan, Tallo Village is included in the village typology with a medium to high category of slums. In contrast, Muhammad Haspi Ali et al. examine the influence of livelihoods on coastal settlement patterns in Kampung Padang in Indonesia. They show that the shape of the settlement pattern is clustered. Moreover, it shows a relationship or correlation between the livelihoods and the settlement patterns. Naimatul Aufa et al. examine the types of flora in ornaments Rumah Bubungan Tinggi and Rumah Gajah Baliku & Teluk Selong, in Banjar houses in South Kalimantan, Indonesia and conclude that there are ten types of wetland flora that have inspired the two traditional houses.

Ayesha Agha Shah et al. examine the issue of preserving the past and shaping the future. They articulate authenticity of heritage within urban development. They reveal practices that can be used to protect authenticity and sense of place of a site. Adding to this, Nina Widyarningsih et al. examine local wisdom in vernacular communities. They look specifically at the natural disaster mitigation values in the Nyi Roro Kidul folklore of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. They show that folklore plays a significant role in conveying the values, experiences, and knowledge of the community related to natural disasters. Again, K. Marliya examine the issue of learning from vernacular and integrating retrofitting techniques to enhance thermal comfort in residential buildings. They bring insights from Tiruchirapalli, India. Finally, Snehal Anshu & Bijay Kumar Das examine the thermal comfort of street vendors in the traditional settlements of Patna, India.

Needless to say, that this issue is rich with great new insights into the vernacular. We are thankful to the authors.

Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne
Editor-in-Chief