

# EDITORIAL

We are now getting closer to the ISVS-12 to be held in Thailand in November 2024, with Kreangkrai Kirdsiri who is jointly authoring the last article leading the event. The journal is looking forward to receive the papers from this event as well as meeting them in person.

In this issue, the papers numerously examine the built-environmental issues in Indonesia, India, Thailand and China. 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 Yurt Dome structures, sustainable materials, traditional Knowledge and values of the vernacular settlements. In more specific terms, the papers in this issue have focused on the following.

Perizat Aitmukhanova et al. examine the issue of re-producing traditional Yurt Dome structures in the modern world and make an innovative proposal to do so. Ilham Muhamad Faizal & June Ekawati examine the application of traditional Sundanese architectural concepts in an Edu-Cultural Tourism Site in Bandung, Indonesia. They point out that the most widely applied concept is the use of natural building materials followed in the application of the shapes of the roofs. Tanisha Rampal et al. on the other hand examine a more practical issue. They examine the use of Bamboo as a sustainable material in vernacular settlements and argue that there are great potentials to do so in the modern India.

Rawin Thinnakorn et al. take us to Thailand. They examine the factors influencing the preservation of historic city centers, bringing insights from the old town of Sakon Nakhon City, Thailand. They reveal that there are two significant factors contributing to the preservation of centrality in the old town. The first is the urban grid configuration, which influences the creation of natural movement patterns at both the city and local levels. The second is the local street network integrated into the global street network.

Gun Faisal et al. on the other hand, examine the symbolic meaning of Tiang Tuo (old pole) in the Rumah Godang traditional house of the Koto Sentajo community in Riau, Indonesia. They point out that Tiang Tuo is a mother (female) who protects her children and offspring and is a symbol of protection. Tiang Tuo is also a place to complain or convey grievances. They argue that it is a reciprocal relationship between the mother and the offspring. In contrast, Vijay Kumar & Bijay Kumar Das provide an overview on mitigating climate change through traditional knowledge.

Dwi Wulan Titik Andari et al. offer us insights into the local wisdom in the land distribution system of Manggarai indigenous communities of Indonesia. Similarly, Umar presents us insights on the application of the concept Payango in the ethnic traditional houses of Suwawa in the Bone Bolango District of Indonesia.

Irdinal Arief et al. examine the value of Katuvu in the residential spaces of the Kaili Ledo community in central Sulawesi in Indonesia. They demonstrate that Katuvu ri Sou is one of the causes of the phenomenon of attachment to home in the Kaili Ledo community. Apart from the gender element, there is respect for ancestors from female figures and spirits in the sky and the land.

Finally, Shengyu Liu & Kreangkrai Kirdsiri examine the meanings of authenticity in contemporary Cultures and offer Insights from Gaozhuang, China. They point out that reconstructed authenticity at Gaozhuang could be a new authenticity reconstructed and integrated with current needs and context; it involves three domains that affect people's judgement about authenticity, including local participation which is well-attained.

There is no doubt that this issue of the ISVS e-journal has been a collection of very meaningful studies into the vernacular settlements bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are most thankful to all our authors for their great contributions, especially those who have joined us new from China.

**Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne**  
Editor-in-Chief