

EDITORIAL

It is heartening to note that the new ISVS movement is consolidating well, although what happened last March within the ISVS Board was unfortunate and was totally unnecessary. The ISVS-13 seminar is well on the way to be held in November 2024 in Sri Lanka. It has received more than 100 Abstracts and almost 40 will be presented in person while a similar number will be presented online. Indeed, it is going to be an exciting meeting that will define how the ISVS will emerge through the crisis. Most likely, we will formalize the International Society for the Study of Vernacular Settlements, which has already been recognized by the UN as an NGO.

Simultaneously, the ISVS e-journal has been published for 08 months this year and this issue has 10 papers. This demonstrates the standing of the journal in the eyes of the scientific community and that is what really matters. Science must be advanced by the people, for the people. Contrary to some predictions and suggestions, many have consciously and deliberately published in the ISVS e-journal. This month, the journal will be presented for indexing by the Web of Science and hopefully, it will receive its due place whatever that is. In any case, the journal will continue to be published every month at the rate we are receiving papers now from many new territories such as Vietnam.

Our usual contributors from Indonesia continue to publish despite machinations by some individuals in Indonesia to deter them. To the authors, such petty issues do not seem to matter, as long as the journal maintains the scientific standards and is of repute. They are more interested in what can be learnt from the culture of human settlements than institutional issues.

In this issue therefore, Santosh Tiwari & Meghna Vij examine the adaptations of neo-vernacular architecture in contemporary temples in India. They bring insights from selected case studies and show that neo-vernacular architecture has a significant role to play in the modern world. Pinki Bose et al. on the other hand, examine the significance of socio-cultural relationships between the river Ghats and the local communities in conserving the river Ghats. They look specifically at the case of Baghbazar Ghat in Kolkata, India. In contrast, Wiwik Yulianti et al. examine a very different yet relevant issue. They look at the relevance of vernacular in the contemporary world in terms of the use of vernacular languages in the presidential debates in Indonesia.

Foram N. Bhatt however is interested in conserving continuously evolving cultural landscapes of vernacular settlements. She brings out insights from the village Nirmand, in Himachal Pradesh, India. However, for Eka Oktawati et al. social stratification is a significant issue. They look at how the typology of traditional Mamasa house architecture has emerged based on social stratification of the society in Indonesia. From Indonesia again, Ayoeningih Dyah Woelandhary, et al. look at one of the core cultural facets of Indonesia. They examine the evolution of Batik culture in Indonesia and how that has moved from being a vernacular culture to an urban culture.

In contrast, Karthik Chadalavada, et al. focus on the environmental impact assessment of using vernacular materials for sustainable developments bringing insights from an eco-sensitive resort in India. Windi et al. tell us about how integrating the philosophical values of Indonesian traditional games contribute to early childhood education. She argues that this reinvents cultural heritage for the modern world. Simultaneously, Valentina Manurung et al. look at how culture is produced in the vernacular communities, by delving into Confucian beliefs and the culture of shame in Japan. Finally, Neneng Yanti et al. shows us how the art festivals in Bandung, Indonesia engage vernacularity and identity politics of public spaces to promote cultural tourism.

Needless to say, these papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture, traditions and the unique practices that exist in the human settlements. This issue of the ISVS e-journal again offers very meaningful studies into the human settlements bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are most encouraged by their contributions and look forward to publishing further research on the cultural practices of human settlements for the enhancement of Knowledge.

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