

EDITORIAL

The year 2024 has finally come to an end with the ISVS e-journal having been published for yet another 12 months, every month with about 10 papers. This is indeed a remarkable achievement which would not have been possible without the ardent support of the authors, who submitted papers for publication against numerous obstacles. In fact, 2024 was a year of testing, some of which we failed and some of which we overcame with tremendous efforts. The original ISVS is now in tatters and we are trying to re-build, which hopefully we will. The ISVS-13 seminar organized successfully is one indication that we can take the movement forward despite these odds. Publishing the 12 issues monthly is the other. We move forward to the year 2025 with the confidence that ISVS is unstoppable no matter what happens. Undeniably, the authors, the editors, the reviewers and the supportive staff have played commendable roles in achieving them. As the editor-in-chief, I pay tribute to all of them.

In this issue, the papers deal with numerous aspects of manifestations of vernacular traditions, and how the professionals deal with them. First, Ahmad Syauqi et al. present the issues emanating from the promotion of vernacular settings as tourist destinations. They examine the issue of preventing crimes at traditional settings through visitors' perceptions of safety at the Palippis Coastal Tourism Destination in Indonesia. They point out that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an approach that could be employed to deal with opportunistic crimes.

Mulyanto et al. are interested in the re-invention of traditions. They examine the development of Lurik Weaving motive designs with coloured weft threads in Indonesia and demonstrate that the market demand is high for the products of lurik weaving, with lurik-woven fabric with colorful weft threads being used as the main material by many of the fashion designers.

Similarly, Saad Hanif & Müge Riza examine heritagization of historic sites, a form of re-invention of vernacular traditions. They present the case of the transformation of Al Diriyah from a ruin to a branded cultural capital in Saudi Arabia and show that heritagization can celebrate and promote cultural heritage, and by employing it for branding sites, it can generate substantial cultural and economic benefits. Nevertheless, they caution against the pitfalls of tourism.

Souheil El Masri et al. examine a similar issue. They look at the problems and potentials of promoting vernacular heritage to regain cultural identity of historic cities. Focusing on the case of Bahrain, they argue that the approaches to promoting vernacular heritage should filter between short-term solutions and far-sighted strategies.

Nguyen Thi Bich Van brings us closer to a situation where similar attempts have been actually made. She examines the transformation of the folklore museum in the world cultural heritage city of 'hoi-an' in Vietnam as an example of the transformation of ancient houses into museums to promote nostalgic tourism. Interestingly, Souheil El Masri et al. were sceptical about nostalgia.

Rohini Maligi et al. look at an entirely different issue. They examine the role of vernacular practices in the mitigation of impact of climate, bringing insights from the vernacular settlement of Guledgudda in India. They conclude that the passive design strategies of the vernacular built forms can enhance thermal comfort conditions effortlessly.

In contrast, Denny et al. want to preserve cultural heritage. They examine the issue of digitizing cultural heritage & preserving history in the Metaverse. They offer insights from an exercise in doing so for the East Hall of the Bandung Institute of Technology in Indonesia.

Finally, Andy et al. offer glimpses into the complexity of conceptualizations of symbolic meanings present in the domestic settings in vernacular settlements. They examine the territorial characteristics of the Tamping Room of the Buginese traditional houses bringing insights from the Aristocrats houses in Bone, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Undeniably, these papers divulge the nuances of the manifestations of culture, traditions and the unique practices that exist in the human settlements and bringing out insights hitherto not available. We are grateful to the authors and wish them a happy and prosperous year 2025

Dr. Ranjith Dayaratne
Editor-in-Chief