

## **ICOM NEPAL - ICR SPECIAL PROJECT REPORT IN NEPAL**

### **Brief Introduction**

1. Under the special project of International Council of Museum-ICOM (the only one international umbrella organization of museums of globe) Paris, France, the ICOM Nepal and the International Committee for Regional Museums-ICR (one of the international committee of ICOM) had organized an international workshop in Kathmandu and Gorkha, Nepal from 20-22 November, 2019. The theme or title of this workshop (special project) was ***"Towards the Development and Integration of Museum Policy for (Regional) Museums: Study Case – (Regional) Museums in Nepal"***

2. The overall aim of this Special Project was to work closely with the Nepali and other museum colleagues in order to come up with a plan on how the International Committee for Regional Museums can play an active role to empower the Nepali museums in preserving the cultural, social or natural heritages of Nepal. Professional help and guidance in the establishment of legislation on museums for the interest of private, public, governmental or non governmental sector were the core matter. The principal expected outcome of this project was to produce Guidelines/Manuals on how to work collaboratively and how to involve different museum professionals from various public or private sector.

3. At the same time in Nepal we have Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013 (A.D. 1956) and National Cultural Policy 2067 (AD 2010) in action. These act and policy are not sufficient for the management of existing various types of museums in country. Most of the governmental museums are regulated by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal. However, many existing non-governmental and private museums are registered under Association Registration Act – 1977 and Company Registration Act – 2063. But the exact regulatory body for these museums has not been identified yet. So, in present context a concrete and effective museum policy, law and regulatory body is very essential for the smooth management of all types of museums operating in Nepal.

### **Conduction of Special project (Workshop)**

4. This workshop was conducted on four phases as follows;

Phase I - Workshop on Risk of Collection.

Phase II - Inauguration Ceremony.

Phase III - Presentation and discussion session (Theoretical part).

Phase IV - Excursion to Gorkha museum (Field visit) and Conclude of workshop.

5. **Phase I - Workshop on Risk of Collection.**

On 19 Nov 2019, a half day workshop on **Risks of Collection** has been conducted by Mr. Vinod Danial, Chair of AusHeritage and Board Member of ICOM Paris. Around 30 young museum staffs were participated from various museums. The chief guest was Excellency Mr. Peter Budd, Ambassador of Australia. The program was organized by ICOM Nepal at Hanumandhoka Palace Museum complex. At the end of the workshop chief guest distributed the certificate to the participants and he highlighted the benefits of this workshop.

6. **Phase II - Inauguration Ceremony.**

On 20 Nov 2019, on the occasion of commencement of special project an inauguration ceremony was organized at Hotel Manang, Thamel, Kathmandu. The Chief Guest of ceremony was Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya, Vice-Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, lighted the butter lamp and inaugurated the special project (workshop). Others dignitaries present in ceremony were such as; Mr. Christian Manhart, Country Representative of UNESCO Office Nepal, Excellency, Mr. Peter Budd, Ambassador of Australia, Mr. Alberto Garlandini, Vice-President, International Council of Museum- ICOM, Paris France, Mr. Madan K. Rimal, Head of History and Cultural Department, Tribhuvan University, Mr. Vinod Daniel, Chairman AusHeritage and ICOM Board Member, Dr. Irena Zmuc, Chairperson, International Committee for Regional Museum, Dr. Jane Lagget, Chair, ICOM New Zealand and Bijaya Kumar Shahi, chair ICOM Nepal. There were around 70 participants such as scholars, academicians, museum professionals and museum lovers from universities, government museums, public museums, private museums, members of ICOM Nepal and representative of institutional museums (such as army museum, police museum etc) were present in the inauguration ceremony. The chairperson of ICOM Nepal Mr. Bijaya Kumar Shahi has welcome to all the guest initially. Later other guests were also addressed on inauguration session about the necessity of museum law in Nepal. Inauguration ceremony has been concluded after two hours.

7. **Phase III - Presentation and Discussion**

On 20 Nov 2019, after the inauguration ceremony the paper presentation and discussion session has been started till 6 PM of 21 Nov. There were four sessions for paper presentation. Dr. Prof. Prem Khatri, Ms. Swosti Kayastha Rajbhandari, Dr. Irena Zmuc and Dr. Dhan Bahadur Kunwar were moderator for 1 to 4 session respectively. Total 18 museum professional from government, public and private museums were presented the paper and every session followed by discussions. These sessions were very interesting and informative. All sessions were fruitful to participants. Most of the paper were concerned with museum policy and law of Nepal.

8. **Phase IV - Excursion to Gorkha museum (Field visit) and Conclude of workshop.**

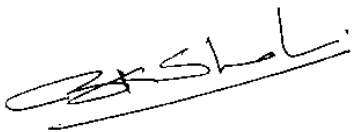
On 22 Nov 2019, There was excursion (field visit) to Gorkha Museum. Total 11 foreign and national participants were moved from Kathmandu by a bus and reached Gorkha at 10:45 AM. Gorkha museum was hosted this excursion program. Mr. Naba Raj Adhikari, Chief of Gorkha museum had welcomed all delegates and briefed about the Gorkha museum and Gorkha palace. Later participants have visited Gorkha Museum and Gorkha Palace. After the visit a brief concluding program was organized by Gorkha museum. The chief guest of this program was Member of Federal Parliament (MP) Mr. Hari Raj adhikari. All the staffs of Gorkha museum, participants and journalists were present in this concluding session. Mr. Bijaya Kumar Shahi, Mr. Alberto Garlindini, Vice-President ICOM Paris and Dr. Irena Zmuc, Chair ICR expressed their views about the museum law and policy. At the end of the session MP Adhikari expressed his closing remark of ceremony. At 3:30 visiting team came back to Kathmandu from Gorkha on same day.

### **Outcome of Special Project (Workshop)**

9. The outcome of this special project (workshop) are as follows;
- There was detail discussion about the existing laws related to museum.
  - Many points and logics came out regarding the necessity of museum policy and law.
  - Fairly discussed about the governmental, public and private museums in Nepal.
  - Many suggestion and feedback has been received regarding museum policy and law.
  - Current status of Government museums has been discussed.
  - Brief knowledge about the risk of collection has been provided to young museum staffs.
  - A basis and outline to draft a museum law and policy has been identified.
  - A fair knowledge about the unification of Nepal has been provided to foreign dignitaries.
  - A suitable platform to advocate about museum policy and law.
  - Got an opportunity to wakeup politician about the museum policy and law.
  - Many Nepalese participants and foreign dignitaries got chance to visit historic place Gorkha and Gorkha museum.
  - It could be a first international workshop held in Nepal.
  - Vice-President of ICOM Paris and other foreign dignitaries has got the opportunity to understand about the status and condition of Nepali museum.

### **Conclusion**

10. This special project (workshop) has been conducted very effectively. The management part of the workshop was excellent. The workshop provided ample knowledge about the current status of government museums, status of private and public museums. The workshop was fruitful to all the persons of society. The field visit to Gorkha was very enjoyable and informative. Overall the outcome of this workshop was excellent.



**Bijaya Kumar Shahi**  
**Chairperson**  
**ICOM Nepal**  
**24 Nov 2019**