



07 July 2016

Professor Amareswar Galla, PhD

Curator, Amaravati Heritage Town, A.P. India

Executive Director, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum, Denmark

Honorary Professor, Global Change Institute, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Re. Testimonial of Excellence for Inclusive Museum & Sustainable Heritage Development

I have known Professor Dr. Amareswar Galla for more than two decades, as a friend, esteemed colleague and academic and an outstanding professional. Our interaction is across the world. We worked together and shared platforms on every continent. He is the former Vice President of ICOM (2004-2007); President of the Asia Pacific Regional Alliance (1998-2004); Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee of ICOM at its Triennial General Conferences in Melbourne (1998) and Rio de Janeiro (2013). We worked together as close associates throughout his leadership journey in ICOM. I am delighted to write this testimonial, both as a friend and the President of the International Council of Museums.

I first met Amar in the early 1990s in Australia where he led the first ever national affirmative action program in the world. Eminent academics and curricula experts of ICOM from across the world assisted the program through a distinguished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee that oversaw the development and implementation of the program. It covered skills and competencies not only for movable heritage but also immovable heritage, thus introducing holistic sustainable heritage development within the frame of integrated local area planning. This exciting program was shared at the ICOM Triennial General Conference in the Den Hague in 1989 through a richly illustrated training program publication.

This started a three-decade journey of Amar who provided guidance for several affirmative action programs across the world, from Canada and USA to Vietnam and China. His commitment to Indigenous participation in heritage management is well appreciated by the several Small Island Development States, that he represents here in Milan as the Senior Founding Trustee of the Pacific Islands Museums Association. His advisory role from the foundation to the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian is often gratefully acknowledged by its founding director emeritus Dr. Rick West Jr.

I have witnessed firsthand and supported Prof Galla's work in his role as the founding Chairperson and Editor-in-Chief of the Inclusive Museum Knowledge Community during the past

decade. ICOM is an active partner of his work through The Inclusive Museum (<http://onmuseums.com/>) - an international conference, a scholarly journal, a book series, and an online knowledge community with Annual Research conferences with rich schedules in Leiden 2008; Brisbane 2009; Istanbul 2010; Johannesburg 2011; Bridgetown 2012; Copenhagen 2013; Los Angeles 2014; New Delhi 2015; Cincinnati 2016; and Manchester 2017.

Prof Galla was also for ten years from 2005 to 2015, the founder of the well-known culture as the fourth pillar paradigm and research advocacy which is now integrated into the UN Sustainable Development Goals and UN 2030 Agenda. He was also the Editor-in-Chief of the tier one journal which has published over 1800 research articles during that decade: *International Journal on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability* (<http://onsustainability.com>). I witnessed firsthand his work in Hanoi and Ha Long Bay where I attended an international conference on sustainability in Vietnam in 2006.

Prof Galla is one of the few accredited mentors/trainers of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage. In 2002 he convened and chaired the ICOM Asia Pacific Conference in Shanghai that became the major International NGO platform for discussing the Draft 2003 Convention. In 2004, following the resolutions from the ICOM Seoul Triennial General Assembly, he worked with ICOM Korea and the National Folk Museum, in establishing the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*. As the second and third Editor-in-Chief, he brought the journal to the international standards and prestigious academic indexation, where it remains now under subsequent editors. He has also provided seminal leadership for the promotion of museums as sites for safeguarding intangible heritage and the establishment of the UNESCO Category 2 Centre in the Asia Pacific, ICHCAP in Korea.

Prof Galla's extensive publication record includes several reports and refereed articles dealing with museums and sustainable heritage development. His national volume on inclusive capacity building for museums and heritage sectors in Australia has led to major transformations in Australia and elsewhere. *Heritage Curricula and Cultural Diversity*, was published by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in 1993. More recently, he was the Editor and Producer of the prestigious 40th Anniversary publication and flagship project of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention: *World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders*, Cambridge University Press and UNESCO Publishing, 2012, also published in French and Korean in 2013. It was launched in Kyoto on 8 November 2012 and has become the hall mark of his lifelong work from the first training program he co-facilitated for the first Aboriginal rangers in Kakadu National Park, 1985-86.

Prof Galla was the first full Professor of Museum Studies in Australia at the University of Queensland following the position as the full Professor and Director of Sustainable Heritage Development Programs, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University. Both are the two top universities of Australia that are ranked in the top 25 universities in the world. He is currently an Honorary Professor in the prestigious Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland, Australia and a Visiting Professor at the Don Bosco University in Shillong in India.

A champion of cultural democracy, indigenous cultural rights, intercultural dialogue and UN Millennium Development Goals and now the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, with an outstanding research and development record, he gave keynote addresses to academic and professional conferences in over 60 countries during the past two decades. His

innovative work on the use of ecomuseology as a methodological tool for sustainable heritage development and poverty alleviation has won him outstanding conservationist of the year award from the Vietnamese government in 2002 and the European *Best in Heritage* Award in 2008. Soon after he was given the Human Rights Award from the Commissioner for Correctional services of the New South Wales Government in Australia for his outstanding service promoting tangible and intangible heritage in prisons.

Prof Galla is a tireless human rights and cultural rights activist scholar who translates the struggles into affirmative action programs with measurable outcomes and inclusive development and benefits for all. I enjoyed witnessing several of his exemplary leadership projects. He was the International Technical Adviser for the transformation of apartheid cultural institutions and national parks into agencies of democracy in South Africa (1994-1999). He launched the Asia Europe Museums Network (ASEMUS) in Barcelona at the 2001 ICOM Triennial General Conference. He was the sole International Technical Adviser to the first Bali World Culture Forum chaired by the President of Indonesia in 2012, where I was one of the keynote speakers along with Nobel Laureates and eminent scholars.

I am delighted and honoured to commend him for his outstanding work and a life of excellence, no small achievement given his upbringing and education in the rural communities of India. His graduate education at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in the 1970s set him on the path to become an applied museologist and inclusive heritage specialist. I wish him, a darling of ICOM, all the best and look forward to future work together.

With Warmest Regards,



Professor Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz
President of ICOM