

2017 event: outline

Overall goal: Address the challenge of imagining and building the city of tomorrow while valuing and readapting the past.

Specific Objectives

1. Promote the development of an inclusive conservation and urban planning framework;
2. Engage authorities to map historic districts of Colombo to establish a clear sense between authorities, developers and the local inhabitants on what should be preserved, what could be readapted and which areas could be redeveloped;
3. Work with the Government to initiate work to look at the streamlining of processes for applications for development and adaptation;
4. Stimulate commercial interest in re-adaptation of heritage;
5. Contribute to improving the urban environment, with a view to improving the experience of living in the urban environment, encouraging private investment, and maximising potential for tourism.

Considerations

The opportunities provided by new technologies offer ways to improve the experience of living in cities for the inhabitants. Adaptation of the technologies – in a way that is people-centric – is critical to this process. Without state involvement and incentivisation, it is most unlikely that market forces will deliver such a city. A zonal mapping exercise, coupled with a regulatory framework governing the different status of buildings, would seem to offer a worthwhile example for Sri Lanka to consider to ensure the identity of the city is retained during the process of modernisation envisaged by the development of the Western Megapolis.

Event

A two day series of events held on 13 & 14 December. The mornings will comprise two seminars, with the afternoons offering a range of interactive events, including guided walks and expert-led workshops on current and cutting edge issues of heritage from both Asia and Europe. The seminar looks to bring together policymakers, professionals, interested civil society and students to interact on the challenges of preserving and readapting Colombo's heritage. The event will include experts and guest speakers from Europe and Asia with a view to sharing experience on a range of topics, including necessary legal frameworks, commercial incentivisation, re-adaptation, citizen participation and consultation. The centerpiece seminar would be accompanied by supporting interactive events, showcasing Sri Lankan heritage, and participatory workshops aimed at mobilising engagement.

Wednesday, 13 December 2017

Programme - Living Heritage Seminar

Venue: Lotus Room, Grand Oriental Hotel

- 09.00 AM Arrival of dignitaries followed by the lighting of the oil lamp
- 09.10 AM Welcome note by H.E. Tung-Lai Margue, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives
- 09.20 AM Remarks by the Honourable Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
- 09.30 – 10.00 AM *Managing historic city centres* by Abha Narain Lambah and Deben Moza
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM *Yangon: Learning from the Yangon Heritage Trust* by Chaw Kalyar
- 10:30 – 10:45 AM Coffee and tea break
- 10:45 – 11.15 AM *Luang-Prabang Heritage Rehabilitation and Enhancement Programme* by Guillaume Josse
- 11.15 – 11:45 AM *Heritage-based development: How the Dutch deal with the past in their modern cities* by Prof. Dr. Paul Meurs
- 11:45 – 12:45 PM Interactive panel discussion with the day's speakers on what Sri Lanka can learn from the region, chaired by Paul Godfrey, Delegation of the European Union



Thursday, 14 December 2017

Programme - Living Heritage Seminar

Venue: Rainbow Room, Grand Oriental Hotel

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| 09: 00 – 09:10 AM | Welcome note and brief introduction to the programme by Joanne Doornewaard, Ambassador, Kingdom of the Netherlands |
| 09:15 – 09:45 AM | <i>Heritage development or the quest for the narrative thread</i> by Max Meijer and Paul Ariese together with Channa Daswatte |
| 09:45 – 10:15 AM | <i>Appreciation of heritage buildings and towns</i> by Karl Damschen |
| 10:15 – 10:45 AM | <i>Colombo Heritage Collective and Idiscover for neighbourhood storytelling</i> by Charlotte Boutboul |
| 10:45 – 11:00 AM | Coffee and tea break |
| 11:00 – 11:30 AM | <i>Redefining heritage in living urban environments</i> by Dr. Jagath Munasinghe, Chairman, Urban Development Authority |
| 11.30 – 12:15 PM | <i>Rejuvenating forgotten assets</i> by students from the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Moratuwa |
| 12:15 – 12:35 PM | Interactive panel discussion with the day's speakers on conclusions from the event |



Living Heritage Excursions and Workshops

Sunday, 10 December 2017 (pre-programme)

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM COLOMBO WALK by C. Anjalendran (24-30 participants)
(starts at the Dutch Period Museum, Prince Street, Pettah)

Wednesday, 13 December 2017

02:00 – 03:00 PM Video conference on *Cutting-edge virtual heritage promotion* with Claire Delalande of YuSit at the Lotus Room, Grand Oriental Hotel (max. 30 participants)

02:30 – 03:30 PM RAILWAY WAREHOUSES @ MARADANA by Thisara Thanapathy (max. 30 participants)

03:00 – 04:30 PM A COLOMBO MUSEUM TOUR by C. Anjalendran (max. 30 participants)

Thursday, 14 December 2017

02:30 – 03:30 PM *Conservation in South Asia: A Delicate Balance: WORKSHOP* by Abha Narain Lambah and Deben Moza at Rainbow Room, Grand Oriental Hotel (max. 30 participants)

03:00 – 05:00 PM No.5 at Lunuganga transported and conserved by Amila de Mel followed by a Lunuganga walk by Channa Daswatte (max. 30 participants – bus departs the Grand Oriental Hotel at 1:30 p.m.)