

Preliminary Announcement

**COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS**  
**Regional Conference and Workshops**

**RETHINKING MUSEUMS**

**June 1–5, 2010**

**Mumbai, India**

**Organised by**

Commonwealth Association of Museums  
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya  
National Council of Science Museums (Ministry of Culture, Govt of India)

**Partners**

Department of Museology, Baroda  
Department of Museology, National Museum Institute, Delhi  
Dr. Bau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai  
Indian Museum, Kolkata  
Museum Association of India  
Museum of Man, Bhopal  
Museum Society of Bombay  
National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi  
National Museum of Natural History

**Overview**

The five-day conference is intended to foster dialogue and offer practical sessions on ideas that address new thinking on the relevance of museums to communities and their role in today's world. Museums in India and throughout the Commonwealth represent rich and diverse cultures but struggle to remain pertinent and to engage audiences in the contemporary world. Faced with this dilemma, there is a desire within museums to explore new theory and practices to fulfill their mandate for social service as cultural mediators. Topics to be covered will include audience development and methods of collaboration with diverse communities to create engaging exhibits and innovative educational programmes, in both in-house and outreach format, which tackle important social issues.

The workshop will:

- Offer keynote speakers and plenary sessions to look at new ideas and methods through which museums can build audiences and can play a vital role in addressing contemporary issues of significance to all the communities they serve.

- Present and offer the opportunity to discuss case studies of good practices and innovative programmes from museums working with contemporary development (social, economic, environmental, educational) and cultural heritage both tangible and intangible.
- Offer group field visits to selected museums in Mumbai for working sessions in which common issues and museum practices can be discussed.
- Through group work, identify resources and directional frameworks to develop an implementation plan that will be widely disseminated for practical use to advance the work of museums.

### **Participation**

This event is open to individuals in museums related fields from India and other Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries worldwide.

Limited travel assistance will be available to participants from the Commonwealth developing countries, especially from India and the region. The selection of those who receive funding will be determined by the Programme Committee, based on a CV with a written statement of interest, professional competence and museum experience, available matching funds, and geographical location.

For further information and if you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the CAM Secretariat by March 22, 2010: Barbara Winters at [bwinters@uvic.ca](mailto:bwinters@uvic.ca) or Lois Irvine at [irvinel@fcl.com](mailto:irvinel@fcl.com).

### **Programme Outline\***

- Day 1: Official opening, keynote address, conference theme and discussion on the role that the museums could play in today's world. Opening presentations by panelists followed by discussions.
- Day 2: Presentations on innovative ideas and good practices by panelists followed by discussions. Group work session with facilitators. Evening cultural programme.
- Day 3: Field visits and site work sessions at two or three museums in Mumbai. Field visit wrap up session.
- Day 4: Group work sessions with facilitators. Short selected presentations (if necessary for furthering the group work).
- Day 5: CAM information session, group work presentations and review, conference resolutions and wrap-up. 'Valedictory' function. Conference dinner, cultural event & closing.
- Day 6: Departure

\*The programme may be subject to change

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation is currently being investigated. Information on accommodation options, addresses and rates will be included in the next announcement. Accommodation will be as affordable as possible.

**Transportation**

Transportation from arrival and departure points and to and from venues will be provided by the host partners in Mumbai.

**Registration**

Registration fees will be 2,300 INR (\$50 US) for CAM members and 3,500 INR (\$75 US) for non-members. The fees for non-members will include CAM membership.

**Travel Documents**

Passports and visas are required for India.

**Contact & Information**

For further information and questions, please contact the CAM Secretariat

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