



Commonwealth Association of Museums NEWSLETTER



CAM Welcomed to Singapore by the National Heritage Board and Singapore Asian Civilizations Museum

Our Triennial Meeting “Commonwealth Museums: Culture, Economy and Climate Change and Youth” will take place May 25 to 27, 2011. We will be generously hosted by the National Heritage Board, Singapore, at the Singapore Asian Civilizations Museum (ACM)

This three day program will feature three main theme sessions, CAM's Triennial meeting and Singapore museum excursions. Additional activities may be scheduled for May 24 and May 28. [Preliminary program information is available online](#) or see below.

SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUTH FEATURED AS CONFERENCE THEMES

Museums, Culture, and Sustainable Development Part I

Addressing the need for museums to play a lead role in promoting culture as means of social and economic development, using Putting Culture First and the Commonwealth Statement on Culture and Development as discussion documents. This conference will expand on the productive discussions of Putting Culture First at the GCAM4 meeting (October 2009) in Stanger, South Africa. As in Africa, the rich diversity of cultures in South-East



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UNESCO President to Address CAM

We are very pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for the conference will be His Excellency Dr. Davidson Hepburn, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, former Chairman of the Board, National Museum of the Bahamas, Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation.

Singapore Hosts to Provide Subsidised Hotel Accommodation for Attendees from Developing Countries.

A reasonably priced hotel has been selected for participants. Most meals will be provided. Registration fees will cover general conference expenses and visits to Singapore museums. Transportation will also be provided as necessary.

[Booking form for accommodation \(.doc file\)](#)

Accommodation is being provided for those from developing countries and specific application must be made as soon as possible. Contact Lois Irvine for forms (see contact information below).

Lower Fee for Developing Country

Asian and South Pacific nations is faced with challenges from globalization, migration and urbanization. Part 1 will highlight these issues and explore ways in which museums can not only help preserve cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, but also promote traditional and contemporary culture as resources for sustainable development.

World Watch Two: Conserving Cultures in the Face of Climate Change Part 2

Focussing directly on the need for museums as cultural organisations to use the links between culture and development to play a role in addressing both general issues of climate change and its specific impact on cultural continuity. As a follow up to World Watch One in Guyana and with added impetus from the CHOGM communiqué of November 2009, World Watch Two will examine the growing global impact of climate change on the human (i.e., threats to cultural heritage and property, migration pressures and economic issues) and the natural environment, including potentially extensive land submersion, particularly South Asia and the South Pacific. This session is intended to build on the theme of culture and development, with an emphasis on the ramifications of climate change on the protection of land, livelihoods, cultural diversity and property, tangible and intangible. This session will feature case studies chosen to encourage an action-oriented series of discussions that will lead to a suggested common action plan for museums.

Connecting with Children and Youth Part 3

Continuing CAM's longstanding commitment to focus on children and youth. The month of May begins the "Children's Season" for museums in Singapore. This provides a unique opportunity to explore the role museums have in assuring the survival of cultural memory and articulating a hopeful vision of a future for young people in our communities. Given the themes of part 1 & 2 of this conference, here is an opportunity to explore how museum programming can creatively engage youth in the fundamentals of both global and local environmental awareness, but also the issues surrounding the need to sustain a sense of

Participants: Register Now

The Registration Conference fee will be \$150 Can. or US for participants from developed countries. Cost is \$60 Can. or US for participants from developing countries.

[Registration form \(.doc\)](#)

CAM Executive Council:

Martin Segger, Canada, President
 Michael Gondwe, Malawi, Vice-President
 Rooksana Omar, South Africa, Vice-President
 Timothy Mason, UK, Treasurer
 Fredrick Karanja Mirara, Kenya
 Kim Outten Stubbs, The Bahamas
 Tamika Boatswain, Guyana
 Umebe Onyejekwe, Nigeria
 Vikas Harish, India
 Sadashiv Gorakshkar, India, Past President, ex officio
 Lois Irvine, Canada, Secretary General, ex officio
 Wendy Aitkens, Honorary Signing Officer, ex officio

Contact Information

For further and detailed information visit the [CAM Triennial Conference Website](#)
 Contact Conference Organizer and Conference Committee Chair Catherine C. Cole
CatherineC.Cole@telus.net and/or Lois Irvine,
 Secretary General, CAM: irvinel@fcl.com or
irvinel@platinum.ca

Hotel Choices & Booking Forms

Peninsula.Excelsior Hotel

5 Coleman Street
 Singapore 179805
www.ytchotels.com.sg

Tel: (65) 6416 1111/3/4 (reservations)
 (65) 6416 1022/6 (sales)

Fax: (65) 6339 3580 (reservations)
 (65) 6339 6236 (sales)

Email: pe.reserve@ytchotels.com.sg
pe.sales@ytchotels.com.sg
victor.lee@ytchotels.com.sg

Premier Room with buffet breakfast and room internet
 S\$215 / S\$235 ++ (Single/Tw in Occupancy)

All rates are in Singapore Dollars and subject to 10% service charge and prevailing government taxes.

community identity and reinforce fundamental values of tolerance, respect and understanding of cultural diversity in the face of urbanization, migration, and economic disruption. There are lessons from history but also from other nations and cultures today. This session is intended to share case studies of successful museum-based initiatives which may also form a backdrop to visits and tours of Singapore's excellent museums and their programs for children and youth.

SOUTH PACIFIC AND ASIAN ISSUES PROGRAM AND LOCATION FOCUS

Singapore is a continuation of CAM's efforts to hold programs in all regions of the Commonwealth. Singapore is a transportation hub more easily accessed by countries in South-East Asian and the South Pacific. Singapore has exemplary museums featuring wide cultural diversity.

In addition to museum visits, the two main sessions and their emphasis on museums effectively engaging in civil society, the conference will provide an opportunity for CAM to discuss its updated Distance Learning Program in Museum Studies, both the print and online versions, and its Cultural Property Project. The Singapore conference will also host CAM's triennial general meeting including elections.

Conference program builds on Canberra conference of 2006 organized by the ICOM Cross Cultural Task Force to which CAM contributed, World Watch One, Guyana, 2008 and the 4th GCAM conference, South Africa, 2009.

[Download the Booking Form Here \(.doc\)](#)

Landmark Village Hotel

390 Victoria Street
Singapore 188061

www.stayvillage.com

Anita Mohd Basri (Inventory Manager)
Tel: (65) 6512 2237
Fax: (65) 6295 8761
Email: anitasasri@stayvillage.com

and

Ms Adia Loh (Assistant Director of Sales)
Tel: (65) 6512 2212
Email: adialoh@stayvillage.com

Deluxe Room with buffet breakfast and room internet

S\$175/ S\$190 ++ (Single/Tw in Occupancy)

All rates are in Singapore Dollars and subject to 10% service charge and prevailing government taxes.

[Download the Booking Form Here \(.doc\)](#)

CAM would be pleased to include short articles about member museums in the Bulletin. Please do not hesitate to send me information along with a photo or two which will illustrate your museum or your activities. Send material to irvinel@fcl.com or irvinel@platinum.ca



A Glimpse of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe

The situation is the same in all museums and galleries in Zimbabwe bearing in mind that all institutions are State controlled and falling within a struggling economy. In this article I am going to focus mainly on the National Gallery of Zimbabwe where I am attached.

The National Gallery of Zimbabwe has been in existence for more than 50 years and has played a significant role in the meteoric rise of art in Zimbabwe. It is a state owned non-profit making organisation established in 1953 falling under the Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture. The institution focuses on acquiring, preservation and presentation of visual art in Zimbabwe. The Gallery also undertakes educational activities aimed at promoting visual art and artists in Zimbabwe.

The National Gallery's parent ministry, the Ministry of Education Sport Arts and Culture, is one of the ministries that has experienced so many challenges as a result of Zimbabwe's situation. The Ministry is faced with the ever increasing demand for school teachers' remunerations which are still very low and the rehabilitation of the education delivery system in all these learning institutions. The arts sector is within the same burdened ministry and the answer to survival is clear.

The National Gallery of Zimbabwe has struggled to participate in all its activities with a lot of sacrifice especially with the staff members and management continuing to do all work despite low remunerations. Annual exhibitions have been carried out up to this point and educational activities have proceeded with outstanding activities such as weekend art classes, holiday art camps, tour guiding, workshops and lectures. The Gallery is however facing challenges in outreach programmes as funding for this program has been halted for a long time now. The Gallery is finding it difficult to mobilise transport to reach out to targeted communities, thus in the end educational activities tend to benefit only those who are able to travel to the Gallery.

For the past decade, Zimbabwe has experienced major economic decline affecting many sectors. The National Gallery has not been spared. The local economic climate characterised by ailing industry has drastically reduced corporate sponsorship. Further dollarization of the economy has meant that the majority of companies started operating on a zero income base and as such, they have little disposable income thus influencing sponsorship. The Gallery has not received sponsorships and operates mainly from a small Government grant and the little income which it raises through fund raising activities.

Support in both technical and financial ways has created a big gap in the understanding of the institution's operations. Though the economy is struggling priority counts and sectors such as health education (schools, universities and colleges), agriculture and industry are on the top of those that are focus areas for resuscitation and they do stand for important aspects of human development. Thus, the government has concentrated on reviving these sectors and therefore lose sight of other areas such as the Arts(education) and Cultural sector.

However the Gallery strives to push on the following programmes and activities to reach the public as much as it can:

- Curate a running programme of the Permanent Collection shows that relate to the education curricula
- Conduct art appreciation for new comers in the world of art, i.e. prospective art collectors, institutions and individuals.
- Upgrade the Permanent collection in terms of new works and good presentation of this heritage
- The Gallery would like to produce and publish a Permanent collection catalogue, which would be accessible to the public in print form.

A number of community groups, which need its assistance and support in both technical and professional, has approached the National Gallery. One group has already started running its project and this caters for children and adults affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Overallly the Gallery is overseeing the running of the project on the aspect of Fine arts and Crafts.

Other programs, which the Gallery would like to revive, are its involvement in the rehabilitation process

at psychiatric hospitals. The Gallery through its Education and Heritage departments would either visit the centres or invite the patients to some exhibitions and workshops where practical experiences have been carried out.

To date the National Gallery has successfully enrolled and trained two young men from one psychiatric centre who were drug addicts."

Lilian Chaonwa, 2010.



CAM Triennial – Draft Program

Commonwealth Museums: Culture, Economy, Climate Change & Youth

Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555

Wednesday, May 25

9:30 AM - **Opening Ceremony**

10:00 AM - **Introduction: Development issues and key document, Putting Culture First and introduction to keynote speaker** by Martin Segger, President, Commonwealth Association of Museums

10:15 AM - **Keynote** – His Excellency Dr. Davidson Hepburn, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, former Chairman of the Board National Museum of The Bahamas Antiquities, Monuments and Museums

10:45 AM - Discussion Moderator: Martin Segger

11:00 AM - BREAK

11:30 AM - **Part 1: Museums, Culture, and Sustainable Development**

Museums need to play a lead role in promoting culture as means of social and economic development. The rich diversity of cultures in South-East Asian and South Pacific nations is faced with challenges from globalization, migration and urbanization. Part 1 will highlight these issues and explore ways in which museums can not only help preserve cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, but also promote traditional and contemporary culture as resources for sustainable development.

Enhancing Social Economic Development: The Museums of Malawi Case Study, Michael Gondwe, Museum Education Coordinator (Curator), Museums of Malawi, Blantyre, Malawi (TBC, funding req'd)

No title provided: Heritage and Heritage Development in the Territory as a Means for Social and Economic Development, Ericka Chemko, Project Manager, Inuit Heritage Trust, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada (CONFIRMED)

Cultural Tourism & the Alleviation of Poverty in Namibia, Jeremy Silvester, Museums Association of Namibia (TBC)

Moderator: Martin Segger

1:00 PM - LUNCH

2:00 PM -

The Gambia Women Oral History Project of The Gambia National Museum: How women's cultural knowledge could help in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by Hassoum Ceesay Curator, Gambia National Museum, The Gambia (TBC funding req'd, space)
Multicultural Museum Programming in Singapore and the Politics of Inclusion: The Making of the Cosmopolitan Singaporean Identity, John Teo, Deputy Director of Policy and Cai Yunci, Manager (Heritage Policy and Strategy Development), Strategic Planning and Policy Division, National Heritage Board (CONFIRMED)

Preservation of Torres Strait Islanders traditional culture, Paul Brinkman, Director, Cairns Regional Gallery, Australia (CONFIRMED)

Vanuatu fieldworkers' program by Marcellin Abong, Director, Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu (TBC, funding must be raised from the Pacific)

Moderator: Tarisi Vunidilo

3:30 PM - BREAK

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Reviving Pottery Making in Palau, Meked Besebes, Ethnographer, Belau National Museum, Koror, Palau (TBC, funding must be raised from the Pacific, space)

Museum's role in preserving and promoting Papua New Guinea-Highlands hausman (men's house) hausmeri (women's house), Sam Sirox Kari, Director, Center for Melanesian Studies, Humanities Faculty, University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea (CONFIRMED, funding req'd)

"We gather to reconcile - No longer captives of the past." Carol Mayer, Curator (Oceania & Africa), UBC Museum of Anthropology (TBC)

Evening - Opening Gala Dinner and Cultural Show case – hosted by National Heritage Board, Singapore

Thursday, May 26

9:00 AM - **Museum Keynote: Safeguarding Intangible Heritage in Sustainable Development**, Amaresw ar Galla, Director, Pacific Asia Observatory for Cultural Diversity in Human Development, Brisbane

9:30 AM **Heritage under Siege from Climate Change: Lessons from the Past on Coping with Disasters for Philippine Museums**, Archives and Libraries, Ana Maria Theresa P. Labrador, Research Associate, National Museum of the Philippines; Roberto Balarbar, Museum Researcher and Conservator Analyst, Chemistry and Painting Conservation, National Museum of the Philippines, Evelyn Esguerra, Assistant Curator, Restoration and Engineering, National Museum of the Philippines

Moderator: Huism Tan

11:00 AM BREAK

11:30 AM **Part 2: World Watch Two: Conserving Cultures in the Face of Climate Change**

Museums need to use the links between culture and development to play a role in addressing both general issues of climate change and its specific impact on cultural continuity. Case studies will address the growing global impact of climate change on the human and the natural environment, including potentially extensive land submersion, particularly South Asia and the South Pacific. Discussions will lead to a suggested common action plan for museums.

PANEL: Southeast Asian Collections in Peril: Museums and Managing Risks from Climate Change, chaired by Somlak Charoenpot (CONFIRMED) SEAMEO-SPAFA, the Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, Bangkok, Thailand.

Preserving Southeast Asian Museums Tangible Collections through Sustainable Management of their Intangible Facets by Somlak Charoenpot, President, Museums Association of Thailand.

Museum and its Role in Engaging the Youth for Conserving Heritage from Climate Change by Kevin Kettle, Project Development Officer, SEAMEO-SPAFA.

Climate change – a challenge and opportunity by Katriina Simila, coordinator of the CollAsia 2010 programme, ICCROM.

Preserving Cultural Heritage in the Face of Climate Change by Patcharaw ee Tunpraw at, SEAMEO-SPAFA

1:00 PM - LUNCH

2:00 PM - **Conserving Cultures in the Face of Climate Change**, Jean Wee, Director, Preservation of Monuments Board, National Heritage Board, Singapore (CONFIRMED)

The Role of Museums and Cultural Centres in Educating the Public About the Effects of Climate Change by Tony Heorake and Lawrence Foanaota (TBC, funding req'd)
Climate Change in Samoa: A Samoan perspective Sina Ah Poe, PIMA Board Member (TBC, funding req'd)

Moderator: Catherine C. Cole

3:30 PM - Bus to SSC/BREAK

4:00 PM - Tour, Singapore Science Centre: Climate Change exhibit & AV

5:30 PM - Free

Saturday May 28

This day will be dedicated to tours of places of interest in Singapore. Four tours will be on offer (subjected to changes):

Singapore River

The Singapore River was once a bustling waterway filled with boats laden with goods. This tour will not only provide a glimpse of the past but also learn how the waterways and Singapore's coastline have changed and how they have affected developments in the city.

Telok Ayer

Telok Ayer was historically the main landing site for early Chinese immigrants and an area set aside by Raffles for the community. In this walking tour, you will get to visit some of Singapore's oldest Chinese buildings as well as other religious buildings that reflect the multi-cultural society of early Singapore.

Kampung Gelam

Historically, Kampung Gelam was the home of the Malay aristocracy and an area dominated by the Malay and Arab mercantile communities. In this walking tour, you can explore the palace grounds as well as the Sultan mosque.

Little India

In the 1840s, Little India was the residential area of the Europeans. With the growth of the cattle business in the neighbourhood, this saw the early Indian community staying and living there. In this walking tour, explore the colourful area which is the heart of Singapore's Indian community.

Sunday, May 29 – Departure or Private Arrangements

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