

## **Amareswar Galla, Ph.D.**

(Short Resume – 1984-2015)

Born in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, and an alumnus of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Amar is a champion of cultural democracy, cultural rights, gender mainstreaming, inclusive and deep ecology demonstration projects, arts policy development, Intangible Heritage, World Heritage, indigenous peoples, intercultural dialogue and UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He was the producer of the flagship project and publication to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention. (Galla, Amareswar, (ed.) **World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders**, Cambridge University Press & UNESCO Publishing, November 2012. French & Korean versions in 2013). (<http://inclusivemuseum.org/world-heritage-benefits-beyond-borders/>). The book includes 26 case studies with evidence based analyses of sustainable development and community benefits through good governance, thus becoming a major publication to mainstream culture in development discourse and for promoting integrated planning for all forms of heritage, especially tangible and intangible heritage. He founded and launched the Inclusive Museum; and Culture in Development Book series in the past decade: (<http://onmuseums.cgpublisher.com/>; <http://onsustainability.cgpublisher.com/>). His monograph entitled *Subaltern Studies in Sustainable Cultural Development* is under preparation. It is based on culture in development comparative case studies and field work in Australia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, India, The Netherlands and South Africa during the past two decades. He is currently working on the establishment of nodal points for inclusive culture in development activities in partnership with various professional networks such as ICOM, UNESCO, ICOMOS and ASEF. Amar now lives (4 months/year) in his birthplace as the International Technical Adviser and Curator for Amaravati Ancient Town to the AP Government on HRIDAY, PRASAD, Smart Cities and other projects. He is an Honorary Professor at the Global Change Institute, The University of Queensland, Brisbane.

Amar has been the Editor-in-Chief of several prestigious refereed academic journals dealing with Sustainable Heritage Development case studies: *International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* (<http://onmuseums.com/publications/journal/advisory-board>) Chicago IL(2008 - 2018); *International Journal on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*; (<http://onsustainability.com/publications/journal/advisory-board>) (4 pillars), Chicago IL (2005- Oct 2015); and Co-founder and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage* (2005-2011) Paris/Seoul. Prof Galla has brought all the knowledge communities he has created into one seamless Knowledge Community under the banner of the International Institute for the Inclusive Museum (Hubs: Brisbane/Champaign/Paris/Copenhagen) during 2012. He is one of the few accredited mentor/trainers of UNESCO for the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage, only one from Australia/New Zealand, and has extensive experience teaching applied courses on Intangible Heritage, World Heritage and Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific region and elsewhere. Recent capacity building work locations on intangible heritage include Afghanistan, Australia, Barbados, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Korea, India, China, The Netherlands and Bangladesh. He has extensive experience in the digital domain and web platforms using Web CT and Blackboard for teaching applied courses on culture in development and safeguarding intangible heritage.

Amar provided in the recent past strategic cultural leadership in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region as the first Professor of Museum Studies in Australia at the University of Queensland, Brisbane. Prior to that he was Professor and Director of Sustainable Heritage Development Programs, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. He was also until recently a Visiting Foreign Professor of World Heritage and Intangible Heritage and mentor for PhD candidates at the University of Split located in the World Heritage City of Split. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Don Bosco University, India. He has just been appointed as the Honorary Professor at the prestigious Global Change

Institute, the University of Queensland. He was a regular visitor at the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, working on the implementation of Museums and Cultural Diversity Promotion in the Netherlands; Guest Curator of International Projects with the Vietnam National Department of Cultural Heritage; and Founding Convener of the Pacific Asia Observatory for Cultural Diversity in Human Development in partnership with several bodies. The Observatory is now subsumed into the International Institute for the Inclusive Museum. It was part of the Action Plan of the UNESCO 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in the lead up to the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Cultural Diversity of Contents and Expressions.

Amar is the first and only Australian elected as the President of the Asia Pacific Executive Board (1998-2004); Chairperson of the Cross Cultural Task Force (2005-2011) resulting in the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter; and Vice President of the International Executive Council (2004-2007) - of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Paris. He is the Founding Trustee of the Pacific Islands Museums Association located in Port Vila, Vanuatu and International Adviser for the establishment of the UNESCO Pacific Heritage Hub at the University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. He was elected in Singapore and then again in Glasgow as the Vice President of the Commonwealth Association of Museums (2011-2017). He was the motivational speaker and adviser for the establishment of the Telenor Heritage Advisory in Norway in 2013. In the past three decades, he was a keynote speaker at more than 200 conferences/meetings in over 60 countries, including a dozen International Committee Conferences of ICOM in different parts of the world. He is the only person to Chair twice the triennial business setting Resolutions Committees at the ICOM Triennial General Conferences: Melbourne (1998) and Rio (2013). ICOM Australia conferred the 2012 Individual Achievement Award for Excellence for his extensive and ongoing commitment to museums, sustainable development and poverty alleviation through culture. <http://icom.org.au/site/activitiesiaair2012.php>.

During his tenure as the President of the ICOM Asia Pacific Executive Board, he launched the Asia Europe Museums Network, well known as ASEMUS, in July 2001 in Barcelona at the ICOM Triennial General Conference <http://asemus.museum/>. It is supported by the Asia Europe Heads of Government, ASEM through the Asia Europe Foundation, ASEF. In 2002 he was the President of the ICOM Asia Pacific meeting on Intangible Heritage and Globalisation in Shanghai resulting in the Shanghai Charter. It was the only International NGO consultative meeting for museums in the lead up to the adoption of the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. He convened and facilitated the first ever comprehensive ICOM review of the implementation of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, covering every country of the Asia Pacific with regional review workshops in New Delhi, India and Colombo and Habarana, Sri Lanka for South Asia; Hanoi, Vietnam and Bangkok, Thailand for Southeast Asia; St. Petersburg, Russia for Central Asian Republics and Russia; Seoul, Korea for East Asia; Suva, Fiji Islands and Canberra, Australia for the Pacific. He founded and assisted the establishment of museums at World Heritage sites in Vietnam and India. His Asia Pacific publication profile includes: *Museums and Intangible 'Natural' Heritage*, ICOM and Salar Jung Museum, Paris/Hyderabad, 2010; *Museums Cultural Mapping and Heritage Tourism in Southeast Asia*, ICOM, Paris/Phnom Penh/Vientiane, 2009; *Pacific Museums in Sustainable Heritage Development*, ICOM-UNESCO, Paris/Apia, 2008; *Museums and Cultural Heritage Protection in South Asia*, ICOM-UNESCO, Colombo and Paris, 2005; *Museums, Globalisation and Intangible Heritage*, ICOM, Shanghai and Paris, 2004; *Museums and Cultural Heritage Protection in Southeast Asia*, ICOM-UNESCO, Paris, 2001. In November 2010, he was honoured to be appointed as the President of the Opening Keynote Session at the ICOM Triennial General Conference (the largest international museum conference ever) in Shanghai at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

Drawing on his education and experience of affirmative action in India, Prof Galla founded and directed at the University of Canberra, 1985-92, the National Affirmative Action program for the participation of Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders in museums, galleries, national parks and World Heritage Areas in Australia. The success of the program led to invitations to provide technical support for similar programs in Canada, USA, Belize, Brazil, Vietnam, India, China, Norway and several Small Island Development States. During 1994-99, he was the International Technical Adviser for the transformation of Arts Councils, National Museums and Cultural Institutions and the National Parks Board in post-apartheid South Africa. At the same time, he was a researcher and expert adviser to the UN World Commission for Culture and Development and the UNESCO Stockholm Action Plan from the Inter Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies in 1998. A former Director on the Board of the National SBS Radio and TV in Australia and member of the Arts for a Multicultural Australia Committee of the Australia Council for the Arts, former National Chair of the Committee for Arts, Culture and Heritage in a Multicultural Australia of

the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, he provided professional and academic leadership for the concept design and building of several inclusive museums and arts/cultural centres across the world. In 2015, he brought this extensive experience to facilitate the workshop and draft the Shillong Charter at the SILOAM in Shillong working with indigenous people from the eight states of North-Eastern India and the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures. (<http://www.dbcic.org/news/shillong-charter-for-museums-sustainable-heritage-development>)

Amar's extensive publication record includes several reports and refereed articles dealing with indigenous and multicultural engagement in museums and heritage management. His latest work in several languages is *World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders*, Cambridge University Press & UNESCO Publishing. His national volume on indigenous and multicultural issues and capacity building for the museums and heritage sectors in Australia, *Heritage Curricula and Cultural Diversity*, was published by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, in 1993 leading to several transformative projects. His recent work on the use of ecomuseology as a methodological tool for sustainable culture in development and poverty alleviation has been listed as best practice in the 2009 World Culture Report by UNESCO. Similar work includes the establishment World Heritage sites as culture in poverty alleviation projects at Ha Long Bay and Hoi An in Vietnam and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in India. He has been honoured internationally with several awards for the recognition of his service to locating culture and heritage in sustainable development and poverty alleviation. He won the outstanding conservationist of the year award from the Vietnamese government in 2002 and the European *Best in Heritage* Award in 2008. In 2011, he was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for human rights, for the promotion of tangible and intangible heritage for corrections in prisons, by the New South Wales Government in Australia.

Amar has been a key international technical adviser on SDGs and UN post 2015 Development Agenda to the UN; UNWTO; and UNESCO on cultural policy development in the past five years. His recent strategic interventions include: UNESCO Hangzhou outcomes document, 2012; World Culture Forum, Bali Promise, 2013; UNWTO policy development on cultural tourism in Siem Reap 2015; UCLG Bilbao Cultural Planning Summit 2015. He has extensive experience in course development using case studies and applied methodologies including arts, culture and heritage in multicultural societies. The range of summer and winter schools directed include of Inclusive Cultural Leadership from the Netherlands and Australia to Inclusive Leadership in Sustainable Development in Vietnam, India and South Africa. Donor project portfolio includes: SIDA, NORAD, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Dutch Arts Council, AusAid, UNESCO, UNDP, and Japan Funds-in-Trust

#### Online AV shorts:

Executive Director, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum (iiiM) ([www.inclusivemuseum.org](http://www.inclusivemuseum.org))

Ambassador Circle, International Coalition for Sites of Conscience, New York: <http://www.sitesofconscience.org/about-us/ambassadors-circle>

Senior Presidential Adviser, Indonesia, World Cultural Forum (2012-ongoing)

End of Europe - Interview after keynote address to the 2012 European Museum Advisers Conference, Lisbon:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjS7cnckJ5I>;

Inclusion - Interview from NODEM, 2 December, 2013 Conference, Stockholm:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmL2U7CnaC0&feature=youtu.be>

Interview at the Asia-Europe Museum Network Meeting 2014 after keynote address, Vienna: <http://asemus.museum/news/video-interview-amareswar-galla-inclusive-museum/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/retaining-amaravati-as-an-ancient-town/article7646563.ece>; International Curator, Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures and Visiting Professor Don Bosco University: <http://www.dbcic.org/news/prof-amareswar-international-curator-of-don-bosco-museum>

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<https://www.facebook.com/WorldCultureForum?ref=hl>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/InclusiveMuseum>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/InclusiveMuseum-4635702>