



Culture Sector
Division for Heritage

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Ref.: CLT/HER/WHC/DIR/15/24

27 August 2015

To Whom It May Concern

I am delighted to write this testimonial for Professor Amareswar Galla (Amar), an esteemed colleague and fellow professional. We first met, almost fifteen years ago, through his 'fingers in the dirt work' in Vietnam, especially the Ha Long Bay World Heritage site. Since then we worked together producing the flagship publication for the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

The volume published by UNESCO and Cambridge University Press in 2012, edited by Amar, is a significant milestone that brought together twenty six case studies from across the world focusing on Outstanding Universal Value, sustainable development and local communities. It is aptly entitled World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders. It has also been published in French and Korean in 2013.

Amar also worked on several other World Heritage projects including Hoi An in Central Vietnam demonstrating evidence based outcomes for local communities. His first-hand experience in India, Vietnam, Korea, South Africa, Australia and several other countries over the past three decades helped to increasingly locate the 'First Voice' of local communities within the ambit of the World Heritage discourse.

It has been a pleasure working with Amar. He is diligent and works with a strong ethical commitment to all the stakeholders, especially the primary local communities. His contribution to furthering the location of culture in sustainable development is valued by UNESCO and especially the World Heritage Centre.

Amar's participatory and inclusive leadership, and cultural action methods for ensuring measurable poverty alleviation and gender mainstreaming will enhance the future implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

I wish him all the best in future endeavours.

Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre