

Professor Amareswar Galla, Ph.D. (popularly known as Amar)
(Short Resume – 1984-2018)

Prof Galla is a Visiting Professor at the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, advising on the establishment of the first ever Department for Heritage Conservation at SPAV, Ministry of Human Resource Development, India. He is currently teaching and conducting studio work on the conservation of Historical Cultural Landscapes in AP. An alumnus of the Centre for Historical Studies, 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 2000-2015) and now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2015-2030). He now lives in his birthplace as the International Technical Adviser and Chief Curator for Amaravathi Heritage Town to the AP Government on HRIDAY, PRASAD, Smart Cities and other projects, upholding as to how Mahayana Buddhism took birth and spread from here to all over Asia. He was an Honorary Professor at the Global Change Institute, The University of Queensland, Brisbane.

Prof. Galla was the producer of the flagship project and publication to celebrate the 40th 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] (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/world-heritage/57119429EDB5F759F399F47113E86CBD>). It 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; natural and cultural. 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 with working title *Subaltern Studies in Sustainable Heritage 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

Prof. Galla has established through **Common Ground Publishing** and various professional bodies significant International Research Networks dealing with Sustainable Heritage Development. He has been the Editor-in-Chief of several prestigious refereed academic journals associated with the Networks: *International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* Chicago (2008 - 2019) <https://onmuseums.com/> ; *International Journal on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*; (2005- Oct 2015) <https://onsustainability.com/> ; and Co-founder and 2nd & 3rd Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage* (2005-2011). He is currently involved in developing a new International Research Network exploring the social, economic, cultural and organizational aspects of tourism and leisure: <https://tourismandleisurestudies.com/>. All the Networks are brought into one seamless Knowledge Community under the banner of the International Institute for the Inclusive Museum (Hubs: Brisbane/Champaign/Paris/Copenhagen/Amaravathi, NB. webpage is being updated).

Prof Galla is one of the few accredited mentor/trainers/facilitators of UNESCO for the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage. He has extensive experience teaching applied heritage, history and cultural landscape 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.

Prof. Galla 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 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.

Prof. Galla 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 70 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>)

Prof. Galla'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. Rotary International conferred on him in 2017 the Vocational Excellence Award in Vijayawada.

Prof. Galla has been a key international technical adviser on SDGs and UN 2030 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; Congress of World Heritage City Mayors, Cheongju 2018 and Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) Suzhou 2018. 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, Asia Europe Foundation and Japan Funds-in-Trust.

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