



SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

www.saarcculture.org

SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance 2018 – Nepal

1.0 BACKGROUND

Culture within the South Asian Region is rich, diverse and flavored with a multitude of influences. The very concept of art and culture knows no boundaries and has the ability to transcend differences and unite nations and people. Few entities are as powerful as the universally accepted mechanism of building bridges and fostering understanding through the cultural arts. There are few experiences in life that could measure the joy, understanding and acceptance of bearing witness to the glorious spectacles and varied and wonderful displays of Culture. Cultural Festivals also have the ability to bring together individuals and nations with the mutual interest of exchanging art. Witnessing and being party to such cultural exchanges is one of the most powerful ways in which to experience culture, inherent traditions, people and their lifestyles and above all, to promote cultural development and Regional Corporation through music, dance, theatre, art and other forms of fine arts.

One such inherent form of culture is that of traditional dance. This particular artistic expression and diversity adds tangible value to cultural development and enrich the lives of people. Being one of the major elements of culture, the traditional dance culture of South Asia is encapsulated with expressions and narrations of themes, ranging from social to spiritual. With the unique quality of each traditional dance within the SAARC Member States, they not only exhibit the culture of each individual country through their expression of dance and music, but also transmit the artistic experience that transcends borders and brings joy amongst its people. Dance is an embodiment of culture, saturated with beauty, values, beliefs and cultural norms, communicated through the qualities of delicacy, emotions, rhythm and music and creates harmony which promotes unity amongst the people of South Asia. The Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance also has the ability to bring together individuals and nations with the mutual interest of exchanging art and culture through dance. Witnessing and being party to such cultural exchanges is one of the most powerful ways in which to experience culture, inherent traditions, people

and their lifestyles and above all, to promote cultural development and Regional corporation amongst the SAARC Member States.

The SAARC Member States have a wide variety of dances in its numerous forms such as ritualistic dances, folk dances, traditional classical dances and experimental abstract dances of the modern period. As such, the SAARC Cultural Centre invites the SAARC Member States to participate in a Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance in the Honored Host Member State of Nepal. The Festival will celebrate the diversity of cultural dance across the Region, recognizing ethnicities and the artistic talents and unique abilities of the people of the SAARC Region. Subject to confirmation with regard to the dates and the venue by the honored host Member State of Nepal, it is proposed that the Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance will take place over four days, at the beginning of December 2018.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- I. To provide opportunities for an international platform for Regional Dance that would highlight the rich characteristics of cultural diversity within the SAARC Member States.
- II. To educate and share among the public the rich and varied traditions of Dance in the SAARC Region.
- III. To support, encourage and stimulate talent and artistry in dance and share this ability within a public forum with the aim of promoting cultural harmony.
- IV. To encourage tolerance, strengthen understanding and build intercultural bridges through the medium of dance.
- V. To showcase culture, varied talents and unite a multitude of Dancers and Artistes from the SAARC Member States
- VI. To promote these cultural traditions and encourage an appreciation and enthusiasm for intercultural dance and traditions of artistry within the SAARC Region.

3.0 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The SAARC Cultural Festival of Traditional Dance will be held for a duration of 4 days. It will focus specifically on Traditional Dance from the Region with daily performances, as well as interactive dance workshops for artists. The Festival will include the following components.

- I. **Opening Parade** - The Parade will feature all the dancers and their musicians from the representing Member States, where all the Artistes (Dancers and musicians), in colorful traditional attire will process along a predetermined path, giving an opportunity to members of the public, to view and experience the cultures of the SAARC Region.
- II. **Opening Performance** - The Parade will culminate with performances by all participating Member States, which will showcase cultural diversity within traditional dances from the Region. The performances will include traditional dance incorporated with relevant music from the Region.
- III. **Other Performances** - There will be similar performances by all participants throughout the Programme so that more people will have an opportunity to witness and experience the rich cultural dance traditions of the Region.
- IV. **Interactive Workshop** - The SAARC Cultural Centre will conduct an interactive workshop for all the Artistes. The primary focus of the workshop will be traditional dance and all things relating to it. There may also be dedicated personnel who will explore folk Traditional Music, which is an essential component within the harmony of traditional dance. This will be open to all dance enthusiasts, including teachers and students. The highlight of the Workshop however, will be the Combination Dance, which will consist of traditional dance arts from all the participating member states, and which will be presented as a main feature of the Closing Ceremony.
- V. **Closing Finale** - The Closing Ceremony will include the Combination Dance, performance by all dancers from the participating Member States, as well as unique performances by all participating Member States.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS

All SAARC Member States are invited to nominate a maximum of 7 participants, including traditional dancers, accompanying musicians and a team leader.

5.0 NOMINATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE:

- Participants/Troup must send their names with the relevant 50-word biographical information and contact details.
- The biographical information of participant should include;
 - I. Brief description of your specific form of dance
 - II. High resolution (minimum 300dpi) photograph of the participants
 - III. 5 high resolution (minimum 300dpi) photographs of dance troupe in performance, if available and appropriate
 - IV. Contact details of participant
- Note that this information will be included in the official brochure being prepared for the Programme.

*** The deadline for applications is 13:30hrs of Tuesday, 16th October 2018.**

6.0 LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

*** Participants will have to bear the cost of airfare.**

-All local hospitality including accommodation, meals and local transfers, will be provided by the SAARC Cultural Centre for the officially nominated participants from the honored Member States, for the official duration of the Programme;

- *Artists are encouraged to bring any relevant specific tools and specialist materials that they may require for use during the course of the SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance.*

7.0 VENUE OF THE PROGRAMME

The SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance will take place at a suitable location, as recommended by the Host Member State (Nepal).

Individuals who are interested can submit their applications with the relevant documents mentioned above through admin@heritage.gov.mv. For further information please refer to this attachment or call us at 3340208.