



**SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
SRI LANKA**

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL
COOPERATION (SAARC)

22nd July 2019

No. SAARC/SCC/Dir.Off/Programmes/2019/71

H.E. The Secretary General of SAARC
The SAARC Secretariat
Kathmandu
Nepal.

Attn: Director (ESC)

Your Excellency,

THE SAARC HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOP 2019 - NEPAL

Please find attached the Concept Paper detailing the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop 2019 to be held in Nepal, as per the approved Calendar of Activities for the SAARC Cultural Centre.

The SAARC Cultural Centre is awaiting final dates and the selected location from the host Member State of Nepal during which to conduct the above mentioned programme, and has suggested conducting it at the beginning of September 2019.

We would be most grateful if the Concept Paper could be circulated amongst the Honoured SAARC Member States at the earliest convenience.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Renuka Ekanayake
Director
SAARC Cultural Centre



**SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

www.saarcculture.org

CONCEPT PAPER

SAARC HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION & WORKSHOP 2019 - NEPAL

1. INTRODUCTION

Known for its rich traditional culture, the SAARC member state of Nepal has an exquisite history of handicrafts and has produced several types of artefacts created from various materials such as wood, stone, metal and fabric. Many traditional arts and crafts continue to take place in the present day, including painting, woodworking, weaving, sculpture, handicrafts with silver and other metals and paper crafts. The wooden and stone carvings that appear in abundance in and around popular heritage sights and places of worship, with their intricate work and attention to detail, are excellent examples of the expertise of Nepalese craftsmen and women, passed down from generation to generation. Although the official first account of Handicraft in Nepal is not available, it is believed to have started during the Licchavi period between 300-879 AD. The classical period of Nepal between the 13th – 18th Century, ruled by the Malla dynasty, is said to have extensively enriched the quality, authenticity and originality of Nepalese handicrafts.¹

The tradition of craftsmanship is still preserved in Nepal, ranging from textile-based handicrafts such as Pashminas, wool, hemp, felt, silk and cotton, to non-textile-based handicrafts such as creations made of wood, stone, metal, leather, bone, horn, ceramics, bamboo and handmade paper products. Traditional Dhaka fabric is widely considered the pride of Nepal. This rich local textile is woven with attractive bright colours with striking combinations which are then fashioned into different garments for men and women in a variety of weaves. These are worn extensively, and with great pride as an identifying craft of the Nepalese people. Woodcraft is perhaps one of the oldest and most popular forms of handicraft in Nepal and is practiced and passed down the generations by the distinguished clan of Newar and still holds pride of place amongst the artistic treasures of Nepal.

¹ Courtesy of IMART description of Nepalese handicrafts.

In 2019, the SAARC Cultural Centre will celebrate this rich tradition of handicrafts and artistry with the honoured Member State of Nepal and will conduct the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop 2019 for a period of 4 days at a location of choice in Nepal, proposing to do so at the beginning of September 2019. This Programme will provide a suitable platform for the Exhibition of handmade treasures from the South Asian Region and to provide the creators of these valuable pieces of the Regions' Heritage, a forum for discussion, interaction and exchange of valuable tools and knowledge of the trade, within an atmosphere of friendship and Regional Cooperation.

2. BACKGROUND

The cultural experience of sharing and exploring the handmade treasures of the Region through the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop, has been a popular Programme within the SAARC Cultural Centre calendar and has been conducted and received in several SAARC Member States with great enthusiasm. This programme has given emphasis to the creative and clever craftsmen and women, giving them an opportunity to exhibit their products, meet other artisans from the Region and to discuss new trends and techniques within the industry.

In addition to an Exhibition and the display of crafts, there will also be the additional aim of promoting the exchange of knowledge and technical expertise amongst its artisans and to promote the development of new designs and products which are appropriate and attractive to the demands of the new world market. Lying at crossroads between the arts, business and technology, the creative industries sector comprises a large variety of creative fields, from those heavily industrialised such as advertising and marketing, broadcasting, film industries etc, to those which are less so, like cultural industries. This sector is increasingly important for the benefit of the people of the Region, from the perspective of heritage preservation and economic terms, and the SAARC Cultural Centre is committed to assisting the Region to realise its full potential.

In keeping with the Mandate of the SAARC Cultural Centre, cooperation in the field of product development and the promotion of cultural products amongst the Member States has been a consistent feature in the Programmes conducted by the Centre. Development of creative cultural enterprises and creative industries, promoting cultural product development, creation of market opportunities, exchange of information and networking arrangements is in accordance with the underlying principal of encouraging better cultural understanding between the SAARC Member States.

Through this Programme, the SAARC Cultural Centre hopes to create an opportunity to promote local handicrafts and craftsmen of the Region, facilitate the exchange of techniques and knowhow through workshops and interaction, develop the data base of information for future reference and encourage fellowship and renewed interest in the traditional and innovative handicrafts of the SAARC Region.

3. OBJECTIVES

- I. To identify traditional art of crafts, with specific focus on handicrafts of the SAARC Member States, and preserve it for the future.
- II. To discuss various aspects of cultural Industries, such as the economic, legal, technological, and educational aspects of the product of Cultural Industries.
- III. To exhibit and display the skills of the craftsmen and women of the SAARC Region together, in one single location.
- IV. To bring together the guardians and practitioners of this skilful art form, to one location and facilitate and promote interaction.
- V. To educate visitors and well-wishers, both domestic and foreign, about the unique and fascinating technique and skills involved in the creation of these intricate objects of SAARC heritage and highlight the Handicrafts of the Region.
- VI. To promote sharing knowledge and specific skills through workshops, that would shed light on newer techniques and more contemporary designs while still maintaining the authenticity of traditional handicrafts.

4. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop 2019 will consist of two main components:

I. Handicraft Exhibition

The participating delegates will be provided with a designated space to exhibit their unique creations and have the opportunity to display and discuss their work with their contemporaries from the Region and beyond.

II. Participatory Workshop

Subject to confirmation by the Host Member State of Nepal, the Centre proposes to conduct a Workshop with the Delegates and additional experts in the field to discuss and disseminate knowledge and know-how of current trends, designs, techniques and creative innovation, whilst always paying due respect to and learning from the traditions of the past.

5. OFFICIAL NOMINATIONS

- I. Each SAARC Member State is invited to nominate a maximum of 5 Participants from each Member State. This could consist of craftsmen, craftswomen and if necessary, a team leader who should be able to lead a discussion and contribute at the Workshop if required.
- II. The Host Member State of Nepal is invited to nominate a maximum of 10 participants. This could include up to 10 craftsmen, craftswomen and a team leader who would be able to lead and participate at the Workshops as discussion leaders or contributors if required.
- III. The term “craftsmen and craftswomen” for the purposes of this Concept Paper will include those who engage in handicraft, those who produce or engage in the trade of handicrafts, a person who practices an occupation using the skill of hand/manual labour or persons engaged in activities similar to those mentioned above.
- IV. Craftsmen and women are requested to bring their own unique products and exhibit them in the stalls provided, with the option of selling their products.

6. NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- i. As per usual SAARC practice, all Member States are requested to forward the names of the nominated delegates **through the relevant Ministry concerned, via the Foreign/External Affairs Ministry, to the SAARC Secretariat.**
- ii. Member States are also requested to send the following information regarding the Nominated Delegates, **directly to the SAARC Cultural Centre:**
 - a) 50-word Biography of the Nominated participant
 - b) Brief description of their specialisation
 - c) A high-resolution photograph of the Nominated Participant
 - d) High resolution photographs of the specialised items to be displayed at the Exhibition

Please email these details to:

A. The Culture Specialist (Programmes): programme@saarcculture.org

With a Copy to:

B. The Documentation Officer: documentation@saarcculture.org

iii. The appropriate information will be included at the discretion of the SAARC Cultural Centre -**if received in accordance with the stated deadlines** - in the official Brochure being prepared for the Programme.

7. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- I. The SAARC Cultural Centre will provide local hospitality (hotel accommodation on a full board basis), airport transfers and local transport to all official venues being utilised for the duration of the official Programme, for all official participants.
- II. Accommodation will be provided for a total duration of 5 nights, to include arrival at the Programme the day prior to the Opening Ceremony and departure from the host Member State the day after the Closing Ceremony.
- III. **The Airfare for participating nominees is to be borne by the nominating Member State.**

8. DATES AND VENUE

Subject to final confirmation by the Host Member State of Nepal, the SAARC Cultural Centre proposes to conduct the SAARC Handicraft Exhibition and Workshop 2019 in a city of choice of the Host Member State of Nepal, during the beginning of September 2019.

The Programme will take place for a period of 4 days (5 nights accommodation) to include arrival in Nepal the day prior to the Opening Ceremony and departure from Nepal the day after the Closing Ceremony.

9. DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS.

- i) The names of the Official Delegates as requested in Sec 6 (i) above **must reach the SAARC SECRETARIAT** no later than **23rd AUGUST 2019**.
- ii) Complete details of the Delegates listed in Sec 6 (ii) above **must reach the SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE** no later than **23rd AUGUST 2019** in order to be included in the Brochure. Any incomplete material received after this date may not be included in the official Brochure.