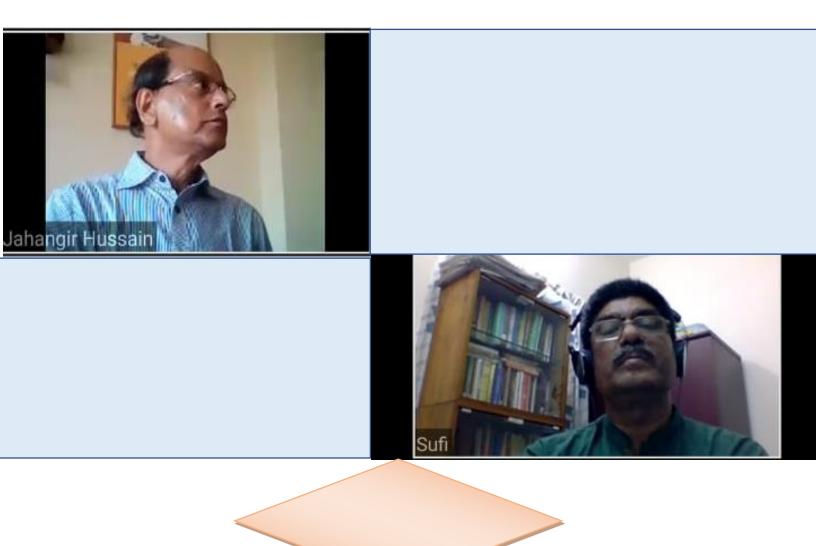
Celebration of International Museum Day 2020 Through Digital Platform - Webinar ICOM-Bangladesh National Committee 18 May 2020

# **International Museum Day Celebration 2020**

ICOM - Bangladesh National Committee organized a webinar at 4:00 pm to 5:00pm (BDT) on 18 May 2020 to celebrate International Museum Day 2020. Scholars, academicians, and museum professionals of Bangladesh, India and Nepal attended the webinar. The theme of the International Museum Day this year was 'Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion (সমতার জন্য জাদুঘর: বৈচিত্র্য ও সম্প্রিত)'. The speakers and participants of the webinar contributed much more than expectation to make the event a success one in the critical time of pandemic coronavirus COVID-19.

Professor Dr. Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University and the secretary of ICOM-Bangladesh anchored the session. Mr. Jahangir Hussain, President of ICOM-Bangladesh, moderated the event.



Some of the speakers and participants were Mr. Md.Hannan Mia, Director General, Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Mr. Faizul Latif Chowdhury, Ex-Director General of Bangladesh National Museum, Mr. Modidul Haque, Trustee, Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh, Ms. Reena Dewan, President of ICOM-India, Brigadier General (Retd) Prem Singh Basnyat, PhD, Chairman, Nepal Museum Association, Professor Poonam Chaudhury, Director, Centre for Studies in Museology, University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India, Professor Ahu Sayeed M Ahmed, Dean, University of Asia-Pacific, Bangladesh, Dr. Firoz Mahmud, Museologist, Bangladesh, Dr. Malay Dey, Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Museology, University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India, Mr. Pashupati Nyaupane, Lecturer of tribhuvan University Kathmandu, Nepal, Mr. Ms. Asma Ferdousi, Keeper, Department of Ethnography and Decorative Art, Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Museum (BNM), Md. Amiruzzaman, Deputy Director, Department of Archaeology, Mr. Shakti Pada Halder, Deputy Keeper, Department of Contemporary Art and World Civilization, BNM, Mr. Md. Serajul Islam, Deputy Keeper, Department of Ethnography and Decorative Art, BNM. The session was full of insights and significances as the speakers delivered importantissues of the theme of IMD 2020 from their respective perspectives.



Presentation of Mr. Modiful Haque Trustee, Liberation War Museum and Member, Advisory Board of ICMEMO (2019-2021)

Mr. Mofidul Haque showed a documentary on the Band Party of Old Dhaka (Music in the Time of Corona) and then focused on the issues of inclusion and diversity for the equality by the museums. He also added points on Music in the Time of Corona.



### **Distinguished Speakers and Participants of Webinar**



Mr. Md.Hannan Mia, Director General, Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Professor Ahu Sayeed M Ahmed, Dean, University of Asia-Pacific, Bangladesh (left to right)

#### Reena Dewan President, ICOM-India



I think that inclusion means the integration of differently able people to the museum. But the theme makes us think of the inclusion of the transgender community, sex worker community and other ethnic community into the museum sphere.

Brigadier General (Retd) Prem Singh Basnyat, PhD Chairman, Nepal Museum Association

The goal mentioned in the theme 'Museum for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion' is challenging and it can be possible only through long-term planning by individual countries with consideration of: Firstly, history and culture become inclusive; Secondly, diversity recognizes uniqueness of each individual and also the individual differences. Thirdly, if the public ownership rises then



museums could be set to act as a peace-building center too. Finally, for this dream to take shape "one for all and all for one" spirit of benevolence is a must. It might sound out of context to advocate for preservation, expansion and construction of museums at a time when the world is ravaged by Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Faizul Latif Chowdhury Ex-Director General, Bangladesh National Museum

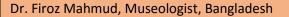


As the theme of IMD 2020 suggests for Equality, Inclusion and Diversity, museums must think of the process of inclusion of different communities so that the exclusion of other communities or so does not happen from the museum space.

Professor Poonam Chaudhury Director, Centre for Studies in Museology, University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India,

The theme of the IMD 2020 has exposed three important concepts 'Equality', 'Diversity' and 'Inclusion' for the museums to cope up with challenges to make rooms for the diverse communities so that each and every one gets their presences in the museum spaces which will give equal access to museum.





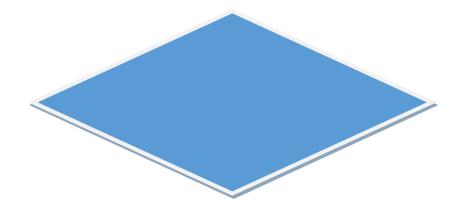
#### Admission to the Public Museums – Should they be free or not?

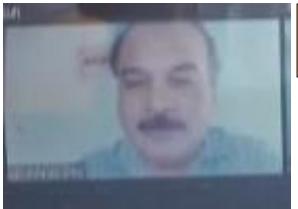
Throughout the world many museums charge entrance fees to help finance operations. Others have introduced a system of voluntary donations by visitors on entry to supplement their income, but the results of this approach generally have been disappointing.

A museum cannot and should not develop an air of social exclusiveness about its basic attending public. The ideal museum that cares for the past heritage as well as for the living traditions is a fresh, lively, pleasant place, which individuals in all sections of the people accept, and freely slip into and out of frequently and naturally. Ideally a visitor to a museum should feel free to come and go as and when, and as often, as he/she wishes. This brings us to what we regard as one of the strongest reasons against an admission charge, which undoubtedly acts as a serious deterrent to frequent visits to the same museum by the same individual—the very thing which the active, stimulating museum seeks to achieve.

Mr. Pashupati Nyaupane Lecturer of tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

Thank you for inviting me for that Zoom meeting. We brainstormed very fruitful discussion. That was very relevant issue in the context of Nepal. Nepal is going to establish State Museum in different States as per the political change. All State Museum are directly or indirectly related to Ethnicity and Inclusiveness. Again, thank very much for organizing very wonderful program and providing me an opportunity to put few words.

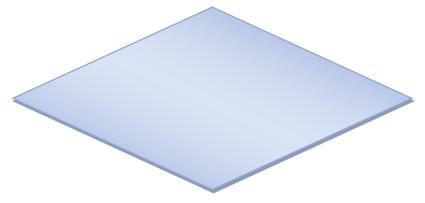




### Dr. Malay Dey Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Museology University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India

When we are observing the International Museum Day 2020 on the theme-Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion, all the museums around the world are facing an equal crisis as they are affected by the

COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 90 per cent of them, having closed their doors for varying lengths of period during this situation. Museums have become a part of human civilization. Acting as a catalyst for social reformation and as a vehicle for empowerment with specific communities, museums can affect positively on the lives of disadvantaged or marginalized individuals and contribute towards the establishment of more equitable societies. It is this latter role that will receive greatest attention nowadays and all museums, regardless of their nature, can contribute towards greater social equity through their activities. The museums based on the theory of new museology can create environments in which any individual or community can be and feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate. These museums aim to weave equality, diversity and inclusion in every layer of society and therefore community-based museums have great value for the promotion of three important things-human rights, peace and sustainable community development. Specially, in the contexts of indigenous and ethnic minority communities.



## Some Speakers and Participants of the Webinar



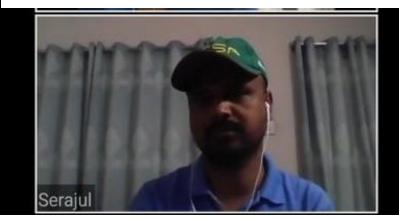
Ms. Asma Ferdousi Keeper Department of Ethnography and Decorative Art Bangladesh National Museum



Mr. Shakti Pada Halder Deputy Keeper Department of Contemporary Art and World Civilization Bangladesh National Museum



Md. Amiruzzaman Deputy Director, Department of Archaeology Bangladesh



Md. Serajul Islam Deputy Keeper Department of Ethnography and Decorative Art Bangladesh National Museum ICOM-Bangladesh National Committee Published Poster on Theme of International Museum Day 2020



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Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion সমতার জন্য জাদুঘর: বৈচিত্র্য ও সম্পৃক্তি

**INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY** আন্তর্জাতিক জাদুঘর দিবস

The moderator summed up the webinar with a concluding speech and extended his sincere thanks to the distinguished speakers and the participants of the event as they contributed the best to making the event a successful one in the pandemic time of COVID 19. He also expressed that all of us would include the best initiatives incorporating the considerations of the IMD theme 'Diversity and Inclusion' to ensure 'Equality' in the museum spaces. Moreover, sincere thanks go to Mr. Shawkat Imam Khan, Assistant Keeper, Department of Natural History, Bangladesh National Museum for his cooperation and design of the IMD poster of Bangladesh National Committee. He specially thanked Md. Serajul Islam, Deputy Keeper of Bangladesh National Museum, for the sincere initiatives and technical support to materialize the webinar. Hoping the best for all in the New Normal, he ended up the session.

Jahangir Hussain President ICOM-Bangladesh National Committee and Curator Asiatic Society Heritage Museum Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

