



ICOM international
council
of museums
ASPAC

**UNITING MULTICULTURAL ASIA PACIFIC
THROUGH MUSEUMS: DIVERSITY AS RICH
HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE REGION**

17-20 May 2026, Pekan and Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

CALL FOR PAPERS: Deadline 12 April 2026

In 2026, ICOM ASPAC (Asia Pacific Regional Alliance) will hold its Annual Meeting and Symposium in Pahang, Malaysia. With a focus on Asia Pacific's multicultural heritage in museums, it aligns its programme on this year's International Museum Day theme: Museums Uniting a Divided World. It further draws attention on the ways in which coexistence and appreciation of Asia Pacific's diverse climate, history, and heritage are embodied in museums, museum staff, and museum practice.

Rather than divisions, the meeting and symposium will address diversity as rich resources in developing a unique museology in the region within the needs, resources, communities and geographic place. This is considering recent political conflicts, extreme weather events, technological changes and the urgency of sustainable practices as significant factors for museum procedures and policies.

This symposium is in collaboration between ICOM ASPAC, ICOM Malaysia and Muzium Pahang. It is also a targeted forum for the dissemination and discussion of regionally relevant concerns and solutions for Asia Pacific's vast distinctive cultures and polyphonic voices by bringing together international experts engaged in Asia Pacific heritage sites and museums' ability to depict exchanges, contestations, and dialogue to this event in Malaysia.

The Symposium Themes will examine

- The impact of the 2022 Museum Definition on Asia Pacific museums' practice and policy
- The effect of extreme climates and political conflicts on heritage sites and museums
- Preservation mechanisms for museum collections and sites that are threatened by environmental changes
- Standards and principles of maintaining and respecting diversity with communities
- The impact of Asia Pacific heritage and geography on museums' programmes, community engagement and multicultural perspectives

Abstract Submissions

The organisers now welcome abstracts (maximum 250 words) for papers on the above themes to be presented at the Symposium. Paper presentations will be submitted as power point presentations at the time of the Symposium.

All intending presenters are required to:

- Submit a completed abstract proposal (250 words maximum) with proponent's full name, ICOM membership number, title or designation, institutional affiliation, and contact details and email address, by Friday, 12 April, via email to: ana.labrador@unimelb.edu.au
- Give a 50-word biodata
- Include most recent photograph to be printed in the conference programme on acceptance

Key dates (for publication of conference programme)

Announcement of the symposium call for papers	27 March 2026
Deadlines for abstracts submission	12 April 2026
Notification of accepted abstracts	23 April 2026