

Dear Fellow Voting Members

This is Kiran Joshi, candidate for President ICOMOS-India. I am an architect-academic who has also been working on heritage education-documentation-promotion-conservation for almost 35 years. I am a proactive member of key national and international heritage organizations and, have been engaged with ICOMOS-India since its re-constitution in 2012.

If elected, what do I aim to achieve during my tenure as COMOS President?

ICOMOS-India, though young and still sorting out some teething trouble, can rightfully boast of several laudable achievements -the ICOMOS General Assembly of 2017, the 'Delhi Declaration on Heritage and Democracy, establishment of 21 National Scientific Committees, systematizing institutional management, drafting of "Standard Operating Procedure and Guidelines" (SOPG) and, the 'ICOMOS-India Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2023".

All these successes, without doubt, must be sustained.

My two other primary objectives will be:

1. Further strengthen the identity and position of ICOMOS-India, advance its stated objectives and, strengthen the capacity of its members at the national, regional (SAARC & the Asia-Pacific) and, the global level.
2. Ensure a balanced representation and engagement of the diverse zones, cultures and heritages of India - focusing on the under-represented categories and, filling the gaps.

Some actions envisaged to achieve the above objectives are:

1. Encourage activities for defining an India-specific viewpoint on heritage and conservation, and, enable diverse & multi-disciplinary, pan-Indian studies of each category of Indian heritage;
2. Promote presence of COMOS Members in International Scientific Committees and other regional and global organizations;
3. Make concerted efforts to collaborate with various national, state-level and local heritage organizations;
4. Foster a more inclusive environment within COMOS by -
 - a. Creating a balanced membership profile, with equitable representation from all zones, sub-zones and, various categories of professionals;
 - b. Improving representation of various categories of professionals, members, NSCs, etc. in decision-making / policy matters;
5. Augment various categories of Institutional and Supporting Memberships to support and fund all manners of activity through various Zonal Representatives and NSCs; and,
6. Internal Capacity Building of COMOS Members at various levels by senior members and invited experts, with a special focus on mentoring of Emerging Professionals;

What makes me think that I am suited for this position? Among my other strengths, I would list:

1. A strong commitment to the cause of understanding, promoting and conserving the diverse - and, especially the unknown - forms of India's heritage. Almost all my work was done on a purely voluntary basis.
2. A wide exposure to regional and international theoretical base and best-practice of conservation. I have been involved, since around 2000, with Asian and International organisations such as mAAN, DoCoMoMo; ISC20C, UNESCO's WHC, etc.
3. Proven leadership qualities, with a track record of successfully building and leading institutions - whether conceiving and conducting research, heading educational institutions, or, establishing and nurturing NSCs.
4. Above all, a 'Think-Big' attitude and, a creative, progressive, and, positive approach.

Looking forward to your support and partnership in future endeavours and, a vote in my favour.

KIRAN JOSHI