CIE Heritage Day Sri Lanka with support of: Ministry of Education, Culture and Science Ministry of Foreign Affairs ICOMOS The Netherlands Institute for Heritage



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#### CIE Heritage Day Sri Lanka 27 November 2008 Leiden

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## Welcome to the CIE Heritage Day Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is the fourth of the eight priority countries for which the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) is organising a Heritage Day. Sri Lanka and The Netherlands have developed a long-lasting relationship that is maintained until today. The shared cultural heritage that resulted from the interaction and exchange of elements between the Sri Lankan and Dutch culture is therefore an integral part of the current relations between the two countries.

In many ways the Centre for International Heritage Activities has her roots in Sri Lanka.

In fact, it is not the first Heritage Day Sri Lanka; in 2003, a similar gathering was organised in the Amsterdam Historical Museum. The central theme then was the cooperation of the programs around the excavation of the VOC-ship Avondster in the Bay of Galle and the restoration of the Dutch Reformed Church in Galle Fort.

The Mutual Heritage Centre in Sri Lanka served as an example for the need to join forces between various institutes and disciplines in order to safe guard the important heritage our countries are sharing. One can say that the founding of the Centre for International Heritage Activities in the Netherlands is a direct result of the Sri Lanka Heritage Day in 2003. The Dutch participants were impressed by the activities of the Mutual Heritage Centre in Sri Lanka and the need was clearly felt to establish a similar network organisation and expert centre in the Netherlands.

The need for international cooperation was clearly felt when on 26 December 2004, only days after the excavation of the Avondster was finalized, the MAU premises were destroyed in the Tsunami. Luckily, all members of the team survived the killer-wave, but a substantial part of the historical collections and equipment were lost.

Immediately after the disaster, an international network was activated to bring together the necessary equipment and funds. Nearly three months after the Tsunami had destroyed the facilities, the teams were in position to resume their activities.

On the longer run, an ambitious programme - A Cultural Triangle in the South - will be the most important project in Sri Lanka.

Today, the Heritage Day Sri Lanka is an opportunity to bring together participants that work with the heritage sector in Sri Lanka and discuss where we stand in our cooperation with Sri Lankan organisations. This day is a platform to share knowledge and experience and discuss the need for more coordination and coherence in mutual cultural heritage.

I would like to express my gratitude to her Excellency the Ambassador Ms. Grace A, Asirwatham for her presence and a special word of welcome to the project coordinator Mr. Vidanapathirana of the Master plan Cultural Triangle for the South of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

I wish you a very pleasant and fruitful day.

Dr. Robert Parthesius - Director Centre for International Heritage Activities

## CIE Heritage Day Sri Lanka

Time, the ruthless idol breaker Smileless, cold iconoclast, Though he rob us of our altars, Cannot rob us of our past.1

First, we would like to thank you all for participating the CIE Heritage Day on Sri Lanka.

Today we will be focusing on the projects regarding the cultural heritage in Sri Lanka. During the 16th century, Admiral Joris van Spilbergen was the first to make contacts with King Vimala Dharma Suriya of Kandy. The Admiral finally succeeded in making trading deals with the king, in exchange of protection against the Portuguese. Without these contacts, we would probably not have been sitting here today.

This day is the result of some months of preparation and the inventory of all the projects that were or are still being performed in Sri Lanka. Today we are very pleased to have all the important counterparts together to be able to create more coherence between the cultural heritage projects.

In the morning, we will start with a series of lectures with opinions from experts about several projects from diverse heritage fields. Subjects such as Maritime Archaeology, Monuments, and Museums will be explained.

Since The Netherlands has implemented several projects in Sri Lanka, many questions have come up. During the afternoon, it is possible to join workshops, to discuss themes such as Capacity Building, Academic cooperation, Museums and Mutual Cultural Heritage.

In between the meetings, there will be the opportunity to meet people who are or have been working on diverse projects and the poster presentations, where many important projects are being presented to the public, can be looked at.

The outcome of the workshops and the lectures will finally be summed up to conclude the day and to be able to form a good advise for the future cooperation.

We hope you have an interesting and fruitful day with the CIE Heritage Day Sri Lanka.

Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) www.heritage-activities.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> R.G Anthonisz, *Glimpses of Dutch Life and Times*, JDBU of Ceylon, Vols. XXIV and XXV

## Programme Heritage Day Sri Lanka

## Museum of Ethnology Leiden

Welcome
<b>Opening</b> by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, the Honourable Mrs. Grace A. Asirwatham
<b>Introduction</b> By Robert Parthesius, director of CIE
A Cultural Triangle in the South, Masterplan by Mr. C.D. Vidanapathirana, project Manager of Sri Lanka Netherlands Cultural Cooperation Programme
Museum cooperation: capacity building and training By Lodewijk Wagenaar, Amsterdam Historical Museum
Coffee/tea in Museum cafe Midi Mondial
<b>The city of Galle. A fortified stronghold in restoration</b> By Harry Boerema, conservation expert
<b>Maritime Archaeology: the excavation of the Avondster</b> By Robert Parthesius, CIE
Lunch in Museum cafe Midi Mondial
Workshops, please register - Academic Cooperation - Capacity building for the (Built) Heritage Sector - Mutual Cultural Heritage
Coffee/tea in Museum cafe Midi Mondial
<b>Conclusion</b> : the results and recommendations of the workshops
Reception: co hosted by the Netherlands-Sri Lanka Foundation to celebrate 60 years Republic of Sri Lanka

## Workshops

Share experiences, lessons learned, best practices and possibilities from the Netherlands to formulate recommendations for the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science.

#### Workshop 1: Academic cooperation: History and Archaeology

Academic knowledge is the fundament for many heritage projects. However, in the executive phase, it often plays a minor role, while the connection between field and university strengthens both the practical input as well as the academic output. Therefore, more attention should be paid to academic cooperation. It is a necessary ingredient for capacity building and in the future better academic cooperation is needed to succeed. What are the experiences with this cooperation and what can the Dutch Heritage field recommend to improve academic cooperation between Sri Lanka and The Netherlands and between field and university?

#### Workshop 2: Capacity building for the (built) heritage sector

Capacity building is the main goal for projects under the Dutch Cultural Fund. It guarantees the sustainability of projects by embedding them in the original knowledge structures. However, is this theory also the experience in the projects that are carried out in Sri Lanka? What can we do from the Netherlands to improve the level and sustainability of training?

#### Workshop 3: How mutual is Mutual Cultural Heritage?

Dual parentage, shared, mutual, colonial, common, European, Sri Lankan heritage? Mutual Cultural Heritage is a loaded term; it defines the cultural heritage between the Netherlands and Sri Lanka. However, which heritage is labelled with this definition, how does Sri Lanka experience common cultural heritage and how do we share this heritage? Discuss with us the responsibilities for this type of heritage for the Netherlands and for Sri Lanka and help us to specify the definition of mutual heritage.

## Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE): What we do

The Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) is an independent, non-profit organisation for international knowledge exchange about the heritage of the European expansion and international heritage cooperation. CIE is involved in the management of international heritage programmes and stimulates academic research on the heritage of the European expansion.

During the last decennia, there have been many individual international heritage projects of a temporary nature. Valuable knowledge of projects has been lost through this temporary and individual nature. It is one of the goals of CIE to secure this knowledge and expertise on international heritage cooperation and make it available for future initiatives. CIE identifies partners in and for these countries and initiates local and international Heritage Days with partners from The Netherlands and local priority countries. The outcome of the discussions and meetings are presented to the Dutch government to improve future cooperation policy.

CIE offers assistance and advice for the development of projects in the field of international heritage activities. Advisory services for (local) partners are available on request. CIE is currently working on Culture and Development (C&O) programmes and mutual cultural heritage projects in a.o. Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Australia. Important aspects in the programmes for CIE are: capacity building, sustainability and local and public awareness.

More information about CIE is available online: www.hertitage-activities.org

## Internet based platform for cultural heritage projects

The Centre for International Heritage Activities offers technical assistance, heritage management, and academic research. The international network is centred on an Internet based platform that CIE has developed. One of the components of this platform is a project database. This database was developed from the idea that much knowledge and information has been lost because people are not aware of what others are doing. Through this database, it is possible, to get information on the heritage projects which have been carried out, those which are still on going, and those for which plans are being made. Information on the aims, the contents, and the results of the projects are stored in this database. Moreover, the database also contains visual information, material about the involved organisations and especially expertise advice.

It is a central location where all information on international heritage projects can be found and where communication with each other is possible. We think it is of great asset for a better coordination and contacts with all Dutch organisations involved.

Every organisation and/ or person involved in any cultural heritage project (worldwide!) is invited to subscribe to the platform. Please register at database@heritage-activities.nl

## A selection of Projects

For more information, please have a look at www.heritage-activities.org

#### A Cultural Triangle in the South Masterplan

CCF (Central Cultural Fund) MHC (Mutual Heritage Centre) Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage Sri Lanka Ministry of Tourism/ Sri Lanka Tourist Board Department of Archaeology Sri Lanka Department of National Archives Sri Lanka Department of National Museums Sri Lanka Galle Heritage Foundation NAAL (Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka) & PUM Universities of Sri Lanka Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology Sri Lanka National Trust ICOMOS Sri Lanka (The International Council on Monuments and Sites) CIE (Centre for International Heritage Activities) Contact: Anouk Fienieg: a.fienieg@heritage-activities.nl

#### **Avondster Project Galle**

Sri Lankan Mutual Heritage Centre: Department of Archaeology, Dep. Of national Museums, Central Cultural Fund and PGIAR. Amsterdam Historical Museum University of Amsterdam National Museum of Ethnology Western Australian Maritime Museum Contact: Mr. Robert Parthesius: r.parthesius@heritage-activities.nl

#### Athapattu Building at Galle, Sri Lanka

Central Cultural Fund, Sri Lanka Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka Contact: Central Cultural Fund gen\_ccf@srilanka.net

**Conservation and presentation of the Urubokka ancient Dam site** Irrigation Department Sri Lanka

#### Conservation and renovation of the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara

Contact: Dr. Senerath Dissanayake arch@diamond.lanka.net Mr. Prasanna B. Ratnayake arch@diamond.lanka.net Rev. Charles Norton Jans cnj@eol.lk, cvankrimpenpal@yahoo.com

#### Conservation of the Ancient Dutch Warehouse and Visitor Information Centre

CCF (The Central Cultural Fund) Department of Archaeology Sri Lanka

#### **Department of National Museums Sri Lanka**

Galle Heritage Foundation Amsterdam Historical Museum Western Australian Maritime Museum Contact: Central Cultural Fund: gen\_ccf@srilanka.net

#### **Conservation of the Ancient Ramparts in the Galle Fort**

Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka CCF (Central Cultural Fund) CIE (Centre for International Heritage Activities) Bureau Wassenaar, Roel de Jong Bureau Wiertsema en Partners, Jan Wiertsema RACM (Rijksdienst voor Archeologie, Cultuurlandschap en Monumenten), Antoinette Lecoultre Contact: Mr. H. Boerema: hboerema@hetnet.nl

#### **Conservation and Landscaping of Star Fort of Matara**

Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka Municipal Council of Matara Department of National Museums Sri Lanka Tourist Board Citizens' Association of Matara Contact: Mr. H. Boerema: hboerema@hetnet.nl Archt. Prasanna B. Ratnayake, Director Architectural Conservation, archiprasa@dialogsl.net

#### Conservation Proposal for the Dutch Fort Katuwana, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Contact: Archt. Prasanna B. Ratnayake, Director Architectural Conservation, archiprasa@dialogsl.net http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/pma/2006/00000040/00000001/art00008

#### Dutch Colonialism, Migration and Cultural Heritage: East en West

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences Leiden University Town Hall of Amsterdam VU University Amsterdam KITLV, Leiden University Contact: KITLV: Prof. G.J. Oostindie, oostindie@kitlv.nl

#### Dutch hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka

KITLV (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies), Leiden Tourist Board of Sri Lanka Mutual Heritage Centre Department of Archaeology Sri Lanka Contact: Atlas of Mutual Heritage: http://www.nationaalarchief.nl/amh/main.aspx?lang=en

#### Dutch Hospital Galle, Sri Lanka

Contact: Mr. H. Boerema: hboerema@hetnet.nl

#### **Dutch Period Museum in Colombo**

Royal Asiatic Society Dutch Burgher Union Ceylon Tourist Board Department of Archaeology Department of National Museums NUFFIC (Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation) NAAL (Netherlands Alumni Association of Sri Lanka) National Archives CNO (Stichting Cultuurgeschiedenis van de Nederlanders Overzee) Netherlands- Sri Lanka Foundation Amsterdam Historical Museum Contact: Stichting Nederland- Sri Lanka, Mr. E. Jongens lanka.jongens@casema.nl Amsterdam Historical Museum, Mr. L. Wagenaar: Lodewijkwagenaar@ahm.amsterdam.nl

#### Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, Sri Lanka

Dutch Ministry of Education Culture and Science and Foreign Affairs Central Cultural Fund Contact: Mr. H. Boerema: hboerema@hetnet.nl

#### **Establishment of Balance parts of the Museum Complex**

Central Cultural Fund: Prof. P.L. Premathilake, Dr. W.H. Wijayapala Department of National Museums: Dr. Nanda Wickramasingha Department of Archeaology: Dr. Senerath Dissanayaka

#### **Galle Harbour Project**

Sri Lankan Mutual Heritage Centre Amsterdam Historical Museum University of Amsterdam National Museum of Ethnology Western Australian Maritime Museum Contact: Mr. Robert Parthesius: r.parthesius@heritage-activities.nl

#### Involvement of British and Portuguese partners in the activities of the MHC

British Embassy in Sri Lanka Portuguese Embassy in Sri Lanka Contact: Mr. R. Parthesius: r.parthesius@heritage-activities.nl

#### Kataragama Museum of Archaeology and Visitor Centre

Central Cultural Fund The Royal Netherlands Embassy Colombo Contact: Dr. Roelof Munneke Central Cultural Fund: E-mail-gen\_ccf@srilanka.net http://www.cultural.gov.lk/news/kataragama/kataragama.htm

#### Private House Conservation programme: "Purawara Pubuduwa"

Galle Heritage Foundation Ministry of Cultural Affairs & National Heritage Sri Lanka Tourist Board in Ministry of Tourism Sri Lanka Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa Department of Archaeology, University of Ruhuna Archaeological Department, Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha Central Environmental authority

# Project Proposal on the Strengthening of the Mutual Heritage Centre and Technical Assistance

Central Cultural Fund Dutch Government Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage Department of National Archives of Sri Lanka Dr. Saroja Wettasinghe (director National Archives) Ms. Wasantha Egodawatte (Records Investigation Officer)

#### Promotion of a cultural tourism plan for the Southern Region

Tourist Board in Ministry of Tourism Sri Lanka

#### **Rehabilitation of the Maritime Museum of Galle**

Department of National Museums Sri Lanka Department of Archeaology Sri Lanka

#### **Restoration of ancient sewerage system in Galle Fort**

SOS Velsen The Netherlands NAAL (Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka) Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Hella Wellmer Municipal Engineer's Department, Mr. Dayasena CIE (Centre for International Heritage Activities) Municipal's Engineer's Department of Galle Municipal Council Contact: SOS Velsen: Mr. Klaas van Slooten info@sosvelsen.nl

#### **TANAP: Towards a New Age of Partnership**

National Archives The Netherlands CNWS / Leiden University Steering Committee Programme Committee NWO NWO/GW WOTRO National Unesco Commission International Council on Archives Contact: http://www.tanap.net/content/about/new\_histories.cfm

#### **TAP: Technical Assistance Programme**

Amsterdam Historical Museum Ministry of Education, Culture and Science The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands Central Cultural Fund Mutual Heritage Centre Sri Lanka Museum Department Department of Archeaology ICOMOS RACM Contact: info@heritage-activities.nl

### Participants

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