Message No. 205/08/029  
Reference No. SAARC/ESC/SCC-Programmes/240/2019

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC and has the honour to circulate a Concept Paper received from the SAARC Cultural Centre on publishing of eight volumes to document the diversity of South Asian cultures titled “Culture of the SAARC – Pathway of Experience”, which is included in the Calendar of Activities approved by the last Programming Committee Meeting.

The Secretariat wishes to inform that the SAARC Cultural Centre has called for proposals from scholars, academicians, researchers, practitioners, etc., of the SAARC Member States, who are interested in contributing to the publication.

The esteemed Ministries are requested to circulate the Concept Paper among relevant Ministries and institutions to enable interested individuals/institutions to submit their research proposals, preferably before 20 March 2019.

The Secretariat of SAARC avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encls: a.a.

Kathmandu, 19 February 2019

The Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs, (SAARC Division),  
Member States of SAARC.

Copy to the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka
SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
SRI LANKA
SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)

My Ref. SAARC/SCC/Dir.Off/Research/2019/10

15th February 2019

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

Attn: Director (ESC)

Your Excellency,

"CULTURE OF THE SAARC – PATHWAYS OF EXPERIENCE"
Eight Volumes of Publication of SAARC Member States

Please find attached the Concept Paper detailing the “Culture of the SAARC – Pathways of Experience” based on the approved Calendar of Activities 2019. SAARC Cultural Centre would like to kindly request the honoured Member States to invite academicians, researchers and writers of tangible and intangible cultural heritage to submit their research on culture for this publication.

I would be most grateful if you could kindly circulate the Concept Paper amongst the Member States at your earliest convenience.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,

Renuka Ekanayake,
Director
SAARC Cultural Centre

No. 224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka
Tele: 0094-11-2584451 | Fax: 0094-11-2584452
Email: scc@saarcculture.org | Web: www.saarcculture.org
1. **INTRODUCTION**

Culture consists of the derivatives of experience transmitted from past generations and forms the set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors shared by a group of people. This experience can be in the form of visual and performing arts, handicrafts, traditions and a plethora of ideas and knowledge, passed from one generation to the next. Culture is the knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music, arts, etc. Culture is the binding aspect among immemorial. Cultures of South Asia reflect the shared heritage and at the same time it is unique and diverse giving scope for a variety of cultural phenomena.

The present project proposes to document the diversity of South Asian cultures through publishing eight volumes titled ‘Culture of the SAARC – Pathways of Experience’, with one volume dedicated to each of the SAARC Member States. This volume will consist of chapters on the following topics - ‘Performing Arts – Music and Dance’, ‘Art and Architecture’, ‘Cinema and Theatre’, ‘Crafts – Handicrafts and Textiles’, ‘Food Culture – Different Cuisines’ and ‘Dress and Fashion’. The six chapters of each volume are to be authored by different scholars who are specialists in the areas specified above in each of the Member States. These academic chapters will focus on documenting history and development of each topic.

2. **OBJECTIVES**

2.1 To compile the history and development of Culture of the SAARC Member States in eight volumes of publication.

2.2 To educate and share among the public the rich and varied cultural traditions of the SAARC Region.

2.3 To unite people and nations through culture and restore peace.


There will be 8 volumes of the publication with each Member State allocated one volume consisting of 6 chapters. The design of the publication is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter topics for each volume</th>
<th>Each Chapter should contain but not limited to the following given below</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Performing Arts – Music and Dance</td>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Art and Architecture</td>
<td>2. Historical Review of literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Cinema and Theatre</td>
<td>3. Historical background and development</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Food Culture – Different Cuisines</td>
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<td>6. Dress and Fashion</td>
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</table>
4. **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**
The SAARC Cultural Centre would like to invite for proposals from scholars, academicians, researchers, practitioners, etc., who are interested in contributing to the publication. Each chapter would require an individual proposal and more than one proposal can be submitted by an individual. Proposals with multiple authors will also be accepted.

The proposal should be submitted in the format included as **Annexure 1** and should contain the following information. If there are multiple authors the Personal Information section of the Annexure 1 should be included for each author, however, one common proposal would be accepted. Multiple proposals would also require multiple Personal Information section.

5. **RENUMERATION**
Each selected Chapter proposal will be paid a remuneration of US$ 200/=.

6. **TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Receiving of abstracts and proposals</td>
<td>20/03/2019</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Review and Notification of selection</td>
<td>10/04/2019</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Selected scholars to submit their chapters</td>
<td>31/08/2019</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>10/10/2019</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Design and layout</td>
<td>31/10/2019</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>10/11/2019</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>To be published and released on</td>
<td>08/12/2019</td>
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4. **SELECTION PROCEDURE**
1. The selection of each proposal for chapter will be carried out by a Review Panel based on the content of each proposal.
2. The decision of the Review Panel and the SAARC Cultural Centre will be final.
3. SAARC Cultural Centre will retain the right to accept or reject proposals.
4. The authors ability to furnish good quality photographs for the publication will be taken into consideration. Photographs attached to the proposal should be 300 dpi or above.
5. Authors of the selected proposals will be informed by April 2019.

6. **OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT**
- Publication of eight volumes with 6 chapters each.
- The volumes will be the first of its kind and will be a record of the history and development of Culture of SAARC Member States.

7. **APPLICATION FORM**
Application Form is attached as **Annexure 1** or could be downloaded from the SAARC Cultural Centre Website.

8. **OTHER DETAILS**
Please contact Dr. Soumya Chavan – Culture Specialist Programmes if further information is required. programme@saarcculture.org / soumyasaarc@gmail.com

SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
SRI LANKA
SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)
PERSONAL INFORMATION
(All fields must be completed, use additional paper if required.)

1. **Applicant's Full Name** (as in the passport with the surname underlined):
2. **Date of Birth**:
3. **Nationality**
4. **Postal Address**:
5. **Contact Information**
   5.1 Email:
   5.2 Mobile Phone No:
   5.3 Whatsapp/Viber/Skype ID:
6. **Institutional Affiliation**:
   6.1 Present Designation:
   6.2 Name and Address of the Institute:
   6.3 Name, Designation, Email and Phone number(s) of the Head of the Institute:
7. **Academic Record of Applicant from the First Degree obtained**: (Please use additional paper if necessary.)

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<tr>
<th>Degree Obtained</th>
<th>Name of University</th>
<th>College/</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Division</th>
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8. **Previous research experience**:
   10.1 **Period**:
   10.2 **Publications**: Books/Papers (published only):
      (Give full References; please feel free to attach one or two off-prints of the articles if you wish.)
   10.3 **Assignments/Positions held**
FORMAT FOR THE CHAPTER PROPOSALS

9. **Name of the SAARC Member State**
   1. Afghanistan
   2. Bangladesh
   3. Bhutan
   4. India
   5. Maldives
   6. Nepal
   7. Pakistan
   8. Sri Lanka

10. **Title of the Chapter**
    Please choose a chapter from the list given below and add subtitles if necessary
    1. Performing Arts – Music and Dance
    2. Art and Architecture
    3. Cinema and Theatre
    4. Crafts – Handicrafts and Textiles
    5. Food Culture – Different Cuisines and their significance
    6. Dress and Fashion

11. **Review of literature:** Historical documentation and references regarding the cultural tradition of the chosen chapter topic.

12. **Photographs:** Authors should be able to provide the accompanying photographs for the proposed chapter. It will be the responsibility of the author to furnish the photographs and provide the copyright of the photographs for the publication.

13. **Outcome:** Each Proposal should not exceed 1,500 (thousand five hundred) words. Please include photographs, illustrations as supportive documents.


15. **Proposal Deadline – 20/03/2019**
    Full Chapter Deadline – 31/08/2019

16. **Chapter proposals submitted** should be original contributions and should not be under consideration for any other publication.

17. **Proposals should be emailed to the following address:**
    1. The Culture Specialist (Programmes): programme@saarcculture.org /
       culturalcentresaarc@gmail.com / soumyasaarc@gmail.com
    2. With a Copy to: The Documentation Officer: documentation@saarcculture.org /

**Declaration**
I hereby declare that the information given in this form and the additional particulars furnished by me are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

(Full Name)  
Date:  

(Signature)  
Place: