

**Minutes of the second meeting of Expert Committee for Scheme of 'Financial Assistance for Setting up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums' held on 16-17 July 2010.**

The sixth meeting of the Expert Committee to consider applications submitted under the Scheme of 'Financial Assistance for Setting up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums' was held on 16-17 July 2010 under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay S. Madan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. A list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure I**.

2. Chairman welcomed the members and briefed them about the actions taken on the recommendations made the Committee in its previous five meetings and the current status on these proposals. The committee was informed that till now project cost of Rs 20.16 crores for 29 museums have been sanctioned. Besides this based on the recommendation of Expert Committee, in-principle approval has been given for proposals with project cost worth Rs. 56.83 crores. A presentation on this was made before the committee. The agenda items were then taken up for discussion.

3. **Appraisal report on the DPR:**

3.1 **Natural and Human Resource Development Organisation (NAHRDO) Manipur** (Project Cost: Rs 191.17 lakhs)

The appraisal report on the DPR of the applicant Museum was discussed. The Committee took note of the observation of the Consultant that about 80% of the project cost is towards construction component and was of the view that for any proposal for a new museum, there has to be a balanced distribution of project cost between civil construction vis-à-vis other components for museum viz. display, conservation, lighting, climate/environmental control etc. While the Committee was unanimous that no fixed ratio could be specified, it was felt that a ratio of 60:40 on civil construction to other components could be treated as a balanced one. Since the museum proposes to provide the understanding of Man and Nature in the context of Manipur by showcasing the local culture, it was felt that the museum should adopt traditional construction method portraying the local character and hence the design should conform to at least some Manipuri traditions with certain traditional architecture. As such, it was decided to ask the Museum to redesign their Building Plan and rework the estimates accordingly. After due deliberations, following recommendations were made:

- (i) Keeping in view the variety of collections the organization has in their possession, in principle approval was given for construction of a new museum for display of their collections;
- (ii) The organization may be asked to rework on their design. The building size should be commensurate with their collections.
- (iii) The Project Cost estimate has to be a balanced one with attention also to be paid for display, conservation, lighting etc.

- (iv) Amount money of Rs. 7.00 lakhs was recommended for release to enable NAHRDO for preparation of redesigned Project Report which would again be appraised.

**3.2. Vivekananda Museum by Ramakrishna Mission at Khetri, Rajasthan. (Project Cost: Rs. 287.25)**

Committee deliberated at length on the appraisal report on DPR of the applicant museum. The organization proposes to create a series of dioramas and these being non-standard items, assessment of the estimates was difficult and hence they must be asked to specify the detailed break up, specially on the design and development separately. The Committee was of the view that the dioramas are almost an obsolete method of exhibition and hence the organisation could look for adopting audio-visual/multimedia medium to portray the life of Swami Vivekananda, with diorama supplementing this mode. After due deliberations, following were recommended:

- i) The organization be asked to contact NCSM for technical advice for putting up of audio-visual/multimedia panels to feature Swamiji's lifetime achievements.
- ii) The emphasis on multimedia must be higher vis-à-vis the dioramas;
- iii) A broad guideline featuring dioramas may be given to them to follow i.e. a few dioramas dedicated to 3-4 landmark episodes in the life of Vivekanada be resorted to.
- iv) Prior to release of subsequent installment, they must complete formalities by sharing with MOC the documentation on 1<sup>st</sup> two dioramas. They must maintain documentation of different stages of completion.
- v) Subject to fulfillment of all these conditions, the project was recommended for approval with 80% of Rs. 287.25 lakhs (i.e. Rs. 229.80 lakhs). Rs 5.00 lakhs sanctioned for preparation of DPR to be adjusted.

3.3 During the course of discussion on the above two proposals, the following general issues were also suggested:

- (i) It was suggested that a Panel of architects working in the field of museum like conservation architect etc., may be prepared in order to recommend to the applicant museums for obtaining advice.
- (ii) Panels already created by following due process of selection by NCSM, ASI, INTACH, CSMVS, Mehrangarh Museum etc. may be utilized for above purpose, in the meantime. These panels may be put in the website and the applicant museums may be intimated to consider consulting any of them for the design explaining their proposals. This list will be illustrative in nature and not binding on them.

**4. Discussion on those museums made presentation and additional information called for from them**

#### **4.1 Arts Acre Foundation, Kolkata:**

4.1.1 The Chairman informed the Members about the reply furnished by Arts Acre Foundation in response to the additional information called for from them, as was decided by the Committee in its last meeting, based on the appraisal report. The reply as received has been sent to the Consultant for further appraisal. Therefore, the report may be awaited before making any recommendation thereon.

4.1.2 In addition, the Committee took note of press reports about problems on land acquired by this Foundation, which the State Govt. is enquiring into. As such, the foundation may be asked to furnish records of ownership of land.

4.1.3 It was also observed that the recommendation of the State Government was in the form of a letter from the Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Government of West Bengal. It was pointed out by a member that specific recommendation from the Department of the State Government dealing with Museums must be provided and hence the recommendation of the State Government on this proposal may also be called for.

#### **4.2. Naga Heritage Museum & Research Society, Kohima, Nagaland**

The Committee was informed about the receipt of a DPR from Naga Heritage Museum and Research Society, Kohima, who were sanctioned an amount of Rs.7.5 lakhs for this. The same shall be sent for independent appraisal and on receipt of the same, shall be placed before the Committee for consideration.

#### **5 Discussion on new proposals:**

##### **5.1 The City Palace Museum, Udaipur, Rajasthan** (Project cost of Rs.687.90 lakhs.)

5.1.1 The committee observed that the Museum has an annual income of around Rs.600 lakhs, including Rs.300 lakhs on gate money and it was not clear as to why the museum needed support from the Government when they should be able to manage the upgradation from their own resources. It was pointed out by a Member that a Trust must spend 70% of its income on maintenance. It was decided to call for following information from the museum before any decision could be taken:

- a) whether the building housing the museum is owned by the Trust;
- b) The reasons for seeking financial assistance from this Ministry, and why the Trust cannot undertake the desired works from its own resources.

5.1.2 The above notwithstanding, the Chairman requested for comments/views of the Members on whether participation by way financial assistance to such museum could help create brand equity for Ministry of Culture. The Committee endorsed the view and suggested that all the grantee museums should be required to install a plaque in the front gate of the Museum stating "*The modernization/renovation of the Museum being undertaken*

with Financial Assistance from Ministry of Culture, Government of India” and this should be replaced by a permanent one ( at a visible location , preferably in the front gate itself) on completion of the project. This acknowledgement must also be printed on the tickets.

**5.2 Nagarjuna Buddhist Foundations, Gorakhpur, U.P**  
(Project Cost: Rs. 155.29 lakhs)

The Committee noted that the proposal could not be considered at present as the Foundation, was granted a financial assistance of Rs.18.55 lakhs in 2008 and second installment is being released now. As such, no fresh proposal from the organization can be entertained during currency of a running grant. This may also be treated as a guiding principle for any such proposal in future.

**5.3 Monyul Museum, Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**  
(Project Cost: Rs. 353.70 lakhs)

The Members stated that the collections of the Society appeared impressive and hence could be supported, but they need to be called for a presentation first as has been decide earlier. It was decided to ask the Arundaya Welfare Society to prepare a DPR for further project. An amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs was recommended for release for preparation of the DPR.

**5.4 Personalia Museum: Kalka Bindadin Ki Dyodhi, Lucknow**  
(Project Cost: Rs. 150.36 lakhs)

The committee was informed that this was a proposal of Government of U.P for a Pesonalia Museum for repair, renovation and reconstruction of parental house of Pandit Birju Ji Maharaj. The proposal was incomplete with some mandatory documents yet to be furnished and hence the Committee desired to ask the Govt. of U.P. to complete the requisite formalities. It was decided to ask them to prepare a complete proposal with DPR with a curatorial concept. An amount of Rs.5.00 lakhs was recommended for preparation of the DPR.

**5.5 Osthang Cultural and Welfare Society, Kargil**  
(Project Cost: Rs. 17.25 lakhs)

This was proposal for renovation and repair of the museum managed by the society for Development of infrastructure of their Museum. The Committee recommended for release of Rs.13.80 lakhs (80% of Rs 17.25 lakhs) . However, prior to release the museum may be asked to submit a details of equipments they plan to acquire.

## **6. Presentation by the Museums :**

### **6.1 Heikhas Museum by Nourhe Society, Kohima**

(Project Cost - 107 Lakhs)

Ms. Kevi-O Yalie made the presentation on behalf of Nourhe Society in respect of their museum project. The Committee appreciated the role of community to run the museums for men and women separately. The following suggestions were made to the museum:

- (a) They must have a 'Conservation Plan' for their Museum and desired them to send some Members for training;
- (b) They need to have a small Committee to run the Museum;
- (c) They could come back with a structured proposal with balanced cost estimate for all the elements required for a museum. They have to give a plan for conservation, display and documentation. They should also have a sustainability plan;

The committee recommended for release of Rs.5.00 lakhs to enable them for preparation of a DPR for their project.

### **6.2. Appan Thampuran Smaraka Museum, Ayyanthole, Thrissur.**

(Project Cost:- 250 Lakhs )

Shri Purushan Kadalundi from the Museum made the presentation in support of their proposal. It was a video presentation instead of power point one. The presentation did not contain adequate information on parameters relating to museum establishment and its running. This proposal appeared to be more a case of proposal for a Library and Archives, rather than for a museum. There is hardly anything on museum component except for some personal belonging of the poet. Even though they have a good collection of books, they do not appear to have any Plan for display, conservation nor digitization. The organization was told to rework the proposal to justify their requirement for setting up a Museum by making a proper analysis for what they have and what exactly they want and then come back with a proper proposal.

### **6.3. Maharaja Banaras Vidya Mandir Trust, Varanasi, UP**

(Project Cost:- Rs.429.97 Lakhs)

Dr A.N.Singh made the presentation and briefed the Members about the historical background and the kinds of collections they have. The Committee felt that though the trust has a good collection, they have not been able to present these in the right perspective. It was suggested that the museum may hire a good consultant to get a proper DPR prepared for their project. The committee recommended an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs for preparation of DPR. The Committee also desired to seek following clarification from them:-

- i) The status of the Trust;
- ii) Whether the Trust owns the collection and museum building;

**6.4. Bagnan Ananda Niketan Kirtishala, Howrah, West Bengal**  
(Project Cost:- Rs. 153 Lakhs approx.)

Shri Amol Roy made the presentation for the Museum. The Committee felt that preventive conservation is a must for the kind of collection they have in their possession. The organization may be asked to provide a curatorial concept, plan for conservation and other components of the Museum. The Committee desired them to come back with a proper DPR encompassing the above aspects, besides other important ones. However, the committee also recommended Rs.5.00 lakhs for initiating the publication immediately as proposed by them. In addition, it was also for release of Rs.5.00 lakhs for preparation of DPR.

**6.5. Srinivas Malliah Memorial Theatre Crafts, New Delhi**  
(Project Cost:- Rs. 497.42 Lakhs)

Ms. Usha Malik made the presentation for SSMTTC. The Committee appreciated the types of collections they have in their possession and recommended for release of Rs.10.00 lakhs to enable them to prepare a DPR for their project. In addition the following clarification was sought from them:

- i) Whether the organization has got the permission for undertaking the work as has been proposed by the museum;
- ii) Whether the organization is having the ownership of the land;

**6.6. Aloyseum, St. Aloysium College, Mangalore, Karnataka**  
(Projected Cost:- Rs.246.88 Lakhs)

Fr. Swebert D'Silva made the presentation in respect of the proposed Museum. The Committee felt that the proposal made by the College for the museum has not included in the Conservation Project and documentation of the exhibits. The Committee was of the view that the entire project needs to be re-done with a proper DPR. He was advised to take a professional advice in order to prepare a proper DPR. The Committee recommended a grant of Rs.7.00 lakhs for preparation of a DPR.

**6.7. Asan Museum and Kavyagramam, Kaikara**  
(Project Cost:- Rs.100.00 Lakhs)

Prof. S. Sudhish presented the proposal before the Committee in respect of this Museum. The presentation basically depicted the life of the poet Asan. The presentation did not give proper break up of expenses they propose nor have details been worked out properly. It was not clear from the proposal/presentation, whether it was a proposal for monuments or a memorial. It was observed during the course of presentation that they have only 12 exhibits in their possession and more than 100 archival documents. The proposal, as presented, did not appear to fit into the Museum Scheme and it was noted that, for the proposal to be considered under this scheme, it needs to be reworked and the justification for establishment of a new museum may be provided.

**6.8 Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata**  
(Project Cost:- Rs.590 Lakhs.)

Representative from Rabindra Bharati University Museum, Kolkata did not turn up for presentation, even though they have sent the soft copy of the presentation to the Ministry.

**6.9 Acharya Bhavan, Shri J.C. Bose Trust, Kolkata**  
(Projected Cost:- Rs.697.75 Lakhs)

Prof Parul Chakravarti, made the presentation in respect of the proposal of Acharya Bhavan. The Committee was of the view that the proposal needs modifications and that NCSM's association would be essential to work on the project to give the project a platform to set up a heritage science Museum with more emphasis given on multi-media presentation. The role of ASI and NRLC would also be essential for conservation of the building and the collections respectively. The Committee recommended an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs to enable the Trust to prepare a DPR.

**6.10 Nehru Museum of Science & Technology, IIT, Kharagapur, West Bengal.** (Project Cost:- Rs.274.43 Lakhs)

Dr. Dhruvajyoti Sen made the presentation in respect of their proposal. The Committee was of the view that IIT, being a scientific organization, should depict the history attached to the buildings through a variety of multi-media presentations. The Chairman also desired them to have a separate gallery for elucidating the history of computing from the mainframe computers to the new generation computers. The Committee recommended an amount of Rs. 7.00 lakhs for preparation of a DPR.

**6.11 Dakshinachitra Heritage Museum, Madras Craft Foundation, Chennai.** (Project Cost:- Rs.164.31 Lakhs).

The Ms. Deborah Thiagarajan of the Museum made the presentation in respect of the Foundation's proposal. The presentation was well appreciated by the committee as the project was very well done. Keeping in view the kind of facilities that foundation already has in their complex, the Committee desired to know if they would be able to host workshop for museum professionals which could also be source of revenue for the museum. The Committee further suggested to the Foundation to include items on publication, security, storage as also on possibility of conservation laboratory. The Committee recommended an amount of Rs.5.00 lakhs for preparation of a DPR

**6.12 Shri Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery Trust, Jaganmohan Palace, Mysore** (Project Cost: Rs 517.21 lakhs)

Shri M. Lakshminarayan made the presentation in respect of their project. The Committee advised the trust to relook on their proposal for installation of AC as all the galleries may not require air-conditioning. Some of the items like sinking bore well and other related civil works are not covered under the scheme. He was asked to rework the proposal according to the scheme by distributing the items of work under 8 broad heads as provided therein and resubmit the

proposal with a DPR. Director, NRLC advised the representative that they cannot support permanently the aspect of preservation of mural paintings in the Museum (that NRLC is undertaking currently) and that they must go in for having their own conservation laboratory. The Committee recommended an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs for preparation of a DPR.

7. The Committee was informed that out of the five proposals mentioned in the last meeting held on 7.5.2010, who had not submitted their proposals with complete documentation as required, only one of them (Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery Trust, Mysore) have completed the requisite documentation and hence was called for making the presentation. The remaining four applicants namely: Stok Palace & Museum, Ladakh, J&K , The Himalayan Museum at Rishikesh (from Government of Uttarakhand), Rabindra Bhavan and Kala Bhawan (from Shantiniketan) are yet to submit the requisite documents and hence have not been assigned registration numbers. As and when their documentation is completed, the applicants may be called for making a presentation before the committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.



**List of Participants**

- |     |                           |                                       |                 |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | Dr. Vijay S. Madan,       | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. | <b>In Chair</b> |
| 2.  | Dr. Gautam Sengupta,      | Director General, ASI.                |                 |
| 3.  | Prof K K Basa             | Director, Indian Museum               |                 |
| 4.  | Dr. Jayanta Sthanapati,   | Dy DG, NCSM                           |                 |
| 5.  | Dr. M.V. Nair,            | Director, NRLC                        |                 |
| 6.  | Dr. A. N Reddy,           | Director, Salar Jung Museum           |                 |
| 7.  | Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee | Director, CSMVS                       |                 |
| 8.  | Shri Karni Singh Jasol    | Director, Mehrangarh Museum           |                 |
| 9.  | Shri Amaresh Singh,       | Director, Ministry of Culture.        |                 |
| 10. | Prof. C. Chenna Reddy,    | Director, D/o Arch. & Museum, AP      |                 |
| 11. | Shri O P Aggrawal,        | DG,INTACH-ICCI, Lucknow               |                 |
| 12. | Shri N.P. Joshi,          | Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture. |                 |