UNESCO Webinar in partnership with the National Maritime Foundation and Maritime History Society

Safeguarding Underwater Cultural Heritage: Perspectives from India and beyond

24 September 2020, 16:00-18:35 IST

Opening Session
Moderator: Ms. Junhi Han, Chief of Culture Sector, UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office

Opening Remarks
16:00- Mr. Eric Falt, Director and UNESCO Representative to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
16:05- Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, Indian Navy (Retd), Chairman, National Maritime Foundation and Former Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy
16:10- Vice Admiral AR Karve, PVSM, AVSM, Indian Navy (Retd), Patron, Maritime History Society

Session I: Introduction to the UNESCO Convention on protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and international best practices
Moderator: Ms. Snigdha Bisht, Programme Officer for Culture, UNESCO New Delhi


16:30- International best practices on protecting and promoting underwater cultural heritage

16:30- Underwater Cultural Heritage in Indonesia: The Current State and Public Outreach: by Ms Nia Naelul Hasanah Ridwan, Head of Research Institute for Coastal Resources and Vulnerability, Maritime Archaeology Research Scientist, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

16:40- Tourism and access to underwater cultural heritage in Eastern Europe: by Dr Mladen Pešić, Director, International Centre for Underwater Archaeology, Zadar, Croatia

16:50- Underwater diving trails, submerged museums and social participation

17:00- New technologies applied to the registration, management and presentation of maritime, coastal and underwater cultural heritage: by Dr Barbara Davidde, Director, Underwater Archaeology Operation Unit (NIAS), Istituto Centrale per il Restauro - Central Institute for Restoration, Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali e per il turismo (MIBACT), Italy
UNESCO Best Practice initiatives - Valorising and raising awareness of underwater cultural heritage: by Ms María Agúndez Lería, Head of the UNESCO Convention Area, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, Spain

Session II: Exploring India’s underwater cultural heritage and its Safeguarding

Theme 1: Recovering India's maritime heritage from the sea
Moderator: Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd), Director-General, National Maritime Foundation

17:10-17:20 Indian Maritime Archaeology: Tracing the Journey thus far: by Dr André Baptista, Research Consultant, and Ms. Aishwarya Devasthali, Project Research Associate, Maritime History Society

17:20-17:30 Diving efforts off Dwarka and Mamallapuram by Indian Navy in 2002 and 2004: by Cdr VS Rajan (Retd), Indian Navy

17:30-17:40 Degree of research carried out in India, threats to submerged heritage and archaeological sites: by Prof Alok Tripathi, Ph.D, Professor, Field Archaeology, Underwater Archaeology, Heritage Management, Museums, Assam University

Theme 2: Domestic legislation and international co-operation
Moderator: Mrs Madhumita Kothari, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

17:40-17:50 International law and Domestic legislation for protection of Underwater cultural heritage: by Cdr Anand Kumar, Deputy Director, National Maritime Foundation

Theme 3: India’s potential in Underwater Cultural Heritage
Moderator: Cmde Odakkal Johnson, Director and Head of Research, Maritime History Society

17:50-18:00 Protecting India’s Maritime Heritage: by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Former Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi

18:00-18:10 Prospects to Progress Underwater Archaeology in India: by Dr Tejas Garge, Director, Directorate of Archaeology, State of Maharashtra, and Academic Council Member, Maritime History Society

18:10-18:20: Question and Answer

Closing Session Closing Remarks

18:20-18:25 Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd), Director-General, National Maritime Foundation

18:25-18:30 Cmde Odakkal Johnson, Director and Head of Research, Maritime History Society

18:30-18:35 Ms. Junhi Han, Chief of Culture Sector, UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office