

Recommendation of 'Museum Definition' Workshop

ICOM-Bangladesh National Committee organized a Workshop on Museum Definition after the Annual Meeting of the said committee on February 8, 2020 at the auditorium of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Professor Mahfuza Khanam, President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ms. Reena Dewan, Chairperson, ICOM-India National Committee was present as Guest of Honor. Mr. Mofidul Hoque, Trustee, Liberation War Museum presented the Keynote at the meeting. Mr. Jahangir Hussain, Chairperson, ICOM-Bangladesh National Committee presided over the meeting and moderated the workshop. Professor Dr. Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, Secretary, ICOM Bangladesh National Committee delivered the welcome address of the sessions.

Museologists, academicians of history, archaeology and science, museum professionals, and students attended the workshop and actively took part in the discussion to give input in the proposed Museum Definition. After a long informative debate over the definition, the ICOM Bangladesh National Committee summarized the valuable suggestions and then put them on perspective to give the shaping of the new definition. ICOM-Bangladesh National Committee also arranged a workshop on Museum Definition in 2018 to participate in the ongoing activity to propose a new effective definition of museum in the ever-changing world. And consequently, Mr. Jahangir Hussain, Chairperson of ICOM-Bangladesh proposed to take time to formulate a more inclusive definition through the global debate of ICOM Networks in Extraordinary General Assembly when there was an unstoppable debate over the definition in Kyoto, Japan in 2019.

Sheets of paper describing the existing Museum definition and two proposed definition along with the continuous activities of MDPP were distributed among the participants of the workshop. Then at the very beginning the moderator described the perspectives and activities to set up a new definition by ICOM. Next, the moderator invited to attend the discussion over the proposed definition. They gave some important additions and replacements of words to reject the verbosity, to give flavor of museum activities, to indicate the rights and recreations, to make the world sustainable and worth living in social and natural environments. The inputs churned from the discussions gave the following shape of the Museum Definition:

Museums are non-profit and inclusive spaces which work with and for diverse communities to collect, preserve, research, interpret, communicate, exhibit artifacts and specimens, and enhance sustainability of the world, aiming to contribute to human dignity, social justice, global equality, enjoyment and environmental wellbeing.

The moderator gave hearty thanks to all dignitaries and participants of the workshop to render their valuable time and inputs to the formation of effective definition of museums.