Conservation and Preservation of Heritage sites in Sri Lanka with Virtual Heritage

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Introduction

Sri Lanka is a tear drop shaped island in the Indian Ocean. It is a country of with tropical climate and rich in natural beauty. Majority of the population, through exposed to Western influence still appreciate and attach themselves to traditional cultural values. Its cultural heritage is manifested today by ruins of ancient city centre, monastic complexes, variety of edifices and beautiful rock paintings. Some of these are dating back to the 3rd century BC. More than 150,000 monuments and places of archaeological interest are believed to exist island-wide. Only about 5 percent of these places have been discovered so far. Vestiges of this ancient civilization are abundantly existent today.

In the context of cultural heritage in Sri Lanka there are many such sites which have been preserving the national pride as well as beauty for the people of the world. There are objects of our skill, which have been standing as objects of past glory. Ancient artifacts give evidence naturally preserve as visible characters of the people. In these sense temples, stupas, art galleries etc demonstrate skills and indigenous cultures of the nation as a whole. Many such art objects are in a dilapidated state and gradually losing their past glory. A great deal of work remains to renovate the temples, monasteries etc. for which a large sum of funds is required.

Repairing Status of Heritage sites in Sri Lanka.

Apart from natural causes, many development projects and intentional human actions destroy those cultural heritages. Treasure hunters believing that valuable treasures are hidden inside status and destroy the in order to grab them. Little they do understand the destruction caused to national heritages. It is extremely difficulty to provide adequate security to all such ancient cites.

In order to repair and refurbish the ancient monuments, the government authorities are actively participating and there are some individual, mainly participates in order to get the religious merits where he can afford the limited amount of money. Apart from this religious organizations also take keen interest on the renovation and rebuilding the religious monuments. Mainly Buddhist religious organizations have taken interest in renovation and re-establishing the religious temple etc.
Remedial steps for conservation and preservation of heritage sites in Lanka.

In addition to site specific recommendation has been forwarded by ICOMS to the relevant authority, following are to be considered for the preservation of each heritage sites.

Declaration of National historic Stewardship Ethics: Directive each responsible to take the lead in caring for resources under their stewardship and plan for peoples awareness program and demonstrating the value of those resources as important assets for variety of public benefits.

Each training program should include government wide historic preservation awareness training in policy level for official keyed to stewardship performance and interested persons must be invite to join the consultation.

Developing a National Strategy for Multimedia Cultural Heritage: It is still a mystery how ancient craftsmen carved out statues, monument stones, medicinal – tubs etc. from blocks of stones in Sri Lanka. It is believed that they used concoctions of herbal extracts to soften rocks before chipping away pieces to create such masterpieces. Absence those techniques at present and lack of that indigenous knowledge, are major obstacles to restoration of these ancient masterpieces.

It is in this context that techniques of Virtual Reality can be introduced to re-create image of ancient artifacts in their original form. People can understand and grasp the beauty of original object. It will help to expand the limits of human thinking, when such objects are re-created to original form with virtual image.

Developing a network over relevant organizations, Universities and schools will facilitate to exchange information in a seamless way through an interconnected and open network. It also involves developing standards allowing sharing effectively and transparently of existing information resources via World Wide Web, file transfer, E- mail etc.

Conclusion.

Basically each and every important historical site needs a database for virtual world and so that each and every people of the country could be aware of their own national sites. Acceleration project of Multimedia digitization (This digitization effect will have to be carried on for several years to reach some completeness) of collection, and to ensure their accessibility to the public via virtual reality and as a learning and research resource for schools and Universities.

The Information Society offers above all a new paradigm by which countries, communities and individuals can live and work together. Virtual communities are now proliferating world wide, in the wake of the Internet services. A step further is the virtual world - an interactive computer simulation which enables individuals, members of a virtual community to see, hear, use and even modify the simulated objects in a computer-created world. Virtual communities evolved initially in the area of entertainment and in certain advanced scientific and technological fields, but are expected to have an impact on many other aspects of human life. Gathering human wisdom, and integrating eternal values of human heritage and ever-programming technology VR, construct Virtual heritage network to communicate with each other.

References.
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