

## **Speech delivered by the Director General, Mr. Khadga Man Shrestha in the concluding session of ICOMOS International Wood Committee Conference**

I feel honoured and privileged to speak a few words in the conference of ICOMOS International Wood Committee held in Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur.

One of the responsibilities of the Department of Archaeology is the conservation of monuments and historical sites. History is defined as a biography of a nation. Scientific approach to national history necessitates the exploration of archaeological sources. We are trying our best to exploit these sources for systematic and scientific study of the national history. Preliminary activities are being undertaken to make an inventory of national monuments. So far preliminary survey of the national monuments has been completed and the reports of which have been published. In this connection, the next step will be to make statutory provision in identifying the national monuments of historical and artistic importance. The Department of Archaeology (DOA) will make a concerted effort to identify the national monuments in co-operation and collaboration with the eminent experts in

this area. National symbol will be provided to each and every national monument and responsibility for the conservation of monuments will be properly assigned. The DOA will be working as a co-ordinating agency at the national level.

The DOA is fully concerned with the standardized method of conservation and as such cannot refrain itself from the international convention.

Nepalese monuments are made of the wood, bricks, clay, stones and copper or bronze etc. Preservation of wooden monuments from termites, water leakage and dampness has been a main problem, DOA is facing since a long time. Many artifices have disappeared due to these reasons. Some of them are in deteriorating conditions. Preservation of the wooden monuments by chemical treatment has been one of the ways of monument preservation. The ways and means of preserving the wooden monuments discussed in this conference will prove to be more useful. The emphasis of the conference on the

preservation of wooden artifices by natural treatment process has been a good exposure to us. We would like to appreciate it and would try to use this method as much as possible.

By and large we would also like to show our deep concern in the use of indigenous materials in the monuments conservation. The techniques discussed in the conference has also proved to be more useful in this context.

We feel honoured and glorified for selecting Kathmandu valley as site of this ICOMOS International Wood Committee

Conference. It has been proved to be a blessing for the task of conservation of the world heritage sites like medieval palaces of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur and the cultural sites like Swayambhu, Baudhanath and Changu Narayan and other monuments of historical and cultural importance. The intellectual souvenir of the eminent scholars and experts participating in this conference will prove to be more useful in enlightening our archaeologists. To conclude I found this conference to be very successful and hope it will guide the future course of our preservation works.