



Rivers and Religion

Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia

South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion
announces

8th SSEASR CONFERENCE

Dhaka, Bangladesh | June 13-16, 2019

**A Regional Conference of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)
Member of CIPSH under the auspices of UNESCO**

Organized by | Hosted by
Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS), ULAB | University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

Rivers played a very crucial role in the development of world civilization. This is also true for South and Southeast Asia, where thousands of rivers are connecting culture and thought. The vast watercourse of the River Ganga in South Asia, and that of the Mekong River in Southeast Asia, along with other major rivers in the region, determined the culture, belief system and philosophical thoughts of the region for several millennia. The homogeneity of culture and religious practices therein is seen today largely due to the flow and sacredness of South and Southeast Asian rivers. The academic discourse on rivers and religion to understand cultural development of South and Southeast Asia is a very pertinent subject for achieving sustainable development goals of the 21st century. Purpose of the 8th SSEASR is to encourage world academia to initiate the academic dialogue on the much relevant issues on the subject in order to better understand, compare, interpret and analyse countless beliefs, practices, traditions, communities and other related phenomena.

Strikingly, the history of Bangladesh is entwined in the history of its numerous and diverse rivers and water channels. Thus, Bangladesh is beautifully known as the 'Land of Thousand Rivers' ("*Hazar Nadir Desh*" in Bangla language). These rivers – the life of the country – have nurtured Bangladesh through the ages and their banks also write the tales of the human civilization. Therefore, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) is proud to host the 8th SSEASR Conference at its campus in the capital city of Dhaka.

With the above conceptual parameter, we suggest following sub-themes for the Conference:

1. Riverine Routes and Religious Links in South and Southeast Asia
2. Sacredness of Rivers, Riverfronts and Races
3. Major Rivers and their Valleys: The Lifeline of South and Southeast Asia
4. *Tirthas* and Pilgrimages in South and Southeast Asia
4. Culture and Eco-Tourism along the Rivers in South and Southeast Asia
5. Iconography and Personification of River Related Deities and Celestial Beings
6. Art, Architecture and Archaeology of South and Southeast Asia



7. Language, Literature and Sacred Texts
8. Religious Practices and Behaviours of Indigenous People
9. Performing Arts, Fairs and Festivals
10. South and Southeast Asian Diaspora in the World: Religiosity and Survival

Other papers related to the conference theme are also welcome

Special Session
**Culture and Religion in Bangladesh:
Past and Present**

We also welcome panels on sub-themes

Note: The SSEASR operates under the policies and principles of the parent body International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), which seeks to promote the activities of all scholars and affiliates that contribute to the historical, social, and comparative study of religion. As such, the IAHR is the preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion, past and present. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetic, or other similar concerns.

We are working on 2 days/1 night Pre-Conference Tour (World heritage Buddhist site Paharpur/Mahasthangarh/Mainamati/Sonargaon) and 3 days/2 nights Post-Conference Tour (World heritage Mosque City of Bagerhat and the world's largest Mangrove Forest Sundarbans). Other details regarding the accommodation and the mode of payment for registration fee would be announced very soon.

For details and registration, please visit:



Email us at:



Important Dates

Early Registration Deadline		February 28, 2019
Panel Submission Closes		February 15, 2019
Last Submission of Abstract		March 30, 2019



Registration Fees

	Local Participants	Foreign Participants	Developing countries Participants
Early registration	BDT 3000	US \$300	US \$250
Late registration	BDT 3500	US \$350	US \$300
Full time students	BDT 2000	US \$200	US \$150
	US\$ 200 (Overseas persons living in Bangladesh)	US\$ 250 (Retired academicians)	US\$ 200 (Retired academicians)

The registration amount covers conference day meals, dinners, coffee/tea, conference publications, pickup service at the airport and entry to cultural and heritage sites and cultural evenings. It does not include air tickets, hotels and other personal expenses.

Prof. Amarjiva Lochan, PhD
President, SSEASR

Prof. Shahnaj Husne Jahan, PhD
Chair, 8th SSEASR Conference