

International Workshop on Digital Preservation of Archaeological Heritage

18 - 19th October 2010

The roots of our national identity lie in our past, from where we also inherit our cultural heritage. The facts and evidences of the past have to be identified, classified, examined and evaluated. This process will enable the users of archaeological data to understand and analyze the events of the past and identify patterns of cultural impacts and exchanges. Historians and archaeologists who are the key players in this domain are increasingly resorting to modern scientific and computational methods in this pursuit.

With the objective of creating awareness about the emerging digital technology for digital preservation of the archaeological heritage a two-day International Workshop on Digital Preservation of Archaeological Heritage was held at IIT Kanpur. This workshop was jointly organized by IIT Kanpur, University of Allahabad and the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS).

The event was inaugurated by Prof. R. K. Thareja, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur. The welcome address was given by Prof. Onkar Dikshit, Professor and Head, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur, and Convener of the event.

The workshop consisted of two-day technical sessions including invited lectures by experts in the field and several contributed papers on the use of modern techniques for the preservation of archaeological heritage, followed by poster presentations by participants and a valedictory session. A broad array of topics was discussed during the workshop ranging from Laser scanning and virtual reality applications to geoinformatics applications in archaeology. Over 150 participants representing over 20 organizations registered for the workshop of which about 75 participants actually attended the international workshop.

Several experts delivered the review lectures on various modern digital techniques for the preservation of archaeological heritage. These included Prof. Gary Lock, Dr. R. S. Fonia, Prof. Bernard Frischer, Prof. Holly Rushmeier and many from the IITK faculty like Dr. Javed Malik, Dr. Bharat Lohani, Prof. Onkar Dikshit and Dr. R. S. Tiwari.

At the end of the event a valedictory session was organized in which the proceedings of the workshop were summarized. Also many important issues emerged from the deliberations that need immediate attention.

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