



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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CALL FOR PAPERS

Rabindranath Tagore in South Asia

Celebrating Centenary of Tagore's Visit in Sylhet

5-6 November 2019

Two-day International Seminar

Murarichand College, Sylhet, Bangladesh

in collaboration with

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, India (MAKAIAS)

Concept Note

As a true visionary, Rabindranath Tagore dreamt of developing a sense of Asia in the early twentieth century. He imagined Asia as an abstract entity, transcending the imperial and national frontiers etched by colonial powers. Indeed, Tagore's philosophical vision of the grand harmony of all human races may enable us to recognise his passion for social commitment and his desire not to see the world fragmented by nationalist states built through violence. Tagore could foresee a need of connectivity among the Asian countries observing their common heritage going back centuries. History attests that the endorsement of social interaction by Tagore has enhanced South Asia's capacities and capabilities to counter threats mostly through cultural ties between India and Bangladesh. The formation of today's SAARC and ASEAN could be seen as an offshoot of Tagore's prophetic vision.

Quintessentially a Bengali writer, Rabindranath Tagore's stay in Shilaidaha in Bangladesh provoked the poet to create numerous great works of literature. Side by side, his visit to Sylhet on 5 November 1919 was a historical event which produced a long lasting impulse on his creative endeavour especially on his dance drama. At the same time, his address to the students of Murarichand College in Sylhet has had a far-reaching impact on educational amelioration in the region. This multi-compartmental synthesis of Tagore's mind has understandably given birth to numerous multidimensional discourses among readers and researchers. This international seminar will try to revisit the notion of state and national identity as envisaged and theorised by Rabindranath Tagore in order to build a more cohesive, collaborative and interregional cooperation among the countries of South Asia through exchanges and inspirations on individual levels, focusing on language, culture, religion and heritage.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Cultural exchange among the SAARC and ASEAN countries through the acceptance and exchange of music and literature of Rabindranath Tagore
- Tagore's experimentation with rural reconstruction and development: a journey from Shilaidaha to Santiniketan
- South Asian Voyages: Rabindranath's experiences
- Tagore and national identity in South Asia
- Tagore's concept of universalism and humanity for a more regional cooperation towards peace and harmony among the states of South Asia
- Tagore on emancipation of women: dances vis-a-vis Indo-Bangladesh cultural negotiations
- Tagore and internationalism: South Asian Visions

Papers are invited for the International Seminar on Rabindranath Tagore in South Asia scheduled to be held on 5-6 November 2019. Papers should be written either in English or Bengali.

Last date for submission of abstract: 20 August 2019

Word limit: 500-800 words

Email for sending abstract: tagoreatmccollege@gmail.com; cc to: zafirsetu@gmail.com

Expected outlines for abstract: An abstract is expected to give an outline of the primary material of study/survey; approach/methodology adopted; survey of works done by other scholars so far in the concerned area; and, finally, how the proposed paper adds to the existing knowledge.

Those who will submit papers in Bengali should send abstracts both in Bengali and English. Abstracts in English and/or in Bengali must be sent as a PDF document. After careful review of the abstracts, the participants will be informed if their proposals have been accepted or not by **25 August 2019**.

Full papers should be sent to the organizing committee by **15 October 2019**.

Successful participants must register by **16 to 25 October 2019**. **BDT 2000** is the registration fee for general participants whereas for PhD/MPhil researchers & students the fee is **BDT 1000**. Registration will cover the right to attend all sessions, conference kit, abstract book and lunch. Participants are expected to make arrangements for their own travel and accommodation.

The organizer may arrange the local hospitality (food and accommodation) for a limited number of paper presenters outside Bangladesh/Sylhet district.


For further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Co-ordinator (Academic)



(Professor Nitai Chandra Chanda)

Principal

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(Professor Shamima Akter Chowdhury)

Convener

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&

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(Dr. Md. Zafir Uddin Alias Zafir Setu)

Coordinator (Academic)

International Seminar on Rabindranath
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&

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Format for Full Paper

Word Limit

Full papers submitted should be within 5000-8000 words

Formatting the Paper

Paper Size: A4

File Format: PDF

Margins: 1" on all sides

Font: Times New Roman 12 pt. is preferred

Justification/Alignment: Do *not* justify text with the right margin. Most of the text is aligned left; the titles of the paper and the works cited page are centred; the header is aligned right.

Endnotes:

Citation:

References: