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
5. Culture and Eco-Tourism along the Rivers in South and Southeast Asia
6. Iconography and Personification of River Related Deities and Celestial Beings
7. Art, Architecture and Archaeology of South and Southeast Asia

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.
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For details and registration, please visit: www.sseasr.org

Email us at: SSEASRBangladesh@gmail.com

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 28, 2019</td>
<td>Early Registration Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 2019</td>
<td>Panel Submission Closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30, 2019</td>
<td>Last Submission of Abstract</td>
</tr>
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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.
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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

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### Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Local Participants</th>
<th>Foreign Participants</th>
<th>Developing countries Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early registration</td>
<td>BDT 3000</td>
<td>US $300</td>
<td>US $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late registration</td>
<td>BDT 3500</td>
<td>US $350</td>
<td>US $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time students</td>
<td>BDT 2000</td>
<td>US $200</td>
<td>US $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US$ 200 (Overseas persons living in Bangladesh)</td>
<td>US$ 250 (Retired academicians)</td>
<td>US$ 200 (Retired academicians)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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**Prof. Amarjiva Lochan, PhD**
President, SSEASR

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