

About Project COTS

The Project for Development of the Culture Oriented Tourism in Sigiriya (Project COTS) started in August 2008, for the period of 2.5 years. The New Sigiriya Museum is being built at the foot of the World Heritage Site of Sigiriya in Dambulla division of



Planned design of the Sigiriya Museum

Matale District in Central Province. Under this Project, the Museum is expected to grow as the center of cultural and tourism interests, where visitors from all over the world can learn about

Dambulla (not only Sigiriya) and the Cultural Triangle, then to lead to the development of the Dambulla division. The Sri Lankan implementing partners are the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage (MCANH), and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) of the Ministry of Tourism.

The Museum, which is scheduled to open in April 2009, is also assisted with the Japanese Government's Grant Aid for installation of a real-size replica of Fresco of Sigiriya, 1/100-sized landscape model of the Sigiriya Heritage, on which visitors can walk around, modern audio-visual equipments, and other exhibition equipments.

Project COTS empowers the staff members of CCF Sigiriya so that they will fully utilize such facilities to create a "New Museum," where visitors can have more joyful and participating experiences.

The Project COTS also supports establishing the Dambulla Tourism Promotion Committee, which takes a tourism promotion committee of Japanese local governments as a model, in order to enhance the development of a tourism promotion plan and implementation of pilot projects in Dambulla Division.

What is the "New Museum"?

Interactive : with visitors, tourism, business and education system, and professionals.

Entertaining : with the permanent and special exhibitions, public programmes, to fulfill the visitors intellectual curiosity.

Relaxing : by bringing the immemorial time to mind, relaxing, and meditating.

Satisfying : to the visitors by constantly seeking for their needs.

Dynamic Collaboration : with the neighboring communities and surrounding nature.

Experimenting : by continuously challenging to the best of its kind.

Press Conference held by the MCANH

On 24th January, Hon. Minister of CANH, Mr. Mahindayapa Abeywardena, along with the Secretary to MCANH and the Director General of CCF, visited Sigiriya to brief the Sri Lanka media about the Museum. Prior to the conference, Hon. Minister visited the Museum under construction together with a group of journalists, and inspected the building, which incorporates the beauty of surrounding nature and the architectural concept of the ancient Sigiriya citadel. He also observed the progress of the Grant Aid project for installation of exhibition equipments for the Sigiriya Museum.

At the conference, the Hon. Minister showed his expectation toward the opening of this new museum, mentioning that the cultural affairs could be a key to solve the current conflict within the island.



Hon. Minister (2nd from the left) and journalists observing the Fresco replica.

COTS Workshop Series Started!

On 12th & 13th February, 17 staffs of CCF Sigiriya gathered to discuss the management policy of the Museum with the Project COTS team. The COTS team briefed about the project and explained what the "New Museum" is. The participants responded with constructive opinions and questions. This workshop has been followed with a series of workshops on different detailed aspects of the museum management, including staff composition, security & safety, maintenance policy, and so on. Especially the sessions on public programmes and the Tourist Information Centre, which are the key elements of the New Museum, gathered very unique ideas based on their geographical advantages of being in Sigiriya and professional curiosity as CCF staff. A few exciting examples are an idea of special exhibition traditional sports, which solicited an idea of holding a traditional sports festival in cooperation with the local community, and an art competition of image drawings of Lion Terrace. The expectation among the CCF staff towards the Museum is heightened, realizing it may also be a place where their dreams could come true.