Panel 1.1: Asia--Seeking Harmony through Shared Cultural and Religious Values

Culture Speaks Better Than Politics

Political interests and maneuvering has withered the world apart. The need today is for understanding the value of tolerance and minimizing the differences. Culture is a common and effective means to reach out to the citizens globally. Cultural sensitization provides insights for conflict resolution on a humane and compassionate basis for bridging the gaps and fissures created by misinformation, misconceptions and miscalculations. Culture is rich in diversified expressions in art, literature, language and history. It opens the treasures of information through different mediums and their metaphors. Politics is constricted by being myopic as it is generally engaged with the immediate, while culture flowers and blooms in subtleties of diverse and magnificent expressions of traditions and norms. Understanding the softer side of life enables to handle harder issues and problems without being abrasive and aggressive. The world has historical evidence when condescending approaches proved small in comparison to celebrating the other.