ABSTRACT: Many institutions have been established in India which are making efforts to restore and conserve Indian treasures. Non-availability of quality materials for conservation has led to conducting research towards developing indigenous materials for specific conservation problems applicable to the tropical climate, to which the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is making a significant contribution. Not much research has been done on the conservation of Thangka paintings since there is a limited availability of trained conservators, and this fact, coupled with a lack of infrastructure, has led to limited developments in terms of conservation approaches. It is felt that there is a greater need for exchange programs for conservators to enhance their skills, as well as to practice and gain confidence with newer materials. This paper discusses the specific approaches that INTACH’s Indian Council of Conservation Institutes (ICCI), Delhi Centre, undertakes towards conservation of Thangka paintings.

BIOGRAPHY: Nilabh Sinha has an undergraduate degree in science, a graduate degree in Fine Arts and a Master’s degree in Conservation from the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, the only institute in India. He joined the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) as a Conservator and started working on Oil Paintings. As time passed, he gained good knowledge and improved on many conservation treatments that were carried out on oil paintings. He also worked on painted textiles, miniatures, paper manuscripts, photographs and wall paintings, among others. He did an internship at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, Cambridge University, U.K. in 1999-2000, and later became Director of INTACH. Mr. Sinha’s recent work has focused on indeginising and developing simple methods for conservation practices in India so that these can be easily followed by people/conservators who have limited resources. He presented the paper on “Training in Conservation in India: Activities of the INTACH” at the ICOM-CC 15th Triennial Conference held in New Delhi in September 2008.

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