



**International Conference on Religious Tourism:
*Fostering sustainable socio-economic development in host communities***

Bethlehem, State of Palestine, 15-16 June 2015

Session 1: Understanding religious tourism - motivations and trends

Moderator

Dr. Kiran Shinde, Professor, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, India



Bio:

Dr. Kiran A. Shinde works as the Principal of Bharati Vidyapeeth University College of Architecture, Pune, India. He holds a Ph.D. from Monash University, Australia and has obtained two Masters Degrees: one in Urban Management from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and one in Urban Planning from CEPT University, India and has received a “Gold Medal” for both. He has worked in multidisciplinary areas and taught at several institutions in Australia, Thailand, Cambodia and India. His research interests include spatiality of cultural and religious tourism, urban planning, and heritage. Besides authoring a book, he has published 43 scholarly papers on various aspects related to religious tourism, sacred landscapes, heritage and urban issues. He has been invited to speak at conferences in Canada, Turkey, Australia, Portugal, Singapore, UK, and US. His research papers are published in top-ranking refereed journals including GeoForum, Space and Culture, South Asia, Tourism Review, International Journal of Hindu Studies, International Journal of Tourism Research, Event Management, Current Issues in Tourism, Tourism and Hospitality: Planning and Development and in edited books published by Elsevier and Cambridge.