

## Personal Data

### Ms. Usha Krishna



**Name :** Ms. Usha Krishna  
**Title:** Honorary Member & Advisor  
**Country:** India

## Bio Data

Mrs. Usha Krishna was born in Bangalore. She graduated in Physics and Mathematics from the Mysore University. She underwent a management programme in 1985-86 at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

She is a Committee Member of Crafts Council of India for nearly 35 years, and had held the post of Vice President for 15 years. Currently, she is the Honorary Treasurer of the organization. As an active member of the Crafts Council of India, she has organized or participated in several workshops and exhibitions, each focusing one specific area of expertise in the crafts field. These include the Jawaja leather craft, terra cotta, basketry and traditional Tribal embroidery. Some of the programmes, such as the “Tambool” workshop and the Natural Dyes workshop had international reach too.

While organising the Young Craftsperson Competition, she conceived the idea of an international symposium on jewellery, “Grass to Gold”, which was a resounding success with the participation of several world-renowned scholars. The “Champa” flower workshop enabled craftspersons from many States of India to learn new techniques of garland making and other flower arrangements from experts from other countries such as Thailand and Hawaii.

Mrs. Krishna was elected President of the World Crafts Council at their General Assembly held in Hangzhou, China in November 2008. During the four-year term as President, Mrs. Krishna’s main focus was on advocacy – taking the cause of craftspersons to the Governments, policy makers and the business community and get crafts and craftspersons recognized as an integral part of the society and brought into the mainstream of life.

As President of WCC, she participated in several international events such as Africa Days, Vienna; UNESCO Forum on Cultural Industry; International Fair of Craft (FIART) in Havana, Cuba; Cairo Forum on Cultural and Economic Development, etc., and effectively advocated for the cause of crafts and craftspersons in these forums.

She also played a major role in the revival of the languishing craft of 'Sungudi', by offering technical and marketing inputs to the craftspersons and roping in college students to help organize workshops and exhibitions to promote and position Sungudi as a viable and creative craft product.

Under her leadership, WCC has embarked on sensitizing children to crafts and has implemented hands-on training from practicing craftspersons by including crafts as a part of the school programme. She has availed every opportunity to project WCC's cause in various international forums in Cairo, Ouagadougou, Paris, Kigali, Muscat, Colombo, Dhaka, Sarawak, Seoul and other places.

The two major events, "Abushan – Design Dialogues in Jewellery" and "Kaivalam – The Future is Handmade" organized by WCC during her Presidency won worldwide acclaim for her vision in drawing the world's attention to crafts and craftspersons and providing a platform for all concerned to meet and work towards betterment of crafts and craftspersons.

Mrs Krishna was invited by UNESCO to be a member of the Jury for their evaluation of the City of Paducah for inclusion in the Creative Cities Network.

Mrs. Krishna was elected President of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the year 1996-97. As FLO's President, she gave special emphasis to "Entrepreneurial Development Programmes" and other related programmes for women. These programs, structured at three levels – the grassroots level, the middle level and the advanced level, resulted in work excellence and economic independence and thus helped the participants to gain respect and honour in the society.

Currently, she is a member of the Governing Council of the Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women.