

Summary Report

# **MOWCAP Activities in Cambodia and Mongolia**

## **Cambodia**

On 30 November 2022, the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the working group of the Secretariat of National Committee for Memory of the World, UNESCO Phnom Penh Office and UNESCO Bangkok organized a workshop on the Dissemination of Documentary Heritage listed in the Memory of the World and the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Memory of the World Programme at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. There were 86 participants, 27 of whom came from the provinces.

The purpose of the workshop was to publicize the Cambodian cultural heritage documents already registered in the Memory of the World registers and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Memory of the World programme. International experts from MOWCAP were invited to present the principles and guidelines for registering documentary heritage to the MOWCAP register, and particularly to share good practices for safeguarding documentary heritage from Asia and the Pacific. Memory Institutions such as the National Library, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Bophana Audio-Visual Center were invited to present their activities related to the preservation of and access to their documents. The workshop provided a framework for discussion to develop a preliminary priority list for inclusion in the National Register and for possible subsequent submission to the MOWCAP Regional Register and/or the MoW International Register.

Participants were asked to bring to the workshop at least one proposed item for general discussion with participants and experts. In addition, participants suggested to the National Committee for the Memory of the World that: a National Document Assessment Committee on Heritage Documents should be established, that the National Committee for the MoW should organize further workshops, and that a policy should be formulated to encourage memory institutions to submit nominations to the MoW Programme.

The workshop programme ended with a visit to documentary heritage sites, including the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Bophana Audiovisual Center, with the aim of learning more about the conservation and preservation of the documentary heritage such as books, records and audio files.

## Mongolia

Following a request for support from the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Bangkok collaborated in organizing an activity on the Memory of the World programme. The two-day activity consisted of one seminar day to raise awareness on the Memory of the World programme, its objectives and mechanisms, followed by one workshop day to discuss good practices and experiences in national committee and register management, followed by expert tips and feedback on the nomination form and proposed items for national, regional and international registers.

The activity was held on 24-25 May 2023 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology and was organized with the financial support of the Mongolian Ministry of Culture, with UNESCO Bangkok funding the participation of the reporting Consultant to present at the seminar on Day 1 and facilitate the workshop on Day 2. The activity was designed to respond to national stakeholder needs in Mongolia and was attended by 83 participants (33 in-person and 50 online participants, including stakeholders from provinces and international speakers). The day before the seminar and workshop, visits to memory collections were organized at the National Library of Mongolia and the National Archives.

The programme agenda was developed in close consultation with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO in order to respond to the specific needs to national stakeholders. Specifically, support and knowledge were requested in the following areas:

- Introduction to the Memory of the World General Guidelines and Memory of the World register processes

- Experience and recommendations on managing a National Committee and National Register for the Memory of the World
- Tips and advice on how to complete a register nomination form
- Incorporating documentary heritage in State legislation

In response to these requests, UNESCO Bangkok reached out to experts on these specific topics to contribute as resource persons from MOWCAP, the Memory of the World programme's International Advisory Committee, the Documentary Heritage Unit at UNESCO Headquarters and Mongolian institutions.

During the workshop session, the participants were divided into 4 groups to discuss and then present an item for possible registration to a national register, with expert feedback provided by Dr Helen Jarvis.