

## **Chairman 's Report at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference of MOWCAP**

May 29, 2018, Gwangju, Republic of Korea

Li Minghua

### I. Background

MOWCAP was established in 1998 as a Regional Committee under the provisions of the 'Memory of the World General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage'. It serves UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Region of 45 countries. It also maintains the Asia-Pacific MoW register.

The members of MOWCAP are the autonomous national MoW committees (or equivalent bodies) within the region, as defined in the MOWCAP statutes, it is a co-operative structure which encourages information exchange, the mentoring of new national committees, and preservation, access and awareness raising issues specific to the region.

At present there are 20 countries in which national MoW committees and equivalent bodies operate. They are Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, Vietnam. And we're helping Laos, East Timor and DPRK to establish their own MoW national committee.

### II. Organization Structure

The current Bureau for the term 2014- 2018 was elected during the Sixth General Meeting held in Guangzhou, China in May 2014. And in July this year, the position of Secretary General was reelected in the 16<sup>th</sup> MOWCAP Bureau Meeting.

Chairperson: Mr. Li Minghua (China)

Vice-Chairpersons: Ms. Diane Macaskill (New Zealand), Ms. Vu Thi Minh Huong (Vietnam), Mr. Kim Kwibae (Korea)

Secretary General: Mr. Andrew Henderson (Australia)

UNESCO Consultant: Ms. Misako Ito

Goodwill Ambassador: Mr. Rujaya Abhakorn (Thailand)

Special Advisers: Mr. Ray Edmondson (Australia), Mr. Simon Chu (Hong Kong, China), Ms. Sarah Choy (Hong Kong, China), Mr. Richard Engelhardt (Thailand), Ms. Helen Swinnerton (Hong Kong, China)

There is a Register Subcommittee of 5 persons under the MOWCAP Bureau.

Chairperson: Mr. Rujaya Abhakorn

Member: Ms. Alla Aslitdinova (Tajikistan), Mr. Kyung-ho Suh (Republic of Korea),

Ms. Hongmin Wang (China), Ms. Helen Jarvis (Cambodia)

What's more, we established a MOWCAP Office in the Asia Culture Centre in Guangju, Korea with one full time staff, who serves to assist the work of the Secretary General.

### III. MOWCAP Register

MOWCAP maintains the Asia-Pacific MoW register. To date, we have included 46 nominations from 23 countries in the Asia-Pacific 'Memory of the World' Register.

The call for 2017-2018 round of nominations for the Regional Register ended on August 31, 2017. We have received 12 nominations from 8 countries which we will assess at this meeting

### IV. MoW Review

Since the International Advisory Committee launched a comprehensive review of MoW Program at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Abu Dhabi in October 2015, MOWCAP has engaged a lot in the review process.

Mr. Ray Edmondson, chair of Working Group 2 for MoW review, serves as Special Adviser of MOWCAP. Led by him, we communicated in regarding to the review matters in meetings or via emails.

### V. Publicity Efforts

#### 1. Publications

The coffee table book "Memory of the World Documentary Heritage in Asia and the Pacific" has already been published.

#### 2. Internet Communications

The latest version of the MOWCAP website has come online and is operating excellently.

Newsletter, of which Ms. Dianne Macaskill takes charge, enables MOWCAP to release information in time.

Moreover, the homepages of the Facebook and YouTube are drawing young people's attention.

### VI. Main Activities

1. From June 14 to 15, 2016, UNESCO Memory of the World Workshop on Preservation of Documentary Heritage in the Asia Pacific Region was held in Xi'an City, China. The meeting was jointly organized by MOWCAP and the State Archives Administration of China. More than 40 representatives from 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the meeting. We invited Mr. Ray Edmonson and Mr. Li Yuhu, Director of the Ministry of Education's Engineering Center for Historical and Cultural Heritage Conservation to serve as speakers and shared their experience in preservation of and access to the audiovisual archives, the science and technology for protecting documentary heritage, and other related subjects.

2. On September 7, 2016, the MOWCAP Centre was established in Gwangju, Korea. The Centre has been renamed as the MOWCAP Office. The functions of the Office contains preservation of the MOWCAP archives and materials, operation of the MOWCAP website, email and social media, preparation of the meetings and the minutes and providing supports to the MOWCAP register nomination. I spoke at the Opening Ceremony on behalf of MOWCAP, and attended the working session on the ways of cooperation and cooperative programs between MOWCAP and the Asia Culture Center. The MOWCAP office is collecting the archives and records created by MOWCAP in the past 20 years. And MOWCAP-ACC Grants Program is under planning. More information for application for grants could be found on MOWCAP website.

3. On November 21, 2016, the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre---Macau was established. Located in the Library of the City University of Macau, the center was established by the library and Macau Documentation and Information Society with the authorization of the Education and Research Subcommittee of ICA. This is the first MOW knowledge center in the world. After the opening ceremony, the guests overseas and the scholars from Macau also attended the Forum of *Macau and UNESCO Memory of the World Program—Access to knowledge via access to archives and documents*, holding a discussion on how to foster development and cooperation in the wake of the center's establishment. I sent my congratulations by a video message to the opening of the center.

4. On November 23, 2016, UNESCO Memory of the World Program & the Development of Archives Work was held in Suzhou City, China. The meeting was jointly hosted by the State Archives Administration of China and Suzhou City Archives, and was attended by over 40 scholars, including experts of MOW Program and in the field of archives and documents. At the meeting, the scholars discussed how to use UNESCO MOW Program as an instrument to educate the public, to increase their awareness of the existence and significance of documentary heritage, to facilitate rescue, protection and access to the archive heritages, carrying forward human civilization.

5. From May 8 to 10, 2017, I attended the First Symposium on the Implementation of

the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning Documentary Heritage held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the meeting, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-UNESCO and the three countries of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea discussed on the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning Documentary Heritage, coming up with a five-point UNESCO-ASEAN Member States Action Plan. The project is supported by UNESCO and the Malaysian government.

6. On July 11, 2017, the MOW Knowledge Center-Beijing was established. The Center is hosted by the School of Information Resource Management of Renmin University of China to facilitate the work of Chinese National Committee for MOW and the SCEaR. After the Opening Ceremony, we held a Forum on MOW Program and China to exchange and discuss the experiences of the development of the MoW program.

This November, we are planning to build up another two Knowledge Centers in Fuzhou city and Suzhou city, respectively focus on “inheriting Chinese traditional culture” and “preservation and access of documentary heritage on Chinese traditional handicraft technique” in order to further develop the education and research work of MOW program.

7. From July 19 to 21, 2017, the 16<sup>th</sup> MOWCAP Bureau Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting discussed and adopted the Bureau reports since the 15<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting and the membership reports, shared the updated information of MOWCAP Newsletter, project, proposals and fundraising issues, the activity report of MOWCAP Centre, renamed the Centre as MOWCAP Office, adopted its activity and budget plan, revised the procedure of regional register nomination. We also determined the location and date of the 2018 General Meeting and discussed matters relating to the Bureau election.

## VII Acknowledgements

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Misako Ito, ACC, the Bureau members, special advisors, RSC specialists, staff of MOWCAP Office and all the member states for your help and support since my election as the Chair of MOWCAP. There is an old saying in China: “The goose can’t fly alone which means it is hard to achieve anything with the help.” During the past 4 years, all of us united together to forge ahead and made our contribution on inheriting history and carrying forward the variety of culture to the later generation.

For personal reason, I won’t run for the next Chair. Here I assure that the Chinese MOW National Committee will continue to support the work of MOWCAP as usual and try our best to promote the development of MOW program in the Asia and Pacific region.