

**REPORT ON MOW ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA**  
**6<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MEETING OF UNESCO'S MOWCAP**  
**GUANGZHOU, 13-15 May 2014**

Cambodia undertook a number of activities relating to the Memory of the World programme during the past two years, namely:

1.     **Hosting Regional meetings on MOW**
  - a.    13<sup>th</sup> MOWCAP Bureau meeting from 12-14 March 2013 supported by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and held at the Ministry.
  - b.    Memory of the World Training Workshop on Preparing nominations, this workshop was sponsored by the Korean National Committee for UNESCO and organised by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts with supported from the Cambodian National Committee for UNESCO and the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh and was held at the Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh in November 2013.
2.     **Nomination of Reamker by Takrut for the Asia Pacific regional Register of Memory of the World;**

Apart from reporting that we have submitted this nomination, it is not appropriate for me to include comments here as part of Cambodia's country report.

3.     **Current status of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives, inscribed in 2008 by MOWCAP on the Regional Register, followed by its 2009 inscription on the International Register;**

My colleague, Mr Chey Sophearum, presented a report on this item at the SPAFA symposium held in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of MOWCAP, so I shall here confine my remarks to mentioning developments during the past two years since his report.

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum continues to be one of the most heavily visited tourist sites in Cambodia, along with its companion site, the Choeung Ek Genocidal Centre, which houses and memorialises the remains of former prisoners from Tuol Sleng. In the past year we received 185,377 visitors.

One significant project has been the conservation of forensic remains at Choeung Ek supported by Japanese and Cambodia Royal Co. Ltd., being carried out by staff from the Ministry with assistance from the governments of Cambodia.

The archive of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum consists of both paper and photographic documents. Both remain in urgent need of conservation and digitisation.

I should add that I have recently been appointed as director of this important institution, whose archive has been recognised at both regional and international levels by the MOW programme, and that I and my staff are committed to carrying out this work with our own resources as well as with assistance from others.

#### **4. Progress towards establishing the Cambodian National Committee for Memory of the World (to be known as MOWCAM);**

We have taken a long time to establish MOWCAM. We made our first tentative efforts at a 2005 workshop held at the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO, at which Dr MR Rujaya Abhakorn presented the Memory of the World programme to a group of interested documentalists and historians.

Further steps were taken following the 2008 endorsement by Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers (including responsibility for the National Archives of Cambodia) of the proposals to nominate the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives and to establish a National Committee.

However, due to changes in personnel, and discussion on various options for the location for the Secretariat of the National Committee, the proposal lapsed until given further impetus by the workshops and meetings of MOW and MOWCAP.

A draft decree was developed and endorsed by Deputy Prime Minister Sok An and then Minister of Culture and Fine Arts (MOCFA), and has recently been reviewed by the new Minister, Her Excellency Dr Phoeung Sakona, and the Ministry's Legal Department. It is hoped that this long-awaited process will soon result in a fully functioning MOWCAM.

In conclusion, on behalf of all those working in Cambodia to promote the Memory of the World programme, I would like to thank the hosts of this meeting - the State Administrative Archives of China and the Guangzhou Municipal Government —as well as China's National Committee for the Memory of the World, the MOWCAP Bureau, the Memory of the World Secretariat in UNESCO Headquarters, the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Office in Cambodia for their continuing support, and especially to the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok for making it possible for our Cambodian delegation to attend this meeting.

Thank you

Report given by Mr Chhay Visoth