

Report by Chair of the Memory of the World Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

July 19, 2017

Good morning, everyone!

In May 2016, we held the 7th General Meeting of the UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) and the 15th Bureau Meeting of MOWCAP in Hue, Vietnam. Since the meeting more than one year ago, we have got abundant achievements thanks to our joint effort in promoting the Memory of the World Program in the Asia-Pacific region. In some of the work I myself participated in person, while I obtained some of the information about the programme from the newsletter supplied by Ms. Dianne Macaskill. Today, I would like to present a report on the major work the MOWCAP Bureau has done in the past year, particularly the work I myself have done over the same period.

I. A Review of the 7th MOWCAP General Meeting in Hue

From May 18 to 21, 2016, we held the 7th MOWCAP General Meeting and the 15th Bureau Meeting in Hue, Vietnam. This meeting was convened by UNESCO Bangkok Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Bureau of MOWCAP and hosted by the Monuments Conservation Center with the permission of the Thua Thien Hue Provincial People's Committee, and in coordination with the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO. The meeting was attended by some 67 international delegates, including representatives from 16 countries from Asia and the Pacific.

At the meeting, we reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 6th MOWCAP General Meeting, reported on the work and activities of the MOWCAP Bureau and the national MOW committees during 2014-2016, discussed matters concerning the revision of 'Memory of the World' Programme documents, and announced the latest developments in the work of MOWCAP. What particularly deserves praise and congratulations is the fact that a total of 14 nominations were added to the UNESCO 'Memory of the World' Register for the Asia-Pacific Region.

At the meeting, the Bureau also decided that the 16th Bureau Meeting in 2017 would be held in Japan and the 8th MOWCAP General Meeting and the 17th Bureau Meeting in 2018 would be held in Korea.

II. The Asia-Pacific ‘Memory of the World’ Register

To date, we have included 46 nominations from 23 countries in the Asia-Pacific ‘Memory of the World’ Register. A new round of nominations for the Regional Register is still under way until August 31, 2017. We expect to announce the successful nominations at the 8th MOWCAP General Meeting in May or June 2018.

III. Major Activities since May 2016

1. UNESCO Memory of the World Workshop on Preservation of Documentary Heritage in the Asia Pacific Region

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, and co-organized by Shaanxi Provincial Archives and Shaanxi Normal University. 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 with other participants in the meeting.

2. MOWCAP Centre

On September 7, 2016, the MOWCAP Centre was established in Gwangju, Korea. I attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech, having an exchange with the Korean colleagues on the way the MOWCAP Centre would cooperate with MOWCAP in the future, what possible projects might be jointly launched, and other issues. At present, MOWCAP and the Asia Culture Center (ACC) have already approved a plan to guide the work of the center.

3. Fiji Workshop

In Suva on 26th-29th September 2016, UNESCO in partnership with Korean National Commission for UNESCO, National Archives of Fiji and Fiji National Commission for UNESCO conducted a capacity building training in identifying assessing and nominating item(s) of historical value and world significance to be inscribed on MOW Register.

4. Committee to be Formed in DPRK

A Memory of the World workshop was held in early November in Pyongyang,

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The purpose of the workshop was to provide an overview of the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form, and to provide information to assist with the establishment of a Memory of the World National Committee

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau and the Forum of Macau and UNESCO Memory of the World Programme——Access to knowledge via access to archives and documents

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 jointly established by the library and Macau Documentation and Information Society with the authorization of Memory of the World Programme. As far as I know, this center should be the first MOW knowledge center in the world. It is indeed our great honor to have the center in our Asia-Pacific region. I didn't go to Macau to attend the opening ceremony in person due to my tight schedule, but I managed to send a congratulatory letter as Chair of MOWCAP to express my sincere hope that the center will promote the protection of and access to the documentary heritages in Macau and even in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

After the opening ceremony, the guests overseas and the scholars from Macau also attended the Forum of Macau and UNESCO Memory of the World Programme——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.

6. UNESCO Memory of the World Program & the Development of Archives Work

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 Programme 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.

One thing that is worth noting here is the fact that Suzhou City is the home of silk in China. Last year, *The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times*, submitted by the Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center, was included in the Asia-Pacific Memory of the World Register, which has caused both the government of Suzhou and the public to show a renewed interest in the silk samples of Suzhou and even in the entire documentary heritage cause. I

believe that this serves as a typical sample of how the register helps promote the protection and use of documentary heritage.

7. Successful MOW Exhibition in Canberra

An exhibition known as "Memory of the world in Canberra" was held at the Canberra Museum and Gallery from November 12, 2016 to March 19, 2017. The exhibition showcased the documents inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register held in Canberra institutions, including two items that are also on the Memory of the world International Register.

8. First Symposium on the Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning Documentary Heritage

From May 8 to 10, 2017, the First Symposium on the Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning Documentary Heritage was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I attended the meeting and delivered a speech as Chair of MOWCAP at its opening ceremony.

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.

9. National Workshop Held in Yangon

In May 2017, UNESCO and the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO held a national level training workshop. The Workshop focused on increasingly participants' knowledge and skills related to the MOW programme.

10. Audiovisual Workshop in Singapore

In June 2017, UNESCO and the Asian Film Archives jointly hosted a two-day workshop in Singapore, focusing on how the MOW Programme can help protect and preserve precious audiovisual heritage in Southeast Asia. The National Library Board of Singapore provided support for the workshop. Twelve representatives from Southeast Asian countries attended the workshop.

11. Opening Ceremony of the MOW Knowledge Centre-Beijing and the Forum on MOW Program and China

On July 11, 2017, the MOW Knowledge Centre-Beijing was established. The Centre is authorized by the Sub-Committee on Education and Research of the International

Advisory Committee of Memory of the World Program and will be 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.

The functions of the Centre are:

- 1) To support the MOW program, in particular in the field of education and research, by collecting in a good choice all basic material on MOW, its tasks, registers, projects and history;
- 2) To help organize events to cooperate with memory institutions worldwide, academic institutions and NGOs to promote the MOW program and to extend its achievements;
- 3) To provide a basis for worldwide research and a repository of best practice examples of preserving, restoring, digitizing, or mediating documents of all kinds;
- 4) To provide a solid ground for exploring synergies with the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage and Intangible Heritage programmes.

To date, two MOW knowledge centers, namely the MOW Knowledge Centre-Macau and the MOW Knowledge Centre-Beijing, have been established in the Asia-Pacific region. We also plan to establish a new knowledge center in Suzhou City, China, in the second half of 2018, to further promote the education and research aspects of the Memory of the World Programme.

IV. Publicity Efforts

1. Publications

The coffee table book *Memory of the World Documentary Heritage in Asia and the Pacific* has already been published. Thanks for your support and contributions.

Australian Register has been made available in e-book form on the Australian Memory of the World website and on iTunes.

2. Internet Communication

The latest version of the MOWCAP website has come online and is operating excellently. Specifically, the "Newsletter" column, of which D takes charge, enables MOWCAP to release information in time. Moreover, the homepage of the Facebook website is drawing young people's attention.

V. Suggestions for the Work in 2017-2018

1. Conduct research project on documentary heritage relating to the Silk Road and Spice Routes, hold an capacity building workshop on the development of MOW nominations relating to the Silk Road and Spice Routes, develop a data base and share related information on the UNESCO Silk Road platform.

2. Encourage member states, particularly those who have already had a MOW knowledge center to collect the introductions, background information and pictures of their nominations to make audiovisual materials. So that they may not only serve as teaching resources in the MOW knowledge centers in the Asia-Pacific region, but also be used for publicity purposes.

3. Try to create audiovisual materials, magazines and picture books that introduce documentary heritage to children and teenagers in cartoon form, so that documentary heritage could enter the schoolyards and become part of children and teenagers' life.

4. Design and develop an App for MOWCAP, so that the programme may be promoted by presenting it in new forms of media, and the publicity may be given to the documentary heritage listed in the register. It is also feasible to add games, quizzes, and other things involving some sort of interaction to the App, so as to stimulate the general public's interest in the MOW Programme and the protection of and access to the documentary heritage.

VI. Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my thanks to the MOWCAP Bureau members, the RSC members, and the observers here for the hard work you've done over the past year. I would like to thank the UNESCO Office in Bangkok for the longtime guidance and support it has given to MOWCAP. My thanks also goes to the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO for their great effort to make this meeting a success.

We wish the meeting a great success, and I wish you all the best!

Thank you!