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**MOWCAP**  
**UNESCO Memory of the World**  
**Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific**

# Nomination form

## *Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register*

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (Rujaya Abhakorn).....(date) / /  (xxxxxx).....(date) / /  (xxxxxx).....(date) / /  (xxxxxx).....(date) / /	Decision: (circle as appropriate)  1. Recommended  2. Not recommended  3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

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## Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current *International Memory of the World Register*

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=1678&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

and the [Australian Memory of the World Register](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton  
 Secretary General of MOWCAP,  
 1/F Tower 2 & 3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon  
 Hong Kong  
[helen.swinnerton@gmail.com](mailto:helen.swinnerton@gmail.com)

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee ([rujaya2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rujaya2000@yahoo.com)). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson  
 Chair, MOWCAP

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# Nomination form

## Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register nomination form

### Part A: Essential information

#### 1 Summary (max 100 words)

The *Al-Masaalik Wa Al-Mamaalik*, Istakhri's invaluable work, is one of the most important geographical books from the 4<sup>th</sup> century AH/10 CE, which presents an accurate description of the then socio-economic, cultural and political conditions of the Islamic lands –from India to Africa- supplemented by maps. The existence of numerous manuscripts of this book in several of the world's libraries and museums, its translation into various languages, and its very many impressions up until recent decades all show the importance of the book.

The oldest known MS of *Al-Masaalik*, in its Arabic original, is kept at Gotha library and, its oldest Persian translation, at Iran's National Museum, are both introduced in the present file.

#### 2 Nominator

##### 2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

The Iranian National *Memory of the World* Committee

##### 2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The *Al-Masaalik* was introduced to Iran's National *Memory of the World* Committee in 2007. A year later in 2008, this work was inscribed in the Iran's national *Memory of the World* Register.

##### 2.3 Contact person(s)

Mr Akbar Irani

Ms Fariba Farzam

##### 2.4 Contact details

1. Akbar Irani,	1182, Enqelab Avenue, Farvardin Building, Fl #2, Tehran, postal code: 1315693519, IRAN
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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+98 21 66490612	+ 98 21 66406258	akbar_irany@yahoo.com

2. Fariba Farzam,	National Library and Archives of Iran, Haqqani Freeway, Tehran, IRAN
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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+ 98 21 88644086	+ 98 21 88644086	<a href="mailto:faribafarzam@yahoo.com">faribafarzam@yahoo.com</a>

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### 3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

#### 3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

*Al-Masaalik Wa Al-Mamaalik*

The book, written by Abu Ishaq Ebrahim b. Mohammad Farsi Istakhri (died 346 AH/950 CE), is on the geography of Islamic lands in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AH/10 CE.<sup>1</sup>

**Persian MS:** This manuscript, 275 pages/138 folios, is an old 5-6<sup>th</sup> century AH/10-11 CE translation, transcribed on *dawlat-aabadi* paper in the *naskh* style, at Esfahan by Mohammad-Hasan b. Sa'd b. Mohammad Nakhjavani known as Ibn-e Savaji in 726 AH/1325 CE, its page dimensions being 22.9 x 30.8 centimeters. It contains 12 frontispieces, 20 color as well as 2 black-and-white maps.

**Arabic MS:** This was written in the *naskh* style in 569 AH/1173 CE. Consisting of 75 folios, this manuscript has 20 geographical maps.

#### 3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The Persian MS is kept under No 3515 at Iran's National Museum, and the Arabic MS under No. Ms-orient-A-1521 in the Gotha library, Germany.

#### 3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

Please see the attached CD, which includes samples of the maps and pages of the book.

#### 3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

**Persian MS:** Formerly, this manuscript belonged to the mausoleum library of Shaykh Safiuddin Ardabili, the direct ancestor of the Safavid kings. From there it was first transferred to the *Dawlat-e aliye-ye Iran* (Iran's Exalted Government Library) and then in 1314 Sh/1936 CE to the Iran Bastan Museum (National Museum of Iran) -set up in 1316 Sh/1938 CE- being still kept there.

**Arabic MS:**

#### 3.5 Bibliography

##### A. Arabic & Persian sources:

1. Ibn Hawqal, Abul-al-Qasim, *Surat-al-Arz*, ed. H. Kramers, Leiden, 1938.
2. Istakhri, Ebrahim, *Kitab al-Aqalim*, facsimile, ed. Moeller, Gotha, 1989.
3. Id. *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik*, ed. De Goeje, Leiden, 1870 (De Goeje does not prefix the Arabic definite article *Al-* to *Masaalik*).
4. Id. *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik*, intro. & research by Mohammad Jaaber Abd-al-'Al Al-Hini, ed.

<sup>1</sup>. According to De Goeje, the Dutch orientalist, this work was written sometime between 318-321 AH/930-933 CE.

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- Mohammad Shafiq Gharbal, Cairo, 1961 CE/1381 Ah.
5. Afshar, Iraj, introduction to Istakhri's *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik*, translated into Persian by a anonymous translator, 5-6 centuries AH, Tehran, 1340 Sh/1961 CE.
  6. Id., Introduction to Istakhri's *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik*, translated into Persian by Mohammad b. As'ad b. Ab-Allah Tostari, ed.I. Afshar, Tehran, 1373 Sh/ 1994 CE.
  7. Zerekli, Khayroddin, *Al-A'laam*, Beirut, 1986.
  8. Sajjadi, Sadeq, Introduction to *Joghrafiya-ye Hafiz Abru*. Tehran, 1375 Sh/1996.
  9. Soosah, Ahmad, *Al-Sharif al-Idrisi fi al-joghrafiya al-Arabiyya*, Baghdad, 1974.
  10. Maqdesi, Mohammad, *Ahsan-al-Taqaasim fi Ma'refat al-Aqaalim*, ed. De Goeje, Leiden. 1906.

**B. Sources in other languages:**

11. Barthol'd, V. V., *sochineniya* (Collected works), Moscow, 1973.
12. Id, introd. *Hudud al Alam*, tr. V. Minorsky, London, 1973.
13. De Goeje, M. J, «Die Istakhri – Balkhi Frage», *ZDMG*, 1871, vol XXV.
14. Kamal, Youssef, *Monumenta cartographica Africae et Aegypt*, Frankfurt, 1987.
15. Krachkovsky, I. Yu., *Izbrannye sochineniya*, Moscow – Leningrad, 1957.
16. kramers, J. H., «L'Influence de La tradition Iranienne dans la Geographie Arabe», *Analecta orientalia*, Leiden, 1954.
17. Id, «La litterature Geographique classique des musulmans», *Analecta orientalia*, Leiden, 1954.
18. Id, «La question Balkhi – Istahri Ibn Hawkal et l' Atlas de l'islam, *Atlas de l' Islam*», *Studies on Ibn Hauqal (2nd half 10 cent.) and Al – Istahri (1st half 10 cent.) collected and reprinted*, ed. Fuat Sezgin, Frankfurt, 1992.
19. Miller, K., *Mappae Arabicae Arabische welt – und Länderkaten*, Frankfurt, 1994; Minorsky, v., commentary on the translation of the *Hudud al Alam*, London, 1937.
20. Mžik, Hans. V., Das Buch der Abbildungen der Lander «Handschrift der Hofbibliothek in Wien, *studies on Ibn Hauqal (2nd half 10 cent) and Al – Istahri (1st half 10 cent) collected and reprinted*, ed. Fuat Sezgin, Frankfurt, 1992.
21. Ritter, C., introd. Das Buch der Lander Abū Ishāq alfārsi, tr. A. D. Mordtmann, Frankfurt, 1995.
22. Taeschner, F. «Die geographische Literatur der osmanen», *ZDMG*, 1923, vol. 77 (2).

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**3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage**

Name	Qualifications	Address
<b>Dr. Fuat Sezgin</b>	Professor emeritus, Director of the Institute of the History of the Arab-Islamic Science	Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

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Name	Qualifications	Address

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Name	Qualifications	Address

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**I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific**

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**Memory of the World Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).**

**Signature**

**Full name (Please PRINT)**

**Dr Eshaq Salahi,**  
Director of the National Library and Archives of Iran, and president of the national Memory of the World committee.

**Date**

**November 2013**

## 4 Legal information

### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name:	Address:	
National Museum of Iran	30 Tir Street, Imam Khomeini Ave, Tehran, IRAN. Postal code: 11369 1711, PoBox:11365 4364	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+98 21 66702677	+98 21 66702648	info@nationalmuseumofiran.ir

### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
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### 4.3 Legal status

The legal and administrative responsibilities of the Persian manuscript lie with the National Museum of Iran.

### 4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed  
The microfilm and the digital copy of the Persian manuscript are easily accessible for research purposes. The original copy is available only to special people and in special cases under quarantine conditions, turning its pages not permitted.

### 4.5 Copyright status

All the rights of the author of the Persian manuscript are under the charge of the National Museum of Iran.

## 5 Assessment against the selection criteria

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**5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?**

Because of their clearly recorded dates of transcription and known past history, both the Arabic as well as the Persian manuscripts of the *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* described here enjoy great credibility and authenticity. The Persian MS has a known scribe and date of transcription, which reveals that it is not only the oldest dated MS of the translation, but also the oldest translation ever extant in Persian. Scholars and codicologists have confirmed the authenticity and credence of these two MSS, and have thus proceeded to edit and have them published, presenting them as an authoritative reference book<sup>2</sup>.

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**5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?**

The *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* is one of the most significant geographical works dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> century, whose author, Istakhri, is one of the founders of the science of geography in the Muslim world. Contrary to others, he has divided the Muslim lands, not into 7 but into 20 climes (*aqaalim*; sing. *eqlim*).

Istakhri describes places to which he himself has travelled and seen directly. He maintains that since the *Ka'ba*, at Mekka, is the *naaf* (navel: central point) of the earth, and that as God the Exalted has, in the Qor'an, called Mekka '*Omm-'l-Qora*<sup>3</sup> (Mother of all towns), being the house of God and the *qibla* of all Muslims, and located in the Arab land, he starts with the latter. He then proceeds to the Persian Sea. He returns to the Arab domain whence he directs his attention to Maqrib, Egypt, *Shaam* (Syria), Mediterranean, Jazirah (northern Mesopotamia), land of Iraq (southern Mesopotamia), Khuzestan, domain of Pars, Kirman, Sind and Hind ( Indian Subcontinent), Azerbaijan, Kuhestan, Deylaman, Khezer territory (northern Iran), and the arid land between Pars and Khorasan ending with Sistan, Khorasan and Transoxania. He also writes about Habasheh (Ethiopia), Zanzibar, and some other parts of Africa. The inclusion in the *Al-Masaalik* of this amount of information that is not found in geographical sources preceding Istakhri has rendered this book a unique one.

The author presents useful information regarding borders, distances, and connecting routes, as well as cultural and social matters of the communities in each

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2. Having studied 18 MSS of the *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* at the world's different libraries, including Aya-Sufia, National Library of Vienne, Bagdad Kushku Library (Turkey), Central Library of Tehran University (Iran), Library of the Institute of Oriental Studies at Leningrad, *Astan-e Qods-e Razavi* Library (Iran), Malek National Library (Iran), Library of the Islamic Assembly (Iran), Ravan Kushku Library (Turkey), Bibliotheque Nationale de France, India Office Library at London, Eton College Library (England), and *Golestan* Palace Library (Iran), Iraj Afshar chose to edit the Persian manuscript described in the present file because of its authenticity and long history.

The Arabic manuscript was for the first time selected for a facsimile edition by Moeller in 1839; later, it constituted the basis for De Goeje's critical edition in 1870 as well as Mordtmann's German translation in 1845 of the *Al-Masaalik*.

<sup>3</sup>. A place in relation to which the locations of other places are determined.

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place described and their religions and denominations; also about their agricultural products, trade, crafts and occupations, regional monuments and buildings such as citadels, fire-temples and fortified towns.

One of the features of the book is its being based on maps, which demonstrate the old methods of map-drawing. In his *Al-Masaalik* Istakhri has designed the maps according to Abu Zayd of Balkh in his *Sovar-al-Aqaalim* [Maps of the Climes]. Since no work has as yet reached us from Abu Zayd, who represented a new school and tradition in Persian-Islamic geography, Istakhri may well be regarded as having been the chief instrument in upholding, preserving and transferring that tradition, showing, thus, the importance of his book in the history of science.

The existence of a large number of MSS of *Al-Masaalik* in the libraries, museums, scientific institutes and research centers of various countries also points to the importance of this book. In 1839, the Arabic text of the *Al-Masaalik* was for the first time published in facsimile form by Moeller. Then, De Geoeje produced a critical edition of the book, which was published (1870) by Brill in Leiden, with no maps though. Up until 1927, the Leiden edition went through 9 offset reprints.

Once again, the Arabic MS of the *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamalik* was edited by Mohammad Shafiq Gharbal in 1961 at Cairo, being enhanced by Mohammad Jaaber Abd –‘Al Al-hini’s research and introduction. This new production was made with De Goeje’s edition in mind, and by utilizing three MSS. In this edition, use has been made of 20 black-and-white maps taken from the five existing MSS of the *Al-Masaalik* at Arab as well as European libraries.

Besides, the translation of this book into other languages and its publication in other countries indicate its universal status. Six centuries after the *Al-Masaalik* had been written, namely early 11<sup>th</sup> AH / late 16<sup>th</sup> century (more precisely, 1003 AH/1596 CE), during the reign of the Ottoman empire, Mohammad III, the *Al-Masaalik* was turned into Turkish. Madini produced an Italian rendering of the book in 1842, and in 1845, Mordtmann translated it into German.

The Persian translation of the book was edited by Iraj Afshar and published (1340 Sh /1961 CE) in Tehran; this edition went through 3 reprints by 1368 Sh/1989 CE. Afshar’s primary MS used in his edition, is the one introduced in the present file. It was copied based on an old Persian translation of the *Al-Masaalik* from 5-6<sup>th</sup> centuries AH. Another Persian translation of the book ascribed to Tostari and belonging to the 7<sup>th</sup> AH/13<sup>th</sup> CE century<sup>4</sup> was also edited by I. Afshar and printed in 1373 Sh/1994 CE. The MS copied in 696 AH/1297 CE is kept at Bodleian library<sup>5</sup>.

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**5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example)**

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<sup>4</sup> Several other works written up to 731 AH/1396 CE have been attributed to Tostari, including the translation of *Qisas-al-Anbiya*, as well as the compilation of a selection of Awfi’s *Jawami’-al-Hikayaat*. In His *Persian Literature: A Bio-bibliographical Survey*, C.A. Storey says thus: The translator of *Qisas-al-Anbiya*, who lived in the reign of the Mogul Oljeitu (703-716 AH/1303-1316 CE) and is mentioned in *Habib-al-Siar*, made a selection of Awfi’s *Jawami’-al-Kitab*.

<sup>5</sup> This manuscript, belonging to the late 7<sup>th</sup> AH/13 CE century, of *rahli* size (normally 35 x 25 cm), is written in elaborate *naskh* style and has 17 color designs. Two forms are missing from the middle of the MS, lacking half of the section on *Sham* (Syria) up to half of the section on Khuzestan; between these two sections should be included information on the Mediterranean, the land of *Jazira* and Iraq. This MS was purchased by Sir Gore Ouseley in 1811 at Shiraz, now kept under No 396 at Bodleian Library.

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on the International *Memory of the World* Register:

**Time:** Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

The Hegira 4<sup>th</sup> century was the golden era of the burgeoning Islamic civilization. The era is referred to as the time of “Islamic Renaissance”, The political and cultural independence of the then Iran greatly helped toward the progress of science and scholarship. Because of the love the Buyid (Aal-e Buyeh) rulers demonstrated for learning, a good number of scholars gathered at their courts where they enjoyed extensive scientific facilities. In that period, various sciences including mathematics, astronomy, medicine, natural sciences and philosophy reached their height and growth among Muslims.

The *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* is indicative of the science of geography amongst Iranian Muslims in that period, revealing the state of understanding the earth’s dry lands, global waters, techniques of drawing geographical maps and the nature of geographical information in Islamic countries of the 4<sup>th</sup>.century AH.

**Place:** Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

In the Buyid times, Shiraz was the seat of rulership and considered as one of the prominent cultural centers in the whole Islamic world. A good number of Buyid governors and viziers, who themselves were eminent writers and scholars, played a remarkable role in expanding learning and knowledge and in attracting men of erudition and scientific status to the Buyid courts. The Buyid Azad al-Dawleh’s grand library as well as many other libraries in the province of Fars were research centers for the scholars of the time. Book-sellers’ bazaar at Shiraz was thriving with great growth. It was under such conditions that Istakhri, of the town of Istakhr, near Shiraz, embarked on his geographical investigations.

He surveyed the then Muslim world from India to Africa and made an imaginary division of it into 20 climes, giving a description of each in his *Al-Masaalik*. In his demarcation of the boundaries of the Muslim lands, Istakhri says thus: “To the east of the Islamic domain is located India and *Darya-ye Pars* [Persian Sea/Gulf], and to the west lie Rum [apparently, Byzantine Empire], Armenia, Aalaan, Sarir, Khezer, Russia, Bulgaria, Soqlab and part of Turkistan. To the north is situated China and the area close to Turkistan that is connected to China; and to the south is located *Darya-ye Pars*”. Regarding the map of the earth and the location of Pars, he observes: “This is *surat* (map) of the earth, in good repair or ruined, which we have divided into *mamaalek* (lands, territories)... and no place is more developed, more complete and more pleasant than *mamaalek-e Iranshahr* [Iranian territories] whose pole is Babylonia being the land of Pars. The boundaries of the land were well-known at the time of *Parsiyan* [Pre-Islam Zoroastrian Iranians]. With the emergence of Islam, Muslims took

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a share of each and every territory, as will be stated presently: of the Rum [Roman] territory, Syria, Egypt, Andalusia and Maqrib; of that part of the land of Hindustan bordering the victorious land [*zamin-e mansureh*, apparently meant, greater Persia]; of Multan as far as Kabulestan and around Tokharestan; and of the lands of China, Transoxania and whatever [area] that goes with that". Over two thirds of the *Al-Masaalik* is devoted to Persia and Transoxania. The book contains a great deal of invaluable historical information about the vast geographical expanse outlined above and the Muslim settlements in those times.

**People:** Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development..It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

Istakhri has been recognized as one of the creators of the science of geography in the Muslim world. Not only did he have influence on other contemporary geographers of his time in the 4<sup>th</sup> AH/10<sup>th</sup> CE century, but also this influence continued to hold for several centuries to come, and his book came to serve as a reliable source for such geographers as Maqdesi (4<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> century) and the anonymous author of *Hodud-al-Aalam* (Boundaries of the World), as well as Yaqut Hamawi, the 7<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> –century geographer and author of *Mo'jam-al-Boldan*. Istakhri's other contemporary geographer, Ibn Hawqal admits that what stimulated him to write his own book was his meeting with Istakhri and reading his works. As Ibn Hawqal maintains, Istakhri had drawn a detailed systematic map of the province of Fars.

**Subject and theme:** The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

The *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* is counted as one of the most important sources and references on history and historical geography. This work is of immense import for gaining insight into the life-style of Muslims in various regions and their distribution through a vast area of the world at that time. Knowledge of the places, towns, and villages that no longer exist today, such as *Istakhr*, *Ardashir-khoreh*, *Beshavor* (*Bishapur*) located in the province of Fars, is to be obtained from this book. Furthermore, certain names, age-old expressions and items of information that have undergone many changes and transformations have all survived in this book.

**Form and style:** The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

In his *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* Istakhri, in opposition to other geographers before him, who had divided the Islamic lands into 7 climes, for the first time divided them into 20 climes. Also, following the method of Abu Zaid of Balkh in the latter's *Sovar-al-Aqaalim* [Maps of the Climes], Istakhri has designed a number of maps. Abu Zaid represented a new school and tradition in Persian-Islamic geography. However, as no work by him has survived to the present day, Istakhri can be regarded as having been

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instrumental in safeguarding, completing and transferring that new school and tradition for the geographers after him.

## 6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

**Rarity** Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

There exist a number of the *Al-Masaalik wa Al-Mamaalik* MSS, in Arabic as well as in Persian, at libraries and museums throughout the world. Several of them have been described in footnote 2 of the present file. Some 10 MSS have been identified in various catalogues as existing in Iran. Because of its old age, completeness, and having an exact date of copying, the Persian MS introduced in this file has been recognized as the best among the Persian MSS.

**Integrity** Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

The Persian MS is hundred percent complete with no lacunae.

**Threat** Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

Inspection for possible repair of the Persian MS was implemented in 2007. It is in stable condition, and nothing is threatening it.

## 7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

**Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?**

YES      ✓      NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

To make the Persian manuscript available to others, a microfilm and a digital copy of it, which enjoys high quality, were prepared some years ago. Besides, steps have been taken towards its preservation and repair.

**Keeping conditions:** The Persian MS is preserved in standard conditions of the repositories of the National Museum of Iran, in a safe acid-free case. The Museum is furnished with anti-fire and anti-quake facilities.

## 8 Any other information

**Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register.**

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

## 9 Checklist

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**Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.**

- MOWCAP website reviewed
- Introduction read
- summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1)
- Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
- If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified
- Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
- History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4)
- Bibliography completed (section 3.5)
- Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
- Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6)
- Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
- Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2)
- Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)
- Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
- Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
- Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1)
- Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2)
- Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3)
- Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6)
- Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7)
- Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)
- Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)
- Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records
- Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)