Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Documentary Heritage in the Asia Pacific

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The Asia-Pacific Region

North: Mongolia
South: New Zealand
West: Turkey, Iran
East: Pacific islands

43 countries – about half the earth’s surface
Asia-Pacific Implementation Strategy

Communication
To break the complex ideas of the Recommendation down into easy-to-use communication tools.

Consultation
To bring the stakeholders together to discuss the Recommendation.

Action
To formulate measurable action plans for implementation of the Recommendation and then to implement them.
The Recommendation is available in the following languages from the region: Chinese, Lao, Myanmar, Tetum, Farsi, Thai, Japanese

Translation of the Recommendation is concrete action as a first step to implementing.
Communication: Translation of the Recommendation
RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF, AND ACCESS TO, DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE, INCLUDING IN DIGITAL FORM

Recommendations for Governments, Memory Institutions and Other Stakeholders
The Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2015.

"Documentary heritage records the unfolding of human thought and events, the evolution of languages, cultures, peoples and their understanding of the world."

Many collections of documentary heritage face threats from conflicts, natural disasters, and under-resourcing. The Recommendation provides an international framework to address these challenges.

Documentary heritage is vulnerable to rapid advances in technologies. New updated responses to this challenge are needed.

WHY IS THE RECOMMENDATION NEEDED?

The Recommendation establishes the importance of documentary heritage as a primary mean for maintaining, spreading and sharing knowledge.

The Recommendation reflects the aspirations of a number of international declarations, conventions, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
THE CONTENT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Recommendation is arranged by five thematic areas:

- Identification
- National and International Cooperation
- Preservation
- Policy Measures
- Access
CASE STUDY 5: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2009 representatives from the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Europe, met in Barbados to discuss international cooperation in developing joint Memory of the World nominations. This cooperation resulted in successful joint nominations to the International Register: the Records of the Indian Indentured Labourers, and Silver Men: West Indian Labourers at the Panama Canal.
How can the booklet be used?

For the general public to learn more about the Recommendation

For high officials and policy makers to share why the Recommendation is important and should be adopted

For staff of libraries, archives, museums etc. to share information with upper management/government agencies
Access

You can access the document via: www.mowcapunesco.org/core-activities/unesco-recommendation

Available under Open Access, may be of use/adapted in other countries/regions
The ASEAN+3 Consultation (May 2017)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Involved 15 UNESCO Member States: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei + Timor-Leste, China, Korea, Japan
Western and Central Asian Consultation (August 2017)

Tehran, Iran

Involved 7 UNESCO Member States: Iran, Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.
Fiji, in conjunction with the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA)

Involved 10 UNESCO Member States: Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

ASEAN+3 Action Plan
Involving: Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Brunei Darussalam+China, Japan and Korea

Western and Central Asian Cooperation Plan
Involving: Iran, Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan

Pacific Action Plan
Involving: Australia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Tonga, New Zealand, Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu
UNESCO-ASEAN Member States (AMS) Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Documentary Heritage

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| Recommendation section 5: National and international cooperation |

### Recommendation section 1: Identification of documentary heritage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are the main challenges in your country and the ASEAN region for identifying documentary heritage?</th>
<th>What actions should governments take to address the challenge?</th>
<th>What actions should memory institutions (museums, libraries, archives) take to address the challenge?</th>
<th>What actions should be taken by others?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments to support the establishment of a Memory of the World (MOW) national committee which will implement the national MOW registers.</td>
<td>Museums, libraries, archives and any memory institutions to identify and nominate significant documentary heritage from their collections to MOW registers (national, regional, international).</td>
<td>UNESCO, MOWCAP experts, MOW Committees to encourage institutions to nominate documentary heritage as well as provide training/guidance in establishing national registers.</td>
<td>UNESCO, MOWCAP experts, MOW Committees to provide training on promotion of national registers of documentary heritage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is often limited collaboration between national memory institutions to identify documentary heritage in the ASEAN region

| Periodic meetings between institutions to be held/encouraged. | Joint online catalogues and programs between different memory institutes in the country. | MOW committees to provide an avenue/platform to bring all concerned stakeholders together (meetings, consultations, workshops etc.) |
Key issues

### Identification
- Few national registers of documentary heritage established
- Documentary heritage is often located outside of the countries (e.g., in archives of former colonizers)
- Limited collaboration between national memory institutions (archives, libraries, museums etc.) to identify documentary heritage

### Preservation
- Lack of resources for preservation (human, financial, technological)
- Preservation of digital heritage still an emerging field
- Natural disasters and climate a risk
## Key issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Limitation of access to state/government records</td>
<td>• Documentary heritage often not considered as an asset/included as a</td>
<td>• Many countries are yet to establish National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limited online access tools (such as ICA-Atom)</td>
<td>priority in policy agendas</td>
<td>MoW Committees limiting national level coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Difficult to access documentary heritage owned by private</td>
<td>• Legislation not consistent/up to date with Recommendation</td>
<td>• Very few joint nominations for MOW registers</td>
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<tr>
<td>individuals/institutions, communities</td>
<td>requirements</td>
<td>or cross national preservation/access initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Out-dated copyright laws inhibit the sharing of documentary heritage</td>
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MOWCAP grants program

Small grants for projects on the preservation/access to documentary heritage of the Asia-Pacific (up to $5000 per institute)

A key consideration in assessing the grant applications was how the proposal related to the Action Plans
In 2018, grants totaling $30,000 USD were awarded to organizations from 8 countries: Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Tuvalu, Fiji, Myanmar, Vietnam, Iran and Malaysia.

Project types:

- digitization of collections
- creation of documentary films
- creation of open source databases for access
- workshops on developing national MoW registers
## Recommendation section 3: Access to documentary heritage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are the main challenges to your country and the Pacific region for accessing documentary heritage?</th>
<th>What actions should governments take to address the challenges?</th>
<th>What actions should memory institutions (museums, libraries, archives) take to address the challenge?</th>
<th>What actions should be taken by others? (UNESCO, MOWCAP, professional associations, NGOs, private sector, individuals)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No online management systems to identify the documentary heritage held by institutions</td>
<td>Be familiar with AtoM (ICA archives management open software)</td>
<td>MOWCAP to work with PARBICA to support a pilot project to test the applicability of AtoM in the Pacific environment. UNESCO and MOWCAP to support the installation of AtoM in Pacific countries (if pilot successful)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcome: Expected to open access to important collections from the Pacific while providing a model for other projects.
Thank you!

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