

## UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Report 2018-2022

UNESCO Office	Geographic Coverage	Communication and Information Programme Specialist
UNESCO Almaty	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	<b>Sergey Karpov</b> National Professional Officer <a href="mailto:s.karpov@unesco.org">s.karpov@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO Bangkok	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam  Collaboration with MOWCAP	<b>Jo Hironaka</b> Advisor for Communication and Information/Chief of Unit <a href="mailto:j.hironaka@unesco.org">j.hironaka@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO Beijing	China, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea	Qingyi Zeng National Professional Officer <a href="mailto:q.zeng@unesco.org">q.zeng@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO Islamabad	Pakistan	<b>Hamza Swati</b> National Professional Officer <a href="mailto:h.swati@unesco.org">h.swati@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO Jakarta	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste	<b>Ana Lomtadze</b> Programme Specialist <a href="mailto:a.lomtadze@unesco.org">a.lomtadze@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO New Delhi	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka	<b>Hezekiel Dlamini</b> Advisor for Communication and Information <a href="mailto:h.dlamini@unesco.org">h.dlamini@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO Phnom Penh	Cambodia	<b>Mikel Aguirre Idiaquez</b> Project Officer <a href="mailto:m.aguirre-idiaquez@unesco.org">m.aguirre-idiaquez@unesco.org</a>  <b>Davin Chhay</b> Programme Assistant <a href="mailto:d.chhay@unesco.org">d.chhay@unesco.org</a>  <b>Wenjing Man</b> Analyst <a href="mailto:w.man@unesco.org">w.man@unesco.org</a>
UNESCO Tehran	Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkmenistan	<b>Tiva Kamran</b> National Professional Officer <a href="mailto:t.kamran@unesco.org">t.kamran@unesco.org</a>

### Almaty

- UNESCO Almaty Office supported the establishment of three (3) National Memory of the World Programme Committees in 2002-2004. A working [meeting](#) with members of the Kazakhstan MoW National Committee was conducted on 2 June 2022. The [list](#) of members is updated and the meeting notes are published online. UNESCO Almaty provided examples of

nominations and discussed the possible contribution to the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

- On 19-21 October 2022, the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan held the first Congress of Archivists under the theme "Open Archive for Open Society". The congress advocated for public access to information, inclusivity, international standards on written heritage preservation, and proactive publication. Archivists from Kazakhstan, Germany, Canada, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Poland, USA, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Finland attended the event. UNESCO Almaty presented [Archives and Public Access to Information](#) - a vision and perspective on identification, preservation, and access to documentary heritage, through an interactive overview of the role of the archives' community where documentary heritage can be used to promote inclusive, just and peaceful societies.

## Bangkok

- **Activities with MOWCAP**
  - UNESCO launched the '**Gender Equality Baseline Study of Memory of the World in Asia-Pacific**' on 8 March 2020. This study reviewed all the MoW international and regional inscriptions from the Asia-Pacific region with a gender lens. The Gender Equality Marker (GEM) adapted to the particular context of the MoW inscriptions was applied to each selected inscription and the degree of gender sensitivity of the documentary heritage was assessed.
  - UNESCO Bangkok launched the '[Women in History – Telling HERstory through Memory of the World](#)' online exhibition to promote heritage collections in the Asia-Pacific region that have gender-related stories or portray significant achievements of women in histories, with a special attention to records and documentary heritage that tell 'her-story'.
  - From 25 September to 16 October 2020, in collaboration with Creative Commons, OpenGLAM and MOWCAP, UNESCO Bangkok organized a series of webinars on '**Universal Access to Documentary Heritage in Asia and the Pacific**'. In total, 140 participants joined the webinar series, most of whom work in memory institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - In October 2021, UNESCO Bangkok organized the launch of the **children's book 'Let's Explore the Memory of the World'** on the occasion of Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2021, which celebrated the theme "Media and Information Literacy for the Public Good". The launch attracted 97 participants from 31 countries, and featured speakers from teaching, archive management, and collection custodian backgrounds, who offered their perspectives on how the book can be used as a uniquely effective educational resource.
  - In April 2022, UNESCO Bangkok organized a workshop sharing '**Practical Tips and Expert Advice: How to Prepare UNESCO Memory of the World Nominations for Asia and the Pacific**'. The workshop provided individual feedback on collections and how to increase their nomination's potential for admissibility. In total, seven collections were individually reviewed with their teams of custodians.
  - In July 2022, UNESCO kickstarted inter-regional cooperation between Asia and Africa through the '**MOWCAP-ARCMOW Inter-regional Dialogue on Sharing Good Practices on Documentary Heritage**'. The inter-regional dialogue between Asia-Pacific and Africa gathered 49 participants, comprising representatives from

National MoW committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, and UNESCO Field Offices in Asia and Africa.

- Within the framework of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (J-FIT) project **Building Capacity for the Monitoring and Preservation of Documentary Heritage at Risk in Southeast Asia**:
  - UNESCO Bangkok Office initiated a pilot survey in order to analyse the MoW inscriptions from Southeast Asia. The survey had a high completion rate, with information received from 28 out of 30 inscriptions, and resulted in the [State of Preservation Report for Southeast Asia 2020](#) providing interesting findings with recommendations to be considered. UNESCO, MOWCAP and stakeholders agreed that efforts should be made to improve serious concerns related to the environment and tropical weather in the region that are highly affecting the MoW collections.
  - In the aim to address some of the identified concerns, UNESCO Bangkok initiated a Sub-Regional Training on Water-based Damage to Paper Documentary Heritage. The capacity building activity started on 15 November 2022 and will culminate on 7 December 2022 with the presentation of case studies.
- Between July 2021 and June 2022, UNESCO Bangkok and the Wikimedia Foundation collaborated to '**Build Capacity of Indigenous Youth and Create an Indigenous Audiovisual Archive Using Wiki Tools in Cambodia**' by facilitating the training of 24 indigenous youth in documentary filmmaking and uploading audiovisual documents to Wikimedia Commons. The youths built an Indigenous archive of their own works documenting Indigenous language and culture, including 22 videos and 47 photographs.
- **IFLA Asia-Oceania Regional Workshop**  
UNESCO Bangkok participated on a workshop session on 16 November 2022 with IFLA's network of Preservation and Conservation (PAC) centres to share ways in which these centres can engage with the Memory of the World programme in Asia and the Pacific.

## Beijing

- The attendance of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the National Library of Mongolia to the General Meeting of MOWCAP in 2018 and the second Inter-Regional Conference for the Memory of the World in 2019, contributed to capacity building on the preservation and access to documentary heritage in Mongolia, and enhanced exchanges on documentary heritage between Mongolia and other countries in the region.
- Capacities of 20 national experts from memory institutions in Mongolia, including the National Library of Mongolia, were strengthened through a three-day training workshop on the preservation and digitization of documentary heritage held in November 2019 in Mongolia.
- UNESCO Beijing organized a Stakeholder Meeting on accessible documentary heritage in Mongolia on 30 June 2021, gathering a total of 22 people including representatives from the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia, librarians, archivists, museum workers, curators and disability stakeholders to discuss ways forward on planning digital platforms and contents with a view to incorporating disability and accessibility aspects.
- UNESCO Beijing supported the Mongolian Culture and Art Research Institute to identify and collect five "HERstories" respectively featuring five women who were leaders in the intellectual and creative sector in Mongolian society and development of the 21st century. contributed to the "Women in History – Telling HERstory through Memory of the World" online exhibition.

- UNESCO Beijing translated into Mongolian language and disseminated among relevant stakeholders the UNESCO publications including *Accessible Digital Documentary Heritage: Guidelines for the Preparation of Documentary Heritage in Accessible Format for PWDs*, *Let's Explore the Memory of the World with Tia, Jik and Pokpok*, and *Gender Equality Baseline Study of Memory of the World in Asia-Pacific*.

## Jakarta

- From January 2018 to June 2020

In Indonesia, the national committee for MOW in Indonesia organized a high-level ceremony on 17 April 2018 the handover of the UNESCO's Memory of the World 2017 certificates for Indian Ocean Tsunami Archives, Cerita Panji (Panji Tales Manuscript), and Borobudur Temple Reconstruction Archive.

UNESCO and the Borobudur Conservation Office (BCO) organized a training two-day workshop on Digital Data Management System for the Borobudur Archives in BCO, Central Java, Indonesia from 28-29 May 2019 to develop an archival policy and digital data management system for the BCO.

In Malaysia, between August 2019 and October 2019, UNESCO organized three workshops regarding MoW and the nomination process. This included a workshop at National Archives of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, another with the Sabah State Archives of Malaysia in Kota Kinabalu, and another in Kuching, Sarawak. The workshops were designed to provide an in-depth introduction to the documentary heritage programme and to discover potential nominations that could be submitted to Memory of the World Register at different levels.

In Timor-Leste, UNESCO organized a technical visit of experts from the National Archives of Malaysia to the National Archives of Timor-Leste and the CHEGA! Center in Dili, Timor-Leste from 2-5 October 2018. The technical visit focused on archival data management and digitization. Experts were given first-hand access to their collections and produced a set of recommendations. A Roundtable on the Drafting of National Law in Timor-Leste took place in Dili from 31 July to 2 August 2019, jointly organized by Ministry of State Administration and UNESCO Jakarta.

In the Philippines and in conjunction with the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27 October), UNESCO and its partners, the Center of New Cinema and the Film Development Council of the Philippines organized the Asia Pacific Cinema Documentary Heritage Conference in Quezon City on 26-28 October 2018. UNESCO Jakarta also conducted a special workshop during the conference to help identify potential audiovisual heritage for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

In Brunei, a one-day workshop "Memory of the World: Safeguarding Documentary Heritage" was held on 18 September 2019 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam gathering about 30 representatives from the National Archives of Brunei, National Museum, and several other archives and libraries.

At the regional level, UNESCO contributed to the 8th MOWCAP General Meeting in Republic of Korea (29 May-1 June 2018) by supporting the travel of participants from Malaysia,

Timor-Leste, and Indonesia. The highlight of the event was the successful inscription of ten new regional documentary heritage on the MOWCAP Register, bringing the total number of regional inscriptions to 56 items.

In 2020, UNESCO Jakarta, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), National Archives of Republic of Indonesia (ANRI) and the Indonesian Natcom organized an activity to identify archival holdings that could be categorized under at least one of the three gender equality markers (GEM) as a documentary heritage that can potentially be nominated to be listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

**Result:** Through the interventions of UNESCO, there was an increased awareness and better understanding of the MOW programme among the memory institutions in Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines. The support of UNESCO contributed to an improved archival policy and digital data management that is being developed at BCO, Indonesia.

2021: UNESCO supported the Indonesian National Committee for the Memory of the World to identify documentary heritage in Indonesia that contributes to gender equality using the Gender Equality Markers. Seven documentary heritage items were submitted by Indonesia (including as joint nominations). A virtual exhibition on the identified documentary heritage was organized in October 2021.

2022: UNESCO Jakarta participated in the Wikimedia Indonesia's Open GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) Conference, held in Jakarta on 5-6 November 2022 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme and raise awareness about it among the documentary heritage community.

**Challenges, corrective actions, lessons learnt:** There continues to be misunderstanding among memory institutions of the differences between the various heritage programmes of UNESCO with the MOW programme. The various workshops conducted were useful to provide the correct explanation of the different programmes. The availability of an open source data management software and related experts are limited in the region. The search for a suitable regional/local expert took time.

## **New Delhi**

1. **Preservation of Documentary Heritage for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, 2018** – UNESCO and the Royal Government of Bhutan with the support of the Japanese Funds in Trust (JFIT) jointly hosted and organized a regional capacity strengthening workshop in Bhutan, titled 'Preservation of Documentary Heritage for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management' on 29 and 30 November 2018. The two-day workshop was attended by 30 preservation and conservation experts from the South Asia and Asia Pacific region.
2. **Creation of National Register for UNESCO Memory of the World, 2020** – UNESCO and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Ministry of Culture organized an international webinar on 'Creation of National Register for UNESCO Memory of the World' on 14 August 2020. The webinar highlighted the importance of creation of the National Register for identification and recognition of vast documentary heritage in India and the various issues and challenges faced in the creation of the national register.

3. **30th anniversary of the UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Programme, "Keeping the Memory of the World Alive", 2022** - UNESCO New Delhi organized an online event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of its Memory of the World (MoW) Programme entitled "Keeping the Memory of the World Alive" on 28 October 2022. The programme aimed to highlight the significance of preserving documentary heritage and what it means for diverse cultures and communities. The information booklet entitled ["What will the World Remember: UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme in South Asia"](#) was also launched on the occasion, providing a glimpse of documentary heritages from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.