



MOWCAP General Meeting, Andong, 24-26 November 2022

Register Sub-Committee

Report by the Chair on the 2022 Round of Nominations

RSC Membership

The RSC currently consists of the following members:

Dr Helen Jarvis (Cambodia), as Chair appointed by the Bureau following the sad passing of
Dr Rujaya Abhakorn

Prof Suh Kyung-ho (Korea)

Ms Wang Hongmin (China)

Mr Opeta Alefaio (Fiji) was added by the Bureau during 2022

Ms Alla Aslitdinova (Tajikistan) was unfortunately, due to her health situation, unable to
participate in any RSC activities during 2022.

Note: RSC members act in their individual, professional capacity, not as representatives of their
country, and do not assess or vote on nominations from their country

Assessment process

The 2022 round of nominations for the MOWCAP Register was opened on 15 February 2022,
by a call for nominations posted on the MOWCAP web site together with the revised guidelines
for the MOWCAP Regional Register Process, as approved by the MOWCAP Bureau. In
accordance with the new guidelines, a period of four months was provided for submission of
nominations.

By the 15 June 2022 deadline, 16 nominations had been received, 6 of which did not have the
supporting statement by their respective National Commission for UNESCO (or equivalent).
The RSC decided to allow extra time to acquire such support, due to the fact that this is a
recent requirement introduced into the MOWCAP Register Process to accord with the *MoW
General Guidelines*. Such letters were provided for 3 more nominations, but 3 others were not
provided (from Malaysia and Mongolia).

The 3 remaining nominations were all deemed to be admissible, and were allocated to
individual members of the RSC to prepare draft Preliminary Assessments. During the following
months, these draft Preliminary Assessments were reviewed and discussed by members of the
RSC, with several rounds of questions and suggestions being communicated to the nominators

through the Secretary-General, and a number of revisions made by the nominators. The final revised versions of the 13 nominations are now being presented for discussion and voting at the General Meeting.

The RSC held five online meetings during the round (on 8 July, 28 August, 16 October, 2 November and 23 November). In addition, they engaged in frequent email and telephonic communication.

In accordance with previous practice, and as stipulated in the Register Process, communication between the RSC and nominators is channelled through the Secretary-General (initially Andrew Henderson and then Linh Anh Moreau as Acting Secretary-General). This channel is also designated for communication by any outside parties wishing to make comments or contestations. However, we note that this was not always respected, with some direct communications made to nominators and/or respective government, UNESCO or MoW bodies, causing some confusion. We reiterate the need to follow this protocol more strictly in future.

RSC Recommendations on Nominations for the 2022 Round

By the time of the General Meeting, and to be presented tomorrow in Session 6 of the agenda, 9 nominations are being recommended by the RSC for inscription, in 2022 and 4 are recommended for referral with the possibility of re-submission in a future round.

In summary:

Submitted Nominations	16
Incomplete (no NatCom letter)	3
For assessment	13

Recommended Inscribe on initial submission	2
Recommended Inscribe on first revision	2
Recommended Inscribe on 2 nd revision	5
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Total recommended for inscription	9

Recommended Refer with possible re-submission 4

Chair's comments on Issues raised during the course of the 2022 round of nominations

- a) We recommend that MOWCAP and the entire MoW Programme engage in a process for reflection on the revised international and regional register processes as it unfolded during this first implementation. Deeper discussion would be useful on a number of aspects, including the scope of materials considered appropriate for MoW, integrity of collections, parameters and modalities for contestation, difference between history of events and provenance of documents, distinction between language used in the nomination form and

in the original documents. Some valuable input could be gained from the Report and Recommendations of the World Heritage Committee regarding Sites of Memory Associated with Recent Conflicts, which have valuable insights on the issue of the positive role that can be played by heritage sites where tragic or negative events have unfolded, which can be possibly be considered to be relevant to documentary heritage, *mutatis mutandis*.

- b) More time needs to be allowed for the whole assessment and revision process. The new procedures introduced at the international level during the Comprehensive Review, and reflected in the revised *MOWCAP Register Process* are complicated and demanding on all parties (nominators and NatComs on the one hand, and the MOWCAP RSC, Secretary-General and Bureau on the other hand.) The turnaround times for responses and repeated revisions proved to be hard to meet and posed many challenges.
- c) We invite nominators and/or National MoW Committees to submit in writing any comments they may have on the revised guidelines for the *MOWCAP Register Process*, the revised nomination form or any other aspects of the nomination and assessment process, so that these can be improved in future rounds, and can be incorporated in the *Rules of Procedure for the RSC* that are now in preparation.
- d) We wish to thank the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and Member States, particularly the Republic of Korea, for a number of training workshops over recent years, and we urge that these be continued in the future. We recommend even more communication with NatComs and active members of MoW in the region, alerting them to deadlines to nominate and to engage in opportunities for upstream preparation and refinement of nominations in advance of submission, and for development of national MoW registers in each country. Such measures make a demonstrable difference in the quality of nominations received.
- e) I wish to express my personal thanks to all members of the RSC for their support and active engagement during this exhausting process of assessment; a warm welcome to our new RSC member Opeta Alefaio from Fiji, who played a constructive role in this, his first round of nominations; and thanks to Ms Alla Aslitdinova from Tajikistan for her contributions to the RSC over the years. We are looking forward to the Bureau appointing a new member from either West or South Asia to help renew RSC expertise from these regions. A particular vote of thanks must be given to our former Secretary-General, Andrew Henderson, and current Acting Secretary-General, Linh Anh Moreau, for having supported the RSC through this challenging changeover round of nominations.

Finally and above all, I wish to express my deepest thanks and unbounded appreciation to my predecessor and Chair of the RSC, Dr Rujaya Abhakorn, whose wisdom, grace and passion for MoW over so many years set MOWCAP on a firm footing, and set the RSC and myself, as Chair, a challenging model that we will do our best to emulate, even in part.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Jarvis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and a trailing flourish.

Helen Jarvis
Phnom Penh
17 November 2022