

**Memory of the World Program in Viet Nam:
International Workshop-Seminar “*Sharing experience on participating in
UNESCO’s Memory of the World Program*”
Hanoi, 8 January, 2013**

In 2006, the Viet Nam National Focal Point for *Memory of the World* was established, and the State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam served as its supporting agency. The Vietnam National Focal Point undertook many activities to raise awareness within society in general, and among heritage custodians in particular, of the *Memory of the World* (MOW) Program. So far, Viet Nam has two items of documentary heritage inscribed on International MOW Register a third inscribed on the Asia Pacific MOW Register.

In an important transition, following these achievements, the Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO issued Decision N^o630/QĐ-UBQG UNESCO, dated 19 November 2012, declaring the upgrading of the Viet Nam National Focal Point for MOW to the Viet Nam National Committee for MOW.

To take a further step in implementing MOW activities, the State Records and Archives Department of Viet Nam organized the International Workshop-Seminar “*Sharing experience on participating in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Program*” on 8 January 2013 in Hanoi. Overseas participants included Dr. Ray Edmondson, Chairman of MOWCAP, as keynote speaker; Mr Hu Zhongliang (State Archives Administration of China) and Mr Kim Jaesoon (National Archives of Korea). The six Vietnamese speakers included Dr Vu Thi Minh Huong (Director General, State Archives and Records Department of Viet Nam), Dr Thong Thanh Khanh (UNESCO Centre for Cham Cultural Preservation and Research) and Mr Nguyen Van Tu (Centre for Scientific and Cultural Activities of the Temple of Literature.)

Addressing the opening ceremony, His Excellency the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs Van Tat Thu warmly commended Viet Nam’s achievements in the MOW programme and strongly supported the future action plan of the Viet Nam National Committee for MOW. The opening ceremony was also attended by Mrs. Katherine Müller-Marin, Representative and Head of UNESCO’s Office in Hanoi, and Mr. Pham Cao Phong, General Secretary of Viet Nam’s National Commission for UNESCO.

The International Workshop-Seminar brought together nearly one hundred participants from the archives, libraries, museums and institutions of Viet Nam, including the custodians of documentary heritage inscribed on MOW registers.

Issues covered in the papers presented at the Workshop-Seminar included a general review of MOW in Asia Pacific and in Viet Nam; a sharing of practical experience on participating in the MOW program and preparing nominations from Viet Nam, China and Korea speakers; and discussion of some valuable

collections preserved by organizations in Viet Nam. In the afternoon, following a presentation by Dr Edmondson on how to prepare a nomination for a MOW register, there was a vigorous question-and-answer session.

As the organizers of the event, the State Records and Archives Department of Viet Nam were satisfied that participants in the International Workshop-Seminar gained significant information and useful knowledge for preserving and promoting awareness of documentary heritage, and for preparing further nominations of other valuable documentary collections of Viet Nam to the MOW registers.