Message from the Chair

MR KWIBAE KIM

Dear MOWCAP Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that the 10th MOWCAP General Meeting will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 6th to 10th May 2024, hosted by the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO.

The MOWCAP General Meeting serves as a regional platform every two years, facilitating the exchange of activities undertaken in the preservation of documentary heritage across the region during the biennium. It provides a forum for collaboration and discussion among MOWCAP, the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok, UNESCO Headquarters and Member States.

This 10th MOWCAP General Meeting will mark the occasion for the MOWCAP Bureau Election. During the meeting, we will also review the nominations submitted to the MOWCAP Regional Register for this cycle. These nominations represent a diverse array of cultural treasures from across our region.

Furthermore, our recent visit to the Thai Film Archive in Bangkok provided invaluable insights into innovative preservation and public engagement efforts. The dedication of the Thai Film Archive team serves as an inspiration to us all as we continue our mission to safeguard our audiovisual heritage.

I encourage all members to actively participate in the upcoming MOWCAP General Meeting, whether by contributing to discussions, or simply sharing your experiences and expertise. Together, we can further strengthen MOWCAP’s impact and uphold the rich documentary heritage of the Asia-Pacific region.
On 8 March 2024, the MOWCAP Secretariat announced that the 10th MOWCAP General Meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, to be held on 6-10 May 2024 at the Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

Held every two years, the MOWCAP General Meeting is a regional platform for MOWCAP, the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok, UNESCO Headquarters and Member States to share activities implemented in the field of documentary heritage during the last 2022-2024 biennium. It is also an opportunity to share and discuss with stakeholders present any changes to MOWCAP documents, with this year’s document being the MOWCAP Code of Ethics.

The time has also come for a new MOWCAP Bureau Election, which occurs every two MOWCAP General Meetings, for which candidates can be nominated or self-nominated for the various positions within the MOWCAP Bureau as specified in the MOWCAP Statutes, including Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-General. More information on the MOWCAP Bureau Election, including the nomination form, can be obtained from the MOWCAP website.

Finally, the 10th MOWCAP General Meeting will include presentations from the nominations submitted to the MOWCAP Regional Register’s 2024 cycle of nominations, which total 20 items deemed admissible for assessment by the MOWCAP Register Sub-Committee (RSC).

Among the planned site visits organized by the hosts are a viewing of the Family Chart of Hereditary Lords of the Khalkha Mongols, the House of Genghis Khan, one of the nominations submitted by the National Library of Mongolia for this year’s consideration and currently being exhibited at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum in central Ulaanbaatar.

For more information on 10th MOWCAP General Meeting, including the tentative programme schedule, please visit the MOWCAP website.
ACC-MOWCAP Small Grants Programme relaunched!

The Asia Culture Center (ACC) and MOWCAP are pleased to announced that the ACC-MOWCAP Small Grants Programme is being reinitiated.

The programme aims to support the efforts of the many groups and organisations that collect, and preserve and provide access to documentary heritage from in the Asia-Pacific region. The ACC-MOWCAP Small Grants Programme has already had a significant impact in the region. The types of documentary heritage supported have been diverse, including wood blocks, palm leaf manuscripts, celluloid films, VHS tapes, photographic prints, stone inscriptions, newspapers and documents. The types of projects supported have also been diverse, involving preservation, digitisation, production of books, documentary films, etc.

Grants of up to $US 5,000 are available for the preservation and sharing of the documentary heritage of the Asia-Pacific region. Grants are required to be fully expended, and the project should be completed and acquitted within a 6-month period (May-October 2024). The grants will be administered through the National Asian Culture Center, Gwangju, Republic of Korea.

Who can apply

The organisation/individual applying must be:

(a) Based in the Asia-Pacific region
(b) Non-Government
(c) Have support from the UNESCO National MoW Committee or UNESCO National Commission of where they operate

How to apply

Please submit the application by completing the form online: https://forms.gle/2zPDFmoKgfvyxzuLf7

Deadline: 10 May 2024

The application form must be completed by a person authorised to submit the application on behalf of the applicant organisation.

Application materials can be downloaded from the MOWCAP website.
MOWCAP Delegation visits the Thai Film Archive in Bangkok, Thailand

On 12 March 2024, the MOWCAP Delegation, including Bureau and Register Sub-Committee members, were welcomed by the Thai Film Archive for a site visit during their trip to Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr Sanchai Chotirosseranee, Deputy Director of the Thai Film Archive, gave the MOWCAP Delegation a special guided tour of the facilities, which included a behind-the-scenes look at special preservation, restoration, digitisation and public engagement activities conducted by its dedicated staff.

From a sub-zero temperature storage room to a film reel “hospital” where staff are meticulously at work, Mr Sanchai shared the creative and resourceful ways in which the Thai Film Archive manage to pursue their mission to preserve and promote Thai films.

As only decades-old equipment is capable of reading old film reels, the Thai Film Archive acquired second-hand equipment from companies disposing of their items to make way for the digital age. The Thai Film Archive’s staff have since been self-learning how to operate, maintain and fix these various pieces of ageing equipment in their efforts to continue their work.

The Thai Film Archive also shared their public engagement activities catered to various audiences. These include a room with special activities for children such as flipping through pages of a small book to simulate animation or spinning replicas of old film reels, all while learning the world history of film and Thailand’s film heritage.