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MOWCAP NEWS

Message from the Chair

MR KWIBAE KIM

MOWCAP Chair Mr Kwibae Kim

Dear MOWCAP Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to share some exciting news and updates from the Asia-Pacific region. We are incredibly proud to announce that two of our region's institutions have been honoured with prestigious global awards: the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the National Library of Indonesia. These achievements highlight the significant contributions of the Asia-Pacific region to the global preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage.

MOWCAP has also strengthened inter-regional collaboration by actively engaging with the Africa Regional Committee of the Memory of the World (ARCMoW) in its efforts to establish a regional register, as well as with custodians of documentary heritage in the Arab region in steps towards forming a regional MoW committee among Arab States. By sharing our experiences and best practices, we are looking forward to growing side-by-side with our colleagues in the African and Arab regions in safeguarding the world's rich documentary heritage.

Our Vice-Chairs Dr Vu Thi Minh Huong and Prof. Dr Haga Mitsuru represented the Asia-Pacific region at the International Conference of the Memory of the World Programme and 4th Global Policy Forum. This important event provided a platform for global dialogue and collaboration, where the role of documentary heritage in addressing global challenges and promoting international understanding was discussed.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our dedicated colleagues, partners and supporters who have contributed to these significant achievements. Last but not least, I wish our custodians, supporters and users of documentary heritage in Asia-Pacific and beyond the best of wishes before 2024 comes to a close, a year during which the region has continued to develop skills in, knowledge of and access to documentary heritage, all in the spirit of sharing.

Two Asia-Pacific Collections — Cambodia's ECCC and the National Library of Indonesia — win global documentary heritage prizes

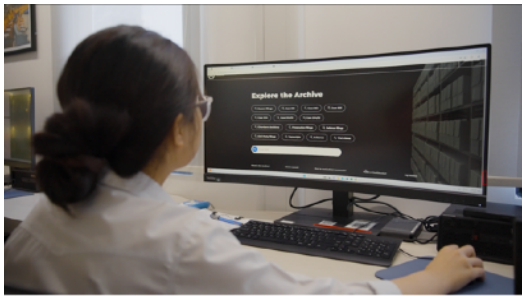
MOWCAP is pleased to congratulate two collections, both located and preserved in Asia-Pacific, on winning global prizes.

The Archives of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) won 'gold' in the Speed, Endurance and Teamwork category at the International Council on Archives (ICA)'s first ever Virtual Archival Games 2024. This competition, launched in tandem with the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, celebrated the significant role that archivists play in preserving documentary heritage. Archivists from around the world participated to demonstrate their archival skills in a series of challenges.

The physical archive is stored at the ECCC Resource Centre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Image courtesy of the Public Affairs Section of the ECCC.

The ECCC's digital archive was launched on 11 November 2024 and provides comprehensive access to records from the Khmer Rouge trials directly through its judicial database. The archive features documents in Khmer, English and French, including over 1,350 judicial decisions and tens of thousands of evidentiary records.

This digital platform complements the physical archive at the ECCC Resource Centre in Phnom Penh. As judges continue to declassify documents across all case files, the archive is being regularly expanded with both judicial and non-judicial materials, including all publicly available judgment-related records and the ECCC's public affairs work.



The virtual archive, gold winner at the first ever ICA Virtual Archival Games, is accessible on the ECCC's website. Image courtesy of the Public Affairs Section of the ECCC.

Additionally, the physical archive at the ECCC Resource Centre in Phnom Penh houses an extensive collection meticulously preserved to international standards. This includes more than 233,000 documents, nearly 2.4 million pages of materials including judicial decisions and orders, over 11,000 hours of audio/video recordings, and 670 transcripts of hearings.

The archive's goal is to promote transparency and facilitate research and learning by making these important historical materials easily accessible to researchers, students, and the general public, and to preserve Cambodia's history for future generations.

More detailed information on the Archives of the ECCC can be found on the ECCC's website.

Another Asia-Pacific winner of a globally recnogized prize is the National Library of Indonesia, named as the laureate of the 2024 UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize, following the recommendation of an international jury of experts.

Conservators of the National Library of Indonesia (NLI) conducted a preservation program on individual collections in Lombok, Indonesia (2024).

Announced by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay on 3 September 2024, the UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize commemorates the inscription on UNESCO Memory of the World International Register of *Buljo jikji simche yojeol*, a Korean work considered to be the oldest book printed with movable metal type. Endowed with $30,000, funded by the Republic of Korea through the City of Cheongju, the Prize recognises efforts to contribute to the preservation of and accessibility to documentary heritage as the common heritage of humanity.

In its recommendation, the international jury of experts recognised the National Library of Indonesia's dedication to the preservation and accessibility of Indonesian manuscripts through extensive programmes including national manuscript festivals, extensive publications, and educational initiatives for children and young people.

The Library was presented with the Prize in a ceremony in Cheongju, Republic of Korea, on 4 September 2024 on Jikji Day.

Acting Director of the National Library of Indonesia received the Jikji Price in Cheongju on 4 September 2024.

MOWCAP supports regional Memory of the World committees in Africa and Arab States

On 10 and 11 December 2024, MOWCAP was given the opportunity to support colleagues in Africa during the Africa Regional Committee of the Memory of the World (ARCMoW)'s Executive Committee Meeting, held in Dakar, Senegal.

The purpose of the meeting was to present, review and adopt ARCMoW's working documents, drafted by ARCMoW's President Mr Papa Momar Diop, Vice-President in charge of the Regional Register Prof. Elisam Magara Ouganda, and Secretary-General Dr Helena Asamoah-Hassan, as well as to discuss and decide on timelines for the ARCMoW Regional Register and related nomination review meetings.

The ARCMoW Executive Committee, UNESCO Nairobi, UNESCO Headquarters, MOWCAP, MoWLAC and documentary heritage experts from the African region met on 10-11 December 2024 to discuss future direction for ARCMoW.

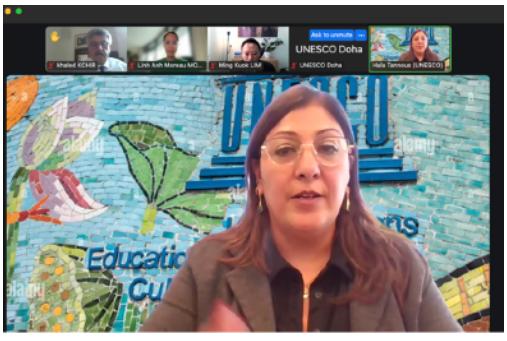
This significant meeting was organised with the support of the UNESCO Office for Eastern Africa, with the aim for the first round of nominations to be prepared by September 2025.

MOWCAP Secretary-General Ms Linh Anh Moreau shared practical and technical procedures in managing the MOWCAP Bureau, its Regional Sub-Committee and the MOWCAP Regional Register so that ARCMoW need not "reinvent the wheel", as aptly expressed by ARCMoW President Mr Papa Momar Diop. The MOWCAP Secretary-General also shared challenges faced and lessons learned from the MoW Programme's implementation in Asia and the Pacific so that colleagues in the African Region can be aware of and anticipate these issues, all while emphasising the diverse benefits from developing and managing a regional committee and MoW register.

UNESCO Nairobi's Regional Advisor in Communication and Information Ms Misako Ito also participated in this significant meeting, bringing her extensive experience as the previous MOWCAP *ex-officio* Bureau Member to ARCMoW's development and activities, and presenting the recently published book Memory of the World: Documentary Heritage Treasures of Africa.

The creation and development of Africa's first Regional Register for the Memory of the World will be a historic achievement in celebrating the region's documentary heritage, and will serve as a means to encourage more nominations from Africa to participate in the MoW programme at national, regional and global levels.

Another inter-regional cooperation initiative in the Memory of the World programme was MOWCAP Secretary-General Ms Linh Anh Moreau's participation in the Online Consultation on the Preservation of Documentary Heritage in the Arab Region, held online on 14 October 2024 and co-organised by UNESCO field offices in Rabat, Morocco and Doha, Qatar. The objective of the meeting was to discuss steps in the creation and development of a regional MoW register for Arab States and was attended by 42 representatives from memory institutions and national MoW committees.



UNESCO Doha's Ms Hala Tannous moderated the Online Consultation on the Preservation of Documentary Heritage in the Arab Region, which was opened by Dr Ming-Kuok Lim, Advisor for Communication and Information in the Maghreb.

During the online consultation, Ms Linh Anh Moreau shared experiences in regional committee and register management, which attracted enthusiasm from meeting participants who expressed their collective commitment to developing a MoW programme in the Arab States.

MOWCAP represented at the International Conference of the Memory of the World Programme and 4th Global Policy Forum

MOWCAP Vice-Chairs Dr Vu Thi Minh Huong, Prof. Dr Haga Mitsuru and MOWCAP Register Sub-Committee Member Ms Wang Hongmin represented the Asia-Pacific region at the International Conference of the Memory of the World Programme and 4th Global Policy Forum, held on 28-29 November 2024 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

The joint conference, hosted by Saudi Arabia and the Japanese Funds-in-Truste, focused on a central question: How documentary heritage be used as a knowledge asset for international understanding and cooperation in times of crisis both within and among countries? Partners and experts from the national and regional MoW committees, such as MOWCAP, MoWLAC and ARCMoW, as well as UNESCO National Commissions and Field Offices participated. Participants from international non-governmental organisations and professional associations such as the International Council of Archives (ICA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Association (CCAAA) were present, as well as cultural heritage policymakers and professionals from ICT industries.

After MOWCAP's 'Sultana's Dream' (Bangladesh), Canadian feminist novel 'Anne of Green Gables' is inscribed on the Canada MoW Register

For more information on this significant achievement, visit the Canada Memory of the World register website.

ANY NEWS TO SHARE?

If you have an upcoming or recent activity, publication or news on documentary heritage in Asia-Pacific to contribute to the MOWCAP Newsletter, submit to mowcapinfo@gmail.com.