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MOWCAP NEWS

Message from the Chair

DR KWIBAE KIM

MOWCAP Chair Dr Kwibae Kim

Dear MOWCAP Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce the launch of the 2026 MOWCAP Regional Register cycle of nominations, following a successful 100% inscription rate at the previous cycle, adding 20 diverse items. Collection owners are invited to nominate documentary heritage across all media demonstrating historical, form and style, or social and spiritual significance, with special encouragement for nominations from Indigenous groups and those highlighting Gender.

The ACC-MOWCAP Small Grants Programme has been re-launched, offering up to US$8,500 for non-governmental custodians of documentary heritage related to Asian traditional culture, attire, music, performances, myths, legends, and religions. This impactful programme has already supported 45 projects across 16 countries.

MOWCAP also supported a Training of Trainers activity in Nairobi, Kenya, for African documentary heritage practitioners, aiming to increase African representation on the Memory of the World International Register.

A significant development was the creation of the first regional regional Memory of the World committee for the Arab region (MOWCAR), established at a conference in Doha, Qatar, with MOWCAP's support.

Finally, I am pleased to share the successful outcome of the "UNESCO Inscribed Heritage Conference" hosted by the City of Andong, Republic of Korea, focusing on the management and sustainable use of UNESCO-inscribed heritage. These initiatives demonstrate MOWCAP's ongoing commitment to preservation, promotion, and collaboration in the documentary heritage field.

MOWCAP launches call for nominations for MOWCAP Regional Register 2026 cycle

MOWCAP is pleased to announce that the 2026 cycle of nominations to the MOWCAP Regional Register, was launched on 15 March 2025.

The announcement comes after documentary heritage stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region celebrated a 100% inscription rate at the previous MOWCAP General Meeting held in May 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, resulting in 20 new inscriptions. The latest cycle added significant contributions to the Asia-Pacific regional register of documentary heritage, representing advances in science, business and innovation, genealogical record-keeping, and creativity and literature, including indigenous oral epics and feminist science-fiction.

Collection owners and custodians, both institutional and private, are invited to submit documentary heritage in a wide range of media (paper, inscription, engraving, tape, film, digital storage) that represent documentary heritage meeting one or more of the following criteria: historical significance, form and style significance and social, community or spiritual significance.

MOWCAP especially welcomes nominations from Indigenous and minority or marginalised groups, and highlighting any references to Gender, as outlined in the MOWCAP Register Guidelines (March 2025 revision).

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE MOWCAP REGIONAL REGISTER ON THE MOWCAP WEBSITE.

Asia Culture Center and MOWCAP re-launch the Asia-Pacific Small Grants programme

On 31 March 2025, the Asia Culture Centre and MOWCAP announced that the collaborative Small Grants Programme has been re-launched, inviting applications for non-governmental custodians of documentary heritage to receive funding of up to US$8,500.

Projects related to documentary heritage connected to following themes will be considered for funding:

- Asian traditional culture (daily life, festivals, rituals, celebrations, and games)

- Asian traditional attire (clothing, footwear, headgear, etc.)
- Asian music (traditional instruments, audiovisual materials, music recordings, etc.)
- Asian performances (dance, puppetry, mask theatre, videos, etc.)
- Asian myths and legends (books, posters, postcards, videos, photos, etc.)
- Asian religions (folk beliefs, scriptures, religious texts, etc.)

Project beneficiaries discussing results at the ACC-MOWCAP Small Grants Programme Dissemination Seminar on 23 November 2023. Image courtesy of ACC.

Launched in 2018, the ACC-MOWCAP Small Grants Programme has already had a significant impact in the region, benefitting 45 projects in 16 countries. 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. Find out more and apply on the ACC's website.

Training of Trainers on MoW in Africa activity held in Nairobi, Kenya

On 25-27 March 2025, MOWCAP and the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok supported the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, to conduct a Training of Trainers programme with African documentary heritage practitioners.

In addition to raising awareness on the Memory of the World Programme, its benefits and how it operates, the main objective of the training was to engage participants in developing potential nominations for the Memory of the World International Register. In the long term, this activity aims to contribute towards raising the number of African inscriptions from its current 5% representation on the global documentary heritage register.

The "Expert Hub for Memory of the World in Africa Regional Training of the Trainers" was held on 25-27 March 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, to build the capacity of 22 documentary heritage practitioners from 13 countries. Image courtesy of UNESCO.

The training's resource persons, forming the activity's expert hub, included Ms Misako Ito, Regional Advisor for Africa in Communication and Information, Mr Jan Bos, Chair of the Memory of the World's

International Advisory Committee, Mr Fackson Banda, Head of UNESCO's Documentary Heritage Unit, Ms Jay Ralitera, Project Officer at UNESCO Nairobi, and Ms Linh Anh Moreau, MOWCAP Secretary-General.

Twenty-five (22) participants attended the training from 13 countries in Africa, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. Participants formed working groups to identify and develop nominations according to the following thematic areas:

(Left to right) Ms Chileshe Lusale-Musukuma of Zambia, Prof. Dr Lydia Muthuma of Kenya and Mr Kepi Madam worked as a group to develop a nomination for the Memory of the World International Register. Image courtesy of UNESCO.

1.Science & Innovation (transportation, agriculture, industry, research);

2.Colonial/conflict memory records, archives, journals, postcards;

3.Indigenous/traditional knowledge, language, oral literature/history/mythology;

4.Nature conservation, post-disaster recovery efforts, heritage site archives;

5.Leaders with international influence/impact.

The five dynamic groups discussed their shared and diverse forms of documentary heritage in the African region, resulting in significant proposals for potential nominations to the Memory of the World International Register, demonstrating their capacity as the region's new experts.

In addition, documentary heritage practitioners from Kenya, Ivory Coast and Seychelles shared experiences with engaging with the Memory of the World Programme, so that participants may learn from the challenges faced and successful methods applied.

Finally, participants were welcomed at the National Museum of Kenya to learn more about Kenya's rich cultural and natural heritage, and at the National Archives of Kenya to view their archival collections, with a behind-the-scenes look at the conservation department.

Memory of the World regional committee created for the Arab region in Doha, Qatar

On 21-22 January 2025, the National Archives of Qatar hosted the "Memory in Heritage: Fostering Cooperation on Documentary Heritage in the Arab Region" in collaboration with the UNESCO offices in Doha, Qatar and Rabat, Morocco.

The two-day conference culminated in the creation of the first regional committee of the Memory of the World for the Arab region (MOWCAR).

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Conference on Printing Woodblock: Safeguarding Manuscript and Print Heritage: Digitalisation

24-25 June 2025

Organised by the Korean Studies Institute and Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (University of Hamburg), this conference will serve as a platform to discuss strategies, challenges, and case studies related to the digitalisation of manuscript and print heritage. Additionally, this event will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the inscription of the Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register.

MOWCAP Secretary-General Ms Linh Anh Moreau supported the organisers with the Executive Committee's creation, sharing regional committee management practices and activities implemented in Asia and the Pacific.

At the outcome of the election, Dr Ahmed Abdullah Al Buainain, Secretary-General of the National Archives of Qatar, was elected as President of the newly created Memory of the World Committee for the Arab Region, now known as MOWCAR. During the meeting, MOWCAP Secretary-General Ms Linh Anh Moreau expressed MOWCAP's commitment to support MOWCAR in its stages of development in the spirit of inter-regional collaboration.

International heritage conference hosted by the City of Andong in the Republic of Korea

The international "UNESCO Inscribed Heritage Conference" gathered 374 participants from 18 countries, held in and hosted by the City of Andong, Republic of Korea, home to Hahoe Village.

The historic city of Andong, Republic of Korea, home to Hahoe Folk Village, uniquely recognised under all three UNESCO Heritage categories-World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and Memory of the World, hosted an international conference on 16-18 October 2024, in collaboration with the Korean Studies Institute, host of the MOWCAP Secretariat.

The "UNESCO Inscribed Heritage Conference" explored strategies for the management and sustainable use of UNESCO-inscribed heritage. This three-day conference, opened with a Keynote Speech delivered by RSC Member Prof. Dr Suh Kyungho, brought together 374 from 18 countries, including MOWCAP Chair Dr Kim Kwibae, Vice-Chairs Mr Imam Gunarto and Prof. Dr Haga Mitsuru, Assistant Secretary-General Mr Kang Bo Seung and RSC Member Prof. Dr Aijarkyn Kojobekova, to engage in dynamic discussions about the safeguarding, accessibility, and utilisation of heritage resources.

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.