MEMORY OF THE WORLD COMMITTEE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
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Regional Committee

2025 ISSUE 2 (APRIL-JUNE)

MOWCAP AT CONFLICT MEMORY AND PEACEBUILDING MEETING
p.2

MOWCAP AT SEMINAR ON MOUNTAIN-SIDE INSCRIPTIONS IN VIETNAM
p.3

KOREAN STUDIES INSTITUTE CONDUCTS TWO ACTIVITIES
p.4

NEW SUPPORT STAFF AND UPCOMING EVENTS
p.5

MOWCAP NEWS

Message from the Chair

DR KWIBAE KIM

MOWCAP Chair Dr Kwibae Kim at the International Meeting on "Archives and Memory for Conflict Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia" in Cheongju, Republic of Korea on 27-28 May 2025.

Dear MOWCAP Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to share a brief update on MOWCAP's recent engagements.

In late May, MOWCAP Bureau Members, including myself, participated in the International Meeting on "Archives and Memory for Conflict Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia" in Cheongju, Republic of Korea. This meeting explored how documentary heritage can foster social integration and peacebuilding in post-conflict contexts.

Following this, MOWCAP representatives contributed to an international academic seminar on "Han-Nom Inscriptions on Non Nuoc Mountain: Potential of Documentary Heritage" in Ninh Binh, Vietnam. Our team provided insights into the Memory of the World Programme, and shared best practices for nominations, further cementing MOWCAP's role in supporting local custodians.

Finally, we commend the Korean Studies Institute (KSI), our generous MOWCAP Secretariat's host, for organizing two significant international activities: an MoU with the National Library of Mongolia, and the International Conference on Printing Woodblock – Safeguarding Manuscript and Print Heritage.

I am also pleased to welcome Ms Micah Vandendriessche to KSI to support the MOWCAP Secretariat team with social media and the organization of international activities.

These recent activities truly exemplify MOWCAP's dedication to supporting communities and expert networks in harnessing the power of documentary heritage for peace, understanding, and cultural preservation. We remain proud to facilitate participation in the Memory of the World Programme in Asia and the Pacific.

unesco Regional Committee
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MOWCAP participates in Southeast Asian archives and conflict memory for reconciliation and peacebuilding meeting

On 27-28 May 2025, MOWCAP Bureau members Chair Dr Kim Kwibae, Vice-Chair Prof. Dr Haga Mitsuru, and Assistant Secretary-General Mr Kang Bo Seung facilitated sessions at the International Meeting on "Archives and Memory for Conflict Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia" in Cheongju, Republic of Korea. Organized by UNESCO Jakarta and the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH), the meeting's objective was to highlight the role documentary heritage can play in promoting social integration and peacebuilding in post-conflict contexts.

The event gathered 50 participants, including custodians of documentary heritage related to conflict from seven countries — Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Timor-Leste.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, participants shared case studies from concerned countries, experiences in the use of records for reconciliation, and archival practices for fostering shared memory. Through these exchanges as well as facilitated discussions on the role of documentary heritage in advancing peacebuilding, it is hoped that collaborations among expert networks in Southeast Asia and key partners can help preserve the memory of conflict to serve as a means for societal healing and the promotion of peace narratives.

UNESCO Jakarta and ICDH organized the 50-participant international meeting on ""Archives and Memory for Conflict Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia", held on 27-28 May 2025 in Cheongju, Republic of Korea. Image courtesy of ICDH.

2025 ISSUE 2 (APRIL-JUNE)

MOWCAP participates in international academic seminar on Han-Nom inscriptions on Non Nuoc Mountain, Vietnam

On 4 June 2025, MOWCAP Vice-Chair Dr Vu Thi Minh Huong, Register Sub-Committee Chair Dr Helen Jarvis, and Secretary-General Ms Linh Anh Moreau contributed to the international academic seminar entitled "Han-Nom Inscriptions on Non Nuoc Mountain: Potential of Documentary Heritage".

Organized by the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Ninh Binh Province, the seminar gathered scholars specialized in Han-Nom inscriptions from Vietnam, France and Taiwan to share their research on identification and assessment of the historical, cultural, heritage, and scientific values of the Han-Nom inscription system, as well as potential challenges in preservation and restoration.

In addition to the academic papers presented, MOWCAP members contributed to the seminar through presentations to help participants — including potential nominators to MoW registers — understand the objectives and benefits of the Memory of the World Programme in general, with a special focus on Vietnam's successful inscriptions on both regional and international MoW registers to date, and to share good practices in developing nominations.

The Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Ninh Binh Province organized a site visit to view the inscriptions on Non Nuoc Mountain in Hoa Lu, Vietnam, to collect preliminary feedback from MOWCAP members and international scholars on 4 June 2025.

A site visit to view the inscriptions on Non Nuoc Mountain was organized to initiate discussions and collect preliminary feedback from MOWCAP members and international scholars, during which community significance, site management, and exposure to risks were explored.

MOWCAP prides itself in supporting communities of custodians of documentary heritage to participate in the Memory of the World Programme in Asia and the Pacific. To request a workshop or practical advice, write to us at mowcap.info@gmail.com.

Deadline for nominations for the MOWCAP Regional Register 2026 Cycle is 15/09/2025.

Korean Studies Institute signs MoU with National Library of Mongolia and hosts international conference on woodblock and print heritage

Between May and June 2025, the Korean Studies Institute (KSI), which generously hosts the MOWCAP Secretariat, organized two international activities related to documentary heritage.

On 20 May 2025, the Korean Studies Institute and the National Library of Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding of cooperation in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Image courtesy of the Korean Studies Institute.

On 20-22 May 2025, eight representatives from KSI, including President Dr Chong Jongsup and MOWCAP Assistant Secretary-General Mr Kang Bo Seung, and eight representatives from the National Library of Mongolia, including Director Ms Ichinkhorloo Bayarkhuu and Let's Explore the Memory of the World Mongolian language version project coordinator Dr Sainbileg Byambadorj, participated in discussions on areas of mutual interest and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This MoU focuses on collaboration in identifying, preserving and accessing documentary heritage, as well as developing training activities.

On 24-25 June 2025, KSI, including MOWCAP Assistant Secretary-General Mr Kang Bo Seung and new MOWCAP support staff Ms Micah Vandendriessche (see page 5), also organized the International Conference on Printing Woodblock – Safeguarding Manuscript and Print Heritage: Digitalization, simultaneously commemorating the 10th anniversary of the inscription of the Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register.

The conference brought together 18 international scholars, artisans, historians, and cultural enthusiasts from around the world to discuss strategies, challenges, and case studies related to the digitization of manuscript and print heritage.

On 24-25 June 2025, the Korean Studies Institute organized International Conference on Printing Woodblock – Safeguarding Manuscript and Print Heritage: Digitalization, in Andong, Republic of Korea. Image courtesy of KSI.

MOWCAP Secretariat WELCOMES

Ms Micah Vandendriessche

Micah Vandendriessche was born and raised in the Flemish part of Belgium. She studied East Asian studies at Ghent University with a main focus on Japan. During her Bachelor's, she fulfilled a semester abroad at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan. During her Masters, she pursued a minor in globalization and finished her last semester at Seoul National University, Republic of Korea. After graduating, Micah worked in Seoul for a few years, where she engaged in broadcasting and promotion projects of Korean culture abroad. She holds knowledge of five languages: Dutch, English, French, Korean and Japanese. She recently joined the MOWCAP Secretariat, helping with the social media, planning of international events and translation projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)

29-30 September 2025

In collaboration with UNESCO, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will host this global event to memorialize the importance of access to information, a right everyone shares.

The Memory of the World Programme, whether at international, regional or national level, promotes access to information. Custodians and practitioners of documentary heritage are encouraged to participate.

Location: Manila, Philippines

Theme: To be announced, but always centred on empowering people through knowledge

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.