

UNESCO 'MEMORY OF THE WORLD' REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (MOWCAP)
SEVENTH MEETING
18 -20 May, 2016
Hue, Vietnam

1. Introduction

1.1 The 7th General Meeting of the UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for the Asia and the Pacific [MOWCAP] was convened by the UNESCO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Bureau of MOWCAP and hosted in Hue, Vietnam by the Monuments Conservation Centre with the permission of the Thua Thien Hue Provincial People's Committee and in coordination with the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO on 18 to 20 May 2016.

1.2 The objectives of the meeting were:

- i) to receive reports from the Bureau, national committees and the Goodwill Patron;
- ii) to consider the recommendations of the Register Subcommittee for inscriptions to the Regional Register and to announce the successful inscriptions;
- iii) to assist the development of national Memory of the World committees;
- iv) to advance awareness of and development of the Memory of the World within the region;
- v) to develop the forward work plan.

1.3 The meeting was attended by some 67 international delegates, including representatives from 16 countries from Asia and the Pacific. Please refer to Appendix A for the complete listing of participants.

1.4 MOWCAP Bureau Members present were:

Chairperson: Mr. Li Minghua (China)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. KIM Kwibae (Republic of Korea)

Ms. Dianne MACASKILL (New Zealand)

Ms. VU THI Minh Huong (Vietnam)

Secretary-General: Ms. Helen Swinnerton (Hong Kong SAR, China)

UNESCO Regional Advisor and ex-officio member: Ms. Misako Ito

Register Subcommittee Chair (RSC) and Goodwill Patron: Dr. M. R. Rujaya Abhakorn (Thailand)

Special Advisers:

Mr. Simon Chu (Hong Kong SAR, China)

Ms. Sarah Choy (Hong Kong SAR, China)

Dr. Ray Edmondson (Australia)

Apologies from Bureau members unable to attend:

Vice Chair: Ms. Fatima FAHIMINA (Iran)

Special Advisers: Mr. Richard Engelhardt

2. Opening ceremony

Welcome remarks were given by Ambassador Pham Sanh Chau, Secretary General of the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Dang Thi Bich Lien, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr. Nguyen Van Cao, Chairman of Thua Thien Hue People's Committee, Ms. Misako Ito, UNESCO Regional Advisor and Mr. Li Minghua, Chairman of MOWCAP.

3. Establishment of voting status & appointment of Rapporteur

3.1 Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Helen Swinnerton, Secretary-General of MOWCAP, was appointed as the meeting rapporteur.

3.2 Establishment of Voting Status

Ms. Helen Swinnerton conducted the roll call for the meeting. She explained that each national "Memory of the World" committee was eligible to exercise one vote. Under MOWCAP statutes, delegations of UNESCO National Commissions which had responsibility for MOW matters, fulfilled the function of a MOW national committee in their country and operated consistently with the MOW General Guidelines, irrespective of whether they were formally established as "national MOW committee", would also be eligible for voting status. Helen Swinnerton also explained that under MOWCAP statutes (Article 4 (iii)) the right to vote at MOWCAP meetings is conditional on the timely submission of an annual report, an obligation of membership. Accordingly the following countries were confirmed as having voting rights:

Australia, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam

The participation of an observer representative from Timor Leste was also noted. The observer countries or territories do not have a right to vote.

4. Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda (Appendix B) was adopted.

5. Business arrangements and expectations of the meeting

The Secretary-General gave an overview of the hospitality arrangements for the meeting including tours and dinners.

6. Review and adoption of minutes of the Sixth MOWCAP General Meeting (2014)

The Secretary-General reviewed the minutes of the 6th General Meeting of MOWCAP 2014. The MOWCAP Bureau had reported on their activities, as did National Committees. Key issues in relation to the international programme had been reviewed and discussed including the work on the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage and the new MOW Companion. The meeting had also reviewed and discussed activities in the regional MOW programme including workshops providing guidance and assistance on the development of nominations to the MOW registers. Country presentations of items nominated to the Regional Register were made and the Register Subcommittee had reported on their recommendations for inscription, which had been adopted by the voting members resulting in 16 inscriptions on the Regional Register. The meeting also appointed a new Bureau to serve for a term of 4 years, consisting of the Chair, Vice Chairs and Secretary-General.

7. Bureau reports 2014-2016:

7.1 Mr Li Minghua, Chair of the MOWCAP Bureau, presented a report on the activities of the MOWCAP Bureau 2014 – 2016 (see Appendix C.)

7.2 Ms. Helen Swinnerton, Secretary-General MOWCAP, presented an administrative and financial report for MOWCAP 2014 – 2016 (see Appendix D.)

7.3 Dr. Rujaya Abhakorn, Goodwill Patron, presented a report on his activities for MOWCAP 2014 – 2016. (See Appendix E.)

8. Reports from national MOW committees and UNESCO National Commissions

8.1 The Secretary-General invited all participating countries to present on the structure and main activities of their Committees. Presentations were given in the following order: Australia, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Thailand, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam. Please refer to Appendix F for reports submitted to the Bureau, including reports submitted by countries not represented at the meeting.

8.2 The country reports highlighted effort and progress towards establishing new MOW Committees in a number of countries across the region. New committees had been established in Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, since the 6th General Meeting, and 4 countries were in the process of establishing. Activities of MOW National Committees included efforts to promote public awareness of documentary heritage through communication plans, media engagement, publications and websites as well as frequent meetings with communities concerned with

documentary preservation. Some committees had held training workshops on the preparation of nominations to the MOW Registers. Seminars had also been arranged between some National Committees to share experiences and activities within the MOW programme. A number of committees had formed collaborations with education institutions to raise awareness among the younger generation of the value of documentary heritage. A number of countries highlighted the challenge of promoting the continued preservation of materials on MOW registers and the need for financial support to enable digitization of collections for access and preservation purposes. Also a number of countries highlighted the reliance of the programme on the voluntary effort of participants.

9. Country presentations of Register nominations

9.1 Countries and territories nominating heritage to the Asia Pacific Regional Register for 2016 were invited to give short presentations on their nominations. Presentations on 9 of the 16 nominations were given.

9.2 The Chair of the Register Subcommittee confirmed that all 16 nominations had been submitted by the deadline of 31 October 2015 and reminded members that there was no requirement for nominations to the Regional Register to be submitted through National Committees. Private individuals and institutions could make submissions. He asked voting delegates to consider the nominations over the next two days and whether the nominations meet the criteria for inscription on the Regional Register. He further advised that on 19 May, the Register Subcommittee would present its report and recommendations, based on the criteria for nomination.

10. Overview of international MOW programme

10.1 Dr. Ray Edmondson, Special Advisor to the MOWCAP Bureau gave an overview of the international MOW programme. The programme now has 3 regional committees and between 60 to 70 national committees. News and information about the programme is updated on the programme website, hosted by UNESCO Paris. The International Advisory Committee (IAC), responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of the MOW programme, had met in October 2015 in Abu Dhabi and the report of the meeting is available on the website. The main purpose of the IAC meeting was to review the progress achieved by the MOW programme and to make recommendations to the Director-General concerning the inscription of documentary heritage on the MOW International Register. Dr. Edmondson also noted that the IAC discussion had anticipated the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage including in Digital Form, which was adopted at the 16th Plenary Meeting of the 38th session of UNESCO General Conference on 17 November 2015. They had discussed the need for revision of the rules and procedures of the IAC and the General Guidelines of the MOW programme, and appointed Dr Edmondson to assemble a review team and arrange a a consultation process with MOW national committees and other stakeholders. The meeting adopted a procedure for the addition of “exemplars” to existing inscriptions on the International Register.

10.2 Representatives of the Asia-Pacific region on the IAC include Ms. Dianne Macaskill and Ms. Helen Jarvis of Cambodia. Ms. Macaskill and Ms. Jarvis commented that the level of commitment at the IAC had been encouraging. They noted that the mechanism to monitor the condition of items already on the International Register and to identify any threats to the preservation and access of them, was a key area requiring further work. Ms. Roslyn Russell of Australia also briefed the MOWCAP meeting of the work being undertaken by the new IAC Sub-Committee on Education and Research, to integrate the MOW programme into education programmes. To support this process the Sub-Committee was taking steps to establish MOW Knowledge Centres, including one in Macau.

10.3 Ms. Iskra Panevska joined the MOWCAP General Meeting from the UNESCO MOW Secretariat in Paris. She advised the delegates that with the adoption of the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage including in Digital Form, the MOW programme was supported by a legal normative instrument. The details of the Recommendation would be the subject of a seminar following the General Meeting on 20 July 2016.

10.4 Ms. Panevska also informed the meeting that the IAC Sub-committee on Technology was actively contributing to PERSIST: Platform to Enhance the Sustainability of the Information Society Trans-globally. This project was started by the Memory of the World Programme, UNESCO, IFLA, ICA and other organizations in response to the Vancouver Declaration in 2012. The aim is to establish an ongoing conversation amongst the major stakeholders to boost digital preservation solutions. The initiative aims to create a repository, which will equip memory institutions with the software tools to preserve culturally significant digital content that is in danger of becoming inaccessible due to technical obsolescence with guidelines on the content selection of digital heritage for preservation and access.

11. MOWCAP Coffee Table Book

Mr. Simon Chu, Special Advisor to the MOWCAP Bureau, reported the exciting news that the MOWCAP publication “Memory of the World Documentary Heritage in Asia and the Pacific” was now available, following an extensive amount of work by the project team. The book covers the documentary heritage from the region that was inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register and/or the Asia Pacific register from 1997 to 2012. Mr. Chu circulated copies of the book to each national committee in attendance, together with details of how the book could be ordered.

12. Discussion on revision of MOW General Guidelines

12.1 Dr. Edmondson advised the members that MOW International Advisory Committee (IAC), had agreed at its meeting held in Abu Dhabi, in October 2015, to undertake a comprehensive review of the MOW programme, particularly of the two principal documents that describe the governance and procedures of the programme, the General Guidelines and the *Companion*. The Guidelines were last revised in 2002; the programme has grown and developed considerably since then. The objective of the review is to update these documents and explore means for further improvement

of the programme and it therefore, aims to gain the collective experience and ideas of all members of the MOW programme. Invitations to contribute would go to all regional and national committees and a dedicated website would be available for members to feedback through.

12.2 A Review Group had been established to undertake the task, with Dr. Edmondson as Convenor. Their draft paper ‘A Review of the Memory of the World (MOW) Guidelines and Companion Documents’ had been circulated to the MOWCAP General Meeting (Appendix G). Dr. Edmondson led the MOWCAP General Meeting through the discussion paper in detail, highlighting key areas for their consideration. He reinforced to the members that any changes to the programme resulting from the review would not invalidate past decisions, such as existing MOW Register inscriptions. The character of MOW as an expert-led programme, which relates to institutions and NGOs rather than governments, would also remain unchanged. Dr. Edmondson also emphasised that the revised Guidelines would aim to make the significant mission of the programme more visible as defined on pages 2 – 3 of Appendix G “the MOW programme does not make historical judgments, or allocate blame or praise to historical actors: the nature of historical research and interpretation is that it never ends, and that judgments change over time. MOW concentrates on the documented evidence of past events – whether good or bad, positive or negative.”

12.3 Participants of the General Meeting were invited to comment on the points raised in the paper. Key items highlighted were - the growth of the programme and the corresponding need for resources; the relationship between the IAC and regional committees including the benefits of mutual sharing and support; the importance of maintaining the independence of the experts whilst engaging member states of UNESCO; the nomination procedures and how far the regional committees can and should adopt the structure and procedures of the IAC; the need for more attention and resources on monitoring the health of and safeguarding the preservation of the registered items.

13. Asia Pacific MOW register

13.1 Presentation and discussion of RSC report and recommendations

Dr. Rujaya Abhakorn, Chair of the Register Subcommittee, presented the report of the Register Subcommittee on the sixteen nominations received and their recommendations of inscriptions to be added to the Regional Register.

13.2 Decision on inscriptions

MOWCAP member countries with a voting right considered and voted on each nomination. The meeting selected two non-voting participants to tally the votes and verify the outcome. For each nomination it was confirmed that the delegation from the nominating country had abstained from voting. A total of 14 nominations were added to the Regional Register:

COUNTRY	INSCRIPTION
China	Archives of Confucius' Family of the Ming and Qing Dynasties Qufu Committee of Cultural Heritage
China	The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center
DPR Korea	Mu Ye Do Bo Tong Ji: (Comprehensive Illustrated Manual of Martial Arts) Grand People's Study House
Iran	Arafat-al-Ashiqin va Arasat al-Arifin Malek National Library and Museum
Japan	Suiheisha and Hyeongpyengsa (records of cross border solidarity between the minorities that have been discriminated against) Suiheisha Museum
Macau SAR, China	Archives and Manuscripts of Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple (1645 – 1980) Macau Documentation and Information Society
Macau SAR, China	Chapas Sinica (Official Records of Macao during the Qing Dynasty (1693- 1886) Historical Archives of Macao and National Archives of Portugal
Malaysia	Kitab Ilmu Bedil (MS 101) (Book of Traditional Weaponry) Institute of Language and Literature
Mongolia	Merged Garahiin Oron or Towards Attaining Wisdom National Library of Mongolia
Myanmar	King Bayintnaung Bell Department of Archaeology and National Museum
Republic of Korea	Pyeon-aek: Hanging Wooden Plaques in Korea Advanced Center for Korean Studies
Uzbekistan	Turkestan Collection National Library of Uzbekistan
Vietnam	Phuc Giang School Woodblocks (18th-20th Centuries) Ha Tinh Museum
Vietnam	Royal Literature on Hue Royal Architecture (1802-1945) Hue Monuments Conservation Center

14. Summation of the day and next meeting

14.1 Review of proceedings

The Chair thanked the delegates of the meeting for the contributions made to the success of the proceedings and recognized the value of the knowledge and perspectives shared. He looked forward to hearing the results of the MOW programme review and expressed the commitment of the MOWCAP Bureau to enhancing its operations, including the mechanisms for the nomination and inscription processes.

14.2 Acting-Chair for the remainder of the meeting

Mr. Li advised the meeting that he would not be able to attend and Chair the sessions on the following day and had therefore, requested Dr. Edmondson to act on his behalf.

14.3 Next meeting

Mr. Li advised the meeting that the Bureau had accepted the generous offer of Japan to host the next meeting of the Bureau in 2017.

15. Overview of regional Asia/Pacific MOW programme

15.1 Changes in the Bangkok Office

Ms. Misako Ito, UNESCO Regional Advisor and ex-officio member of the MOWCAP Bureau, gave a presentation explaining the organizational arrangement of the 11 UNESCO offices in the Asia-Pacific region. She had also summarised the activities that the offices already had in plan in relation to MOW programme. MOWCAP members looking for support were encouraged to contact the UNESCO office in their area. See Appendix H for the full presentation deck.

15.2 New committees

Dr. Edmondson invited experience sharing from newly established committees or from committees in the process of forming. Updates were received from Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan. Please see the Country Reports in Appendix F for further details.

15.3 Communication strategy

Vice-Chair, Ms. Dianne Macaskill, reported on the communication activities of the Bureau, including the newsletter issued every 6 months, the Facebook page, which now has 485 likes and the new website launched in November 2015.

15.4 Workshops

Vice-Chair, Mr Kim Kwibae, reported that the Korean National Commission is organising an MOW training workshop in Fiji in September 2016. The workshop will provide guidance and assistance on the development of nominations to the MOW registers and will focus on countries with no existing or a small number of inscriptions.

15.5 MOWCAP Center at the Asia Culture Center, Korea

Ms. Helen Swinnerton reminded the General Meeting that the MOWCAP Bureau had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asia Culture Center (ACC) to establish a MOWCAP Center in Gwangju, Republic of Korea. The MOWCAP Center will be financially sponsored and hosted by the ACC to facilitate the work of MOWCAP, including a secretariat assistant. A working group composed of members of the Bureau and ACC has been established to build the programme of cooperation between the parties. On behalf of the ACC, Ms. Koo Gowoon, Assistant Director from the Research and International Relations Division, gave a presentation on the facilities that would be available to the MOWCAP Center. Dr. Edmondson on behalf of the Bureau and MOWCAP membership expressed thanks to the ACC for the generous support and facilities they were contributing to the programme.

15.6 Macau MOW Knowledge Centre

Dr. Helen Leong of the Macau Documentation and Information Society (MDIS) gave a presentation on the Macau UNESCO Memory of the World Knowledge Centre,

which is in the process of being established by the Macau City University Library and the MDIS in collaboration with the IAC Subcommittee on Education and Research. Its mission is to support the MOW programme in the field of education and research in Macau, by collecting material on MOW (its tasks, registers, projects, and history) and to provide and facilitate access, both physically and digitally, to this material, in support of education programmes and learning.

15.7 Opportunities

Ms. Misako Ito presented a project proposal developed by the UNESCO Bangkok Office on “Safeguarding the Documentary Heritage of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in Southeast Asia through the UNESCO Memory of the World (MOW) Programme” (see Appendix I). The aim of the project would be to strengthen the MOW programme amongst LDCs and SIDs in Southeast Asia, through identifying and safeguarding documentary heritage that shares synergies with World Heritage sites. UNESCO aims to implement the programme in close cooperation with the Government of Malaysia and is also looking for other financial partners, as well as input from the MOWCAP members on potential documentary and world heritage to include in the project. Mr. Andrew Henderson, Consultant Unesco Bangkok Office, made a presentation on “Developing Synergies Between MOW and World Heritage in Southeast Asia” (see Appendix J).

16. Facilitating national MOW committees

16.1 A discussion was held on how the MOWCAP Bureau can effectively facilitate the national MOW committees. The committees highlighted a range of challenges that they face – reliance on the voluntary efforts of individuals and the associated struggles to find sufficient time to dedicate to MOW activities; engaging a younger audience to enable succession planning; reliance on the generosity of National Commissions and local institutions for financial resource; limited local expertise and the difficulties of accessing knowledge and experts across countries in the region; the difficulty of understanding and responding to the technical requirements of the nomination process.

16.2 The Bureau would give some thought about how these challenges could be addressed. Ideas included - using technology to conduct virtual training and seminars in support of the nomination process; reminding the UNESCO offices in the region to raise the importance of MOW in communications to National Commissions; leverage MOWCAP’s informal network more to facilitate access to specialist knowledge and guidance.

17. Fund-raising

Ms. Misako Ito reminded the General Meeting that the UNESCO offices in the region could help to mobilize funding for MOW projects. Members could contact the UNESCO offices or they could share proposals via the MOWCAP Bureau.

18. Closing

In closing, Dr. Ray Edmondson expressed MOWCAP's gratitude to the Monuments Conservation Centre in Hue and the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO, for their hospitality and the arrangements for the meeting. The participants from different parts of the Asia Pacific region were also thanked for their active participation and were invited to join the next MOWCAP General Meeting in 2018. He advised the meeting that the Bureau had accepted an offer from the Republic of Korea to host the 8th General Meeting, whilst Japan would host the next Bureau Meeting in 2017.

19. Seminar on the Implementation of the Recommendation

Dr. Edmondson and Ms. Iskra Panevska led a half-day seminar on the topic of implementing the 2015 "Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form."

20. Study Tour of Hue

The hosts of the meeting invited the delegates to join a cultural programme of visits to see and experience the heritage of Hue, including documentary heritage. The Bureau would like to thank the hosts for these excellent arrangements.