

**THE MONGOLIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME
REPORT 2016-2017**

I. Name of organization:

The Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Programme (hereafter referred as the Committee)

II. Administration Office of Committee:

1. Chairperson:

Ichinkhorloo Bayarkhuu, Director of the National Library of Mongolia

2. Secretary of the Committee:

Tumenbayar Khomool, Librarian of Rare and Valuable Books of Collections of the National Library of Mongolia

3. Contact person:

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IV. Structure of the Committee:

Chairperson

Director of the National Library of Mongolia

Secretary

Librarian of Rare and Valuable Books of Collections of the National Library of Mongolia

Members

Advisor of Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

Secretary of Department of Public Diplomacy and Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

Director of Center for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia

Deputy-Director of General Archival Authority, the Government Agency of Mongolia

Director of Mongolian National Museum

Communication and Information Specialist of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

Director of Section of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Educational, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia

Director of Institute of History and Archeology, Mongolian Academy of Science

Director of Institute of Language and Literature, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

Director of Foreign Relations, Gandantegchlen Centre of Mongolian Buddhists

V. Statutes and the Terms of Reference of the Committee

Mongolia has ratified the below mentioned conventions and recommendation of UNESCO regarding the protection of documentary heritages:

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954),
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970),
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972),
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003),
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005),
- Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2015)

The 1992 Constitution of Mongolia dictated as follows: "The historical, cultural, scientific and intellectual heritage of the Mongolian people shall be under State protection" [Article, Seven]. Currently, all activities regarding preservation of, and access to, cultural heritages undergo the following laws and regulations in Mongolia. The Committee abides the following national legislations:

- "Policy of the State on Culture"
<http://www.mecss.gov.mn/Cstrategy>
- "Principles of foreign policy of Mongolia"
<http://www.legalinfo.mn/annex/details/3362?lawid=6340>
- "Law of Culture"
<http://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/454>
- "Law on safeguarding cultural heritages"
<http://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/455>
- "Law of Library"
<http://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/10844>
- "Program on safeguarding documentary heritages"
<http://www.legalinfo.mn/annex/details/6495?lawid=10550>

VI. Fundamental resources for years 2016-2017

The Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Programme (the Committee) was established in 2010 by order of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia. The Committee is obliged to make a list of national heritages, and identify valuable heritages that meet nomination criteria to regional or international Memory of the World Registers, and encourage international cooperation. The National Library of Mongolia (NLM) is a chair organization of the Committee. The NLM established a program on preservation of documentary heritages that aims to identify heritages to national, regional or International Memory of the World Registers of the UNESCO in 2011. The program titled “Documentary Heritages: Researches and Preservation Policy” is still in progress. The Committee collaborates with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of Mongolia, the Mongolian Academy of Science and individual researchers to implement this program. Objectives of the program are described in three levels; there is no time frame.

1. To raise awareness of national heritages in Mongolia, to improve preservation and accessibility of documentary heritages, particularly paper-based documents.
2. To put national heritages of Mongolia into global attention, to have significant documentary heritages inscribed to International or Regional Memory of the World Registers.
3. To ensure the heritages are not only Mongolia’s invaluable asset but also a part of intellectual properties of the world.

In order to achieve the objectives, the Committee carries out the following activities:

1. Identify documentary heritages (primary researches, to make a list, and select documentary heritages according to the criteria of Memory of the World Registers)
2. Research the selected documentary heritages for scholarly contribution
3. Make a hand-book on documentary heritages

The Committee studied a certain number of heritages and has established a list of documentary heritages based on scientific investigation. The research of the paper-based documentary heritages is still in progress. Readers can read the documents in digital versions at the library. This research gave us an opportunity to rediscover our valuable heritages.

VII. Activities and achievement for year 2016-2017

Tibetan Dictionary of Definitions and Terms entitled as The Space for Attaining Wisdom inscribed in the Regional Register in 2016

Towards Attaining Wisdom is the short title by which it is widely known for centuries since its creation in wooden print blocks in 1742 by group of best Mongolian Buddhist scholars and translators. Complete set of printing woodblocks of the Tibetan-Mongolian Dictionary of terms and definitions nominated herein were re-created in 1924 with the purpose to recover original wooden print blocks completed in 1742 but lost irrevocably in the course of history. It has been the most valuable medium that had contributed towards completion of the finest yet full translation of the Buddhist Canons Kangyur and Tengyur into Mongolian and compiled 16 principles of translation theory. Additionally, it is an invaluable source of continued in-depth study of classical Mongolian language and its evolutionary changes over time. Moreover, The Space for Attaining Wisdom is the only extant copy of well preserved and yet completes set of wooden print blocks to illustrate best traditions of publishing by Mongolians, the country with rich history and traditions of writing and printing being a nomadic civilization since ancient times. The Government recognized it officially among the most precious historical heritages of the country for its invaluable cultural, religious, scholastic and linguistic importance written in the 18th century to reach our days.

Stone Stele Monument for Mongolian Tanjur inscribed in the International MoW Register in 2017

The Stone Stele Monument for Mongolian Tanjur was recommended as an addition to the "Mongolian Tanjur" inscribed in the Memory of the World Register in 2011. The Stone Stele Monument was created to mark the historical event of arrival of the 226 volumes of the Mongolian Tanjur into the capital city of Mongolia in 1924 and its subsequent hand over to the newly established National Library of Mongolia. This monument depicts text of an agreement with 9 provisions in accordance to which the Tanjur in Mongolian script that was kept at the Buddhist temple in Tsahar county of Lord Wise Nayant had been transferred into permanent ownership of the Institute of Sutra and Records under the Ministry of Enlightenment of Mongolia. Also symbolizes the first collection efforts undertaken which were inscribed onto granite to immortalize the sacred traditions of the Mongolian people to cherish and respect knowledge contained in books. Additionally, the monument bears the long standing cultural and aesthetic traditions of mongols to create stele stone sculptures and monuments to mark historically important events and deeds.

Results of the program “Documentary heritages: Researches and Preservation Policy”:

1. The Committee has selected documentary heritages for nomination to International or Regional Memory of the World Registers of the UNESCO. The selection of documentary heritage was done according to the criteria of the UNESCO. We updated the list of national heritages which was made in 2013. The *Treasures from the National Library of Mongolia* handbook was published in 2017. This handbook enables accessibility and gives knowledge of the national heritages. The handbook contains 108 pieces of documentary heritages with annotations. The list of documentary heritages was based on scientific researches of the members of the Committee. We assume the listed heritages are not only national heritages but also are of the world.
2. The Committee expanded collaboration with provincial institutions and other organizations on researches of national heritages. We aim to consider significant documentary heritages on the entire Mongolian territory. We encourage local museums to take part in identification and nomination of significant documentary heritages to Memory of World Register. Moreover, we offer to local institutions research assistance and capacity-building schemes. In 2016-2017, the National Library of Mongolia organized training for local librarians on policy of Memory of the World program of UNESCO, introduced the policy, framework and activities of the Committee. As a result of collaboration with thirty local museums, the Committee has launched a project to create a database of national heritages that requires in-depth study and identify heritages in danger. The Committee collected information on 68 heritages from 8 different institutions.

To support the management of preservation, we have developed a website for registering and introducing heritages in Mongolia. This website aims to introduce heritages not only in the National Library but also those that are preserved on hands of individuals. Individuals can register themselves to the website and add information about heritages that they own. On the other hand, it increases chances to collect information on national documentary heritages that have not been registered in the NLM. (<http://www.nationalheritage.mn>) As we assume, the nationwide activities have shown some positive impacts on supporting partnerships of local institutions and raising awareness of national heritages among population.

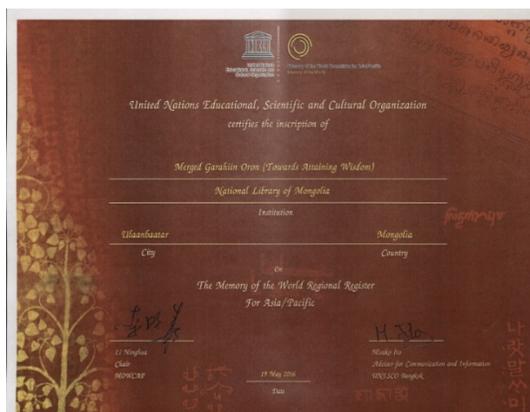
3. In the scope of management of preservation, the Committee has undertaken several steps such as introducing heritages to public and registering them to the National Registration Database of Mongolia (NRDM). We have prepared 776 heritages for database software of Registration of Cultural Heritage (RCH) in order to arrange information and cataloguing on heritages with collaboration of the Center of Mongolian National Heritage. 20 out of 776 are paper-based documentary heritages preserved in the NLM that are as the national heritages of Mongolia by order of the Prime Ministry of Mongolia. The information consists of ongoing researches, preservations, descriptions, pictures of authentic originals, and mobility information of the documentary heritages. Based on the information, we proceed investigation of the national heritages and select specific heritages which meet criteria of Memory of the World Registers.

VIII. National and International Registers in 2016-2017

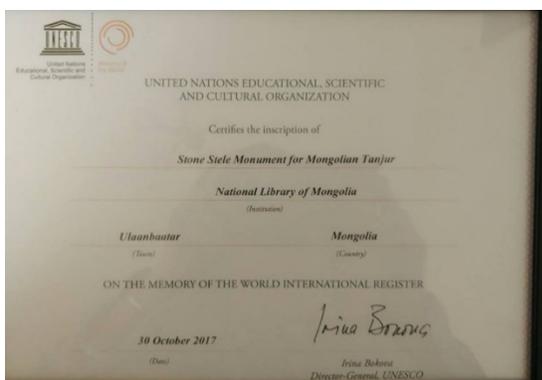
As mentioned above, 20 paper-based documentary heritages are registered as the national heritages of Mongolia by order of the Prime Ministry of Mongolia. The Committee has selected 108 heritages in the hand-book that was published in 2017. The list of documentary heritages made in 2015 is available on the website: <http://www.monheritage.mn>

Six heritages from Mongolia are inscribed on the list of documentary heritage of MoW Programme, and two of them are inscribed in 2016, 2017.

In 2016, Tibetan Dictionary of Definitions and Terms entitled as The Space for Attaining Wisdom was inscribed to the Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia-Pacific.



In 2017, the Stone Stele Monument for Mongolian Tanjur was inscribed to the Memory of the World International Register.



IX. Working plan for years 2018-2019

The program “Documentary heritages: Researches and Preservation Policy” will be continued in coming years. The main focus will be on raising awareness and encouraging partnership. The Committee will work on research of national heritages, and extend partnership with local institutions and other organizations located in Ulaanbaatar. The Committee will activate involvements of people through online registration system, and we will do in-depth scientific research on selected heritages from museums or libraries. Moreover, the Committee is planning to nominate two documentary heritages to Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia-Pacific in 2018.

X. Challenges and issues

The Committee has faced problems on providing access to documentary heritages and restoration of damaged documentary heritages. Firstly, digital preservation of paper-based documentary heritages has not properly done in terms of software and their protection is insufficient. Therefore, we are unable to embrace international standards for preservation and online accessibility is undeveloped. However, the Committee is working on enhancing digital preservation of paper-based documents. Our preference is facilitating access of the heritages for international and regional partners and share copies of paper-based documentary heritages.

Secondly, the Committee is faced with a problem on restoration of heritages. One of the most precious documentary heritages of Mongolia, *the Kanjur written with nine precious stones*, which was inscribed to Memory of the World International Register in 2013, has deteriorated

and started erosion of the manuscripts' sheets. Currently, we are working on defining level of damages, searching appropriate restoration technology and trying to improve risk management. We have not experienced restoration of manuscripts made with processed black paper and nine-jewel inks. However, we established a laboratory for restoration in 2011 and launched restoration of old manuscripts, we still need suitable equipment and a better technology. At the present, all restorations are proceeded manually. Therefore, Mongolia is in need of learning from worldwide advanced technologies for restoration of old manuscripts.

XI. Actions to implement UNESCO recommendation on Documentary Heritage

The Committee has taken some actions that correspond to the "Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form".

1. Identification and Nomination of documentary heritage to national, regional and international Memory of World Registers is done according to the recommendation.
2. Research is in progress regarding Identification of documentary heritages in danger in rural areas with collaboration of the Center of Mongolian National Cultural Heritage.
3. For preservation policy, as aforementioned, digital preservation of documentary heritages is only in preparation level. Storage management of the paper-based documentary heritages is properly done based on the standard of the NLM. [Document storage requirements for archive and library materials /MNS ISO 11799:2007]
4. To provide access and raise public awareness of documentary heritage, we have organized numerous activities to promote the heritages. The Committee organizes numerous exhibitions, workshops, broadcasting and others.
 - The Committee is collaborating with MNB Television and making a serial broadcasting on promoting heritages in the NLM particularly inscribed heritages to the UNESCO. The serial broadcasting is titled "Golden collections of Sutras". It increases knowledge of cultural heritages among people. www.mnb.mn
 - In 2016, the Committee organized a thematic exhibition relevant to the inscribed heritages to regional or International Memory of the World, namely "Mongolian Canons and Source of Lexical Sage" and "Mongolian woodblock culture of printing".
 - In 2017, the Committee organized a workshop for paying reverence to "Stone Stele Monument for Tanjur".