Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP)
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

1. Memory of the World Philippine Committee (MowPhil)

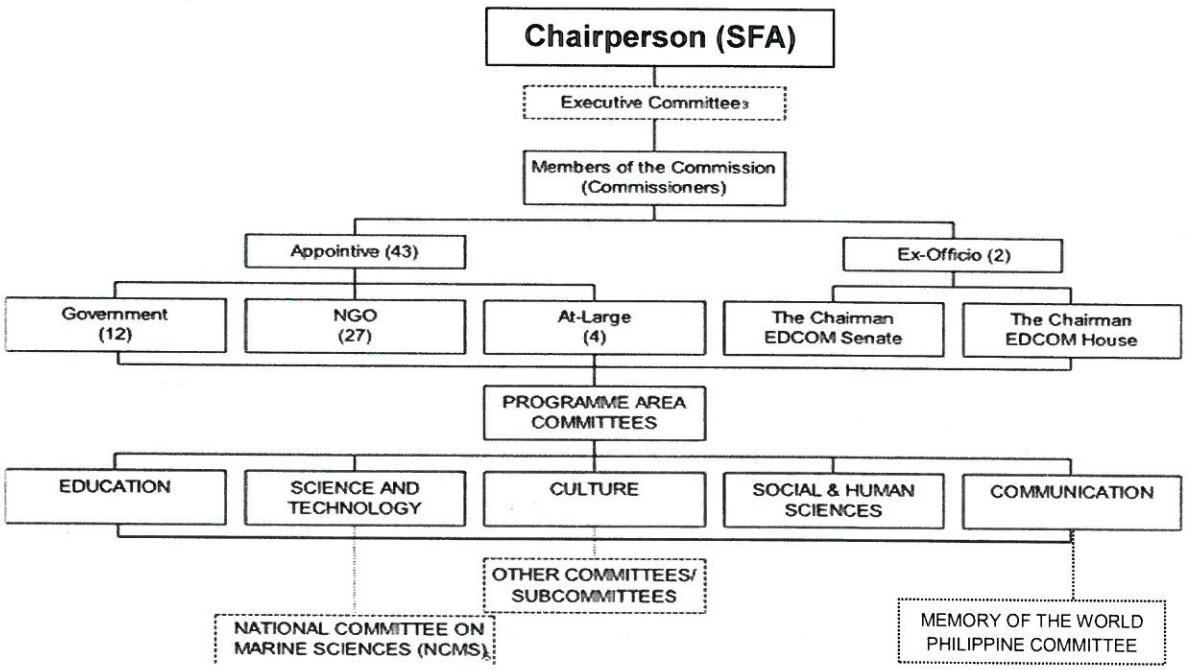
2. Chair: Prof. Nick Deocampo, Professor, University of the Philippines
   Vice Chair: Mr. Victorino Mapa Manalo, Director, National Archives of the Philippines
   Members: Dr. Bernardita Churchill, President, Philippine National Historical Institute
   Atty. Rodolfo Cabado, Professor, Central Philippine University
   Dr. Leah Abayao, Professory, University of the Philippines
   Ms. Anne Rosette Crelencia, Librarian, National Library of the Philippines

   PH NatCom: Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani, Secretary-General
   (Alternate Representative) Lindsay Barrientos, Deputy Executive Director

3. Contact Info: Joana Rizza A. Bagano
   Programme Officer for Culture and Communication and Information
   Philippine National Commission for UNESCO
   G/F Department of Foreign Affairs, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
   Website: http://unesco.gov.ph
   Work Email: joanabagano@unesco.gov.ph; joanabagano@gmail.com
   Telephone: +632-834-3447

4. Structure of the Committee

The Committee is lodged under the Communication and Information Committee of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO (PH NatCom), an attached agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of the Philippines. The PH NatCom is chaired by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Alan Peter Cayetano. The Secretariat of the PH NatCom is led by Secretary-General Lila Ramos Shahani.



5. Statutes and the Terms of Reference of the Committee

Under the authority of the Secretary General, Philippine National Commission for UNESCO, members of the Memory of the World (MoW) Philippine Committee will be tasked to perform the following tasks:

a. Propose, assess, endorse, and promote PH nominations to the MoW national, regional and international registers;
b. Provide expertise and guidance on projects and activities geared towards raising the profile of Philippine documentary heritage;
c. Promote and implement the 2015 Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage in the Digital Age, as appropriate to local contexts;
d. Attend regular meetings as scheduled by the PH NatCom Secretariat;
e. Represent PH NatCom in local and international meetings relative to the UNESCO MoW Programme; and
f. Other duties as may be deemed necessary by the Committee and PH NatCom.

6. Fundamental resources for year 2016-2017

Resources for the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) Programme were charged against the PH NatCom Communication and Information Committee Regular Budget for 2016 and 2017. Payments for the Programme's activities were also augmented by various partners such as the Center for New Cinema, Ayala Foundation, Inc., and the University of the Philippines.

7. Activities and Achievements for years 2016-2017

In line with the adoption of the 2015 Recommendation for the Preservation of and Access to Documentary Heritage in the Digital Age, PH NatCom in partnership with the Center for New Cinema (CNC) conducted seminar-writeshops through the holding of the Documentary Heritage Public Awareness Campaign in 2016. These seminar-writeshops, spearheaded by University of the Philippines Prof. Nick Deocampo (also director of CNC), aimed to strengthen the MOW network in the Philippines, prepare for the creation of a National MOW Committee and solicit potential nominations for the international, regional, and national registers.

MOW Documentary Heritage Public Awareness Campaign (2016)

The seminar-writeshop series was conducted in three University of the Philippines campuses across the country, covering three regional sites: University of the Philippines (UP) main campus in Diliman, Metro Manila; UP Baguio; and UP Mindanao. They attracted a wide number of academics, cultural and heritage workers, government personnel, and students. This resulted to the activation of an active documentary heritage network in the country. Several potential nominations were gathered from various archives, libraries and holding institutions across the country.

Among the outstanding nominations that were suggested to be nominated in the national registry were those on the indigenous epic chants of the Panay island's central inhabitants; the Philippines' iconic novels by Dr. Jose Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo;* Martial Law

Papers; Japanese Gen. Yamashita's surrender papers; etc. Started in 2015, the two-year, six sites public campaign yielded a wealth of documentary materials, some of which were hardly publicly known before.

All workshops ended with a **writeshop** that allowed participants to study the requirements needed in submitting nominations to the UNESCO Memory of the World Registry Lists. While discussing the specific requirements in the nomination form, questions were raised regarding the legal life of documents, asking questions concerning copyright, unique and derivative copies of documents, custodianship, preservation, access to documents, and other related concerns.

In 2016, PH NatCom received a letter of interest from Dr. Arturo Cunanan, Chief of Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital, to nominate the Culion Museum and Archives in Culion, Palawan. The Elpidio Quirino Foundation also expressed progress in accomplishing the nomination forms for their respective archival holdings, the Presidential Papers of Pres. Elpidio Quirino. Decision on their inclusion in the registry was postponed until a new Secretary General was designated and a new MOW committee would be composed.

Participation in MOW Regional Symposium (2017); New PH UNESCO Secretary-General; 100th Birth Anniversary of Jose Maceda; Convening of MOW Committee

As part of the country's participation in the operationalization of the UNESCO Recommendation, PH NatCom endorsed Prof. Nick Deocampo to attend the International Symposium "Preservation and Access: Documentary Heritage of Southeast Asia in the Digital Age", 08 May 2017, and Consultation on Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage including in Digital Form, 09-11 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The symposium brought together leading experts to discuss strategies, cooperation frameworks, and best practices that governments and memory institutions in Southeast Asia can utilize to preserve and provide access to their documentary heritage and doing so in a way that fully harnesses the potential of new information technologies.

In 2016, Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani was appointed as the new PH NatCom Secretary General. She composed a new MOW committee in 2018 with the following:

Chair:	Nick Deocampo (University of the Philippines)
Vice Chair:	Victorino Mapa Manalo (National Archives of the Philippines)
Members:	Dr. Bernardita Churchill (Pres., Philippine National Historical Institute)
	Atty. Rodolfo Cabado (Central Philippine University, Visayas)
	Dr. Leah Abayao (University of the Philippines, Luzon)
	Representative from Mindanao (to be designated)
	National Library (represented by: Ms. Anne Rosette Crelencia)

In 2017, the University of the Philippines Center for Ethnomusicology celebrated the 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Jose Maceda, whose ethnomusical collection is included in the UNESCO Memory of the World international register. The celebration was composed of several activities, one of which was an exhibit funded by PH NatCom and installed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines from September to December.

8. Any National Register of MOW?

For the first activity undertaken by the newly-convened committee, it voted on the approval of the **Culion Museum and Archives** in the MOW National Registry. During the committee meeting held on 26 March at the UNESCO office at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Building, it unanimously voted for the inscription of the said documents submitted by Dr. Arturo Cunanan, Jr., Medical Center Chief I Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital. He also expressed intentions to submit the same documents to the International Registry.

In brief, the Culion Museum and Archives house and protect numerous rare volumes of leprosy journals, text books and other reference materials for leprosy. It has the complete set of Culion coins, different laboratory apparatus used in early leprosy research, old Culion pictures, Dr. Wade's memorabilia's and other items reflective of early patients' community life. It is the totality of these documents that has been submitted to the registry.

The committee likewise decided to include the **Presidential Papers of Elpidio Quirino** under the National Registry. The submitted entry is a comprehensive collection of all the official and personal letters, communications, and documents obtained during and outside the tenure of Pres. Quirino in office.

9. Work Plan for year 2018-2019

During the meeting, the members also discussed future inscriptions, some of which are listed below, that have the potential of being recommended for future possible inclusion in the MOW registers. The National MoW Committee believes that inscription to the various registers will provide a platform for the collections to be further preserved through local interagency cooperation and international collaboration.

- Nick Joaquin's manuscripts (national)

  Nick Joaquin, National Artist, was a pioneer in the field of journalism and is best known for his short stories and novels. Considered by many to be the most distinguished Filipino writer in English, Joaquin skillfully wrote about the Philippines under the Spanish regime. His works include *Doña Jeronima, The Woman Who Had Two Navels, and A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino.*

- Dr. Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere/El Filibusterismo* (international)

  In his keynote speech during the UP Diliman leg of the MOW seminar-writeshops, Rizal historian Prof. Ambeth Ocampo encouraged the inscription of the two of the most famous and influential documents that led to the revolution and eventually, the independence of the Philippines from Spain.

- Jawi Documents (regional)

  The Jawi Documents consist of 17th century literature in the Jawi script, an Arabic-based script adapted by Muslims in Southeast Asia. The documents are in poor, crumbling condition, as witnessed by participants of the UP Mindanao leg of the seminar-writeshops. Dr. Churchill and Dr. Samuel Tan have been

spearheading the campaign to preserve the documents for the sake of the Mindanaoan narrative and its place in the Malaya Muslim world of Southeast Asia.

- The Ethnographic Film Collection of Ramon Ubosan (regional; international)

  Aside from being a dancer and choreographer, National Artist Ramon Ubosan is also a renowned researcher and archivist. His ethnographic film collection speaks volumes about the place of dance in the country's art scene and cultural heritage. As of last update from Prof. Deocampo, Ubosan's collection is in danger of deterioration as it is housed in plastic boxes and is exposed to extreme tropical temperatures.

- The Entire Collection of Fernando Poe, Jr. (national)

  National Artist Fernando Poe, Jr. or FPJ's acting career spans almost five decades. His films provide a glimpse into the popular consciousness of the Filipinos during that period and have, in themselves, shaped the popular imagination.

- Martial Law Documents (national; regional; international)

  The Martial Law Documents are in urgent need of attention due to pervasive historical revisionism on the Internet and in school textbooks. These documents are an emblem of a non-violent revolutionary movement that sparked similar others in Asia and around the world.

- Fidel V. Ramos Papers (national)

  Ramos was elected at a time of political instability in the Philippines and a few years after the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. His presidency is remembered to have brought about rapid economic growth and major strides in the peace process.

The Committee also plans to continue drumming up interest and support for the MoW Programme through the conduct of workshops related to documentary heritage. In particular, the National Archives of the Philippines and the MoW National Committee may organize seminars best practices in digitalization and archiving.

10. Challenges and issues

The PH MOW Committee has only been recently convened and is thus faced with challenges of organization and funding. It plans to map out its tasks in promoting greater awareness regarding the documentary heritage and in soliciting nominations for the registries. Budget constraints limit the amount of public activities, particularly made difficult by the country's archipelagic structure. Connecting with different institutions is faced with difficulties in terms of holding seminars and actively campaigning for greater public awareness on the country's and the world's fast diminishing documentary heritage.

11. Any news or suggestions for the next issue of MOWCAP newsletter?

    None.

12. What actions have been taken to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on Documentary Heritage?

    As the PH MOW Committee has only been recently revitalised, it will still draft its plan of action to implement the 2015 UNESCO Recommendation on Documentary Heritage. One major facet of this plan of action will be to provide support in the alignment of ongoing initiatives by the National Archives of the Philippines and the National Library of the Philippines to the provisions and guidelines outlined in the 2015 Recommendation.

Department of Foreign Affairs
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
1300 Philippines

Tel. No. :(+632) 834 3447 / 834 4843 / 834 4887
E-mail : secretariat@unesco.gov.ph
Website : www.unesco.gov.ph

Fax No.: (+632) 831 8873