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# MOWCAP

UNESCO Memory of the World  
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

## Nomination form

# Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register (revised 9 June 2015)

(Nominations must be received by 31 October 2015 for consideration for inscription in 2016)

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries Republic of KOREA.

## Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

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Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current International *Memory of the World* Register

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=1678&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

and the [Australian \*Memory of the World\* Register](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Completed nominations should be sent by email to [MOWCAPinfo@gmail.com](mailto:MOWCAPinfo@gmail.com). The secretary-general will confirm receipt of nominations by email.

If you need to mail large files such as those for moving images then send to the following address:

MOWCAP Secretary General,  
G.P.O Box 8374  
Hong Kong

No material will be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee ([rujaya2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rujaya2000@yahoo.com)). Please keep a copy of your submission for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Mr Li Minghua  
Chair, MOWCAP

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# Nomination form

## Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register nomination form

### Part A: Essential information

#### 1 Summary (max 100 words)

**Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.**

This documentary heritage, collectively named the "Hanging wooden plaques in Korea" comprises the hand-carved woodblocks with meaningful letters for hanging at the center of a traditional building. Letters on the Hanging wooden plaques implicitly reflect moral values of building owners. The Hanging wooden plaques can be also regarded as the work of art, that convey the symbolic meaning of the building space by appealing to the viewer's visual sense.

The 550 Hanging wooden plaques for the nomination of Asia/Pacific Memory of the World register were individually entrusted to the Advanced Center for Korean Studies (ACKS) by 189 clan families and Confucian academies (*seowon*). Since these Hanging wooden plaques have always been exposed to the risk of being damaged or lost by the theft as those should locate outside buildings, thus the owners of the Hanging wooden plaques Korea were willing to entrust them to the ACKS to preserve them securely and to conduct systematic research of Hanging wooden plaques.

The space in where Hanging wooden plaques were posted can be categorized into four types, according to the purpose of the buildings; residential, memorial, educational and disciplinary. Hanging wooden plaques of residential buildings were inscribed with ancestors' moral values, and those for memorial buildings were to commemorate ancestors' learning and virtue. Hanging wooden plaques for educational building were hand-carved with letters of educational ideology by ancestors and other sages, and those for disciplinary building reflected the complicated meaning of relaxed taste for the elegance of virtuous scholars (*Seonbi*) who lived leisurely and composed lives.

The letters of Hanging wooden plaques demonstrate the purpose of self-discipline on ancestors, based on their individuality. The letters were made by kings, famous calligraphers, literary people, and virtuous scholars, and the style of calligraphy letters contained the spirituality and values of the time, also the calligraphers' artistry. The letters also represent the purpose of construction and the usage of buildings.

In conclusion, Hanging wooden plaques were the symbol to demonstrate the Eastern traditional human-spiritual based on Confucian view of the world with artistic values of calligraphy itself.

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## 2 Nominator

### 2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Advanced Center for Korean Studies

### 2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Management Agency

### 2.3 Contact person(s)

Lee, Yong-doo. President of Advanced Center for Korean Studies

### 2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
Lim, No-jig	1997 Toegye-ro, Dosan-myeon, Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do. Republic of Korea.

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+82 (0) 54-851-0716	+82 (0) 54-851-0779	istopia@koreastudy.or.kr

## 3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

### 3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

*Pyeon-ae* : Hanging wooden plaques in Korea

### 3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The 550 hanging woodblocks entrusted to the Advanced Center for Korean Studies by 189 clan families and Confucian academies (*seowon*). [\[Appendix 1-1, 1-2 : Catalogue\]](#)

### 3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage At least three digital photographs of the documentary heritage should be provided to be used by MOWCAP for the purposes of promoting Memory of the World e.g. newsletters, website etc.

[\[Appendix 2 : Photos\]](#)

### 3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

Generally, information of the writer and the time of production were not inscribed on the wooden plaques, but the time of manufacture can be speculated by the year of buildings' construction, or the year of the building owners' birth and death. The time of Hanging wooden plaques production for the nomination of Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register varies between the 16th century to the 20th century.

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Clan families and Confucian academies (*Seowons*) replaced their original Hanging wooden plaques by duplicates, and entrusted Hanging wooden plaques to the ACKS to preserve them permanently and to conduct systematic research on Hanging wooden plaques.

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### 3.5 Bibliography

Advanced Center for Korean Studies (2003) *The Documenting Culture and the World of Woodblocks*. Advanced Center for Korean Studies.

Advanced Center for Korean Studies (2009) *Hanging Woodblocks those Embodying Meanings*. Advanced Center for Korean Studies.

Cho, Gye-young 'History and Characteristics of Hanging Woodblocks in Kyujanggak' in *Kyujanggak* 39. Kyujanggak Center for Korean Studies: Seoul Univ.

Council for Promotion of the Inscription of Confucian Academies on the World Heritage List (2013) *Understanding Korean Seowon : Hanging Woodblocks and Prose*. Association of Korean Seowon.

Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea (1999) *Hanging Woodblocks in Royal Court*.

Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea (2006) *Understanding of Hanging Woodblocks in Royal Court*. The Korean Studies Center in Yonsei Univ.

Lee, Dong-guk (2012) *Calligraphy Values of Woodblocks in the Advanced Center for Korean Studies*. Academic Statement for Discovering Artistic Value of Woodblocks in the Advanced Center for Korean Studies.

Lim, No-jig (2009) 'Understanding of Hanging Woodblocks' in *Hanging Woodblocks those Embodying Meanings*. Confucian Culture Museum in the Advanced Center for Korean Studies.

Lim, Chang-soon (1994) 'Regards to Hanging Woodblocks of Royal Palace' in *Hanging Woodblocks in Royal Palace*. Seoul Arts Center.

Kim, Byung-mo (2012) 'The System and Making Methods of Royal Court Hanging Woodblocks in the Joseon Dynasty' in *The Study on Culture of Art Vol. 1*. The Association of the Eastern and Western Culture of Art.

Kim, Bong-gyu (2014) *The Journey of Hanging Woodblocks : Seeing the History While Lifting the Head*. Dam and Books.

Kwon, Jin-ho (2014) 'Cultural Values of Korean Hanging Woodblocks' in *Preservation and Transmission of Woodblock Culture in the Eastern Asia*. International Academic Conference of Eastern Asia Woodblocks in 2014: The Museum of Typography and Printing in Yangzhou, China.

Kwon, Young-han (1998) *Dosan Seowon and Hanging Woodblocks*. Hanbit Press.

Park, Young-jin (2006) *The Study on Hanging Woodblocks in the Joseon Dynasty*. Dissertation in MA, Graduate School of Traditional Art in Kyeonggi Univ.

Seoul Arts Center (1994) *Hanging Woodblocks of Royal Palace*. Center for Art Culture.

Song, Dong-hyun (2005) *A Study on the Composition of Hanging Woodblocks and its Symbolic Meaning Regarding Royal Palace Architecture during the Joseon Dynasty*. Dissertation in MA, Graduate School of Engineering Science in Hanyang Univ.

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**3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage**

Name	Qualifications	Address
Lee, Sang-hae	Professor Sungkunkwan Univ.	lsh-skku@hanmail.net

Name	Qualifications	Address
Shin, Seoung-un	Professor Sungkunkwan Univ.	ss0311@skku.edu

Name	Qualifications	Address
Lee, Dong-guk	Director Callygraphy Museum in Seoul Arts Center	ldk@sac.or.kr

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I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the *Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register*, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature



Full name (Please PRINT)  
DR. YONG-DOO LEE PH.D.  
PRESIDENT  
ADVANCED CENTER FOR KOREAN  
STUDIES

Date  
30 OCTOBER 2015.

## 4 Legal information

### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

[Appendix 3 : Consent Agreement]

Name	Address

Telephone	Facsimile	Email

### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

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Name	Address
ACKS	1997 Toegye-ro, Dosan-myeon, Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do. Korea.

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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+82 (0) 54 851-0716	+82 (0) 54 851-0779	istopia@koreastudy.or.kr

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#### 4.3 Legal status

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##### **Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage.**

Managed by the Advanced Center for Korean Studies (placed in custody by the owners of the documentary heritage) .

Responsible administrative body: North Gyeongsang Province (under Gyeongsangbuk-do Province Act No. 3071: Act for Establishment and Support of the Advanced Center for Korean Studies) .

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#### 4.4 Accessibility

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##### **Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed**

The wooden plaques for the nomination of Asia/Pacific Memory of the World register are currently preserved and maintained in the storage at the ACKS. [\[Appendix 4 : Storage Hall\]](#).

For the safety reason, the storage do not open to the public however the ACKS runs the website (<http://pyeonaek.ugyo.net>) dedicated to the information of the storage which provides photos and the details about the wooden plaques. Thus, the wooden plaques can be easily viewed online not only by scholars and researchers but also by the general public. In order to facilitate the accessibility of the public, ACKS runs the permanent exhibition hall for Hanging wooden plaques [\[Appendix 5 : Permanent Exhibition Hall\]](#), where the curator is enable to provide detailed information of the Hanging wooden plaques to the visitors.

**All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:**

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#### 4.5 Copyright status

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##### **Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection**

The entire collection of Hanging Wooden Plaques in Korea, in the custody of the ACKS, is

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not covered under Article 36 of the Copyright Act, which stipulates a copyright protection period of 50 years. Researchers are permitted to photograph for research purposes as stipulated under the ACKS Rule No. 3 “Research,” Article 7 “Rules for Management of Materials.”

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## 5 Assessment against the selection criteria

### 5.1 First criterion: **authenticity**. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

The date of production for each Hanging wooden plaques corresponds the history of the building, and the Hanging wooden plaques are authentic and original works which origins and owners can be confirmed. Various records for making, repairs, restorations and damage of buildings from the contemporary literary documents confirmed the genuineness of Hanging wooden plaques, hence the collective Hanging wooden plaques constitute a documentary heritage whose provenance is clearly known.

The letters from the Hanging wooden plaques are unique with no identical ones or forgeries.

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### 5.2 Second criterion: **world significance**. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative—on the course of history?

The history of cultural exchanges between Korea, China, Japan and Vietnam through the Hanging wooden plaques can also be examined. Foreign envoys who visited to the Joseon Dynasty have left their hand-written calligraphies, and envoys from the Joseon Dynasty went overseas and collected bountiful hand-written calligraphies. Consequently, the Hanging wooden plaques are the documentary heritage which display representative handwriting styles of the Eastern Asia as well as of Korea. All Hanging wooden plaques preserved by the ACKS are the unique ones that cannot be replaced once they are damaged and lost.

If the Hanging wooden plaques are damaged, the spirituality of the time when they were made as well as the representative handwriting styles of the time will be diminished.

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### 5.3 Third, **world significance** must be demonstrated in meeting **one or more** of the following criteria. Because significance is **comparative**, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

**Time:** Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

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Letters on the Hanging wooden plaques demonstrates the lives and thoughts of virtuous scholars (*Seonbi*) of the Joseon Dynasty. Each letter shows the essence of scholarly culture and spirituality in the Joseon Dynasty; seeking the seclusion and the ideal society; overcoming social contradiction through academic training; pursuing the internal world for self-discipline.

**Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?**

The relocation of buildings due to the rapid industrialization of Korea since the 1960s and the increase in submerged areas resulting from building dams caused the disappearance of original structures of traditional buildings. In consequences, the descendants of building owners solely kept Hanging wooden plaques as symbols of disappeared buildings. Many descendants from clan families have entrusted the Hanging wooden plaques to ACKS for this reason, thus it shows an aspect on the rapid changing society of Korea in these days.

**People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development. It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.**

Virtuous scholars (*Seonbi*) of the Joseon Dynasty had an idea which their hand writings should display their character. Thus, scholars disciplined themselves through handwritings and sought to recover humanity on the criterion of handwritings. Presently, Hanging wooden plaques are the documentary heritage that reflect the spiritual world of *Seonbi* in the Joseon Dynasty.

**Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.**

Letters of wooden plaques reflect the moral world and values of *Seonbi* in two to five implicit letters. The contents of letters on Hanging wooden plaques are the filial duty to parents, memorial ceremonies for ancestral sages, honors of ancient sages, and passion for and confidence in academic learning.

Ultimately, letters of Hanging wooden plaques express ways of living a life worthy of human beings and passion for being saints, and contain implicit humanistic spirituality.

**Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.**

The letters on Hanging wooden plaques are artworks made by kings of the time, the most famous calligraphers of the time, literary people, and virtuous scholars. They are unique artworks with their own aesthetic values without any other identical ones. These handwritings form a distinctive calligraphic genre and a type of Hanging wooden plaques. They are very elegant, far from any vulgarity.

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## 6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

**Rarity** Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

Each letter of Hanging wooden plaques is unique without any other identical handwritings. If a Hanging wooden plaques should be damaged, the documentary heritage will disappear permanently because it is impossible to produce its replacement.

These Hanging wooden plaques have been preserved by posterity and succeeding scholars. However, a small number of Hanging wooden plaques have been damaged for inevitable reasons, so the owners of remained Hanging wooden plaques have entrusted them to the ACKS to preserve them permanently and securely.

**Integrity** Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

Most Hanging wooden plaques entrusted to the ACKS have been preserved intact. Some are partly damaged because of the its age, however they have been restored after being entrusted to the Center all Hanging wooden plaques are well preserved in the storage without any further damage.

Partly damaged Hanging wooden plaques have been restored without causing any harm to their intactness. The restoration of Hanging wooden plaques have been conducted by strictly following the Korean traditional ways.

**Threat** Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

The Hanging wooden plaques are documentary heritage which can be exposed to the risk of being damaged, stolen and burnt because of their location in the open space outside buildings.

The Hanging wooden plaques for the nomination of Asia/Pacific Memory of the World register are thoroughly preserved in the storage after being entrusted to the ACKS. The current maintenance system shall not cause any threats to the security of the Hanging wooden plaques.

Both the inside and the outside of the storage are equipped with an around-the-clock monitoring system and automatic fire extinguishers. These facilities which are connected with the central monitoring room of the ACKS are always under surveillance. [Appendix 6 : Storage Inside Sensor, and Central Monitoring Room]

**Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!**

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## 7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

**Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?**

YES

**If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.**

The Hanging wooden plaques entrusted to the ACKS are maintained by the guidance of heritage maintenance planning and preserved in the storage which is environmentally optimized for the preservation. The Data Division is established to take full charge of the hanging wooden plaques with following staff members assigned: two doctoral researchers, two researchers with master's degrees, one curator in full charge of the Hanging wooden plaques, and one staff member in entire charge of documentary heritage preservation.

The storage is equipped with facilities to keep the constant temperature of 20°C and the constant humidity of 50% inside. Also it has special storage facilities installed and operated to prevent the hanging woodblocks from being damaged.

To facilitate the accessibility of the Hanging wooden plaques to the public, a permanent exhibition hall is run and brochures with photos of important Hanging wooden plaques are provided to all visitors, enable them to easily access and understand the Hanging wooden plaques. [Appendix 7 : Guide Book]

## 8 Any other information

**Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia / Pacific Memory of the World Register.**

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

Many countries of the Eastern Asia produced the Hanging wooden plaques for its traditional buildings, and still few Hanging wooden plaques are remained. However, the Hanging wooden plaques are likely to be damaged with the passing of time. Particularly air pollution, negligence of the wooden plaques maintenance, lack of awareness of wooden plaques and other reasons cause many old original wooden plaques to disappear.

If the Hanging wooden plaques are registered on the nomination of Asia/Pacific Memory of the World, it can be the moment for other countries possessing Hanging wooden plaques to realize the importance of Hanging wooden plaques, thus they are willing to protect and maintain them. Also they can take advantage of the techniques that the ACKS has developed for the maintenance of Hanging wooden plaques. In addition, the ACKS can provide technical information for preserving and maintaining Hanging wooden plaques, as well as the technical advice for repairing and restoring damaged wooden plaques.

The International Woodblock Association (IWA) includes many countries in the Eastern Asia such as Korea, China, Japan, Vietnam and others as its members. Using the network of the association, members can share successful results of wooden plaques preservation, and increase academic achievements on wooden plaques maintenance.

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## 9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOWCAP website reviewed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduction read
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bibliography completed (section 3.5)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)