

6th MOWCAP General Conference, Guangzhou, China

COUNTRY REPORT **of Vietnam National Committee for Memory of the World program**

I. ACHIVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2012 - 2013

Since the 5th MOWCAP's General Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand in May, 2012, Vietnam National Committee for MOW (formally, Vietnam National Focal Point for MOW) have implemented variety of activities in term of organizational structure and professional activities.

1. Organizational structure

After several year of effective operation under the management of Vietnam National Focal Point for MOW, the Vietnam National Committee for MOW was officially founded from upgrading the National Focal Point under Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO's decision 630/QĐ-UBQG UNESCO date 19 November, 2012.

In order to strengthen the National Committee's organizational structure, Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO enacted decision 295/QĐ-UBQG UNESCO dated 23 May, 2013 on approving personnel of the National Committee, in which the State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam (SRADV) plays the role as a standing organization and the Director General of SRADV is the MOW National Committee's Chairperson. In its new assignment, within the framework of the National Committee Inauguration Ceremony held on 29th August, a workshop was held by SRADV to seek for contribution to the draft of MOW National Committee's Statutes. After the workshop, the draft had been revised following suggested comments and a complete statutes was officially enacted on 12 March, 2014 under the decision 128/QĐ-UBQG UNESCO of Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO. This is a significant step marking the development of Memory of the World Program in Vietnam.

2. Professional Activities

In 2013, under the operation of the SRADV in cooperation with Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO, Vietnam National Committee for MOW successfully organized one international seminar and one training workshop, including an international seminar titled "*Sharing experiences on participating in UNESCO Memory of the World Program*" and an

international training workshop on “*Preparing nomination for UNESCO’s Memory of the World Registers*”.

International seminar “*Sharing experiences on participating in UNESCO Memory of the World Program*” was held in Hanoi in January, 2013 with the participation of Dr. Ray Edmonson, MOWCAP’s Chairman and two other speakers from National Archives of Korea and State Archives Administration of China and nearly 100 Vietnamese participants from museum, library, archives, researching institutes, UNESCO’s documentary heritage custodians and SRADV’s staff. The seminar provided participants with an overview on the development of Memory of the World Program in Asia - Pacific region in general and in Vietnam in particular. The participants were shared by the speakers on participating in the Program and preparing a nomination from the experience of Vietnam, China and South Korea as well as useful information about the Program in understanding role and significance of the documentary heritage in social life. The conference helped to orient the preservation and value promotion of UNESCO-inscribed documentary heritages as well as the researching and nominating new valuable collections to the Memory of the World’s Registers.

The International training workshop “Preparing nomination for UNESCO’s Memory of the World Registers” was conducted in Hanoi in November, 2013. It aimed at helping documentary heritage custodians in Vietnam in understanding necessary procedures and information to nominate a documentary heritage to MOW program’s Registers. Speakers came from Thailand, Australia and Hong Kong, who have involved in MOW program for a long time. Participants came from SRADV’s subordinated units and some other local and central agencies, museum, library and participants from National Archives of Laos and National Archives of Cambodia. The one - day training workshop included two sessions, the Theory and the Practice, in which the participants were shared by the speakers with systematic and comprehensive information on MOW program and its Registers. In the Practice session, the speakers provided participants with hands-on skills on the prepared nominations, such as the National Archives Center N^o1’s nomination on “Imperial Records of Nguyen Dynasty”; the nomination of Audio Center, the Voice of Vietnam on “the Records of Independence Declaration” and the nomination of An Giang Provincial Archives Center on “the Collection of Buong-leaf prayer”. After the training course, the participants were equipped with basic knowledge on the MOW program and essential skills on how to prepare a nomination to MOW Program’s Registers.

3. Others

The National Committee for MOW in close connection with the State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam usually update information about the inscribed documentary heritages in Vietnam to have a better

management, preservation and promotion. The Committee also identify documents with international and regional significance, then encourage and support documentary custodian to prepare nomination for the value document.

II. ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2014 - 2015

In the following years, Vietnam National Committee for MOW will focus on following activities:

- Set up regulations for national, regional and international MOW nominating procedure;
- Conduct domestic Seminar on selection criteria for a national significant documentary heritage towards a national Register;
- Conduct international Seminar on “Promoting national image through inscribed documentary heritage of UNESCO’s MOW Program”
- Continue to identify valuable collection and give support as well as consultancy to documentary custodians to prepare nomination for MOW Program’s Registers
- Participate to Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO’s activities and MOW Program of UNESCO in regional and international levels.
- Set up a secretariat of Vietnam MOW National Committee’s with regard to the strengthening of its organizational structure./.