

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME FOR
ASIA/PACIFIC

REPORT
Of

MISSION OF “GOODWILL PATRON”
DR. M.R.RUJAYA ABHAKORN

To

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

25 January 2011

BACKGROUND

In August 2010, the Memory of the World Committee for Asia/Pacific (MOWCAP) of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme was approached by Ms. Hajah Fatimah Haji Aji, Head of Archivist Officers of the National Archives of Brunei Darussalam who indicated that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports would like to get more input in relation to the MOW Programme and would also like to invite an MOW expert to provide more information on MOWCAP and the MOW National Committee.

Subsequently it was decided by the MOWCAP Bureau to send Dr. M.R. Rujaya Abhakorn, MOWCAP Goodwill Patron, to give a talk and hold discussions with the Brunei Darussalam authorities on the MOW Programme and related issues of interest. As he had been appointed Director of SEAMEO SPAFA (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts) in October 2010 and would have to attend the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference in Brunei Darussalam in January 26-29, 2011, it would save costs to hold the talk on January 25, 2011 before the SEAMEO Council Conference. This arrangement was agreed upon.

THE MEEETING

The talk was held at the National Archives in the morning of January 25, 2011 and chaired by Mr. Awang Bantong bin Antaran, Director of Brunei Museums. It was well organized and attended by 31 officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Archives, the National Library, the Language and Literature Bureau, Academy of Brunei Studies of the University of Brunei Darussalam and members of the mass media. As this was the first time that Brunei was exposed to MOW, general information about the MOW Programme was provided, examples of items inscribed on the International Register were shown and the issues related to the MOW National Committee were discussed. The audience showed great interest and asked several general questions. At the end of the meeting MOW greeting cards and bookmarks were distributed to the audience and an interview was given to a reporter from the Brunei Times (see ANNEX A).

VISITS

An extra visit was arranged to a royal cemetery and an Islamic cemetery that contains an important inscription that has valuable historical information which could be a candidate for nomination to a MOW Register.

EVALUATION

1. To objectives of providing information on the MOW Programme, the roles of the Regional Committee (MOWCAP), the Registers, the criteria for the selection of documents and the guidelines for setting up a National Committee in the country were met. The meeting was successful in raising awareness about the MOW Programme especially among the national officials working in the heritage fields.
2. It is clear that the Meeting sparked an interest in the MOW Programme in Brunei. It can be expected that there will be 2 outcomes: the formation of a National MOW Committee or its equivalent and the reviewing of documents suitable for nomination to either the Regional Register or the International Register.
3. As in most countries, the challenge will be the coordination between the various governmental agencies, the academics and the communities especially in the nomination process.
4. There was a very good media coverage, especially by the newspapers in both English and the local language.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MOWCAP should continue to maintain contact with the Brunei authorities, particularly Mr. Awang Bantong bin Antaran, Director of Brunei Museums who acts as the coordinator on MOW affairs.
2. MOWCAP should provide support, advice and encouragement to Brunei in the task of setting a MOW National Committee in the coming months.

3. Brunei should be invited to attend MOWCAP General Meeting scheduled to be held tentatively in Bangkok in March 2012, regardless of whether there is a National Committee in place by then.

Rujaya Abhakorn
Goodwill Patron
MOWCAP
Bangkok

29 March, 2011

ANNEX A

List of Participants

**Participants on the Presentation of Memory of the World Asia Pacific
(MOWCAP) by Dr M. R. Rujaya Abhakorn
25th January 2011/ 20 Safar 1432 Hijrah**

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25th January 2011/ 20 Safar 1432 Hijrah**

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30	Ishan bin Ibrahim	Borneo Bulletin	Reporter		
31	Fitri Shahminan	Brunei Times	Reporter	7181052	

ANNEX B

PRESS COVERAGES

PRESS COVERAGE I

Brunei Bulletin



Participants at the presentation

Unesco's Memory of the World presentation to document heritage

By Ishan Ibrahim

THE regional authority on the documentary heritage that heralds the lives, discoveries and achievements of the people made a significant presentation yesterday at the National Archives.

Dr M R Rujaya Abbakem, 'Goodwill Patron' of the "Memory of the World" Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), delivered the presentation.

The Director for Brunei Museums Awg Bantong Antaran hosted the presentation.

Participants from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Language and Literature Bureau, History Centre and Universiti Brunei Darussalam heard topics discussed that primarily comprised the duties and activities of MOWCAP and on the Memory Of the World (MOW) programme, as well as how Brunei Darussalam can form a MOW committee at the national level.

MOW is a strategic international programme under the auspices of Unesco that is responsible for the protection, preservation and recorded documentation on the documentary heritage of humanity, especially heritage that is rare and endangered.

MOW acts as a safeguard against collective amnesia, human neglect and the ravages of time and climatic conditions, and willful as well as deliberate destruction by individuals or groups of people.

Unesco launched the programme in 1992 and stressed on the preservation of invaluable archive holdings and library collections all over the world and ensuring their



Dr M R Rujaya and Awg Bantong Antaran, Director of Brunei Museums, speak during the event

wide dissemination.

The MOW programme also campaigns to raise awareness of the documentary heritage, to alert governments, the general public, business and commerce to preservation needs, and to raise funds.

The documentary heritage, which can be a single document, a collection, a holding or an archival documentation can be deemed to be of such significance as to transcend the boundaries of time and culture. This recorded memory reflects the diversity of languages, people, and cultures of people in societies. The memory can again exist in various forms – sound recordings, film, videotape, newsprint, photographs, or computer-based documents and others.

Unesco is the world authoritative agency responsible for the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

PRESS COVERAGE 2

Brunei Times

State officials briefed on archive protection

Fitri Shahminan
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

BRUNEIAN officials yesterday got an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the 'Memory of The World' Regional Committee for Asia and Pacific (MOWCAP) and obtained suggestions on how to set up a MOW committee on a national level.

Among those who attended a briefing held at the National Archives Department were officers from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Language and Literature Bureau, History Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and officers from the department itself.

MOWCAP, set up in 1998, is part of the regional forum for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (Unesco) global Memory of the World (MOW) Programme. It aims to safeguard and facilitate access to and the use of documentary heritage, especially heritage that is rare and endangered. Launched by Unesco in 1992, the programme calls for the preservation of archive holdings and library collections all over the world and ensuring their wide dissemination, in a bid to guard against collective amnesia.

In the Asia Pacific, many libraries,



Dr M R Rujaya Abhakorn. Picture: BT/
Fitri Shahminan

archives and memory institutions face formidable challenges - economic, climatic and geographic - in achieving these goals.

MOWCAP aims not only to assist preservation of and universal access to documentary heritage of the region, but also to increase awareness of the existence and significance of the heritage.

"At least just participating, you (Brunei) will learn about other countries and the documents that they present to the committee," said Dr M R Rujaya Abhakorn, the Goodwill Patron from MOWCAP, who delivered the presentation at the

briefing.

"If Brunei has documents related to the region, they can propose to the regional committee so we can certify if its really of high importance to the region. If its important for the world, then we'll forward it to the international registration so it will be recognised as something important for the whole world," he added.

Dr Abhakorn also reminded future members of the national committee, should the Sultanate decide to set it up, to be well-versed in the history of the country. "I think this happens to everybody, you think you have this important document but when it comes to nominating it, you have to explain about its importance, that's when you realise that your historical knowledge might not be sufficient," he explained.

"So you have to do more digging into the past in order to understand the documents better."

When *The Brunei Times* posed a question whether the country has considered to set up a national committee for MOWCAP to the Director of Museums Department, Banteng Antanas, he answered: "We are not sure yet, but we will surely forward this idea to the higher authority."

The Brunei Times

PRESS COVERAGE 3

Permata

Brunei bakal miliki J'kuasa Kebangsaan Memori Dunia



Dr M R Rujaya Abhakorn (kiri) ketika menyampaikan taklimat mengenai MOWCAP ke arah penubuhan sebuah Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan MOW di Negara ini, sambil kelihatan Awang Bantong di sebelahnya.



Kalangan mereka yang menghadiri taklimat mengenai MOWCAP tersebut.

Oleh Hasrulraizan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 25 Jan – Negara Brunei Darussalam akan memiliki Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan *Memory of The World – MOW* (Memori Dunia) tidak lama lagi ke arah memastikan dokumentari warisan sejarahnya yang penting dapat dipelihara dan dikekalkan untuk bacaan dan tatapan generasi seterusnya negara ini.

Sehubungan itu, Jabatan Muzium-Muzium telah menjemput seorang pakar dalam penubuhan Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan MOW bagi menyampaikan taklimat mengenai prosedur khusus yang diperlukan negara ini ke arah penubuhan sebuah Jawatankuasa MOW di peringkat kebangsaan.

Pakar yang di undang bagi memberikan taklimat di Bilik Pekerma Dewa, Bangunan Arab Negara hari ini adalah Pensaung Muhibah (*Goodwill Patron*) MOW Jawatankuasa Serantau Asia dan Pasifik (*Regional Committee for Asia and Pacific – CAP*), Dr M R Rujaya Abhakorn.

Dalam sesi taklimat yang turut dihadiri Pengarah Muzium-Muzium, Bantong bin Antaran serta pegawai-pegawai dari Kementerian Kebudayaan, Belia dan Sukan, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Pusat Sejarah dan Universiti Brunei Darussalam itu, Dr M R Rujaya Abhakorn telah turut menghuraikan tugas dan kegiatan MOWCAP dan Program MOW.

Menurut Dr M R Rujaya Abhakorn, setiap negara perlu menubuhkan pendaftaran dokumentari warisan kebangsaan, yang akan menilai dan mengenal pasti setiap dokumentari warisan bagi sesebuah negara itu.

Beliau menegaskan pendaftaran kebangsaan tersebut akan mempertingkatkan kesedaran peri pentingnya dokumentari warisan kebangsaan (sebagai memori), lebih-lebih lagi kini wujud keperluan untuk mengkoordinasi dan menyepadukan dasar ke arah memastikan dokumentari warisan yang terancam dapat dipelihara dan dikekalkan.

Apabila negara ini memiliki Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan MOW nanti, maka akan mudahlah negara ini untuk menilai kepentingan dokumentari warisan yang dimilikinya kepada tiga kepentingan iaitu negara, rantau dan dunia, ujarnya.

Maka apabila satu-satu dokumentari warisan negara ini dinilai mencerminkan satu zaman perubahan penting dalam hal ehwal dunia atau memberikan sumbangan luar biasa

kepada kefahaman kita terhadap dunia pada satu-satu masa penting dalam sejarah, maka ia layak dimasukkan ke dalam pemeliharaan MOW, jelasnya.

Beliau menerangkan, MOW merupakan Program UNESCO bagi perlindungan, pemeliharaan dan penjagaan dokumentari warisan yang unik dan hampir pupus seperti tulisan perkataan atas kertas, daun nipah, bulu burung atau batu dan sebagainya, dan juga bahan-bahan audiovisual termasuk imej, bunyi dan filem.

MOW membantu memberikan kemudahan dalam perlindungan, pemeliharaan dan penjagaan dokumentari warisan dunia melalui teknik-teknik yang mimi dan dihargai, ujarnya.

Program itu juga bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran awam tentang kewujudan dan keunikan khazanah warisan Negara yang terdapat di kawasan Asia Pasifik khususnya yang terdapat di kebanyakan perpustakaan, arkib dan institusi memori, tambahnya.

Dalam taklimatnya itu, beliau telah memberikan maklumat mengenai garis panduan menubuhkan Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan dalam sesebuah negara dan menjelaskan undang-undang dan peraturan serta prosedur bagi Jawatankuasa itu.

Beliau juga mengongsikan maklumat mengenai bagaimana untuk menghubungi MOWCAP berkaitan penubuhan Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan, pegawai perhubungan yang dilantik dan unit/institusi yang mengkoordinasinya.

Beliau menekankan bahawa MOWCAP mesti dimaklumkan mengenai kewujudan Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan bagi penyaluran sumber yang diperlukan bagi penyertaan negara terbabit dalam aktiviti dan projek masa depan MOWCAP.

Pada 1992, UNESCO mula melancarkan beberapa program untuk menjaga koleksi khazanah warisan yang hampir pupus yang tidak terilai harganya iaitu yang terdapat dalam koleksi perpustakaan dan arkib di seluruh dunia, di samping memastikan penggunaan bahan yang dimaksudkan secara meluas.

Selain itu beberapa program berkaitan juga diadakan seperti penganjuran bengkel, penyediaan projek pembangunan sumber manusia, projek peringkat serantau dan lain-lain lagi.

MOWCAP telah ditubuhkan pada 1998 dan ia merupakan sebahagian daripada forum serantau untuk Program global MOW, UNESCO.