

# **MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

## **REPORT ON THE FIRST REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM IN ASIA/PACIFIC**

**17 -21 November 1998**

**Beijing, CHINA**

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## **Preface**

The First meeting of the **UNESCO Asia/Pacific Regional Committee of the “Memory of the World”** (hereafter referred to as **the Committee**) was held in Beijing, China from 17 to 21 November 1998. It was hosted by the State Archives Administration of China and UNESCO. Present at the meeting were 17 representatives from 8 countries.

This report contains records and documents relating to the first meeting of the Committee as well as accounts of the various activities taken place during the period.

# I

## The Opening Ceremony 17 November 1998

1. The Opening Ceremony of the first meeting of the Committee was attended by 20 participants from 8 countries and also Mr. Edmond MOUKALA, UNESCO Representative Officer to China. Mr. Malama MELEISEA, UNESCO Regional Advisor for Social and Human Science was unable to attend (see **Appendix A** for list of participants). The meeting was chaired by Mr. YU Fuzing, Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO.

2. **Welcome Speech by Mr. WANG Gang, President of the International Council on Archives and Director General of the State Archives Administration**

2.1 In his opening speech, **Mr. WANG** expressed his warm welcome to all participants and wished that the meeting would be a successful one. **Mr. WANG's** speech is at **Appendix B**.

3. **Opening Speech of Mr. Malama MELEISEA, Regional Advisor for Social and Human Science of UNESCO/ PROAP**

3.1 As **Mr. MELEISEA** was unable to attend the Opening Ceremony, **Ms SHEN Lihua**, Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office, States Archives Administration delivered the speech on his behalf. Text of **Mr. MELEISEA's** speech is at **Appendix C**.

4. **Opening Speech by Ms. Habibah Zon Yahaya, Vice Chairperson of the Memory of the World International Advisory Committee and Director General of the National Archives of Malaysia**

4.1 **Ms Habibah** thanked the participants for their support and enthusiasm in this program whose objective was to preserve the collective memory of the world. She outlined the focal points of this meeting and believed that problems could be resolved with the collective effort of all participants. Text of **Mrs. Habibah's** speech is at **Appendix D**.

## II

### **The First Meeting of the UNESCO Asia/Pacific Regional Committee of the Memory of the World 18 – 19 November 1998**

- Venue : Songhe Hotel, Beijing, China.
- Present : Raymond Edgar EDMONDSON (Australia)  
XU Yuqing (China)  
SHEN Li-hua (China)  
SUN Liping (China)  
Simon F.K. CHU (Hong Kong, China)  
Sarah C.C. CHOY (Hong Kong, China)  
WAN Wai-kwok (Hong Kong, China)  
Dr. S. SENGUPTA (India)  
Akira GENBA (Japan)  
Keiyu HORIKOSHI (Japan)  
KIM Seung Yoon (Korea)  
YANG Jinsuk (Korea)  
Dato' Habibah bt. Zon (Malaysia)  
Hajah Rahani Jamil (Malaysia)  
Cik Noreban bt. Jaafar (Malaysia)  
Atique Zafar Sheikh (Pakistan)  
Alicia H. RILLO (Philippines)
- Absent with apology : Malama MELEISEA (UNESCO Representative)

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#### **Minutes of Meeting :**

1. **Ms SHEN Lihua**, representing the host country, took the chair and called the meeting to order (**Ms SHEN's Opening Address is at Appendix E**)

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## 2. **Adoption of Agenda**

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2.1 The draft agenda (given at Appendix F) was adopted with the following amendments:

- a) Item 8 to be dealt with before item 7; and
- b) Item 9 and 10 to be combined as a free ranging “Discussion of Work Plan”.

2.2 It was noted that UNESCO regional advisor, **Mr. MELEISEA**, was unable to attend the meeting at short notice. **Mrs. HABIBAH**, however, managed to clarify with him by telephone communication a number of outstanding issues. Reference was made to **Mr. MELEISEA**'s advice during the course of the meeting.

2.3 The issue regarding the official name of the Committee, the first regional committee of the MoW Program, was raised. It was agreed that the convention of the International Advisory Committee would be followed and thus the name “**Asia/Pacific Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Program**” was officially adopted.

## 3. **The Right to Vote**

3.1 It was accepted that the Committee would also adopt UNESCO's convention of “one vote per country”. Each participating country represented by delegate (s) of its respective “Memory of the World” National Committee shall receive one vote in this Committee. It was then noted that MoW national Committees existed only in a few countries though there were others in the advanced stage of establishing such committees.

3.2 It was also understood that for MoW purpose, it would be consistent with UNESCO's practice for Hong Kong and China each to exercise a vote.

3.3 Delegates from Japan reported that Japan did not have a MoW National Committee. As there were procedural issues to address, the Japanese delegates decided to remain as observer during the meeting.

3.4 It was confirmed that there would be eight voting delegates representing seven countries and one observer present in this inaugural meeting.

#### 4. **Structure of the Committee and Election of Office Bearers**

- 4.1 Regarding the geographical coverage of this Committee, delegates concurred that it should be the same area of the Asia/pacific region comprising 43 countries as defined by UNESCO, and that all countries having a MoW National Committee would be represented by their delegate on the Committee.
- 4.2 Because of the vast size of the Asia/Pacific region, for better co-ordination of work, it was agreed that the region was to be divided into 4 sub regions and each to be represented either by the Chairman or a Vice Chairman of the Committee. Accordingly, there would be 6 offices constituting a **Bureau** in the committee: Chairman, three vice Chairmen, Secretary General and Treasurer. This structure would be compatible with the practice of the International Advisory Committee (IAC).
- 4.3 It was further agreed that the term of office for the Bureau members would initially be 3 years (i.e. until 2001) and thereafter 4 years (to mirror IAC). The full Committee should meet every two years and the Bureau, annually. It was expected that in the first year of operation, the Bureau would meet in Kuala Lumpur in April 1999 and the full Committee, in Bangkok, November 1999.
- 4.4 The election proceeded with the following results:

##### **Chairman :**

Mrs. Data' Habibah bt. Zon from Malaysia (also with area responsibility for South East Asia)

##### **Vice Chairmen :**

Pacific: Mr. Ray Edmondson from Australia  
West Asia: Mr. Atique Zafar Sheikh from Pakistan  
East Asia: Mr. Guo Shuyin from China

**Secretary General :** Simon Chu from Hong Kong

##### **Treasurer :**

Ms. Cik Norehan bt. Jaafar from Malaysia

- 4.5 There was much discussion about the location of the Secretariat. It was subsequently agreed that the Secretariat would be in Malaysia (hosted by the National Archives of Malaysia) on an experimental basis; subject to any changes needed in the light of experience. Future correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary General who would make referral to the secretariat or other relevant officers for action.

5. **Address by the Newly Elected Chairman**

- 5.1 At this point **Mrs Habibah** took the chair. She thanked all delegates for participating in the meeting and said that one of the objectives for the Regional Committee was to help establish an active MoW National Committee in each of the 43 countries of the region.
- 5.2 She also explained the roles and responsibilities of National, Regional and International Committee of the Mow Program. The three-tier structure was to ensure that regional as opposed to national and global considerations were fully taken into account.
- 5.3 The Bureau was asked to consider the need of drafting a memorandum of understanding or a set of by-laws that would set out the mission, structure and operation of the Committee. It was accepted that the contents of the document would be discussed in the meeting and the draft would be prepared by the Secretary General.

6. **Terms of Reference of the Regional Committee for the MoW Program in Asia/Pacific**

- 6.1 As agreement on the objectives of the Committee was pertinent in considering the Terms of Reference, **Mr. EDMONDSON** suggested that the Bureau should meet during lunch to exchange ideas first and that deliberations be postponed later.
- 6.2 After much discussion on the technicality of drawing up selection criteria and procedures for the regional register as well as the definitions of “world List, “ Documentary heritage” and “Memory of the World”, etc. the **Objectives** and **Terms of Reference** of the Committee were approved as follows :

6.3 Objectives drafted by **Mr. EDMONDSON** and accepted unanimously

**“The Asia/Pacific Regional Committee’s objective is to promote, facilitate and monitor the Memory of the World (MoW) Program within the region, and to represent the region’s perspective at the international level. In particular, it will support and facilitate nominations and encourage adequate representation of the region’s documentary heritage in the International MoW Register. It will also support and complement the work of the National MoW Committees and, where appropriate, encourage or initiate nominations.”**

6.4 Terms of Reference

- i) To increase awareness of the importance of documentary heritage, improve its accessibility and use;
- ii) To promote resource sharing and optimal use of resource in the region;
- iii) To mobilize political social and economic support for the MoW Asia/Pacific program;
- iv) To encourage cross country linkages of valuable collections with multi-country cultural significance;
- v) To encourage the establishment of national MoW committees;
- vi) To maintain the Asia/Pacific Regional register of MoW documentary heritage; and
- vii) To discuss the selection criteria and any other matters determined by the International Advisory Committee and make recommendations.

7. **Reports on the Xiamen Special Expert Group Meeting by Mrs. Habibah ZON YAHAYA and Mr. Ray EDMONDSON**

- 7.1 On behalf of **Mrs.HABIBAH, Ms Hajah Rahani Bte Jamil** delivered the report on the *Asia/Pacific Region MoW Program’s 1<sup>st</sup> Special Experts’ Group Meeting* in Xiamen, China. (See **Appendix G** for text of the Report.)

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7.2 **Mr. Ray EDMONDSON** then briefed delegates on the background of the MoW program and the idea behind this venture. Justification for, and role and responsibilities of the regional committee were also discussed (**Text of Mr. EDMONDSON's report is given in the *Final report Memory of the World Program for Asia/Pacific 1<sup>st</sup> Special Experts Group Meeting 10-12 December 1997 Xiamen, China at Annex C.***)

7.3 The Chairman thanked both delegates for their reports.

## 8. **Country Reports**

Delegates from seven countries (China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Philippines) delivered reports regarding the activities of their respective national committee/the current status of their MoW Program. The Committee was pleased to learn that most reporting countries either had or were in the advanced stage of establishing their national committee to coordinate activities. Details of all country reports are at **Appendices H – N.**

## 9. **Ray EDMONDSON's Report**

During this session **Mr. EDMONDSON** proposed a framework for discussion with regard to Committee's strategies for development. Having first of all reviewed what had been achieved since the Xiamen meeting, discussion then focused on the Committee's future plans and programs.

## 10. **Discussion of Work Plan**

10.1 With the setting up of the Bureau and the Committee, it was felt that an Administration Paper/Memorandum of Understanding/By-laws should be drafted. It should define more clearly the mission, objectives, terms of reference, structure and operation of the Committee as well as the duties and responsibilities of each office of the Bureau. The Secretary General was asked to coordinate with other Bureau officials for the task.

10.2 A number of activities/tasks were proposed for the next year:

- i) Communicate with IAC about the establishment of the Regional Committee and the Committee's proposed projects;
- ii) Contact and encourage the 43 member states to submit more nominations for the World Register through the Regional Committee by March 1999;

- iii) Request member states to send records of their early submissions to the Committee, including those failed to be accepted in the World Register. The rejected submissions will be scrutinized again to see if there is a possibility for re-submission;
- iv) Organize a Workshop on *submission tactics/ technique* for member states in November 1999 when the Committee meets in Bangkok.
- v) Prepare draft agenda (by Secretary General) for the 1999 Committee Meeting and have it circulated for discussion and approval in the Bureau meeting scheduled for April 1999 in Kuala Lumpur; and
- vi) Promote public awareness of the MoW Program and the work of the Committee through the following projects :
  - (a) Publish a simple pamphlet introducing the Committee and giving an overview of the MoW Program. The task was assigned to Vice Chairman, the Pacific region and the Secretary General;
  - (b) Compile a more detailed and comprehensive guideline covering, inter alia, selection criteria and submission technique (material in this proposed guideline will form the basis for the proposed Workshop) for the Mow Program;
  - (c) **Mr. KIM Seung Yoon** of Korea would look into the possibility and feasibility of staging a TV promotional program. Before undertaking such a study, **Mr. KIM** would have to seek prior approval from the Korean National Commission of UNESCO; and
  - (d) Design and construct a Website for the Committee in a year's time.

## 11. **Final Remarks**

- 11.1 The Chairperson expressed her gratitude to **Mr. WANG Gang**, Director General of the State Archives Administration of China and his staff for their hospitality and effort in making this meeting successful. Thanks also went to the Bureau officials and all delegates for their participation and contribution.
- 11.2 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon on 18 November 1998.

### III

#### Official Visits 17 November 1998

1. Two visits were made in the afternoon of 17 November.
2. **Visit to the First Historical Archives of China**
  - 2.1 The delegates were warmly received by **Mr. Xing Yong Fu**, Director of the First Historical Archives of China. Mr. Xing briefed his guests on the establishment and operation of the organization which collects and administers historical materials of the late Ming and Qing Dynasties. General discussion followed covering issues including holdings of the archives, its accession policy, preservation, public access, etc.
  - 2.2 **Mr. Xing** and his staff then conducted a guided facilities tour of the archives for the participants. In particular, delegates were shown a unique collection of classified documents recorded in Manchurian script by government officials between 1653 and 1680. The documents recorded, among other things, the early missionaries' activities in China and are an important primary source for the study of cultural interaction between the East and the West during that period. The collection would be included in China's submission to the MoW Program.
3. **Visit to National Library of China**
  - 3.1 The delegates were received by **Ms Sun Liping**, Director of the International Cooperation Division of the Library. The delegates were shown the grand building of the National Library as well as various invaluable rare books and documents including the priceless collection of ancient scripts written on oracle bone and the *Complete Works of the Four Treasuries*.
  - 3.2 After the tour, Deputy Librarian **Ms SUN Beixin** and **Ms SUN Liping**, met with the representatives and expressed their wishes to continue this kind of meaningful cultural exchange and sharing in future.

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and Workshop on Strategy Formulation and Resource Mobilization  
For Memory of the World Program in Asia/Pacific

17-21 November 1998      Beijing      China

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Address by Mr. Wang Gang at the Opening Ceremony of the First Regional Committee Meeting  
of the Memory of the World Program in Asia/Pacific

November 17-21, 1998 Beijing China

Ladies and gentlemen  
Distinguished guests,

With the active support of UNESCO, the First Regional Committee Meeting of the Memory of the World Program in Asia/Pacific is now open. The meeting is prepared and organized by the State Archives Administration of the People's Republic of China and the National Archives of Malaysia, which were entrusted by the Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific – the Bangkok Regional Office of UNESCO. On behalf of the International Council on Archives, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the State Archives Administration of China and colleagues from Chinese archival and library circles, I would like to express my warm welcome to Mr. Edmond Moukala, Program Officer for Culture, UNESCO's Representative Office to China, Mongolia and D.P.R. Korea, Mr. Malama Meleisea, Regional Advisor for Social and Human Science, Regional Office of UNESCO, Ms. Habibah bt. Zon, Vice Chairman of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Program and Director General of the National Archives of Malaysia, as well as to all participants from Australia, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

As is known to all of us, UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Program in 1992 for safeguarding and protecting the documentary heritage of mankind and for making its usage more democratic. Just as mentioned at the First International Memory of the World Conference held in Oslo, Norway in June 1996, the documentary heritage is the cultural treasure of the world, which is unique, fragile and irreplaceable. The Memory of the World Program is to protect the collective memory of mankind. Countries and territories in Asia/Pacific have taken an active action in promoting the program. Two successive meetings were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1995 and in Xiamen City of China in 1997 respectively. At this meeting, we shall formally establish the Regional Committee, elect its leading body, establish its secretariat, discuss its terms of reference, fund raising and other related matters. With our common efforts, I believe the meeting will achieve its goal and I hope the Regional Committee could serve as a forum for us to make our due contributions to safeguarding and protecting the cultural heritage in Asia/Pacific.

Beijing in deep autumn is beautiful and friendly. I understand you will have a tour of Beijing at the end of the meeting. Hope everyone of you enjoy your stay in Beijing.

Thank you.

FIRST REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP ON STRATEGY  
FORMULATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE MEMORY  
PROGRAM I ASIA PACIFIC.

Malama Meleisea

I would like to start my brief remarks by thanking the organisers for the invitation to participate and represent UNESCO at this very important meeting. It is my very first time to visit this famous city and this legendary country and I hope I have the opportunity to see a bit of its during this visit. I bring greetings from the Assistant Director General for Communication, Information and Informatics and from Mr Abid in particular who, as you all know, is the officer-in-charge for the Memory of the World Programme at headquarters. I would also like to pass on very warm wishes from the Director and members of the UNESCO family at the regional office in Bangkok.

You do not have to be reminded of the important of this meeting. The list of participants tells me that all of you have been involved at various levels with acquiring, preserving, storing, accessing and dissemination of information, and your very presence at this meeting is ample justification of how important this meeting is to you.

Let me assure you that although my presence is officially to represent UNESCO, which I am very honoured to do, I have a personal and professional interest in the topic of this meeting and workshop. I have only been working for UNESCO for about seven months, but before that I taught (and administer) at universities in the Pacific and in New Zealand for the past twenty years or so. My graduate and post-graduate qualifications are in history and I was President of the Pacific History Association (PHA) until I relinquished it earlier this year because of current commitments. Part of my work as a History lecturer and President of PHA was to run workshops on teaching and writing history. We supervised several projects which encouraged Pacific islanders to write the their regional and national histories from their own perspectives instead of those of predominantly from outside.

Several textbooks were produced and more are in the pipeline. But in the process the whole issue of documentation became very crucial. Most of the written historical documents both in the region and in the archives of ex-colonial powers were written by outsiders. Not much of what was stored, was written by islanders themselves and it was hard and, in most cases, impossible to get a feel of what and how Pacific islanders felt about these new arrivals and what they brought with them. When the writers turned to the oral traditions, most if not all Pacific islanders who were eyewitnesses to some of these activities were either dead, couldn't remember or, in several cases, and for several reasons, refused to talk about them.

There are of course few episodes from this region that we could refer to which encourages us in the work and in achieving the objectives set down under the Memory of the World Programme. One is reminded of the diaries of a famous Chinese administrator by the name of Lu Yu in which he recorded what he saw when he went on a long journey in 1170, to the Szechuan province, sailing almost a thousand miles along the Yangtse river. In his diaries Mr Lu Yu described China's return to prosperity after centuries of invasions and terrible hardship. This was indicated by his descriptions of thriving cities and farms, growing wealth and flourishing arts and the story he told of about 700 great naval ships he saw moored in the river.

Another very interesting event in Chinese history which occurred about 600 year ago is relayed to us through the records of a famous mongol' admiral by the name of Cheng Ho who in the service of China, undertook seven long exploratory voyages around the rim of the Indian Ocean from 1405 to 1433. His fleet comprised sixty-two large ships and over 200 support vessels with a crew of 27,870 men. Cheng Ho's great accomplishments far exceeded those feats of European Explorers two centuries later, but we have only fragmentary knowledge of them because the official records of his encounters were destroyed. Today the world remembers Columbus, Mendana, Bougainville and Cook - but who has heard of Cheng Ho?

The point of these stories is that records of the past are crucial to our understanding of the world. From the two examples from China I have just referred to, we could conclude, correctly, that China's civilisation was one of extraordinary resilience, or, incorrectly, that the greatest maritime accomplishments were confined to Europe.

The present generations of Pacific islanders and Asians like many others in other parts of the world, are and will continue to be deprived of these parts of their historical and cultural inheritance if we do not act urgently and immediately. This is why I did not hesitate when I was asked to come to this meeting in the place of the chief of our Information Unit who couldn't be with you today because of other prior commitments.

In recognition of situations such as those I referred to above, and in response to the anxiety expressed at the 1991 General Conference by the member countries about the situations of their documentary heritage, UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Council of Archives (ICA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the International Association of Sound Archives (IASA) initiated the Memory of the World Programme in 1992. The major objective of the programme is :

- to ensure the preservation, by the most appropriate means, of documentary heritage which has world significance, and to encourage the preservation of documentary heritage which has national and regional significance.

A twin objective is :

- to make this heritage accessible to as many people as possible, using the most appropriate technology, both inside and outside the countries in which it is physically located.

I think we all agree that much has been done since the programme was launched. UNESCO has established a small secretariat at headquarters - a Programme Officer and a half-time secretary - to deal specifically with MoW activities. An International Advisory Committee (IAC), the members of which are appointed by the Director General, is in place with two sub-committees on Technology and Marketing to provide the IAC with advice on these two areas. Each member state was invited in 1994 to set up their own Memory of the World National Committees to identify and select projects and to ensure their successful implementation by ensuring that all or part of the resources required for implementation are secured. UNESCO has committed modest resources for MoW activities in the last two biennium with an undertaking to continue to play a co-ordinating role and to help secure more resources for the project from governments, international organisations and public and private foundations.

In 1995, IAC recommended the creation of a Memory of the World Register to include documents, manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual materials and library and archive holdings that are of universal value. A nomination form was sent to all National Commissions in 1996, with criteria for the selection of projects to be included in the Register.

Also, in collaborations with the ICA and other NGOs, the IFLA prepared the technical guidelines to safeguard documentary heritage. These have been printed in the six working languages of UNESCO and have been distributed to all the member countries. The programme's rationale and objectives were endorsed at an international meeting, attended by 150 participants from 65 countries, which was held in Osio in June 1996.

Much, much more need to be done however in order to achieve the programme's objectives. The external evaluation of the programme which was done by three experts in the field of documentary heritages was completed earlier this year and they concluded that the programme has not yet achieved the impact originally hoped for. Their key recommendations are listed under four headings - PROCESS; PRODUCT; PUBLICATIONS; AND WEB SITE/NEW TECHNOLOGIES. I am sure you have all seen copies of this report and I will therefore not bore you by reading them again. In any case they are all included in under the Terms of Reference for this meeting, which are

1. To increase the awareness of the importance of documentary heritage, improve its accessibility and use.
2. To promote resource sharing and optimal use of resources in the region.
3. To mobilise political, social and economic support for the MoW Asia-Pacific programme.
4. To encourage cross-country linkages of valuable collections with multi-country cultural significance.
5. Encourage establishment of national MoWs committees.
6. To maintain the Asia/Pacific regional register of MoW documentary heritage.
7. To discuss the selection criteria and any other matters determined by the International Advisory Committee and make recommendations.

According to the records I have seen of the MoW programme, two meetings of experts for the Asia/Pacific regions have already been held, both in Kuala Lumpur - in 1994 and 1996 - to define the Asian components of the MoW programme and to obtain some insights on the status and conditions of documentary heritage materials in different countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

Significant progress, I gather have been made in those two areas and I congratulate those of you who have been working very hard to achieve them. Our task in the next few days is to try and resolve some of the problems reflected in these issues in the context of the overall framework of the Memory of the World Programme but also relevant to the many and varying linguistic, cultural and historic contexts in the Asia-Pacific region. Lets make this a truly historical meeting not just because this is the first time the Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Programme in the Asia/Pacific region has met but, more importantly, make a real and lasting contribution to saving the Memory of the World through Saving the Memory of Asia and the Pacific.

I look forward to working with you during the next few days.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY MRS. HABIBAH ZON, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALAYSIA AT THE FIRST REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM FOR ASIA PACIFIC; BEIJING, CHINA; 17-20 NOVEMBER 1998.

Mr. Maiama Meleisea, UNESCO Regional Adviser for Social and Human Science.

Mr. Edmond Moukala, UNESCO Representative Officer China.

Mr. Wang Gang, ICA President and Director-General of the State Archives Bureau of China.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

May I take this opportunity, as Vice-Chairman of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World to welcome all of you here this morning. As you are well aware, our Meeting here today owes itself to proposals raised last year at the Special Experts Group Meeting that was held in Xiamen, China.

Needless to say, a history of sorts is in the making, for we are gathered today at the 1st Regional Committee Meeting for Asia-Pacific. The feeling we have today is that of enthusiasm to get on with such activities as will help advance our cause in relation to such terms of reference as will be discussed at the Meeting today.

We are assembled once again in this country to discuss matters relating in large to the preliminary goal of first setting our house in order. In this respect, our focus will mainly be on organisational aspects such as elections and work plan - but interspersed all the same with professional concern for the preservation of our heritage, in our case documentary heritage.

Our work at the regional level has its own challenges. The primary challenge is the formation of National Committees. A mere beginning it is - for once they are formed, it is important to both nurture and nourish these Committees. It is also important to make the Programme as relevant and fair minded as possible to all the member countries of the region in order that the flame of enthusiasm may be kept alive in the years to come.

It heartens me, in my role as regional Vice-Chairman of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World to learn that a number of concerned individuals and organisations are gathered here in this assembly to participate in the deliberations. Although our focus is national collection, our larger goal is the preservation of the world's endangered heritage and collective memory.

I am glad indeed to be also able to represent Malaysia in her capacity as Secretariat of the Regional Committee for the programme. Standing as it were on the threshold of the next millenium, governmental institutions the world over have come to play a broader role in the cause of serving the cultural and aesthetic needs of mankind as a whole, that in particular of rescuing archival and library materials of inestimable value from the ravages of decay and destruction.

It is this will that has brought us here today, a will to salvage our heritage and to protect the world's endangered memory, especially records that depict the flowering of our ancient civilisations.

At this meeting of minds, we hope to be able to obtain your fullest cooperation and participation by way of exchanging ideas the various matters arising from our agenda for the next few days. In particular, we hope that our deliberations on work plan, strategy formulation and resource mobilisation will result in a concrete plan of action that we shall carry to its successful conclusion.

This is no dispute that the work at hand is onerous, be it in the area of conducting campaigns, or surveying of our respective documentary heritage, or even choosing the right projects for adoption. Despite the obstacles, I am positive that we shall be able to turn the problems around, and discover the potentialities inherent in the dynamics of mutual cooperation. That our respective institutions should wean themselves from the narrow context of the nation state; that they should arise to rescue vast parts of the world documentary heritage, that they should be engaged with a broad range of activities in collaboration with various countries in the region, are in themselves indicators of the *zeitgeist*. It is in this spirit, ladies and gentlemen, that we are gathered here this morning.

We hope that the combination of serious and light-hearted moments of our togetherness here – amidst the formality of meetings and deliberations, election of office bearers, presentation of reports, and the informal hours of our visits and tour of Beijing, -- we will succeed in building the kind of rapport and understanding that will enable us to undertake a broad range of activities together, grappling with both opportunities and challenges. In this connection allow me, as Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee, to thank China for once again offering this beautiful country to be used as venue for the programme. I wish to also express my appreciation to all the participants for their contributions and attendance at this meeting. In closing, let me express hope that we will be able to meet once again at our next meeting of the Regional Committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I thank you.

### Opening Address of Ms SHEN Lihua

It is a great honour for me to chair the first session of the First Regional Committee Meeting for the Memory of the World Programme in Asia/Pacific. As the chairwoman from the host country, I am very grateful to UNESCO for having launched its Memory of the World Programme and its great support to the Asian and Pacific region for implementing this programme. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the participants who have kindly accepted the invitation to come to Beijing to attend this meeting.

In order to take prompt action to ensure that the world endangered documentary heritage would suffer no more damage or loss, UNESCO initiated the Memory of the World Programme in 1992. The objectives of the Programme are to encourage the preservation of the world documentary heritage by the most appropriate techniques; to facilitate access to it for all kinds of users; and to increase world wide awareness of its existence and significance, especially those with the concept of world common heritage.

In 1993, UNESCO established an International Advisory Committee to provide guidance for the planning and implementation of the programme as a whole and make recommendations concerning fund-raising, allocation of funds, and granting of the Memory of the World label to selected projects.

The objectives of the Memory of the World Programme are accomplished through encouraging various projects and activities carried out at regional and national levels. One important element of the Programme is to promote cooperation among institutions at international, regional and national levels. Therefore, it is of great importance to create regional and national committees for the Memory of the World Programme. Regional and national committees are in charge of the administration and coordination of projects and activities which include selecting projects of regional and country nature according to criteria agreed upon and submitting them to the International Advisory Committee for approval. Also, regional and national committees are responsible for raising and allocating funds for the projects and activities, and supervising their implementations.

The Asia and Pacific region is one of the birthplaces of world civilization. It has made great contributions to the development of humankind. However due to natural and man-made calamities, an enormous amount of documentary heritage in the region is on the verge of being lost. Ms. Delia E. Torrinos, Regional Advisor from UNESCO, has been very much concerned about the preservation of Asia/Pacific cultural heritage. In December 1995, together with the National Archives of Malaysia, she organized the Experts' Meeting of the Asia /Pacific Region on the Memory of the World Programme in Kuala Lumpur. At that meeting, the conservation projects for the palm leaf manuscripts in South Asia and the Tibetan archives in China were recommended to be forwarded to the International Advisory Committee.

In December last year, the First Special Experts Group Meeting on the Memory of the World Programme for the Asia/Pacific Region was held in Xiamen City, China. The meeting reiterated the role and mission of the Memory of the World Programme, discussed the current problems and needs existing in this region with regard to the preservation of the documentary heritage, and the approaches to solve these problems. The participants unanimously agreed that the Regional Memory of the World Committee should be established as soon as possible with the aim of promoting the Memory of the World Programme in the region, strengthening regional cooperation among librarians and archivists and providing leadership and guidance to the implementation of the programme. The meeting also worked out draft terms of reference for the Regional Committee of the Memory of the World Programme, namely :

1. to increase awareness of the importance of documentary heritage, improve its accessibility and use;
2. to promote resource sharing and optimal use of resources in the region, in addressing problems, such as lack of resources, equipment, and qualified personnel;
3. to mobilize political, social and economic support for the Memory of the World-Asia/Pacific programme;
4. to encourage cross country linkages of valuable collections with multi-country cultural significance;
5. to encourage the establishment of national Memory of the World committees;
6. to maintain the Asia/Pacific regional register of Memory of the World documentary heritage.

The State Archives Administration of the People Republic of China fully supports decisions made at the Xiamen meeting, and has offered to host the First Regional Committee Meeting for the Memory of the World Programme in Asia/Pacific in conjunction with UNESCO's sponsorship. This morning we will elect and approve the formation of a Bureau comprising of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General, Treasurer and Committee Members. This leading body will be responsible for the smooth running of the programme in the Asia/Pacific region. We will also discuss the terms of reference of the Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Programme in Asia/Pacific, and formulate work plans and strategies for fund raising and other issues.

I sincerely hope this conference will prove to be a fruitful forum, and that there will be an active participation and free exchange of knowledge, ideas and opinions, a meeting contributing to the building up of regional network for cooperation across national boundaries.

Thank you.

**THE FIRST REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE  
MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM  
IN ASIA/PACIFIC**

November 17-21, 1998 Beijing China

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. The right to vote
3. Election of Office Bearers  
The meeting shall elect a Bureau comprised of the following :
  - 3.1 Chairman
  - 3.2 Vice-Chairman
  - 3.3 Secretary General
  - 3.4 Treasurer
  - 3.5 Committee members
4. Address by the new elected Chairman
5. Terms of reference of the Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Program in Asia/Pacific (Appendix 1)
6. Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> Experts Meeting of the Memory of the World and 1<sup>st</sup> Bureau meeting of International Advisory Committee by Asia and Pacific Region by Mrs. Habibah Zon Yahaya, Vice Chairman of the Memory of the World International Advisory Committee (IAC). (Appendix 2 and Appendix 3)
7. Report by Mr. Raymond E. Edmondson, Deputy Director, National Film & Sound Archives of Australia, on the Development and its Strategies of the Memory of the World Program for Asia/Pacific (Appendix 4)
8. Presentation of Country Reports by participants
9. Discussion of Work Plan
  - 9.1 Publicity
  - 9.2 Selection Criteria
  - 9.3 Nominations
  - 9.4 Finance
  - 9.5 Future Plan
10. Strategy Formulation & Resource Mobilization
11. Other matters

REPORT  
MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM FOR ASIA/PACIFIC  
1ST SPECIAL EXPERTS' GROUP MEETING

10-12 DECEMBER, 1997

XIAMEN, CHINA

## **BACKGROUND**

The First Special Experts Group Meeting on the Memory of the World Programme was held in Xiamen City, China on 10-12 December 1997. It was organized jointly by the State Archives Bureau of China and UNESCO and hosted by the Xiamen City Archives. The Meeting was attended by 9 experts from 6 countries - Australia, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Republic of Korea, plus 7 observers from institutions within China and one representative from UNESCO. The meeting was chaired by the Ms. Delia E. Torrijos, UNESCO/INF Regional Adviser for Asia/Pacific. The objective of the meeting is to discuss the problems of safeguarding the documentary heritage existing in this region. This meeting also strengthen the regional cooperation among librarians and archivists in this region. Through the meeting it is hoped that problem areas within the region could be identified and the discernment of regional level issues which could not be addressed by single countries.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION**

The meeting proceed to a general 'brainstorming' discussion. The topics are summarized as below :

1. Mrs. Habibah Zon Yahaya presented a report on the first meeting of the Standing UNESCO Committee in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (29 September - 1 October 1997). The main purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the MoW program and make recommendations to the Director General of UNESCO on placing nominated documentary heritage on the MoW Register, granting the MoW register, granting the MoW label to selected projects and raising funds for the program.
2. Mr. Ray Edmonson presented a paper outlining the inception and development of the MoW program, its data bases and publications, the general guidelines, some pilot projects, and the outputs of the IAC sub-committees.
3. Mr. Kim Seung-yoon of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, presented a paper on the preservation of documentary heritage in Korea.
4. Mr. Li Yuhu of the Research Institute of Shaanxi Provincial Archives of China made a presentation and demonstration on the process of chemical treatment for restoring and fixing deteriorated documents. The treatment process are subject to Chinese patents.

5. Mrs. Rahani Jamil presented a report on the MoW survey of documentary heritage materials in the Asia/Pacific region. The objectives of the survey were to collate data and information for the purpose of identifying documentary heritage materials in participating countries, and for possible inclusion in the MoW register.

## **DISCUSSION**

The meeting proceeded to a general brainstorming discussion which includes :

a. *Clarifying the role and mission of MoW*

The meeting felt that since the MoW program is not universally known, there is a need for supportive action at the International level.

b. *Rationale and guidelines*

The committee feels that there is a need for a simple, clear and brief introductory publication which is useful for promotion and can be readily translated into the languages of the Asia/Pacific region.

c. *Marketing strategy*

The meeting agrees that a strategy patterned to the IAC report presented to the IAC should be developed at the Asia/Pacific region. This should be done in harmony with action at the international level.

d. *MoW Convention*

Much valuable documentary heritage material in the region is held in private hands and is always in danger of loss or damage. In some countries there are policies or legislation to safeguard such material but they are often difficult to implement and they differ from country to country. This task could be made easier if an applicable UNESCO convention existed to which member countries could subscribe. The meeting noted that the concept of a MoW convention was discussed in Tashkent, but seen as a distant possibility rather more proactively, and urges UNESCO and the IAC to begin the lengthy process which could lead to such a Convention, without delay.

e. *Register and criteria*

The meeting agrees that the value in the Register lay in its selectivity : its identification of the highest priority heritage items in the country, as means of effective presentation of heritage concerns and also as a way of drawing attention to larger heritage and access issues.

f *National and Regional Committees*

It was noted that there are relatively few national MoW committees so far established within the Asia/pacific region and that the response to the recent regional survey was disappointing. The meeting agrees that the formal establishment of a regional MoW committee was felt to be the key to faster progress. The committee would aim to encourage the establishment of national MoW committees and develop greater awareness in the region, would filter nominations for the register and work to make itself ultimately unnecessary, when national committees are fully operational. It is seen as interim mechanism representing countries which are present sources of good practices and expertise, such as Japan, Australia, republic of Korea, China, Malaysia, Pakistan.

Each country would designate a contact person. China would be the inaugural chair of the Committee. Malaysia was again nominated to actively provide the role. The meeting also agrees that there need to be a UNESCO commitment to support such a regional committee, along with support from countries in the region. Pakistan was nominated to take a coordinating, persuading and energizing role in the South West Asia sub-region, encouraging the establishment of national MoW committees, identifying collections at risk and potential nominations for the international, regional and national registers.

g *Endangered heritage and priority regional projects*

The meeting also discussed the survey results and some of the more endemic problems of the region. These includes the large quantities of materials in advanced stages of decay and requiring urgent conservation work; inadequate storage conditions; the loss of proficiency in languages so that younger people can no longer read ancient records; the uneven availability of adequate facilities and skills. Also discussed were ways in which a regional approach could facilitate the linkage of heritage items across national boundaries and create an entirely new dimension of access.

h *Communication and training*

The meeting also discussed the ways to address the limited communication within the region. The approaches identified as :

- Standardizing systems
- Formal training courses at various level
- Improved access to the Internet
- Workshops in strategic locations
- Skills transfer by role modeling, staff exchanges, internships

Existing training programs needed to be identified and reinforced, whether at academic, sub-academic, continuing education and in-service levels, providing for both new recruits and older practitioners. Maximum use needed to be made of current facilities and opportunities for collaboration, so that gaps can be identified and ways found to fill them.

i Action plan

The following action was agreed on :

1. Establishment of regional MoW committee
2. Organization of 1st Regional Committee meeting and workshop.
3. Creation of introductory publication
4. Encourage establishment of national committees
5. Establishment database of experts within the region
6. Identifying endangered collections
7. Set up website for regional committee

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The meeting adopted the following recommendations :

1. That the IAC and UNESCO review the communication strategy for the MoW program, in order to present a clearer message to both public institutions and professional associations, to engage them in a complementary and mutually beneficial relationship, emphasizing the dimensions of the program which assist and add value to their existing work.
2. That an introductory publication should be developed at the international level in consultation with the experts present at this meeting. It is proposed that recommended Asia/Pacific Regional Committee should take the initiative to develop such material.
3. That the IAC Bureau and UNESCO address the question of implementing the Marketing Sub- committee's strategy as quickly as possible.
4. That the IAC and UNESCO begin the work of developing a MoW Convention as soon as possible.
5. That a Regional Asia/Pacific MoW Committee be established, with the given terms of reference.
6. That the first meeting of the Regional Asia Pacific MoW Committee be held in 1998 in accordance with the set out proposal. China's invitation to host the meeting in conjunction with a UNESCO Regional Participation Program support be warmly accepted and supported.

## **OFFICIAL VISITS**

The participants were taken for a visit to the Xiamen City Archives and Overseas Chinese Museum.

**CHINA : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear delegates,

First of all, I would like to express my warm welcome to all the participants who have come to attend the First Regional Committee Meeting for the Memory of the World Programme in Asia/Pacific. I am very pleased here to submit to this meeting the country report of the State Archives Administration of China about the activities for implementing the Memory of the World Programme in the past few years.

1. In December 1995, the State Archives Administration sent representatives to attend the Memory of the World Experts' Meeting for the Asia/Pacific Region held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was proposed that the preservation of Tibetan historical archives should be granted the label of the "Memory of the World".
2. In 1996, the inaugural meeting of the Chinese National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme was held. The National Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary General and two other members were required to conduct a survey on the endangered Chinese documentary heritage.
3. In December 1997, entrusted by UNESCO Principal Regional Office in Asia and Pacific, the First Experts Group Meeting on the Memory of the World Programme for the Asia and Pacific Region was held in Xiamen, China, jointly organized by the State Archives Administration of China and the National Archives of Malaysia. The meeting decided that the State Archives Administration of China would host in Beijing the First Regional Committee Meeting for the Memory of the World Programme in Asia/Pacific, and Mr. Wang Gang, President of the International Council on Archives and Director General of the State Archives Administration, would be the inaugural chairman of the regional committee.
4. In October 1998, the second national committee for the Memory of the World was held in Beijing, at which the leading body was adjusted. Mr. Guo Shuyin, Deputy Director of the State Archives Administration, is the Chairman; Mr. Yu Fuzeng, Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, is the Vice Chairman; Mrs. Shen Lihua, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the State Archives Administration, holds the post of Secretary General; Mr. Sun Chengjian, Deputy Director of the National Library, and Mr. Liang Zhanping, Deputy Director of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, are the committee members. The meeting considers that with the implementation of the Memory of the World Programme in China, the number of the national committee members should be enlarged.

5. The project to rescue the Tibetan historical archives has attracted interest and support from scholars of several countries. UNESCO has granted it the “Memory of the World” label and provided 15,000 US dollars for starting the project. In 1996, together with the Archives of Tibet Autonomous Region, the State Archives Administration held in Lhasa an International Seminar on the Preservation of Tibetan Archives, and in 1997, the State Archives Administration published and distributed a brochure about Tibetan historical archives. Two groups of historians and conservators from abroad have visited Tibet and made an on-the-spot study of Tibetan Autonomous Regional Archives. The Bonn University of Germany and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia of the United States has provided financial support for digitizing one record group and conducting professional training. Through the Memory of the World Programme, the preservation of Tibetan historical archives has really a good beginning.
6. The preservation of 7000-hour audio tapes held by the Research Institute of Music, Chinese Academy of Arts, has also been labeled in the Memory of the World Programme. This collection is not only the cultural heritage of the Chinese nation, but also an important component of the cultural heritage of the world.
7. The archival material kept by the First Historical Archives of China relating to the religious activities carried out by the missionaries from the United Kingdom, France, Vatican and other western countries is of great international value. The National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme has applied to UNESCO’s Information and Informatics Division for granting the collection the “Memory of the World” label. Mr. Abdelaziz Abid, Programme Officer, has made a reply requiring further description of this endangered collection with the aim of getting it approved by the International Advisory Committee.

**INDIA : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

**INTRODUCTORY**

The Nomination Form of the Memory of the World Register circulated after the First International Memory of the World Conference held in Norway, 3-5 June 1996 is perhaps not enough transparent in Indian context, if not in the whole of Asia-Pacific Region. The selection criteria, for example, contends that documentary heritage of a country may have world significance "if it had a major influence on the history of the world transcending the boundaries of a national culture". It may be suggested that this criterion opens up more issues without settling any. Regarding places and people linked with documentary heritage of the world it is told that they shall be only relevant if they contribute to major political, social, cultural and religious movements of the world transcending obviously any national border. This task, it is contested, is obviously overwhelming; and an advisory body of experts of the world may attempt to do the job. Any national committee may only identify national heritage. A couple of national committees may prepare a Regional Register of the Memory of the World Programme.

**ACTION TAKEN IN INDIA**

1. From National Archives of India a directory of custodial institutions forming a part of the Sources of Asian History was published in 1994. It lists two hundred institutions holding documentary heritage in the form of manuscripts, newspaper, private papers, heritage books, cartographs, records and documents. Access and service facilities have as well been mentioned in this volume. Its supplementary volume is at present under preparation.
2. The National Register of Private Records is a serious programme of the National Archives. So far we have published 19 volumes identifying individuals and places holding documentary heritage of different areas of India. We shall also now have to determine their relevancy in the history of Asia and later on of the world.
3. While the Indian National Committee is being worked out, National Archives of India has been in touch with directors of our State or provincial archives and various manuscript libraries, oriental research institutes, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Arabic and Persian Research Institute, Institute of Asian Studies, etc. to locate momentous documentary heritage likely to fulfil the criteria of the Memory of the World.
4. The recently constituted Mission for Manuscripts in India is programmed to identify institutions holding manuscripts of national importance and their preservation requirements. A Register of National Manuscripts shall be soon compiled, which shall bear national, Asian and world importance.

**JAPAN : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

Questionnaire survey for the Memory of the World Program

The Center selected 301 Japanese institutions and asked 14 national libraries in Asian countries covered by the Center for Asia to select institutions to be surveyed and to distribute questionnaires to them. The questionnaires were sent to the institutions in Japan on August 10, 1995 and to the national libraries covered by the Center on July 27, 1995.

The answer sheets were collected in the middle of October and sent to Dr. Jan Lyall, Director, IFLA PAC Regional Center for Asia and Pacific, after totalization.

Japanese institutes to be surveyed are mainly national, prefectural, major cities', and other public libraries (i.e. of city, town and villages) and a few archives and museums holding valuable documentary heritage and engaged in or expected to be engaged in preservation activities.

Extract

**A2. Type of library**

What description best fits yours library ? (Mark one box only)

	<u>No. of libraries</u>
A2.1 National library	1
A2.2 State, regional, territorial or provincial library	53
A2.3 Local or municipal library	59
A2.4 Library of learned research institute or society	6
A2.5 Library of government department or instrumentality	0
A2.6 Library of religious organisation	1
A2.7 Library of company or business	0
A2.8 Library of university or other tertiary teaching institution	67
A2.9 Library of museum or art gallery	4
A2.10 Other - please describe <input type="checkbox"/>	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>

**F1. Knowledge of Memory of the World Program**

(Please mark one box to the right of each question) - If you answer "yes" please provide brief details

		<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Comment</u>
F1.1	Were you aware of the Memory of the World Programme before receiving this questionnaire?	153	23	
F1.2	Do you wish to receive additional information about the Programme	57	113	

**F2. Future participation in programme**

(Please mark one box to the right of each question) - If you answer "yes" please provide brief details

		<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Comment</u>
F2.1	Is your library interested in participating in the Programme?	94	55	
F2.2	Have you identified a Memory of the World Project for your library?	155	12	

**B. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COLLECTIONS**

This section describes the materials you collect and asks you to estimate the size of your entire holdings.

**B1. Books and related materials**

Please indicate the number of linear metres of shelving occupied  
(Please mark only one box to the right of each material type)

<u>Material</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Less than 10 metres</u>	<u>10-100 metres</u>	<u>100-1000 metres</u>	<u>More than 1000 metres</u>
B1.1 Books	1	1	4	24	158
B1.2 Journals, Serials	1	12	35	53	81
B1.3 Newspapers	9	28	54	72	20
B1.4 Archival materials, manuscripts	18	43	53	47	10
B1.5 Other book-type material - please describe <input type="checkbox"/>	15	7	16	11	3

**B2. Non-books materials**

Please indicate the number of items held  
(Please mark only one box to the right of each material type)

<u>Material</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Fewer than 10 items</u>	<u>10-100 items</u>	<u>100-1000 items</u>	<u>More than 1000 items</u>
B2.1 Photographic negatives, prints, movie film	55	18	41	39	29
B2.2 Sheet materials - maps, posters, drawings, prints	25	14	51	60	35
B2.3 Electronic media - video tapes, video disks, floppy disks, computer output, magnetic tapes, CDs	25	9	33	63	55
B2.4 Sound recordings - tapes, disks, cylinders	31	16	35	59	43
B2.5 Microforms -microfilm, microfiche	32	4	16	56	85
B2.6 Other (eg paintings, palm leaf manuscripts) - please describe □□□□□□□□□□.	98	17	39	15	6

**KOREA : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

**PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE IN KOREA**

**I. Introduction**

Korea has a long history of more than 5 thousand years and was influenced by both Confucian and Buddhist tradition. Since historic age Korean people had used Chinese character until King Sejong in Choson Dynasty created Hangeul, the Korean Alphabet in 1446. Traditionally they have not only had an extraordinary affection for books and documents, but are possessed of innumerable precious documentary heritage, although they have experienced considerable loss of this heritage from wars and disasters many times. Also they developed advanced printing technology from earlier time. Wood-block printing began in 8<sup>th</sup> century and moveable metal type printing was developed more than 200 years before Gutenberg in Germany. Therefore UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme has a special meaning for the Korean people.

The famous "Tripitaka Koreana" (80 thousand-woodblock edition of Buddhist scriptures) was included in the World Heritage List in 1995 and last year the "Annals of Choson Dynasty" and the "Hunmin-chongum" (Royal proclamation of creation and use of Korean Alphabet) were registered in the MOW Register. Also there are many other documentary heritages worth while to be included in the world register.

The Korean Government has various mechanisms to preserve documentary heritage. The mechanisms include the Cultural Properties Protection Act, the Committee on Cultural Properties, and the Office of Cultural Properties. Valuable documentary heritages are designed as "National Treasures", or "Treasures", and are preserved within above mechanisms.

Recently the Korean people have made efforts to digitize their documentary heritage with new information media such as CD-ROMs. For example, the "Annals of Choson Dynasty" CD-ROM was issued in 1995 and a campaign to digitize the "Tripitaka Koreana" is now underway. Also the National Archives began an ambitious project to digitize all the important official document of government.

**II. The Institutional Framework on Documentary Heritage**

**1. Mechanisms to preserve and enhance Cultural Properties**

Documentary heritages are a kind of cultural property. Therefore in Korea documentary heritage is preserved, in the same manner as other kind of heritages, under 3 basic mechanisms concerning cultural properties.

1) Cultural Properties Protection Act (CPPA)

The purpose of this act, promulgated on Jan. 10.1962, is to contribute to the cultural advancement of the general public as well as to the cultural development of human beings through the preservation and utilization of cultural properties.

The CPPA provides a comprehensive legal frameworks, such as a definition of cultural properties, the establishment of Committee on Cultural Properties, the designation of national cultural properties, protection, investigation and so on.

2) Committee on Cultural Properties (CCP)

The CCP consists of approximately 50 experts in the field of cultural properties according to CPPA. The CCP deliberates basic policies on nationally designated cultural properties, research and development on cultural properties, evaluations of cultural properties, etc. The CCP is divided into 6 sub-committees in accordance with the categories of cultural properties. Documentary heritage belongs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> sub-committee that deals with movable cultural properties.

3) Office of Cultural Properties (OCP)

The OCP is a special bureau under the Ministry of Culture and Sports, which implements preservation, restoration, enhancement and public information of cultural properties.

## 2. Archives

There are the two most important archives in Korea. These are the Kyuganggak Archives and the National Archives. The former one holds old documents from Choson Dynasty (1392-1910), on the other hand the National Archives does comparatively modern documents of the Republic of Korea, including ones of Japanese colonial years (1910-present).

1) Kyujanggak Archives

The Kyuganggak Archives was established as a loyal archives of Choson Dynasty in 1776, which collected and preserved precious books and documents from the Dynasty. Since 1990 all the collection has been moved to the new building located in the Seoul National University. Its collection consists of approximately 150 thousand volumes of old books and the other more than 100 thousand kinds of materials, which include 5 kinds of National Treasures and 8 kinds of Treasures such as “Annals of Choson Dynasty” cited above. Also computerized indexes and databases have already been completed and online retrieving of them through Internet is also available.

## 2) National Archives

The National Archives is operated as a separated organization under the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs. Its main functions are as follows :

- to preserve important documents from the central and municipal government;
- to research preservation technology such as computerization;
- to promote international cooperation in the field of documentary preservation;
- to operate training course on documentary preservation.

For the Archives more than 120 staffs work and its collection covers millions of governmental documents, drawings, audio-visual materials, microfilms and publications. Also parts of documents of Choson Dynasty are preserved in its stock rooms.

Nowadays the archives is carrying out two major projects, that is, preparation of National Documentary Preservation Act and computerization of its management system. Since last year they have prepared the National Documentary Preservation Act in order to preserve important document more systematically and its legislation process is now under way. Computerization of document management system includes digitization of document with optical discs as well as computerized managing and retrieving system of documents. This project was initiated from 1997 and will be completed by the year of 2000, when digitized documents will be accessed and serviced through nation wide networks.

### **III. Digitalization of major Documentary Heritages**

There is no institutional or legal framework regarding digitalization of documentary heritages. But the Government as well as private sectors show much concern and efforts in its digitalization, because digital technology opens epoch-making possibilities in their preservation and access.

The CD-ROM version of “Annals of the Choson Dynasty” unveiled in 1995 is one fruit of such efforts. The “Annals”, which has been included in the MOW Register this year, is a historical recording covering a vast mount of information spanning approximately 500 dynastic years and it took 26 years merely to translate them from Chinese into Korean. The CD-ROM was made by a small private company named “Seoul Systems”, in close cooperation with several related governmental or non-governmental organization. The CD-ROM database indexes about half a million items and gives various convenient tools to users who study Korean and Oriental History.

Also another large-scale project is now in progress. That is the digitalization of the “Tripitaka Koreana”. The Tripitaka Koreana, an 80 thousand-woodblock edition of the Buddhist scriptures, was carved in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century during the Mongol invasion and it has been recognized as the world’s greatest collection of Buddhist scriptures. Also it was included in the World Heritage List in 1995. The Institute of Tripitaka Koreana initiated its digitization project in 1993.

For this project, which requires a great amount of funds and effort, the first step has been completed : that is, text inputting process. In 1996 a fundraising campaign to seek 80,000 sponsors for 80,000 wood-blocks was organized. The project initiators also plan to develop an integral digital Tripitaka including Sanskrit and Pali scriptures as well as Chinese and Korean.

#### **IV. National Committee and MOW Register**

In Korea, a national committee for MOW has not yet been established, because the Korean Committee on Cultural Properties actually plays a role similar to the national committee for MOW. Also due to too broad range of the MOW Project it was very difficult to coordinate various institutions related to the project. But consensus on establishing such a committee has been formed in virtue of MOW Register. By early 1999, I think, the Korean national committee will be established. The Korean National Commission for UNESCO has already secured necessary budget and will support its establishment. The Committee will consist of representatives from related governmental organization, such as Office of Cultural Property Management and National Archives, and renowned experts in the related fields.

As of now, there are 54 documentary heritages designated as “National Treasures” and 354 designated as “Treasures” by the Korean Government. Among them, the Government nominated the two most important documentary heritages for MOW Register in 1996. These are the “Annals of Choson Dynasty” and the “Hunmin-chongum” (Royal proclamation of creation and use of Korean alphabet), which were included in the MOW Register. Besides the two, there are many documentary heritages which could satisfy the selection criteria for MOW’s World Register.

This year, nomination of another documentary heritage, entitled Puljo-chickji-simch’e-yojol, is in progress. It is recognized as the oldest edition of movable metal type printing existing in the world, printed in 1377 in Korea, but now preserved in the French National Library in Paris. UNESCO recommended that Chungju City where it was printed and the French National Library work together to its nomination.

#### **V. Conclusion and Suggestions**

1. The Korean National Commission for UNESCO welcomes the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee for MOW Project and will support its future activities. I believe that the Regional Committee will greatly contribute to preserving and enhancing precious documentary heritage in the Region.

2. First of all, the Regional Committee needs to develop a joint project enhance public awareness on importance of documentary heritage. For example, I suggest TV broadcasting companies in the Region jointly produce a TV program to introduce major documentary heritages. The project could be carried out in such a manner as each TV company to participate in this project produces a program on its own country’s documentary heritage as a part of the entire program, combines each program and broadcasts its vernacular version respectively. This project could save large amount of expenses for making such a big program, as well as have a great impact on public awareness about documentary heritage. The Regional Committee could play an important role in coordinating the project. For the same purpose, a regional itinerant exhibition on documentary heritage could be organized as a project of the Regional Committee.

3. As suggested at the regional expert meeting in Xiamen, China 1997, various sub-regional projects on such subjects as “Palm Leaf Manuscripts” (India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Laos, Bhutan, Thailand) and “History of Printing” (China, Japan, Korea) should be developed by the Regional Committee. These projects could deepen understanding on cultural background of related countries.
4. Regional listing of important documentary heritage is necessary. There could be various ways or criteria in listing. I suggest a way of listing according to different subjects. For example we can list precious documents about traditional medicine, oral epics, religious documents, and so on. This kind of listing work would activate researches on such subjects in the region.
5. In order to facilitate the digitization of documentary heritages and computerization for their management and access, transference and cooperation of information technology is necessary. As we all know, in this region, levels of information technology and infrastructure are very different. Therefore, have countries should assist have-not countries. For this purpose I would like to suggest various training courses and cooperation programs should be developed with the initiative of the Regional Committee. I think Korea could contribute to this item.
6. Last but not least, role of this region in the international activities for MOW Project should be strengthened. This region has the most diverse cultures and heritages in the world. I believe this diversity can be a driving force for future development. We should find out various measures to lead the international programs. In this context, I would like to inform you that Chongju City of Korea plans to host an international conference on documentary heritage together with the International Advisory Committee of the MOW Project in 2001.

**MALAYSIA : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

**STATUS REPORT ON THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD  
PROGRAMME**

**1.0. BACKGROUND**

The Expert's Meeting - Asia Pacific Region of the Memory of the World programme was first held in Kuala Lumpur on 12-14 December 1994. The Meeting was organized by the National Archives of Malaysia with the financial support of UNESCO's General Information Programme. The Meeting was attended by official delegates from twenty countries in the Asia Pacific region, two resource persons from Australia and Netherlands, one representatives from UNESCO and eighty local participants. The purpose of the Meeting was to develop a strategy and a plan of action for the Memory of the World Programme for the Asia/Pacific Region in line with the International Programme. The Meeting among others recommended that member countries should establish Memory of the World National Committees.

**2.0 MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD  
PROGRAMME**

In line with the recommendation at the Kuala Lumpur Meeting, the National Archives of Malaysia established the Malaysian National Committee Memory of the World Programme with the aims :

- to stimulate and promote greater interaction amongst the custodians and users of the documentary heritage;
- to identify preservation and conservation needs of documentary heritage materials; and
- to establish and monitor the preservation programmes of the documentary heritage

The first meeting of the National Committee was held on 11 June 1997. This was followed by two other meetings. The Director General of the National Archives of Malaysia is the Chairman. The Secretariat is at the National Archives of Malaysia. Members of committee are as in appendix 1.

**2.1 Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the National Committee are :

- To plan, coordinate and implement the recommendations from the 1994 Kuala Lumpur Meeting;

- To identify the institutions, organizations and individuals who possess materials that can be categorized as endangered heritage;
- To plan and determine the list of priority of the documentary heritage to be included in the national registry;
- To determine the strategy and plan of action for the national level programme;
- To identify the preservation needs; and
- To identify the national level projects to be included in the International Memory of the World programmes.

## **2.2 Work Progress**

### ***2.2.1. Survey***

The initial work plan begins with the designing of a questionnaire aimed at collecting data and information pertaining to the documentary heritage exist in Malaysia. Initially, the questionnaires were sent to the members of the National Committee. Out of the 11 institutions, only 8 responded. The survey analysis indicates that 80% of the institution has a collection of archives materials, 80% has library materials and 30% has a collection of museum artifacts.

The survey results also indicates that the type of records kept by the institutions are mainly paper based materials of which 60% of the institutions keep cartographic records such as maps and plan. Where as 80% of the institutions has a collection of audio visual materials. 50% have manuscripts collections and only 30% of the institutions have a collection of electronic record.

Because of the limited distribution of the questionnaires, the survey results give only some indication of the documentary heritage exists in Malaysia. In view of this, the questionnaires will be distributed again at nation wide for a more extensive results.

### ***2.2.2. Plan of Action***

The plan of action of the National Committee are :

- **Identifying materials**
  - Identifying materials at Institutions and individual level
  - Determining the selection criteria for the materials
  - Listing all the selected documentary heritage

The tracing of these materials will also be carried out overseas such as South Africa and Sri Lanka. This relate to the fact that the Malays can also be found at these places.

At present, a few projects has been forwarded by the committee members deemed to be of documentary heritage value. Selection of these materials will be carried out as more nominations is expected by the Secretariat.

- **Stimulate public awareness**

The National Committee recommends that the public need to be made aware of the importance of safeguarding the national documentary heritage. This would be carried out by disseminating the relevant information through :

- Distribution of pamphlet.
- Mass Media (radio, television, newspapers, magazines)

This include a documentary film on the Memory of the World programme to be shown on the National Broadcast. Also featuring articles in all the national daily news and magazines.

- Agencies' meeting

All the committee members are expected to raise the issue of safeguarding the national heritage during my available opportunity such as at any other meetings that they attended or chaired.

- UNESCO Special Programme

- **Identify preservation methods**

The preservation and conservation method will be identified when the documentary heritage materials has been identified. At present, the Secretariat is in the midst of identifying the local experts in these field based on the qualities and criteria defined by the Committee. The list will be forwarded to UNESCO for endorsement.

- **Marketing and distribution the Memory of the World product**

The selected documentary heritage will be copied to various format. These products will then be marketed and make available to the public. However, the marketing of these products will only take place once the selection and preservation of these materials is finalized.

### **2.3 Funding sources**

Realizing the importance of safeguarding the documentary heritage and the need for enormous resources to address the multifaceted problems arise, all possible sources will be investigated. This includes sponsorship from the Malaysian government, donors from commercial companies and private individuals and UNESCO's regular and participation programmes.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

To conclude, we in Malaysia are fortunate that the government of Malaysia has demonstrated its earnestness on this issue through the many activities undertaken by the various departments responsible. All these institutions have their annual operating budgets for their yearly programmes and development projects. It is our hope that the National Committee that we established will be able to take care of the Memory of the World, the Malaysian chapter. We believe, our national heritage contributes to the enrichment of Malaysian culture which also enhances our tourism industry.

*Appendix 1*

**List of members of the Malaysian National Committee of the Memory of the World**

- UNESCO representative
- National Archives of Malaysia Secretariat
- National Library of Malaysia
- Language and Literary
- Museum Department
- Sarawak State Museum
- Sabah State Archives
- Malaysian History Society
- Heritage Trust of Malaysia
- Malaysian Museum Society
- Malaysian National Library Society
- National Film Board
- Radio and Television Malaysia
- Information Department of Malaysia
- Islamic Centre
- Department of Maps and Survey Malaysia

**PAKISTAN : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

After the meeting of the Expert Committee of the Memory of the World Programme held in Malaysia on 12-14 December 1994, a National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme was constituted in Pakistan. Copy of the notification appended.

Several meetings of the Committee were held in which proposals, suggestions & nomination of various archival collections were presented by the Provincial Archival Institutions. The Quaid-I-Azam Papers and the Archives of Freedom Movement were finally selected for nomination to the Memory of the World Register. The collection of Quaid-I-Azam Papers is available on web-site :

[http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/en/index\\_mdm.html](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/en/index_mdm.html).

Historically the national written heritage of Pakistan can be divided into two main categories :

- 1) Material inherited prior to the creation of Pakistan in August, 1947.
- 2) Material discovered and collected after 1947.

In the first category of material Pakistan inherited some most important personal collections of the leaders and workers who fought for the creation of Pakistan. Papers relating to the All India Muslim League which was established in 1906 and carried out the struggle for the establishment of Pakistan upto August, 1947.

All the public records created in the various administrative districts now in Pakistan, during the British period and early administration in India.

Public records available in the provinces of Pakistan which had Record Offices even during the British period.

In the field of documentary heritage, we have been able to preserve the largest private collection of the Quaid-I-Azam Papers numbering about 1,50,000 pages which has been repaired, restored, microfilmed and photo-copied and is available to the research scholars for the last 20 years.

The other important collection which has been preserved include the papers of the All India Muslim League. The collection has also been repaired, restored, microfilmed, photo-copied and is available to the research scholars.

Efforts have been made to survey the district records in 80 districts of Pakistan. These records which in my opinion could be included in the category of endangered collections are being looked after under the supervision of the local administration. The National Archives and the Provincial Archives are providing maximum professional help to them. However, these records will need more attention for preservation.

Similarly collections of literary and Quranic manuscripts in the National Museum, Karachi are being preserved on scientific lines and a special conservation laboratory has been established. However, still a lot of work is to be done to save these precious collections.

Among other important collections is a collection of Manuscripts both literary and Quranic in the Punjab Public Library, Lahore. In order to preserve this collection on scientific lines all preventive measures have been adopted. The Building has been renovated, proper almirahs have been provided. A microfilming unit has been established and work of repair and preservation is in process.

Another endangered collection is at Khairpur Public Library. In order to save this collection it has also been microfilmed but the work of repair, restoration is still not satisfactory and this important collection would need our special attention.

Amongst the Federal Government records which have been saved by the National Archives from total destruction include legal documents such as Acts and Ordinances which were stored in the basement of Ministry of Law in Islamabad. These documents were damaged due to rain water. However, immediate action was taken on the report of the Ministry of Law. Ninety percent of these documents have been saved, repaired, restored and microfilmed. But luckily all these ordinances and acts are available in printed form.

All these collections should form part of the national heritage to be included in the Memory of the World Programme. This programme will yet be another example of cooperation on the regional level and will help the developing countries to pre-serve their documentary heritage.

Some of the examples of local and regional collaboration in case of Pakistan would be the organization of SAARC countries and ICA's regional body SWARBICA. These have helped in creating greater awareness for the preservation of archival and documentary heritage and also in demonstrating preservation techniques and organizing seminars on training, computer technology, preservation of traditional and non-traditional records.

National priority of endangered collections is based on the survey conducted by the National Archives in connection with the Guide to the Sources of Asian History and another survey of library and archival materials conducted with the help of the Government of Holland and UNDP etc.

As regards nomination of rare collections on the Memory of the World Register, Pakistan had nominated the following two collections for the Memory of the world (MOW) Programme :-

- i) The Quaid-I-Azam Papers Collection
- ii) The Archives of the Freedom Movement

These nominations were examined by the International Advisory Committee for Memory of the World Programme. The nomination of the Quaid-I-Azam Papers on the Memory of the World Register has been approved and Audio Visual material like photographs, slides, sound recording, films etc are being prepared for despatch to the committee. The material will be helpful. As regards Archives of Freedom Movement a joint application from India & Pakistan has been proposed. However this will not be feasible in the present situation. It may be further stated that the Archives of the Freedom Movement are the records of the All India Muslim League (f. 1906). The political party which spear headed the freedom Movement of the Muslims of India.

As regards the funding, so far we have not received major funding from the outside funding agencies in the field of preservation. Mostly this has been done with our own funding except that some equipments have been received by the National Archives and National Museum of Pakistan Karachi under the Japanese Cultural Grant and United Nation Development Programme.

It is further stated that so far we have not received any funds for the Memory of the World Programme in Asia Pacific.

**PHILIPPINE : COUNTRY REPORT AT THE FIRST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAM**

**THE PHILIPPINE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTRODUCTION**

The *Philippines*, as other Asian countries, has a rich cultural heritage. At present we are in a stage wherein the awareness of preserving monuments, sites and objects and organizing the documents and information about this rich heritage is still growing. Institutions, both private and non-private, are starting to realize the value of creating sectors in their offices which will handle and manage documents with lasting value. They perceive the importance of keeping all valuable documents and information that will provide evidence about their organization's achievements and values.

The *Philippine government* has exerted much effort to conserve and preserve the rich heritage of the country, thus influencing other organizations to do the same. Now, there is a growing interest among various organizations, to establish an archives section in their institutions. It also created the *National Commission on Culture and the Arts* to take care of the conservation and preservation of the cultural heritage of the country.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA)**

The organization mandated to preserve the Philippine cultural heritage is the *National Commission for Culture and the Arts*. In 1987, President Corazon C. Aquino issued Executive Order No. 118 creating the *Presidential Commission on Culture and Arts*. By 1992, it was enacted into a law which is the Republic Act 7356. Today, the Commission is directly under the president with the following mandate :

- Formulate policies for the development of culture and the arts
- Implement these policies in coordination with affiliated cultural agencies
- Coordinate the implementation of programs of these affiliated cultural agencies
- Administer the National Endowment Fund for Culture and the Arts
- Encourage artistic creation within a climate of artistic freedom
- Develop and promote the Filipino national culture and arts; and
- Preserve Filipino cultural heritage

The Commission is governed by the *Board of Commissioners* composed of fifteen members, namely :

- The Undersecretary of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS)
- The Undersecretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT)
- The Chairman of the House Committee on Culture
- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Culture
- The President of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)
- The Executive Director of the National Historical Institute (NHI)
- The Director of the National Museum (NM)
- The Director of the National Library (TNL)
- The Director of the Commission on the Filipino Language (CFL)
- The Director of the Records Management and Archives Office (RMAO)
- The Executive Director of the Commission
- Four representatives from the private sector who shall be elected head of the four Subcommissions on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts (SCCTA), Cultural Heritage (SCH), the Arts (SCA), and Cultural Dissemination (SCD)

### **Subcommission on Cultural Heritage**

The National Commission on Cultural and Arts has four subcommissions, namely :

- Subcommission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts (SCCTA)
- Subcommission on Cultural Heritage (SCH)
- Subcommission on the Arts (SCA)
- Subcommission on Cultural Dissemination (SCD)

The Subcommission on Cultural Heritage (SCH) is responsible for the preservation of the country's documentary heritage. Its objectives are the following :

- Preserves artifacts of Filipino culture
- Support and promotes the establishment and preservation of cultural and historical monuments, markers, names and sites
- Encourages the establishment of museums, libraries, and archives
- Supports scholarly research on Philippine culture and history and the writing of Philippine history from the Filipino perspective.

SCH has committees which coordinate the projects and policies to ensure the systematic documentation, maintenance and promotion of cultural properties, support endangered cultural resources and occupational skills, and encourage scholarly research and writing from a Filipino perspective. The members of the SCH are the technical working committee of the NCCA. They made comments and suggestions for the proposed Philippine Cultural Heritage Law of 1993 which were submitted to the Congress for deliberation. The NCCA also supports the enactment of the *Philippine Archives Act* which will strengthen the mandate of the Records Management and Archives Office (RMA). It will be a cultural agency and policy-making body on records and archives administration.

### **Programs and Projects**

One of the major programs of the NCCA-SCH is the preservation of UNESCO declared World Heritage Sites and Most Endangered Sites. *The initiatives being undertaken by the SCH are : the heritage conservation of the San Agustin church located in Intramuros, Manila; the documentation and conservation plan of the Paoay church in Ilocos Norte; the cultural databank; and, the artists and resource person registry.*

The SCH also assists local groups to enable them to implement their activities commemorating the Centennial. It gives priority to the projects of the National Centennial Commission. It has contributed a lot to the cultural caravan, “*Kalakbay kultura sa Kalayaan*”, the flagship project of the NCCA for 1997.

### **Committees Under the SCH**

The SCH has committees mandated to carry out the identified activities to achieve its objectives, namely :

- **Committee on Archives (NCCA-CA)** - aims to encourage the establishment and development of archives in the country to ensure the conservation and use of the nation's cultural and documentary heritage; to promote the search for truth by encouraging and assisting scholarly research; to provide education programs that will upgrade the archives profession; to work with government and non-government agencies to foster linkages and networking of resources. The priority projects of the Committee are; human resource development, legislation, research and documentation, national archives day celebration, publication series, international commitments/travel grants, and scholarships.

The Committee is dedicated to the task of professionalizing the records management and archives industry by conducting basic and advanced courses in Archives Administration. It also provides technical assistance to local government units which are required to establish their own archives. It is presently developing a database containing an inventory of Philippine archival holdings which will be published in several volumes entitled the “*Union Catalogue of Archival Holdings in the Philippines*”. Contributors to the Union Catalogue are government, private, business, religious and ecclesiastical, and medical centers. It also includes personal, college and university archives and records centers.

- **Committee on Monuments and Sites (NCCA-CMS)** - concerned with the conservation of movable objects and the re-plastering of the San Agustin Wall. They conduct consultative seminar-workshops to develop protective legislation and to foster proper conservation strategies. The recent projects it has undertaken are the conservation strategies for Vigan in Ilocos Sur as a village heritage, and the inventory and documentation of Philippine Church Antiquities and Historic Structures constructed during the Spanish and early American period.
- **Committee on Museums (NCCA-COM)** - aims to make the museum an effective tool of learning, thus making it *user-friendly* to encourage the public to visit and learn the country's heritage. Seminar - workshops/conferences are conducted to promote the use of proper methods of preventive conservation. One important conference held last Nov 11-13, 1997 was the *International Council Museums - Asia Pacific (ICOM-ASPAC) Regional Assembly* whose theme was "*Towards the 21<sup>st</sup> Century : Museums and Community Building*". Thirty foreign and one hundred sixty-five local participants attended the Regional Assembly.

Some of its projects are the restoration of the *18<sup>th</sup> Century Pipe Organ of San Agustin Church*, and the conservation program for the Cultural Center of the Philippines Visual Arts collection. It has published the following publications : Guidebooks to the Museum of Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, and Bicol; the Metropolitan Museum Pre-Colonial Gold Collection, and the Documentation Practices of Philippine Museums. A conservation team on ocular survey of the mural paintings at the Archbishop's Palace in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. The Committee came up with an assessment and a cost analysis for the restoration work for the mural paintings. It also endorsed the creation of the Philippine Association of Scientific Conservation of Cultural Properties, Inc.

- **Committee on Art Galleries (NCAA-CAG)** - aims to exhibit the work of artists to the audience. The dreams of the artists especially the relatively unknown ones were fulfilled when the NCCA-CAG launched its annual project of celebrating the Museums and Galleries Month every October. It is a month long exhibit of the work of arts in galleries. The Committee publishes a journal with the title, *Pananaw : A Journal of Contemporary Visual Arts*.
- **Committee on Historical Research (NCCA-CHR)** - assists different historical societies in the country in conducting seminars and conferences covering different aspects on the Centennial celebrations. It has an on-going research project which is about the declaration of independence site and the General Emilio Aguinaldo shrine. It has also funded the publication of two history journals, the *Pithaya Journal of History* and the *Journal of History : Selected Bicol Papers*.

- **Committee on Libraries and Information Studies (NCCA-CLIS)** - aims to promote the reading habit of the Filipinos and enjoy it, help librarians adapt to the *information age* and *information technology*. To achieve this, it conducted seminar/workshops on the promotion of reading habits, training courses on library management skills and gathering materials for a comprehensive database of physical resources and personnel services. It aims to familiarize students with the use of libraries.

## ARCHIVISTS SOCIETIES

Besides government entities, there are other non-government bodies working towards the conservation and preservation of the country's documentary and cultural heritage. These non-government organizations support the National Commission of Culture and the Arts :

- **Society of Filipino Archivists, Inc.** - It is a non-stock corporation duly registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission. It helps the conservation of the cultural heritage by professionalizing the practice of archives administration through education, research and study. Its membership includes archivists, records officers/personnel, libraries and other personnel working in the archives.
- **Society of Film Archivists** - This group concentrates on collecting films. It is believed that important events, sites, people, and objects are best seen in films. Professional handling and management of these materials are big contributions to the conservation of our country's cultural heritage.

## CONCLUSION

The most essential strategy for further development of our efforts to conserve our cultural inheritance is through education. There are courses on archives and records management added in the formal education curriculum. Future generations are expected to benefit from the advancement of knowledge of those working on our country's documentary and cultural heritage. We believe, that what has been preserved will help them in their endeavors to achieve a better future.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**National Advisory Board 1997**

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**Dr. Nagasura T. Madale**, Head, Committee on Muslim Culture Communities

**Dr. Alicia P. Magos**, Head, Committee on Balud Cultural Communities

**SUBCOMMISSION ON CULTURAL  
HERITAGE (SCH)**

<b>Jaime C. Laya</b>	<b>Head Subcommission on Cultural Heritage Head Committee on Monuments and Sites</b>
<b>Augusto F. Villalon</b>	<b>Vice Head Committee on Monuments and Sites</b>
<b>Emelita V. Almosara</b>	<b>Alternate, Vice-Head, Head Committee on Museums</b>
<b>Teresa S. Montesa</b>	<b>Head Committee on Archives</b>
<b>Silvana A. Diaz</b>	<b>Head Committee on Art Galleries</b>
<b>Ma. Luisa T. Cagamay</b>	<b>Head Committee on Historical Research</b>
<b>Irene D. Amores</b>	<b>Head Libraries and Information Services</b>

**Objectives :**

- Preserves artifacts of Filipino Culture
- Supports and promotes the establishment and preservation of cultural and historical monuments, markers, names and sites
- Encourages the establishment of museums, libraries and archives
- Supports scholarly research on Philippine culture and history and the writing of Philippine history from the Filipino perspective

**Committees :**

- Monuments & Sites
- Museums
- Art Galleries
- Libraries & Information Services
- Historical Research
- Archives

**SOCIETY OF FILIPINO ARCHIVISTS, INC.**

Fax No. 434-3642 Tel. Nos. 434-3631; 434-3838; 434-3643; 920-5301/99 Loc. 5523  
 Member, International Council on Archives

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