

MEMORY OF THE WORLD

Report on the Second Bureau Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Program

12 - 15 March 2002

Kunming CHINA

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Preface

The second meeting of the Bureau of the Asia/Pacific Regional Committee of the Memory of the World Program (MOWCAP) was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China from 12-15 March 2002. The Meeting was made possible by the effort and generosity of the State Archives Administration of China who hosted the event. UNESCO was also supportive by providing financial subsidies to participants.

This report contains records and papers relating to the meeting.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING

The Second Bureau Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Program

Venue: Kunming Hotel, Kunming CHINA

Present: Bureau Members:

Dato' Habibah Zon	(Chairperson)
Ray EDMONDSON	(Vice-Chairman)
GUO Shuyin	(Vice-Chairman)
Simon CHU	(Secretary General)
Norehan JAAFFAR	(Treasurer)

Observers:

Dr. Susanne ORNAGER	(UNESCO Representative)
XING Yongfu	(First Historical Archives, China)
YANG Jibo	(State Archives Administration, China)
WU Hongda	(State Archives Administration, China)
LIU Yun	(State Archives Administration, China)
WANG Hongmin	(State Archives Administration, China)
ZHAO Cong	(State Archives Administration, China)
ZHANG Yinqin	(Provincial Archives, Yunnan)
ZHANG Dejun	(Kunming City Archives)
YUN Baohua	(Dali Prefecture Archives)
LIU Bolin	(Yunnan Provincial Archives)
ZHAO Shihong	(Dongba Institute)

Absent: Atique Zafar SHEIKH (Vice-Chairman)

Minutes of Meeting

Simon CHU welcomed the participants and presented the program of the opening.

1. Opening

- 1.1 The meeting started with the welcoming speeches from Mr. GUO Shuyin, Deputy Director General of the State Archives Administration of China (SAAC) and Mr. ZHANG Yinqing, Director General of Yunnan Provincial Archives (the two speeches are at **Appendices A** and **B** respectively).

1.2 Dato' Habibah Zon and Dr. Ornager returned with notes of thanks and briefed the participants the background and purposes of the meeting. Speeches of Dato' Habibah and Dr. Ornager are at **Appendices C and D**.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

2.1 Dato' Habibah at this point took the chair and presided over the meeting.

2.2 It was decided to add the following additional items to the agenda:

i) Adoption of Report of the 1st Bureau Meeting of MOWCAP at Kuala Lumpur (item 3)

ii) Matters arising from the 1st Bureau Meeting of MOWCAP (item 4)

2.3 The adopted agenda is at **Appendix E**.

3. **Report on the 1st Bureau Meeting of MOWCAP, Kuala Lumpur, April 1999**

3.1 The report was discussed and adopted without alteration.

4. **Matter Arising from the 1st Bureau Meeting of MOWCAP**

4.1 All outstanding issues arising from the previous Bureau meeting were included in discussion items of the present meeting.

5. **Review of MOW Program in the Region**

5.1 The progress and development of MOW Program in the region were discussed. The Bureau noted with concern the unsatisfactory participation by countries in the MOW Program. Strategy on how to build up membership was discussed. **It was agreed, as a start, that Dr. Ornager would write to those UNESCO member countries in the Asia/Pacific Region which had not yet joined MOWCAP and invite them, among others, to set up National Committees and participate in the MOW Program.**

5.2 The issue on the membership of Hong Kong in MOWCAP as well as the official status of Simon CHU in the Bureau were again raised. The Bureau noted the different opinions expressed on the issue thus far and advised that the matter be solved as soon as possible. **It was agreed that SAAC would enquire with their Foreign Office with regard to Hong Kong status in UNESCO and Dr. Ornager would confirm with UNESCO Headquarters on Simon CHU's official capacity in the MOWCAP Bureau.**

5.3 In the meantime, as far as voting in the Bureau was concerned, it was agreed that Simon CHU (Hong Kong) be given the same voting right as Malaysia,

Australia and China.

6. **Reports by Individual Countries in the Region**

6.1 The following reports on MOW Program in individual territories were delivered:

- i) Pacific Sub-Region, delivered by Ray Edmondson (**Appendix F**)
- ii) Malaysia Country Report, delivered by Norehan Jaaffar (**Appendix G**)
- iii) South East Asia Status Report, delivered by Norehan Jaaffar (**Appendix H**).
- iv) Pakistan Status Report, delivered by Norehan Jaaffar (**Appendix I**)
- v) Report on China, delivered by Liu Yun (**Appendix J**)

6.2 The Bureau commended the effort and progress in these territories. Separately, the Chair suggested that, for the sake of consistency and more complete communication, presentation format of country reports should in the future be standardized. **It was suggested that Bureau members would follow this up through e-mail and come up with a report format by mid-June. The Secretary General was asked to coordinate.**

6.3 On Bureau's programs and activities for the past years, the Secretary General reported that all were recorded in details in published reports. These include:

- i) *Memory of the World Program for Asia/Pacific 1st Special Experts Group Meeting, 10-12 December 1997, Xiamen CHINA - Final Report.*
- ii) *Report on the First Regional Committee Meeting for the Memory of the World Program in Asia/Pacific, 17-21 November 1998, Beijing CHINA.*
- iii) *Report on the First Bureau Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Committee for the Memory of the World Program, 26-28 April 1999, Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA.*

6.4 The Secretary General further asked members to consider adopting the following measures in facilitating the programs of MOWCAP:

- i) expanding the membership and offices of the Bureau;
- ii) maintaining only two levels of heritage registration by abolishing the Regional Register;
- iii) focusing more on publicity activities.

6.5 **Having considered the situation in different countries and territories (e.g. some of them might not have National Committees for MOW Program), the Bureau decided that there was still a need to retain the Regional Register level but agreed that publicity activities should be strengthened and the works of the Bureau be further assisted by establishing special**

target-oriented committees.

7. Review of the General Guidelines and Implications for the Region

7.1 Ray Edmondson introduced to the Bureau the revised final version of the *General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage* which he had prepared for UNESCO. Mr. Edmondson started by giving the background of the development of the guidelines and then went through the salient points in the guidelines with the Bureau. The new document helped clearing issues with regard to structure of the MOW Program, submission procedure and selection criteria, role of committees, etc.

7.2 The Bureau considered that the guidelines would be beneficial to all member states especially those which had plans of making submission. **It was also decided that UNESCO's authorization would be sought for the release of the guidelines to member states.**

8. Discussion on Establishing a Regional Register

8.1 The need to retain and maintain a Regional Register was revisited. The Bureau further confirmed the necessity especially in the context of the following circumstances:

- i) where the "heritage" concerned was shared by more than one countries or territories;
- ii) where submission to the International Register was rejected; etc.

8.2 **However, because proper mechanism and modus operandi relating to submission to the Regional Register had yet to be developed, Mr. Ray Edmondson suggested that he would undertake a review of the matter and would draw up relevant guidelines for discussion in the next Bureau Meeting.**

8.3 The Bureau further decided that consideration for nomination to the Regional Register would give priority to those submissions which had been rejected by the International Advisory Committee.

9. Matters Relating to Development of National Registers

9.1 The Bureau noted with concern that the majority of member states in Asia/Pacific region had not yet had established National Committees to administer their individual heritage program. Given the fact such committees were instrumental in facilitating MOW Program world-wide, the Bureau decided that priority be given to encouraging and assisting member states to set up National Committees. **Mr. Edmondson was asked to include in his**

review the procedures in establishing National Committees as well as guidelines on the selection of national heritage for the National Registers.

10. Matters Arising from the Seoul IAC Meeting and Possible Impact on the Region

- 10.1 The Secretary General briefed members on the proceedings and decisions of the Fifth International Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting. The meeting was held in Cheongju in the Republic of Korea from June 27-29, 2001. New members of the Bureau were elected. Bendik Rugaas of Finland was re-elected as Chairman of the Bureau, and Simon CHU of Hong Kong was elected vice-chairman representing the Asia/Pacific region.
- 10.2 The MOW Program Guidelines prepared by Ray Edmondson were discussed and adopted and in consequence of the adoption of the revised guidelines, a new Register Sub-Committee, chaired by Dr. Wojciech Falkowski of Poland, was established.
- 10.3 The Committee had considered 42 nominations received from 23 countries for inclusion in the MOW International Register. 21 nominations were recommended to be added to the World Register of which 7 were from Asia/Pacific region.
- 10.4 The Meeting had cleared hitherto confusion regarding submission procedures and methods and further decided that in the future 2 submissions were allowed for each country in every 2 years. Shared submissions by countries, however, were freed from such a restriction.

11. Future Plans

- 11.1 The Bureau started by reviewing the progress made thus far with regard to the MOWCAP work program of 1999-2000. The following activities were subsequently planned for 2002-2003. **Programs highlights and responsible parties are described at Appendix K.** In short, the works of the Bureau for the year to come would, among others, concentrate on:
- i) membership building;
 - ii) promotion and publicity; and
 - iii) education of member states in submission techniques;

12. Financial Matters

- 12.1 The Treasurer reported on the financial situation of MOWCAP and the expenses of the 2nd Bureau Meeting (**Appendix L**).

13. **AOB**

- 13.1 The Chair suggested and the Bureau agreed that MOCAP should have its own stationery and in the future all MOWCAP correspondence be on MOWCAP paper with its official logo. **The Secretary General was asked to look into the matter.**

14. **Resolutions**

- 14.1 The members of the MOWCAP Bureau, on the occasion of the 2nd Bureau Meeting, had passed the following resolutions:

- i) The Bureau has considered that participation in MOWCAP membership by UNESCO member states within the Asia/Pacific region was far from satisfactory and decided that future program priority be given to building a strong membership for MOWCAP;
- ii) The Bureau also considered that for the MOWCAP program to sustain its growth and development, continued promotion and marketing of MOWCAP and the MOW program per se warranted urgent attention. The Bureau has thus decided to
 - (a) establish a Marketing Sub-Committee in the 2nd Regional Committee Meeting;
 - (b) to take on board the suggestion of appointing a “Good Will Ambassador”;
 - (c) further enhance the MOWCAP Website and have it linked to related webs as soon as possible;
 - (d) work out a strategy on promotion and marketing.
- iii) The Bureau has considered that there was a need to maintain and administer the Regional Register of the Asia/Pacific region and decided that proper mechanism and procedures should be drawn up as soon as possible as regards nomination, submission, evaluation, registration, etc.
- iv) The Bureau has noted that the second meeting of the Regional Committee has long been overdue and decided that the Meeting be organized and held in the early part of 2003 in Kuala Lumpur.
- v) The Bureau wished to express its deepest gratitude to the State Archives Administration of China , the Yunnan Provincial Government, and the Yunnan Provincial Archives for their meticulous arrangements and organization, as well as their generosity and hospitality, without all these, the Second Bureau Meeting would not have been such a success.

The Bureau also wished to thank Dr. Susanne Ornager of UNESCO Bangkok Office for her presence, advice and guidance which had largely facilitated the proceedings of the meeting.

15. **Closing**

- 15.1 The meeting closed with notes of thanks from the Chair and Dr. Ornager for the vigor and enthusiasm displayed by all participants of the meeting.
- 15.2 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

II. WORKSHOP and VISIT

The Bureau also took the opportunity of the meeting to organize a workshop on submission procedures and techniques for the Chinese colleagues. Ray Edmondson, who authored the recently revised MOW Program guidelines, was presiding.

In the afternoon of March 14, Bureau members were invited to visit the Provincial Archives of Yunnan. Members were given a guided tour of the purpose-built new home of local archival heritage as well as its modern equipment and facilities. Members were also treated to a professionally arranged exhibition on archival material and were particularly impressed by the priceless holdings relating to the various ethnic communities.

Appendix D

Second Meeting of the Bureau of Asia Pacific Committee for the Memory of the World programme (MOWCAP) 12-14 March 2002, Kunming, China

by Dr. Susanne Ornager

Mr. Guo Shuyin, Deputy Director-General of the State Archives Administration of China

Mr. Zhou, Director, Yunnan Provincial Archive

Dato' Habibah Zon, Director General of National Archive of Malaysia

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the distinct pleasure to day of extending to you all the greetings and best wishes from the Director Mr Sheldon Shaeffer at UNESCO Bangkok office, and the Director Mr. Phillip Queau in CI/INF (Communication and Information) UNESCO Paris. Also I will extend my sincere thanks to the State Archive, the Yunnan Provincial Archive, and the Yunnan Province for their efforts and cooperation in organizing this meeting,

Documentary heritage in libraries and archives constitutes a major part of the memory of the peoples of the world and reflects the diversity of peoples, languages and cultures. But that memory is fragile.

A considerable proportion of the world's documentary heritage disappears through "natural" causes: acidified paper that crumbles to dust, leather, parchment, film and magnetic tape attacked by light, heat, humidity or dust. The cinema, for instance, is in danger of losing most of the works that have made it the art of the century. Thousands of kilometres of film could just fade away unless they are restored and preserved as soon as possible.

In addition to insidious causes of decay, accidents regularly afflict libraries and archives. Floods, fires, hurricanes, storms, earthquakes... the list of disasters which are difficult to guard against except by taking preventive measures is very long. The recent catastrophe in Japan immediately comes to mind. One thinks also of the earthquake which caused such heavy damage in Japan in 1923, including the destruction of 700.000 volumes of the Imperial University Library in Tokyo. Among the losses were records of the Tokugawa Government and many manuscripts and old prints.

It would take a long time to compile a list of all the libraries and archives destroyed or seriously damaged by acts of war, bombardment and fire, whether deliberate or accidental. The Library of Alexandria is probably the most famous historical example, but how many other known and unknown treasures have vanished in China, or more recently in Cambodia? There are many more, and sadly the list cannot be closed - not to mention holdings dispersed subsequent to the accidental or deliberate displacement of archives and libraries.

There is no escape from the destructive forces of nature: you cannot stop an earthquake or a flood, but it is a sad reflection that the most grievous losses have generally been the result of human action, whether through neglect or willful destruction.

In February UNESCO organised a work shop on Preservation of and Access to Southeast Asia Documentary Heritage in Hanoi, Vietnam. The workshop stated that the documentary heritage of the Southeast Asian Region which constitute a significant part of the world's memory is fast disappearing due to neglect, adverse physical and climatic conditions, natural and man-made disasters and political instability. There is an urgent need to raise awareness among the peoples of the Region and the rest of the world on the significance of the Region's documentary heritage to the world's memory and on the need to safeguard them.

Thanking the organisers of this meeting again, I wish the participants a busy and fruitful meeting in the beautiful town of Kunming.

Thank you

Appendix K

Work Program of MOWCAP 2002-2003

Activities	Time Frame	Responsible Parties
(1) Letter to National Commissions inviting them to: (i) establish National Committees (ii) Join MOWCAP (iii) a common statement of MOWCAP	By 1 May 2002	Dr. Susanne Ornager
(2) Enhance MOWCAP Website and have it linked to related Webs.	On-going	Dr. Ornager and Norehan Jaaffar
(3) Compile List of Experts within the region	By 1 May 2002	Chair and the 3 vice-chairs
(4) Develop selection criteria, submission and registration guidelines for the Regional Register	Discussion draft completed by July 2002	Ray Edmondson
(5) Organize workshops	Scheduled for September 2002	Ray Edmondson
(6) Organize 2 nd Regional Committee Meeting	Meeting scheduled for the first quarter of 2003	Secretary General coordinate
(7) Explore Funding Sources	On-going	The Bureau
(8) Appoint "Good Will" Ambassador	Nomination to be decided in the 2 nd Regional Committee Meeting	Dr. Ornager coordinate
(9) Publish Coffee Table Book for MOW Program	?	Dr. Ornager coordinate
(10) Established Publicity Sub-Committee	In the 2 nd Regional Committee Meeting	The Bureau
(11) Confirm Simon CHU's status in MOWCAP	ASAP	SAAC and Dr. Ornager
(12) Standardized Country Report Format	mid-June	Bureau members and coordinated by Secretary General