

## 2002 Regional Workshop for Cultural Promotion of the "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity"

ACCU and UNESCO co-organised the Workshop from 12 to 16 March 2002, in Tokyo. Oral and intangible heritage is now widely recognised as an important factor for, among other things, preserving cultural identity and ensuring cultural diversity. Many forms of cultural expressions, however, are in danger of disappearing due to globalisation, ageing of the tradition-bearers, etc, and immediate action to safeguard them needs to be taken. UNESCO launched the new programme of the Proclamation of Masterpieces, in response to such urgent needs.

The major purpose of the Workshop was to promote among the UNESCO Member States in the region the idea and the system of this new UNESCO programme and to encourage their future participation in the programme. While the very widely known 1972 World Heritage Convention covers tangible cultural heritage and natural heritage, this programme calls attention to the protection of cultural expression and cultural spaces which have transmitted from people to people.

19 cultural expression/spaces are included in the list of the Masterpieces of Humanity for the first Proclamation in May 2001, and six of them are from countries in Asia. Those proclaimed Masterpieces include centuries-old traditional theatres such as India's Kutiyattam and China's Kunqu Opera, a minority group's traditional chants like Hudhud Chants of the Ifugao people in the Philippines, and Cultural Spaces of the Boysun District in Uzbekistan. Under the programme, each Member State may submit a single national candidature every two years. Then, the files go through, first, the expert evaluation by designated NGOs and then the evaluation by the International Jury, then the Director-General makes the Proclamation.

At the Workshop, the representatives from those 6 countries with Masterpieces

Training Course on Survey and Restoration of Historic Monuments (Nara)



shared with the fellow participants their experience of national candidature selection and the impact of the proclamation upon their countries at national and local levels. In the case of India, for example, the only three remaining families which carry the very elaborate art of Kutiyattam started having forums for the first time, as a consequence of the international recognition and national attention.

The participants also shared their ideas on four broader themes surrounding the oral and intangible heritage: identification of such heritage in multi-cultural or multi-ethnic society; training and education of younger generation; women's role in transmission; and use and relevance in modern society. As intangible heritage is "live" heritage, the field visits to observe two samples of Japanese intangible heritage were integral parts of the workshop. The participants visited a Japanese traditional textiles Edo-Komon atelier and the National Noh Theatre, and met with expert practitioners of each heritage.

Thirty experts or government officials from twenty-eight countries, and two International Jury Members of the Proclamation programme (Rep. of Korea and Vanuatu) and one Japanese expert as Resource Persons, as well as three UNESCO representatives participated.

The Workshop was made possible by the UNESCO/Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as that for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding.

The list of countries which participated: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

## Activities and Programmes of the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office

The Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia/Pacific Centre for UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as ACCU Nara Office) was established in Nara City, August 1999, as a key centre in Japan for protecting World Heritage, including cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific region.

The ancient capitals of Asuka-kyo, Fujiwara-kyo and Heijo-kyo were established in the present Nara area more than one thousand years ago. Therefore, Nara still possesses many precious wooden structures like Horyuji Temple, which was founded in the Asuka era, 607 A. D., and valuable cultural assets such as ancient tombs.

ACCU Nara Office has been conducting programmes, taking advantage of this abundant cultural heritage and institutions related to cultural properties protection. Major projects for the fiscal year 2001 were as follows:

ACCU Nara Office held a "Training Programme on Survey and Restoration of Historic Monuments" for 29 days from 13 November 2001, with 13 experts in the field of cultural heritage protection from 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The training focused on the excavation/survey of archaeological sites and restoration/maintenance of historic buildings. The Training Programme were widely disseminated through *Cultural Heritage News* No. 1 published in February 2001 and the Internet (<http://www.nara.accu.or.jp>).

Some comments from the participants were "I have found a clue to solving the technical questions regarding conservation", "The lectures on the latest technology of preservation, restoration and excavation were significant and will be useful in the future". The Training Programme will certainly be much more worthwhile when the participants utilize the fruits of their training in the respective countries.

In order to stress the importance of cultural heritage protection to the general public, ACCU Nara Office organized the Seminar focusing on "protection and fostering of wooden culture" in July 2001 and the International Symposium entitled "Let's think all together of World Heritage Protection—Cultural Heritage is irreplaceable properties for all human beings" in March 2002.

ACCU Nara Office will be sponsoring the training programmes and international



Workshop participants at Edo-Komon atelier (Tokyo)

conferences in close collaboration with UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and some other international organizations.

ACCU Nara Office has been developing the "Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Website" since 1999 to collect data on cultural heritage protection. You will find the contents gradually expanding at <http://www.nara.accu.or.jp/chdb>.

### NFE Initiatives Taken in Afghanistan

ACCU, UNESCO and the Non-formal Education (NFE) Directorate, Ministry of Education of Afghanistan had a series of meetings in Kabul in May 2002 to discuss a project for promotion of NFE in Afghanistan.

The three parties agreed on the project, which consists of (1) developing NFE learning materials for 100 adult literacy classes and 54 NFE schools for children and (2) training for NFE facilitators in and near Kabul.

Out-of-school girls and illiterate women, who had little chance to study due to the conflicts which have continued for the last 23 years, are the main target of the project. 40 titles of NFE learning materials for adults such as *Why Literacy for Women* (booklet), *A Balanced Diet* (pie chart), and *Integrated Farming* (poster) as well as a picture book for children titled *Meet My Friends!* (theme: respect for diversity of culture) will be published in Dari and Pashto.

For training of NFE facilitators, three ACCU/UNESCO handbooks for capacity building of NFE personnel, in "teaching-learning", "material development", and "learning centre establishment and management" will be adapted and used in training programmes. It is expected that the initiative will contribute to the reconstruction of education in Afghanistan not only by promoting NFE itself but also by complementing formal education.



Adult literacy class at bus centre (Afghanistan)

### 2002 Schedule of Meetings and Training Courses of ACCU

(C) Cultural activities, (E) Educational activities, (P) Planning and Personnel Exchange activities, (N) Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation activities (Nara office)

Date	Place	Programme
<b>2002</b>		
May 1-17	Tokyo, Japan	24th Travelling Exhibition in Asia and the Pacific "Clothes and People" (C)
July	Tokyo	2002 ACCU International Exchange Programme under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding (P)
July	Nara, Japan	Seminar for Cultural Heritage Protection (N)
July 9-13	Tokyo	ACCU-APPEAL Joint Planning Meeting on Regional NFE Programmes in Asia and the Pacific (E)
Aug.	Sri Lanka	Feasibility Study on Establishment of a Literacy Resource Centre for Girls and women (LRC) (E)
Sep. 2-3	Tokyo	Jury Meeting for 2002 Photo Contest in Asia and the Pacific "The Joy of Sport" (C)
Sep. 12-14	India	Planning Meeting on the Development and Piloting of MANGO/NFE-MIS Software (E)
Sep.	Nara	Training course for Restoration of Cultural Heritage (N) Training of Young Leaders in Cultural Heritage Protection (N/P)
Oct. 1-27	Tokyo	35th Training Course on Book Production in Asia and the Pacific "How to Produce Education Materials in Printed Media" (C)
Oct.	Sri Lanka	Consultative Meeting for Establishment of LRCs (E)
Oct.	Nara	Group Training Course for Restoration of Cultural Heritage (N)
Dec. 3-12	Myanmar	Regional Workshop on the Capacity Building for Trainers or NFE Facilitators in Rural Areas in Asia and the Pacific (E/P)
Dec.	Japan	ACCU International Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals (School Teachers Invitation Project) (P)
Dec. 3-5	Tokyo	Meeting of the Editorial Committee of the Asian/Pacific Co-publication Programme (ACP) (C/P)
Dec. 6	Tokyo	International Jury Meeting for the 2002 Noma Concours (C)
<b>2003</b>		
Jan.	Japan	ACCU International Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals (School Teachers Invitation Project) (P)
Mar.		2003 Capacity Building Workshop of LRC (E/P)

### A Fresh Start at ACCU Secretariat, Tokyo

ACCU Secretariat in Tokyo was reorganized on 1 April 2002, with the aim of further strengthening regional cooperative programmes as well as effective integration of existing programmes, as shown in the back cover of this issue.

The "Planning Division", newly established in the General Affairs Department, explores extrabudgetary resources to vitalize and sustain ACCU regional activities, and also coordinate personnel exchange programmes financed by those resources. The "General Affairs Division" puts more emphasis on publicity of ACCU activities, besides handling personnel affairs, financing and accounting, Executive Boards and membership.

In the Programme Department, "Culture Division", an integrated combination of the

former Cultural Affairs Division and Book Development Division, deals with cultural heritage, photo contest, copublication of children's books, APPREB activities, publication of ABD and more from a broader perspective. Furthermore the former Literacy Promotion Division has been renamed "Education Division", and it continues to handle material production, personnel training, network building and IT application in the field of literacy and non-formal education in pursuit of the realization of Education for All.

Having made a refreshed start with a new re-organization, all at ACCU are determined to strive for the furtherance of Asia-Pacific regional programmes in full cooperation with UNESCO and its Member States in the region.