

**Sub-Regional Experts Meeting in Asia  
on**

**Intangible Cultural Heritage: Safeguarding  
and Inventory-Making Methodologies**

13-16 December 2005  
Bangkok, Thailand



**UNESCO (APCUNESCO) Mechanism for Safeguarding  
and Promoting ICH**

**National Action Plan**

- Capacity building
- Heritage inventories
- Transmission of knowledge
- Increasing public access and awareness
- Creation of national legislation, legal measures and cultural policies
- Strengthening greater national, regional and international cooperation



**Capacity Building**

Training in classical dance  
at the Faculty of  
Choreographic Arts,  
Royal University of Fine Arts



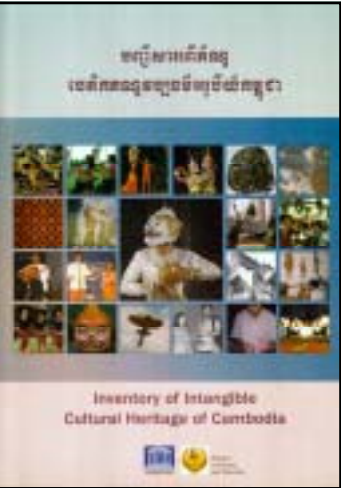
Training in Sbek Thom  
performance techniques for  
young artists.  
Department of Performing  
Arts



**Heritage Inventories**

**Inventory of Intangible  
Cultural Heritage of  
Cambodia**

- **Performing Arts:** Royal Ballet, Folk and Popular Dance, Drama, Sbek Thom, Traditional Music & Circus
- **Oral Cultural Heritage:** Language, Oral Literature & Oral Folklore
- **Artisan skills:** Silk weaving, Metal work, Traditional painting, Mask making, Handicrafts & Kite making & flying



**Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage  
of Indigenous People of Cambodia**

- Performing arts (traditional dance, music)
- Traditional artisan skills (craftsmanship)
- Traditional oral literature (folklore)
- Traditional costumes
- Traditional customs, beliefs, & practices
- Ethnic written language (comparative forms)



**Revitalization and Transformation of Knowledge**

'Preah Thong Neang Neak', originally created in 1931, was revived and performed at 'Les Nuits d'Angkor' at Siem Reap in December 2003.



## Living Human Treasures



## Legislation, legal measures and cultural policies

- Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, 1996
- Law on Copyright and Related Rights, 2003



## International Heritage Conventions

**Convention and First Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict** (The Hague, 14 May 1954), ratified 4 April 1962

**Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954**, signed on 17 May 1999

**Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property**, ratified in 26 September 1972

**Convention of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, known as the World Heritage Convention, signed in 28 November 1991

**UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects**, ratified on 21 February 2002

## International Heritage Conventions

On 25 November 2005, the Cambodian National Assembly approved the **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**, which was adopted by the 32nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO on 17 October 2003, to be shortly ratified.

## UNESCO Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity

On 7 November 2003, **Royal Ballet of Cambodia** proclaimed as Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity



On 25 November 2005, **'Sbek Thom, Khmer Shadow Theatre'** is now also part of the Heritage of Humanity

## Public awareness campaigns and education

- 3 April, annual National Culture Day. This national celebration was initiated in 1998 in order to reinforce cultural values through public participation
- National Kite Festival held annually every December along with food and traditional fashion shows
- 'Les Nuits d'Angkor' is held in Siem Reap on an annual basis in December at Angkor Wat.
- A series of documentaries about performing arts, the Royal Ballet and other cultural expressions were shown on local television to increase public knowledge and understanding of their own heritage and how it can be protected

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Thank you

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