Sub-Regional Experts Meeting in Asia on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Safeguarding and Inventory-Making Methodologies

13-16 December 2005
Bangkok, Thailand

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 (bakhete)
- 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.

Asia-Pacific Database on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) by Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
Living Human Treasures

Legislation, legal measures and cultural policies

- Law on Copyright and Related Rights, 2003

International Heritage Conventions

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

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.