

# Progress Report

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<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening the capacities of Myanmar for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage <sup>1</sup>
<b>Target Country or Region</b>	Myanmar
<b>UNESCO Budget code</b>	199GLO4000 (WBS element 199GLO4000.7)
<b>Funding source</b>	Kingdom of Norway voluntary supplementary contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
<b>Total Budget approved</b>	USD 278,164
<b>Reporting Period</b>	20 June 2013 – 30 October 2014
<b>Executing Agency</b>	UNESCO
<b>Implementing partners</b>	Union Ministry of Culture of Myanmar
<b>Project starting date</b>	20 June 2013
<b>Project completion date</b>	19 June 2015
<b>Responsible Sector</b>	CLT/CRE/ITH, UNESCO Office in Bangkok
<b>Name of Persons completing Report</b>	Mr Timothy Curtis, Chief Culture Unit, UNESCO Office in Bangkok Mr Ricardo Favis, Programme Officer, UNESCO Office in Bangkok

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<sup>1</sup> Referred to in the text as 'the 2003 Convention.'

## **I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND**

This project aims to build up the national capacity of Myanmar, both in government institutions and in civil society, so that it will have a sustainable framework for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) on a long term basis.

To that end, the project is implementing an integrated capacity-building strategy, including a series of well-prepared workshops and activities, tailored to respond to the identified needs of Myanmar. This project covers the core concepts of the 2003 Convention and provides a substantial knowledge of the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the 2003 Convention. Based on the assessed needs, themes to be covered include the ratification of the 2003 Convention, its implementation at the national level and community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage. The capacity building activities will be followed in 2015 by two workshops: the first will explore sources of additional funding for long-term safeguarding of ICH and introduce mechanisms by which Myanmar can access international assistance through the submission of nomination files to the Lists of the Convention and requests for international assistance; and a final workshop to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the capacity building programme, and formulate a road map on how ICH safeguarding can be sustained over the long term.

Myanmar is benefitting and will continue to benefit from other interventions tailored to its specific needs, ranging from practical experience with community-based inventorying to consultation on possible policy or legal reforms, and technical assistance to the intangible cultural heritage management body in Myanmar.

To assist in project implementation, two experts are being mobilized to facilitate the training workshops, provide technical guidance and policy advice, whenever required, and collaborate with the national partners as needs arise. The experts have been trained to use the training materials developed by UNESCO for building national capacities of beneficiary countries.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **A. Consultation Meetings (24-28 November 2013)**

Venue: Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, Myanmar

Expert Facilitators: Paritta Koanantakool and Noriko Aikawa-Faure

The consultation meetings in Myanmar were undertaken to assess the current state of the safeguarding of ICH, and identify gaps in the policy, legal and institutional frameworks for safeguarding ICH and training needs in Myanmar. The meetings also provided the opportunity for the UNESCO representatives and the expert facilitators to encourage concerned Ministry authorities headed by the Union Minister for Culture, H.E. Aye Myint Kyu to work for the ratification of the 2003 Convention.

A three-day meeting was first held in Nay Pyi Taw from 24-26 November 2013 to consult with thirty-seven 37 senior officials from various departments of the Ministry of Culture, senior representatives of State Universities, culture officers from the different states and artists. Twenty (20) other key stakeholders who were not able to take part in the Nay Pyi Taw meeting were consulted in Yangon for two days from 27-28 November 2013.

Key information gathered and needs assessed during the consultation meetings include the following:

- The Department of Fine Arts was designated by the Minister for Culture as the focal department for ICH in a recent re-structuring of the Ministry functions. ICH used to be the responsibility of the other two departments under the Ministry – the Department of Archaeology and Museums, and the Department of Historical Research and National Library. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum, though its museums and

cultural officers in ethnic States, has done significant research on intangible cultural heritage, using the 2009 handbook published by the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism, while the Department of Historical Research and National Library has started to compile a national inventory using the handbook published by ICHCAP (International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, a Category II Centre).

- Before getting the ICH portfolio, the responsibility of the Department of Fine Arts was focused on visual arts, performing arts and crafts. The expert facilitators thought that the Department of Fine Arts does not have the experience, institutional capacity and adequate human resources at national and local levels to oversee ICH. They felt that the Department of Historical Research or the Department of Archaeology and National Museums have more capacity to be responsible for ICH.
- ICH, as officially defined in Myanmar, is limited to visual arts, performing arts and handicrafts. (This may be the reason why the Department of Fine Arts was recently designated as the focal institution on ICH). Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe are not yet acknowledged as ICH.
- The participation of practitioners and communities in the identification and documentation is limited to that as informants. The concepts of the Convention, particularly the active participation of practitioners and communities, viability, social function of ICH and the constantly evolving nature of ICH, did not seem to be fully taken into consideration by the parties consulted. NGOs have also a marginal role so far.
- The parties consulted expressed their need for capacity building in inventorying and safeguarding of ICH, as well as preparing nomination files to the ICH Lists.
- The expert facilitators reported the need for a national policy and legal framework for safeguarding ICH to be formulated, and that the national agency/institution responsible for ICH should have adequate technical and human resources at the national and local levels.
- Closer collaboration between the different departments of the Ministry of Culture and State universities is also needed to achieve sustainable training of local resource persons in facilitating community-based inventorying at the local level.
- At the time of the consultation meetings, a draft ICH Bill had already been approved by the cabinet, examined and approved by the Attorney General and was then being examined by the Parliament.

## **B. Implementation Workshop (19-24 May 2014)**

Venue: Mandalay, Myanmar

Expert Facilitators: Paritta Koanantakool and Noriko Aikawa-Faure

The workshop on the implementation of the 2003 Convention provided an overview of the objectives and key safeguarding concepts of the 2003 Convention as well as the national obligations of States Parties and the mechanisms for international cooperation. Thirty-five (35) participants benefitted from the workshop. Most of them took part during the consultation meetings in November 2013. Cultural Officers of seven out of eight States were present. A week before the start of the workshop, the Minister of Culture designated the Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture of Mandalay to assist in the organization of the workshop. Though the Department of Fine Arts was designated as the focal point for ICH, only one junior officer from the Department took part in the workshop. Most of the Ministry officials who participated in the workshop came from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum which has conducted significant researches and documentation of ICH through the network of State Museums and Cultural Officers. The increased number of participants from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum resulted in a more productive discussion and allowed for more state (provincial) level inputs.

This workshop was initially planned to cover both the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Convention. However, Myanmar ratified the 2003 Convention two weeks before the start of the workshop, thus the expert facilitators adjusted their training programme to focus only on the effective implementation of the Convention at the national level. The facilitators included in the workshop agenda a day-long field study visit in locations where the crafts and rituals mentioned below were practiced. The field trip provided the participants to understand the essential role of communities in safeguarding ICH.

- Bronze casting craft in Tamapawaddy, Chanmyathase Township, Mandalay
- Silk weaving craft in Muand Dan Quarter, Amarapura Township, Mandalay
- *Nat* spirit worship in Mandalay where four spirit mediums/practitioners were interviewed.

### **C. Community-based Inventorying of ICH (27October-3 November 2014)**

Venue: Nyaung Shwe, Inle, Southern Shan State, Myanmar

Trainers: Paritta Koanantakool and Noriko Aikawa-Faure

The eight-day community-based inventorying workshop was held in Nyaung Shwe, a port town at the entrance to the Inle Lake with some forty-three (43) participants, mostly from the three departments of the Ministry of Culture and two universities in Yangon. Three participants were also from the local communities of ICH practitioners and two represented NGOs active in the area. The workshop was dominated by female participants: 26 of them (or 60%) were female.

The workshop was very well organized by the Cultural Museum of Taunggi under the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. However, the increased number of participants from the Department of Historical Research and National Library and the active role of the Department's Director General in coordinating workshop activities indicate that ICH may eventually be entrusted under the responsibility of the Department of Historical Research and National Library. As mentioned beforehand, the Department of Historical Research and National Library has started compiling a national inventory of intangible heritage. The participation of a competent interpreter maximized comprehension and participation among the participants.

Considering that significant inventorying of ICH elements using the ICHCAP and Indonesian handbooks (refer to information gathered during the consultation meetings above) has already been conducted by the Ministry, the two facilitators gave considerable time discussing the concepts of the stewardship of communities over their ICH, viability, modality of transmission and customary laws concerning access – concepts that are considered in the two handbooks. Participants were encouraged to consider these important aspects of inventorying in their interaction with the community members particularly during the field exercises.

The two-day field exercises of working with local communities within the Inle Lake area took place in the following villages:

- Shay Wagyi Village – traditional fishing
- Kaylar Village – floating vegetable gardening
- Kyauk Taing Village – pottery making
- Yiyglay Village – boatbuilding
- Heya Ywama Village – silversmith craft and painting on palm leaves

Free, prior and informed consents were obtained in the villages. The villagers were taught how to use the documentation equipment and took photographs of elements which are important to them within their villages. The group reports following the field practicum revealed the high level of

understanding among the participants on how community-based inventorying should be done in the spirit of the 2003 Convention.

### **Problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken:**

1. In light of the recent political and social reform in Myanmar and the re-engagement of the government with international processes, the planning stage took considerable time. Project activities started to be implemented only in November 2013 after project approval by the Minister of Culture and the designation of a national agency responsible for ICH.
2. The Ministry of Culture is not willing to receive project funds for the organization of project activities. To enable the effective organization of the activities, UNESCO had to subcontract the services of an external service provider in Myanmar for the provision of food, accommodation and transportation of participants, which resulted in higher costs compared to budget estimates.
3. Language issues have been a major challenge in the effective delivery of training activities. This necessitated the translation of basic training materials into Myanmar language to facilitate comprehension among the participants. The facilitators also provided adequate space for group discussions, role playing and field exercises which encourage all participants to actively participate in the discussions. It was also fortunate to use the services of a competent interpreter who did simultaneous interpretation and assisted in encouraging the less vocal among the participants to be more active in the discussions.
4. During the Consultation Meetings (November 2013), the two expert facilitators noted that the important role of local communities in the identification, documentation and transmission of ICH and other key concepts regarding ICH were not clear to the participants. To make the participants understand better these concepts, the expert facilitators included a day of practical field exercises during the implementation workshop in the locations where three groups of ICH practitioners (bronze casting, weaving and *Nat* spirit worship) practiced their crafts and ritual to enable them to understand the concepts and principles of the 2003 Convention. The field exercise of the implementation workshop also provided a good preparation for the recently concluded community-based inventorying workshop.
5. The community-based inventory workshop was supposed to be organized in July 2014. However, the delay in the release of the partial allotment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of project implementation postponed the organization of the workshop to late October 2014.

### **III. PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS**

Under Expected Result 1 on the ratification of the Convention and integration of its principles into cultural and other policies and legislation, applying a gender-response approach:

- Myanmar ratified the 2003 Convention on 7 May 2014
- The expert facilitators have provided technical and policy guidance through their lectures and plenary sessions during the project activities which have already been implemented.

Under Expected Result 2 on the establishment of the institutional infrastructure tailored to specific needs of safeguarding and applying gender-responsive approach:

- The Department of Archaeology and National Museum and the Department of Historical Research and National Library have both conducted significant researches on heritage elements, both tangible and intangible. However, the Minister of Culture, in a recent Ministry reorganization, decided to transfer the responsibility over ICH to the Department of Fine Arts, which has been responsible only for visual/performing arts and crafts and which does not have technical and human resources at the local level. Since the completed project activities were also attended by senior officials of the two other departments, the two facilitators have emphasized the need for a

strong institutional setup with adequate technical capacity and trained human resources at both the national and local levels.

Under Expected Result 3 on Myanmar's utilizing the strengthened and human resources for the effective safeguarding of ICH:

- Two consultation meetings were organized in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon (24-28 November 2013) to identify the training needs and gaps in the policy and institutional frameworks for safeguarding ICH. A total of 57 key stakeholders from the Ministry of Culture, cultural officers from different States, State universities and ICH practitioners were involved in the consultation meetings. Twenty-one or 37% of the participants were female.
- The second workshop on the implementation of the 2003 Convention was organized in Mandalay (19-24 May 2014). Thirty-five (35) participants representing the three departments of the Ministry of Culture, State universities, culture officers from different states and ICH practitioners benefitted from the workshop. Thirteen or 37% of the participants were female.

Under Expected Result 4 on the establishment or revision of a framework and methodology for inventorying ICH with the participation of communities and NGOs:

- The workshop on community-based inventorying of ICH has been held in Nyaung Shwe, Inle, Myanmar from 28 October to 3 November 2014. The workshop covered the essential features of inventorying under the 2003 Convention, basic conceptual understandings of research planning and design, elaboration of a community-appropriate inventory questionnaire/template, and technical skills in description and documentation. In the plenary session and field practicum, the facilitators took extra effort to discuss aspects of inventorying (i.e. community stewardship over their ICH, viability, customary laws and others) which are not given due consideration in the guidelines provided by the ICHCAP and Indonesian handbooks on inventorying used by the Ministry. This may pave the way for the revision of the framework and methodology for inventorying ICH in Myanmar.

In the approved workplan, the following project activities have not yet been implemented:

- Field survey and ICH inventorying of pilot communities
- Workshop on accessing funds
- Project evaluation and workshop on sustainability

With the recent ratification of the 2003 Convention by Myanmar, the Minister of Culture and participants of project activities have expressed their urgent need for a workshop on the elaboration of nomination files to the Lists of the Convention and requests for International Assistance to be organized soon after the community-based inventorying workshop. The nomination workshop can be organized only, if the outstanding contribution from Norway will be transferred to UNESCO to supplement the remaining project funds. The two facilitators have indicated their availability to facilitate the nomination workshop in early March 2015.

<b>Overall goal of the project:</b> To enhance the capacity of Myanmar to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage, particularly through the effective implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage		<b>Overall assessment:</b> Project implementation is on track. Completed project activities have been successfully organized.		
Expected Results	Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Target (T) /baselines (b)		Achievement(s)	Outputs contributing to expected results
	Programmed	Attained		
<b>Expected Result N°1:</b> Myanmar ratifies the Convention and integrates its principles into cultural and other policies and legislation, applying a gender-responsive approach.	<b>PI:</b> Ratification of the Convention by Myanmar <b>T/b:</b> Convention not ratified when project implementation started	Attained	n/a	<b>Output 1.1:</b> Myanmar ratified the 2003 Convention on 7 May 2014.  37 key stakeholders were consulted in November 2013, during which the need for ratification was particularly stressed.
	<b>PI:</b> ICH integrated into Myanmar's cultural and other policies <b>T/b:</b> The principles of the Convention not considered in their existing policies	Not yet attained	Facilitators have started to provide technical and policy advice to encourage authorities to establish/formulate policies for the effective safeguarding ICH Heritage".	<b>Output 1.2:</b> Policy advice integrated into the training activities
<b>Expected Result N°2:</b> Myanmar establishes the institutional infrastructure for the effective safeguarding of ICH.	<b>PI:</b> Adequate institutional infrastructure established <b>T/b:</b> No adequate institutional infrastructure established before project started	Partially attained.	Guidance on an effective institutional infrastructure for safeguarding ICH is integrated into the consultation meetings and training workshop on the implementation of the Convention.	<b>Output 2:</b> Three capacity building activities implemented: the consultation meetings, implementation workshop and community-based inventorying workshop.
<b>Expected Result N°3:</b> Myanmar utilizes the	<b>PI:</b> Number of cultural officers, community members and NGO	Not yet fully attained.	Three project activities implemented:	<b>Output 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>57 key stakeholders consulted</li> </ul>

<p>strengthened institutional and human resources for the effective safeguarding of ICH.</p>	<p>members trained <b>T/b:</b> No person trained prior to project implementation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation meetings (November 2013)</li> <li>• Implementation workshop (May 2013)</li> <li>• Community-based inventorying workshop (October 2013)</li> </ul>	<p>during the consultation meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 stakeholders participated during the implementation workshop</li> <li>• 43 stakeholders benefitted from the community-based inventorying workshop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected Result N°4:</b> Myanmar establishes/revises framework and methodology for inventorying ICH with the participation of communities and relevant NGOs</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Inventorying framework and methodology revised <b>T/b:</b> Documentation of ICH used the ICHCAP and Indonesian handbooks</p>	<p>Not yet fully attained</p>	<p>Community-based inventorying workshop covered appropriate methodology for inventorying ICH in the spirit of the Convention.</p>	<p><b>Output 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43 key stakeholders benefitted from the community-based inventorying workshop</li> </ul> <p>(Practical field survey and ICH inventorying in pilot communities nor yet implemented)</p>

#### **IV. SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT/TRANSITION STRATEGY**

1. The Ministry has carefully selected and mobilized key Ministry officials (representing the three departments of the Ministry), senior representatives of concerned State universities involved in ICH and cultural officers from the different states (provinces) to participate in the project activities. As noted by the expert facilitators, the participants are intelligent and eager to learn from the capacity-building activities. Most of them seem to have studied the Convention before the meeting started. This may indicate the keen interest of the Ministry to strengthen its institutional capacities and utilize its key human resources for the effective safeguarding ICH.
2. ICH in Myanmar officially covers visual arts, music, oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, festive events and traditional handicrafts. Knowledge systems and practices concerning nature and the universe are not yet acknowledged as ICH. Given this, the expert facilitators provided adequate space to discuss these two domains during the consultation meetings and the implementation workshop. Since the role of ICH practitioners and communities in government-initiated researches on ICH has been limited to being informants and that NGOs are not highly involved by the Ministry, the facilitators took extra effort to explain the important roles that communities and NGOs play in the safeguarding of ICH.
3. One of the lessons learnt from earlier capacity building workshops in other beneficiary countries is that participants learn more from group discussions, role playing and field exercises than from the formal lectures, perhaps due to the language difficulties and lack of competent translators/interpreters. Given this, the expert facilitators minimized their presentations to the basic ideas while more space was provided for group activities and field exercises. This strategy also encouraged the less vocal among the participants to contribute more to the discussions and group decisions. Moreover, the training materials on the thematic workshops were heavily customized to the context of Myanmar, using case studies of Myanmar and neighbouring Asian countries.
4. Having just ratified the 2003 Convention and re-engaged with international processes, Myanmar has still a lot to accomplish before it can effectively implement the 2003 Convention. Myanmar needs to: (i) formulate a national policy and protective legislation for safeguarding ICH; (ii) establish a national body that will implement safeguarding measures; (iii) establish a network of institutions concerned with ICH throughout the country; and (iv) take necessary measures to promote community participation in inventorying and safeguarding their ICH. These may require sustained assistance from UNESCO beyond what the current project can provide. The interest and enthusiasm gained by the Minister and key ministry officials from completed project activities need to be sustained to realize the project goal of enhancing Myanmar's capacity of safeguarding its intangible heritage, particularly through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention.
5. A final activity is foreseen in the workplan aiming at exploring sources of additional funding for long-term safeguarding of ICH and introducing mechanisms by which Myanmar can access international assistance through the submission of nomination files to the Lists of the Convention and requests for international assistance.

#### **V. VISIBILITY**

Completed capacity building activities and references to the generous contribution of the donor Government of Norway are featured in the dedicated UNESCO website on intangible cultural heritage (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00326>), as well as the website of UNESCO Bangkok Office (<http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich/regional-workshops/>). By linking up with UNESCO's existing social media network, news about the capacity building activities in the region are reaching more than 600,000 followers.

Donor visibility has also been ensured with the inclusion of the logo of the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in all printed materials such as banners, certificates of participation distributed to participants, name tags and workshop programmes.

The UNESCO Satellite Office in Yangon has informed and invited the Norwegian Embassy to grace the opening ceremonies of the project activities which were organized. Considering that the activities were organized outside Yangon, no embassy official was able to attend the consultation meeting at Nay Pyi Taw, the implementation workshop in Mandalay and the ongoing community-based inventorying workshop in Inle and Taunggyi, Shan State.

## **VI. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

Challenges and lessons learnt:

1. With the recent ratification of the 2003 Convention and the inscription of the Pyu Ancient Cities in the World Heritage List, the Minister of Culture has shown keen interest in the project by presiding over the opening ceremonies of the inventorying workshop and expressed the need for a nomination workshop to be organized as soon as possible. However, his two-year tenure as Minister of Culture expires at the end of December 2014. The change of leadership in the Ministry early next year may have an impact on how future project activities will be implemented.
2. Though a majority of participants of completed project activities include senior Ministry officials and culture officers, it will take time for the Ministry to formulate appropriate policies and legislation and strengthen the institutional framework for safeguarding ICH, in the spirit of the 2003 Convention. The technical and policy guidance provided by the expert facilitators are limited to their lectures within the limited duration of each project activity. Given this, there may be need to mobilize policy experts to provide more in-depth consultation and discussions with key authorities to expedite the process. However, this can happen only if the Ministry asks for this enhanced assistance.
3. The Department of Archaeology and National Museums and the Department of Historical Research and Library have conducted significant research and documentation of ICH elements nationwide, using the Indonesian and Korean handbooks (explained earlier in Article II.A). The models provided by these handbooks do not give sufficient importance to the participation of communities, stewardship over their ICH and aspects such as viability, modality of transmission and customary laws concerning access. Given this, the expert facilitators have emphasize these important concepts and have integrated them into the list of topics that were discussed by the participants with community members visited during the field practicum of the inventorying workshop. This may pave the way to the revision of the inventorying methodology of the Ministry.

Modifications to the initial project plans:

1. When the ICH project in Myanmar was being conceptualized, Myanmar had not yet ratified the 2003 Convention, thus the training workshop on the preparation of nomination files to the Lists of the Convention and requests for International Assistance was not included in the list of project activities. With the recent ratification of the 2003 Convention, the Minister himself and workshop participants have requested that the training workshop on the elaboration of nomination files to the Lists of the Convention and requests for International Assistance be organized as an additional training.
2. Considering the increased cost of organizing project activities in Myanmar (as explained in item 2, article II on problems encountered in project delivery), the release of the outstanding contribution from Norway is required to supplement the remaining project funds for the organization of such a 5-day nomination workshop.

## **VII. ANNEXES**

### **Annex 1. List of national and international staff**

- Timothy Curtis, Head of Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok Office
- Susanne Schnuttgen, Chief of the Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section
- Giovanni Scepi, Assistant Programme Specialist, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section
- Ricardo Favis, Project Coordinator, UNESCO Bangkok Office
- Ohnmar Myo, National Project Officer for Culture, UNESCO Yangon Satellite Office
- Montakarn Suvanatap, Communication and Programme Assistant, UNESCO Bangkok Office

### **Annex 2. List of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination contract period**

- Six sets of digital cameras with built-in video recorders, audio recorders with microphones. These equipment were turned over to the Ministry to enable the Ministry continue documentation and inventorying of ICH elements in local communities.

# ANNEX

## Donor Visibility

UNESCO has ensured donor visibility through many channels at both national and international levels.

The Ministry of Culture of the Union of Myanmar have arranged for maximum media coverage and exposure of project activities. Since Myanmar has ratified the Convention, the government has put great efforts in raising public awareness of intangible cultural heritage in the country, including the making of documentary film on Myanmar's intangible heritage at the same time that the Workshop on Community-based Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage was conducted. The attendance of H.E. U Aye Myint Kyu, the Minister of Culture and several high-level officials at the Workshop on Community-based Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage allowed full media attention to the project. Reporters and camera staff from Myanmar National Television came to document the entire workshop. There are altogether four television channels covering the news about the workshop. UNESCO staff and experts present at the workshop were interviewed and the contribution of the Royal Norwegian government has been mentioned in multiple occasions.

Through online sources, capacity building activities undertaken under the project are reported in the dedicated website created by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention for the global capacity-building strategy at: [www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich). The UNESCO Bangkok Office has created its own website providing more detailed information regarding on the regional project at: [www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich/regional-workshops](http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich/regional-workshops)

In addition, by linking up with UNESCO's existing social media network, news about the capacity building activities in the region are reaching more than 600,000 followers.

Donor visibility is also ensured with the inclusion of the logo of the UNESCO-Norway Cooperation in all printed materials. The logo of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been visible in events attended by high-level officials, agencies involved in project implementation, communities, NGOs, experts and representatives of UNESCO Bangkok as well as on workshop banner and certificate of participation issued to trainees.





## News from UNESCO Bangkok

UNESCO » Bangkok Office

### Myanmar toward National Capacity to Safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage

04.12.2013

A two-day meeting between UNESCO experts and authorities in Myanmar laid the groundwork for the country to strengthen its capacity to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage.

The meeting on 25-26 November 2013, which set in motion an integrated strategy to build Myanmar's capacity in this regard also proved valuable in contributing to a sustainable cooperation framework between government institutions and the ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible cultural heritage (2003).

This project, with generous support from the Royal Norwegian Government, includes a series of workshops and activities tailored to Myanmar's needs along three themes: (1) ratification of the 2003 Convention; (2) implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national level; and (3) community-based inventorying of ICH elements. These workshops will address the key concepts of the 2003 Convention and provide substantial knowledge of the mechanisms for international cooperation it has established.

The capacity building workshops will then be followed by two more meetings. The first will introduce mechanisms through which Myanmar can access international financial assistance to safeguard ICH after it ratifies the Convention, and discuss the nomination of elements to UNESCO's ICH Lists. The second meeting will evaluate the impacts of the capacity building programme, and formulate a road map for the long-term safeguarding of ICH.

Myanmar will also benefit from other interventions tailored to its specific needs, ranging from practical experience on community-based inventorying to consultation on possible policy or legal reforms, as well as technical assistance provided to the country's intangible cultural heritage management body.

For more information, please visit [www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich](http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich).



## Agenda for the Consultation Meetings

25-29 November 2013

Date	Time	Main activities	Speakers/ Facilitators	Venue	Notes
<b>22-24 Nov</b>		Consultants arriving in Naypitaw	Ric, Noriko, Paritta		
		Discussion with local coordinator			
<b>25 Nov</b>	Morning before coffee : <b>Opening session</b>	Opening speech by the Myanmar official	TBD	MOC	
		Introducing the purpose of the meeting	Ric		
		Introducing the speakers and participants			
		Coffee break			
	Morning after coffee: <b>Introducing the Convention</b>	Introducing the 2003 Convention and its key concepts (40 min)	Noriko		
		Implementing the Convention at the national level (40 min)	Paritta		
		Questions & Answers			
		Lunch break			
	Afternoon before break: <b>State of ICH in Myanmar</b>	Overview of ICH in Myanmar (40 min)	Kyaw Oo Lwin or Ye Myat Aung or representative of the Myanmar authorities		To be confirmed
		Myanmar frameworks for safeguarding ICH (40 min)	Kyaw Oo Lwin or Ye Myat Aung or representative of the Myanmar authorities		To be confirmed
	Afternoon after break: Break out session	Group discussion to find out more about ICH in Myanmar ,key actors, safeguarding measures, needs			
<b>26 Nov</b>	Morning : <b>Major responsibilities in implementing the Convention</b>	Community-based identification and inventorying	Paritta		

Questions & Answers				
		Implementing the Convention at the international level	Noriko	This will include nominations to the two lists, and the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices, and application for the International Assistance
Questions & Answers				
Lunch break				
	Afternoon before break: Break out session	Group discussion of gaps, and training needs		More in depth discussions with the Fine arts Department is necessary to discuss possible project implementation strategy.
Coffee break				
	Afternoon after break: <b>Way forward</b>	Reports of group discussion, preliminary plans for training and identifying training workshop participants		
<b>27 Nov</b>	Whole day	Meetings with the Department of Archeology at the National Museum and Library to see the ICH inventory that they are establishing, Fine Arts Department authorities and other stakeholders in Nayphitaw	Noriko, Paritta, Ohnmar (Ric returns to Bangkok)	More in depth discussions with the Fine arts Department is necessary to discuss possible project implementation strategy.
<b>28 Nov</b>		Morning flight from NPT to Yangon; meeting with individuals in Yangon	Noriko, Paritta, Ohnmar. Noriko departs for Tokyo in the evening	
<b>29 Nov</b>	Last day of consultation	Meeting with individuals in Yangon, Wrap-up discussion	Paritta, Ohnmar	

## Agenda

### The Workshop on Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at National Level

19-24 May 2014

Time	Day1	Day2	Day3
9:00 to 10:00	Inauguration/ Opening Ceremony Ministry for culture	<b>Session 10: ICH Policies and institutions</b> Noriko	Field visit (Nat-related ritual) Paritta & Noriko
10:00 - 10:15	Tea	Tea	Tea
10:15- 11:15	<b>Introduction/Overview of workshop/Introduction of participants</b> (each other) and facilitators Paritta & Noriko	<b>Session7: Involving communities concerned</b> Paritta	
11.15-12:15	<b>-What have been done since November consultation in the light of fostering the safeguarding of ICH in Myanmar ?</b> Group discussion: 6 topics: i) Community based Inventoring, ii) Harnessing ICH for the sustainable development with participation of community, iii) Community based safeguarding measures, iv) Policies and institutions with participation of community, v) Procedures to prepare the Ratification, vi) Raising awareness with community participation  <b>-Presentation of 6 groups</b> Paritta and Noriko	<b>Session 8: ICH and Sustainable Development</b> Noriko	
12:15- 1.15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.15-2.15	<b>Session 2/3: Introducing the Convention and its key concepts</b> Noriko	<b>Session 6 Identifying and Inventoring</b> Paritta <b>-Field visit preparation – “Questionnaire”, “Free,</b>	Field visit

		prior informed consent” and “Terms of reference of the field work” to be attached to the consent form, <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	
2.15-3.15	<b>Session 4: Who can do what ? Paritta</b>	- <b>Field visit preparation</b> (Nat-related ritual) in five groups (Oral tradition, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, traditional knowledge and practices, traditional craftsmanship), <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	Field visit
3.15-3.30	Tea break	Tea break	
4:30 – 5:00	<b>Plenary discussion Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	-Continuation of the <b>Field visit preparation</b> (Nat ritual) in five groups, <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	Field visit

Time	Day4	Day5	Day6
9:00 - 10:00	<b>Debriefing on the field visit</b> , preparation for the group presentation <b>Parita &amp; Noriko</b>	<b>Session11:Nominations, Noriko</b>	<b>RAT Session 7 The process of Ratification Noriko</b>
10:00 - 10:15	Tea	Tea	Tea
10:15- 11:15	<b>Group presentation</b> on the field visit <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	<b>Group work:</b> Preparing nomination for Urgent Safeguarding List /Representative List taking the cases of elements visited <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	<b>RAT Session 8: Towards Ratification Noriko</b>
11:15-12:15	<b>Session 9: Safeguarding – Overview Paritta</b>	Presentation by groups <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	<b>Concluding session The Way Forward Paritta &amp; Noriko</b> -Group discussion (6 groups): i) Community based inventorying, ii) How to harness ICH for the sustainable development with participation of community in Myanmar?,

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) Community based safeguarding measures,</li> <li>iv) Policies and institutions with participation of community,</li> <li>v) Procedures to prepare nominations with community participation,</li> <li>vi) Raising awareness with community participation</li> </ul>
12:15 - 2.15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.15-3.15	<b>Group Exercise -</b> Developing <b>safeguarding plan</b> for elements observed during the field excursion <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b> Presentation of group Exercise	<b>Session 12: International cooperation and Assistance</b> <b>Noriko</b>	<b>- The Way forward:</b> Presentation of 6 groups -General discussion <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>
3.15-3.30	Tea	Tea	Tea
3:30 – 4:30	<b>Session 5: Raising awareness: Paritta</b>	<b>Group exercise:</b> drafting an international assistance Request <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	Concluding Session: <b>Ministry for Culture</b> Awarding of certificates
4:30 – 5:00	<b>General discussion on</b> raising awareness <b>Parrita &amp; Noriko</b>	Presentation of group exercise <b>Paritta &amp; Noriko</b>	

## WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY-BASED INVENTORYING OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

27 October – 3 November, 2014

Nyaung Shwe, Taunggyi-Inle, Shan State, Myanmar

<b>DAY 1: Monday, 27 October, 2014</b>	
08:00	Participants' Registration
08:30 - 09:30	<b>Opening &amp; Welcoming address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote Address: Union Minister, Ministry of Culture</li> <li>• Welcome Addresses: UNESCO Consultants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mme Paritta Chalernpow Koanantakool and Mme Noriko Aikawa-Faure</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group Photo</li> </ul>
09:30 – 10:00	Tea/Coffee Break
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Session 1: Introduction of UNESCO Trainers and Participants</b> Facilitators: Mme Paritta Chalernpow Koanantakool and Mme Noriko Aikawa-Faure
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Session 2: Unit 2: Why a workshop on Community-based Inventorying?</b> Facilitator: Noriko
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:30	<b>Session 3: Unit 4: Key Concepts in the Convention</b> Facilitator: Noriko
14:30 - 14:45	Tea/Coffee Break
14:45 - 17:00	<b>Session 4: Unit 5 – Basics on identification and inventorying in light of ICH safeguarding</b> <i>Documents: Handout 1 for Unit 5 "Planning inventory project"</i> Facilitator: Noriko
18.30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
<b>Day 2: Tuesday, 28 October, 2014</b>	
08:30 - 10:00	<b>Session 5: Unit 6 – Engaging the communities in inventorying and other safeguarding measures</b> Facilitator: Paritta
10:00 – 10:15	Tea/Coffee Break
10:15 – 12:00	<b>Session 6: Unit 7 – Developing a framework for inventorying/identifying and defining ICH (option B)</b> <i>Documents: Handout, Examples 1 &amp; 2 for Unit 7A</i> Facilitator: Noriko
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 7: Unit 9 – Free, prior and informed consent</b> <i>Documents: Exercise 2 and Handout 1 for Unit 9, Trainee's copy of FPIC checklist for CBI</i>

	Facilitator: Noriko
15:00 – 15:15	Tea/Coffee Break
15:15 – 17:00	<b>Session 8: Unit 10 – Overview of information generation methods and techniques</b> <i>Documents: Exercise 1 + Handout A for Unit 10</i> Facilitator: Noriko
18.30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
<b>Day 3: Wednesday 29 October 2014</b>	
08:30 – 10:00	<b>Session 9: Getting to know the community, ICHs, key informants</b> Facilitator: Paritta
10:00 – 10:15	Tea/Coffee Break
10:15 – 12:00	<b>Session 10: Unit 12 – Interviewing</b> Facilitator: Paritta
12:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 11: Unit 11, 13 – Photography and Audio Recording</b> Facilitator: Paritta
15:00 – 15:15	Tea/Coffee Break
15:15 – 17:00	<b>Session 12: Photography and audio recording exercises and discussion</b> Facilitator: Paritta
18:30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
<b>Day 4: Thursday 30 October 2014</b>	
08:30 – 10:00	<b>Session 13: Unit 14 - Participatory Video</b> Facilitator: Paritta
10:00 – 10:15	Tea/Coffee Break
10:15 – 12:00	<b>Session 14: Unit 15 - Participatory Mapping</b> Facilitator: Paritta
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 15: Unit 16 - Ground Preparation for Fieldwork practicum</b> <i>Document: Exercise 1 for Unit 16</i> Facilitator: Paritta and Noriko
15:00	Tea/Coffee Break
15:15 – 17:00	<b>Session 16: Unit 17 – Finalization of a plan for Fieldwork practicum</b> <i>Document: Exercise 1 for Unit 17 (3 pages)</i> Facilitator: Paritta and Noriko
18:30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
19.30	Travelling by minibuses to opening ceremony of Balloons Festival
<b>2-day Fieldwork Practicum (31 October – 1 November 2014)</b>	
<b>DAY 5: Friday 31 October 2014</b>	

07.30	Leaving Hupin Hotel for field communities
08:30	<b>Session 17: Unit 18 – Fieldwork practicum</b> <i>Venue: Communities in Taunggi and Inle areas</i> Participants, divided into groups, will practice information gathering activities on some elements of ICH in a local ethnic community. Facilitators: Paritta, Noriko
16:30	Debriefing and discussion
18.30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
<b>DAY 6: Saturday 1 November 2014</b>	
07.30	Leaving Hupin Hotel for field communities
08:30 -16:00	<b>Session 19: Unit 18 – Fieldwork practicum continues</b> <i>Venue: Communities in Taunggi and Inle areas</i> Facilitator: Paritta and Noriko
16.00 -17:30	<b>Session 19: Unit 19 – Group discussion on the collected data and identification of challenges and lessons learned</b> Facilitator: Paritta and Noriko
18.30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
<b>DAY 7: Sunday 2 November 2014</b>	
08:30 -10:00	<b>Session 20: Group discussion continues</b>
10:00 - 10:15	Morning Tea Break
10.15 -12:00	<b>Session 21: Presentation of each group in plenary meeting</b> Facilitators: Paritta and Noriko
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 22: Unit 20 - Organising Information: Good Practices</b> Facilitator: Paritta
15:00- 15:15	Tea & coffee break
15:15 – 17:00	<b>Session 23: Unit 22 – Group discussion on recommendations to the Ministry of Culture for future inventory making activities</b> Facilitator: Paritta and Noriko
18:30	<b>Dinner provided for all participants at Hupin Hotel Nyaung Shwe</b>
<b>DAY 8: Monday 3 November 2014</b>	
08:00 – 09:30	<b>Session 23: Finalizing recommendations in a plenary session in the plenary session</b> Facilitators: Paritta and Noriko
09:30 – 10:00	Closing session and certificate awarding
10:00	Morning tea break / participants and experts depart Hupin Hotel