

## Questionnaire

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

**Country:** The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Organization(s) or entity(s) responsible for the preparation of the report:** Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

**Officially designated contact person / institution:** Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

**Name(s) of designated official(s) certifying the report:**

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**Brief description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report:**

Designated official consult with the government institutions such as; Department of National Archive, National Library (Yangon), National Library (Naypyidaw) and Safe Myanmar Film , non-government organization to get data's about documentary heritage preservation, accessibility and digitizing.

**1. Has the recommendation been promulgated to appropriate ministries and institution?**

The recommendation has been officially promulgate.

**2.Has the recommendation been translated into the national language?**

Therecommendation already has been translated into Myanmar language.

**3.Has your country created a supportive, participatory, enabling and stable environment for all parties?**

Yes.

**4. How, if at all, has your country applied international standards and curatorial best practice?**

Myanmar has been applied international standards and curatorial best practice by closed cooperation with MOWCAP and UNESCO.

**5. What consultation mechanisms does the government maintain with stakeholders in the documentary heritage sector? (National and private memory institutions, professional association, relevant NGO's)**

Consultation mechanism has been already draw up during workshop on the Memory of the World project organized by the MOWCAP but have not approved by the Government maintain with stakeholder in the documentary heritage sector.

**6. What actions has your country taken in order to support memory institutions in establishing policies and standard by research and consultation, guided by internationally established norms?**

Each respective memory institutions have their own policies to preserve the documentary heritage and access to the public.

**7. What major capacity building measures and policies have taken place within the sector? Is research and training for documentary heritage professionals organized in your country? How often?**

Research and training for documentary heritage professionals had been held in Myanmar organized by UNESCO and MOWCAP. UNESCO worked with stakeholders in Myanmar to support the preservation and access to the country's documentary heritage through the "Safeguarding the Documentary Heritage of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Southeast Asia through the UNESCO Memory of the World (MOW) Programme" project.

## **LEGISLATION AND MANDATES**

**8. What legislation does your country have in place to?**

Myanmar government has not enacted the separate law and regulations for the documentary heritage yet but Myanmar government enacts the following laws relating for documentary heritage;

A. Protection and preservation of antique objects law (2015)

- B. By-law of Protection and preservation of antique objects law(2016)
- C. National records and archive law (1990)
- D. The law Amending the National records and archive law (2007)
- E. Procedure for National Records and Archival law (2000)
- **Define the authority, mandate, and independence and governance structure of your national memory institutions?**

National documentary heritage were protected and preserved by the different Government Institution such as National Archive Department under the ministry of planning and finance, National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) , National Library( Yangon), Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Yangon University Library and Universities' Central Library under the Ministry of Education and other non Governmental Organization such as Safe Myanmar Film and Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation. National memory of the world committee has not been established yet. Each department and NGO's has their own authority, mandate and independence and governance structure.

**Guarantee the ability of memory institutions to take unhindered preservation action on documents in their collections?**

These law guarantee public access to documentary heritage and archives, and more broadly that guarantees access to public information. Respective Ministries to the protection and preservation of documentary heritage have responsible for scrutinizing as to whether or not record warrant classification as documentary heritage and if they are found to be so classified as documentary heritage, directing the preservation of the same and inspecting from time to time as to whether the documentary heritage are conserved properly or not.

- **Promote and facilitate maximum inclusive access by empowering memory institutions?**  
Yes.
- **Support memory institutions providing access to material whose copyright status can not be clarified?**  
Yes.
- **Ensure statutory deposit of documents in memory institutions?**  
Yes.

**9. Has government net funding of national memory institutions (in recent years) increased or decreased?By how much?**

Government net funding of national memory institution has increased 20% of previous year.

**10. What long term investment in analogue and digital documentary preservation has been made?**

Digitizing the all documentary heritage such as palm-leaf manuscripts, folded paper book(parabike) which contain historical document and customary law , audio ,video tape ,maps, glass plates, stone inscriptions, bell inscriptions, and create the webpage for public access are long term investment in analogue and digital documentary preservation.

**11. What encouragement has been given in the development of open source software and access to proprietary codes by memory institution?**

The open source software and access to proprietary codes have not been established in Myanmar.

## **IDENTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION STATUS OF DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE**

**12. Do all national memory institution have published collection development, preservation and access policies?Are there in your country established policies, mechanism and criteria for selecting, acquiring and deselection documentary heritage? What policies have been developed recently?**

All national memory institutions in Myanmar have published collection development, preservation and access policies. And there are criteria for selecting national documentary heritage approved by MOWCAP during the workshop on the memory of the world project.

**13. What documentary heritage has been identified as at potential or imminent risk?(If any)? What action has been taken? Was it brought to the attention of competent bodies?**

Somedocumentary heritage has been identified as at potential or imminent risk. Respective department make survey, copy the documentary heritage and preserved them.

**14. What arrangements are in place to protect the documentary heritage from danger?**

Documentary heritage has been protected and preserved by law and systematic preservation.

**15. What practical support has been given to private, local and individual collections of documentary heritage? Are they visible in national directories?**

Practical support has not been given yet to private, local and individual collections of documentary heritage.

**Capacity building**

**16. What specific steps have been taken to encourage consistency of best practice, coordination and sharing of tasks among memory institution?**

Preparation for the establishment of first National Memory of the World Committee, including the draft terms of reference, with its rules of membership, is the specific steps have been taken to encourage consistency of best practice, coordination and sharing of tasks among memory institution.

**17. What training schemes have been developed?**

UNESCO has been working with stakeholders in Myanmar to support the identification, preservation and access to the country's documentary heritage within framework of Malaysia- UNESCO Cooperation program. In cooperation with the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO and the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, workshop on the Memory of the World Project was held three times in Yangon. First workshop was hold on 4-and 5 May, 2017, second workshop was held on 20 and 21 February 2018 and Workshop on Applied Film Restoration Technique and Restoration Ethics on 18 and 19 October 2018.

**18. What is the level of involvement of national memory institution in international professional associations and networks?**

National memory institution closely collaborates with MOWCAP, UNESCO and KOICA in international professional association and networks.

**19. Are there partnership, including public private ones, established allowing sharing of costs, facilities and services?**

No.

### **Memory of the world programme**

**20. Is there in your country a national memory of the world committee? If not, what plans exist to establish one?**

Not yet. But, the draft organizational chart and the term of reference for National committee are submitting to the cabinets to get the permission for establishing the national memory of the world committee.

**21. What recent nomination has been made to memory of the world registers?**

Recent nominations from Myanmar are as follows;

- A. MahaLawkamarazein or Kuthodaw Inscriptions Shrines; dDocumentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the International Memory of the World Register in 2013.
- B. MyazediQuadrilingual Stone Inscription; Documentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the International Memory of the World Register in 2015.
- C. The Golden Letter of the King Alungphaya to King George II of Great Britain; Documentary Heritage submitted by Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the International Memory of the World Register in 2015.
- D. King Bayinnaung Bell Inscription; Documentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the International Memory of the World Register in 2017.
- E. King Bayinnaung Bell Inscription; Documentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register in 2016.
- F. Anandacandra stone Inscription; Documentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register in 2018

G. The Emerald Jungle (Mya Ga Naing); Documentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register in 2016.

**22. Are there any MOW outreach and visibility activities organized in your country enhancing accessibility of documentary heritage? Please give example.**

Yes. We have outreach and visibility activities enhancing accessibility of documentary heritage. A booklet, the documentary heritage of Myanmar: selected case study has been published.

# **Report on the 2015 Recommendations Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including Digital form**

## **Introduction**

Myanmar is the country located in the South- East Asia regions. It is shaped like a kite with long tail that runs south along the Malay Peninsula. Myanmar shares territory with People's Republic of China in north, the Laos and Thailand in the east and Bangladesh and India in the west. The total area is 261228 square miles and 135 ethnic groups living together peacefully. Myanmar is a nation with high cultural standard and long history. Myanmar is rich in cultural heritage including tangible, intangible and documentary heritage, and fine arts accumulated for a period of 2000 years since Pyu era in the first century AD. Preservation of cultural heritage has undertaken as a national duty. Myanmar government has been established the "central committee for revitalization and preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage" to preserve promote and sustain.

## **Background history**

Myanmar's documentary heritage is rich and diverse, ranging from ancient texts carved in stone and palm leaf manuscripts to cinema and audio-visual materials. Manuscripts are in different language and in different scripts, they are written on different kinds of material like birch bark, palm leaf, cloth and paper. Documentary Heritage is in the custody of different institutions like libraries, archives, museum, monasteries, and individuals. As a developing nation, however, Myanmar faces major challenges in safeguarding this heritage and making it accessible to all.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and culture has been endeavored for the protecting, safeguarding, and conserving of our cultural heritage. Department of Archaeology and National Museum is focal department for preserving, restoring and managing the Myanmar cultural heritage including tangible, intangible cultural heritage and documentary heritage and also studying the culture and customs of the nationalities. UNESCO first introduced the memory of the world programme in Myanmar in a 2011 training workshop for local stakeholders. That training resulted in Myanmar's first submission to the MoW register is "the Maha Lawkamarazein or Kuthodaw Inscription Shrines" in 2013. The 2nd regional workshop on the UNESCO memory of the world held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> march 2011. Director General of the



Department of Archaeology and National Museum attended this Workshop and submitted the Documentary Heritage as tentative list.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Major challenges are requirements of the technical assistances and capacity building of staff and funding source for the preservation of documentary heritage and need to establish researchable database / archival cataloguing system of digitized records with associated metadata for the preservation of documentary heritage. Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Libraries including National Libraries and Universities' Central Library as well as monasteries are key preservation centers for documentary heritage. They keep Myanmar traditional manuscripts and preserve them in traditional conservation methods to long existence at least 250 years now and also preserve the stone inscriptions. Currently, University librarians and personnel from related institutions such as archives and national library leading by experts on documentary heritage are undertaking inventorying, cleaning, cataloguing Myanmar traditional manuscripts in monasteries and other places throughout the country. Governments to engage with local government and communities to support and facilitate the identification of dispersed documentary heritages.

### **Identification and preservation of documentary heritage**

Digitizing the all documentary heritage such as palm-leaf manuscripts, folded paper book(parabike) which contain historical document and customary law , audio ,video tape ,maps, glass plates, stone inscriptions, bell inscriptions, and create the webpage for public access are long term investment in analogue and digital documentary preservation. All National documentary heritage were protected and preserved by the different Government Institution such as National Archive Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) , National Library( Yangon), Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture ,Yangon University Library and Universities' Central Library under the Ministry of Education and other Non-Governmental Organization such as Safe Myanmar Film and Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation. National memory of the world committee has not been established yet. Each department and NGO's has their own authority, mandate and independence and governance structure. Currently, technical assistance is being provided to preserve those documentary heritages by international institutions.

## **Legislation and mandate**

Myanmar government has not enacted the separate law and regulations for the documentary heritage yet but Myanmar government enacts the following laws relating for documentary heritage;

- A. Protection and preservation of antique objects law (2015)
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These law guarantee public access to documentary heritage and archives, and more broadly that guarantees access to public information. Respective Ministries to the protection and preservation of documentary heritage have responsible for scrutinizing as to whether or not record warrant classification as documentary heritage and if they are found to be so classified as documentary heritage, directing the preservation of the same and inspecting from time to time as to whether the documentary heritage are conserved properly or not.

## **Capacity building**

The ‘Safeguarding the Documentary Heritage of Myanmar through the UNESCO Memory of the World (MOW) Programme’ project has begun with a high level coordination meeting in Yangon on the 25th of November 2016.

The meeting brought together representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, the National Archive, the National Library, the Film Archive, the National Directorate of Historic Research, Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, and the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO. The objectives of the meeting was to coordinate and discuss the implementation of the project, as well take the preliminary steps to establish the inaugural Myanmar Memory of the World Committee.

According to the project, a series of national level training workshops on developing nominations to the Memory of the World registers, a national survey of documentary heritage, as well as a publication and accompanying exhibition on the country's rich documentary heritage have been conducted in Myanmar organized by UNESCO and MOWCAP within framework of Malaysia- UNESCO Cooperation program.

It is supported in the development of the Myanmar Memory of the World Committee and complement ongoing efforts to safeguard and increase access to documentary heritage in Myanmar. Ultimately the capacity building training directly benefit librarians, archivists and curators in their work safeguarding and providing access to documentary heritage in Myanmar. The project activities in Myanmar are part of the overall “Safeguarding the Documentary Heritage of LDCs and SIDS in Southeast Asia through the UNESCO Memory of the World (MOW) Programme” project, generously funded by the Government of Malaysia via the Malaysia Funds-in-Trust (MFIT) under the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme (MUCP). UNESCO has been working with stakeholders in Myanmar to support the identification, preservation and access to the country’s documentary heritage within framework of Malaysia- UNESCO Cooperation program. In cooperation with the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO and the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, workshop on the Memory of the World Project was held three times in Yangon. First workshop was hold on 4-and 5 May, 2017, second workshop was held on 20 and 21 February 2018 and Workshop on Applied Film Restoration Technique and Restoration Ethics on 18 and 19 October 2018.

1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Memory of the World Workshop focused on increasing participants’ knowledge of and skills related to the Memory of the World programme, particularly developing nominations to Memory of the World registers and how the programme can bolster efforts to safeguard Myanmar’s documentary heritage. The training was highly interactive and participants were invited to begin identifying significant documentary heritage in their respective collections that is part of a future national, regional or international Memory of the World nomination.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Ray Edmondson, Special adviser to the memory of the world Asia pacific region, Ms. Misato Ito, Adviser for communication and information from UNESCO Bangkok and Andrew Henderson, secretary general of the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Region. The workshop brought over 30 participants from government, libraries, archives, museum, universities and NGOs across the Myanmar.

Myanmar representatives, who relevant to the preservation of documentary heritage, have also attended the training workshops which were held at other country organized by the international institutions such as KOICA, UNESCO and MOWCAP.

## **Access to Documentary Heritage**

People can use, study and copy the documentary heritage at the place where the documentary heritage were preserved and kept. For study purpose, take permission from the Department respective department. The documents and texts are not subject to copyright. It is requested that the sources of the documents be mentioned when quoted in any publication.

The National Archives Department keeps the records including microfilm, microfiche, movie film, slide film, gramophone record, cassette tape, video tape, CD/DVD, Diskettes, and also keeps important archives and renders its services to researchers and students alike. The Department has national archives information system. This system is designed to connect with already available web site. Now the institution has already digitized over 400000 pages for records and archives.

The National Library has relationship with other government institutions and private organizations for collection development and library services resource sharing programmes and preservation activities are done between National Library and University Libraries as well as with some special libraries to assist users. The National Library Law is under process that is now drafting and revising with the cooperation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Attorney General and special group of legislation from Parliament. As the vision of the National Library of Myanmar is 'to be a center of Myanmar literary heritage', it collected and maintained ancient manuscript collections throughout the country. These manuscripts are now preserved at the national library (nay pyi tau) and data processing and conservation tasks are being conducted.

The National Library of Myanmar is building network with university libraries and other institutions for collaborative programmes of digitizing ancient manuscripts, sharing collection, participating library seminars and forums, etc. The National Library had cooperated with National Archives Department for preservation project of ancient manuscripts by microfilming. After that, when ICT developed, in collaboration with Yangon university library, digitizing of palm-leaf manuscripts especially subject on tradition medicine from the national library of Myanmar has been conducted.

The Universities' Central Library (UCL) is the oldest modern library in the country and has the largest collections of books and Myanmar national heritage collections of

palm-leaf and parabiike paper manuscripts. It has developed into a valuable storehouse of all kind of information on Myanmar history, culture and Myanmar studies. The collections of UCL are mainly for research and reference. Preservation by microfilming ancient Myanmar manuscripts project was carried out in cooperation with Cornell University Library, Ithaca, U.S.A. under this project 2000 have been microfilmed.

Palm-leaf manuscripts are repaired by replacing broken edges with blank palm-leaves. Parabikes manuscripts are repaired with local hand made paper called maing kaing shan paper. Rare and coloured parabikes with traditional paintings are kept in cardboard and wooden boxes wrapped in acid free paper.

Department of archaeology and national library collect, preserve and record all the documentary heritage including stone inscription, parabike, palm- leaf, mural painting. And implement the policy of protection and preservation for the perpetuation of antiquities including documentary heritage. The department also protects and preserve antiquities so as not to deteriorate due to natural disaster or man made destruction. Ministry of religious affairs and culture carrying out to prevent smuggling of antiquities including documentary heritage to foreign countries by illegal means and to recover antiquities including documentary heritage that have been taken outside the country illegally.

### **Memory of the World Programme**

National Memory of the World Committee has not been established yet. But, the draft organizational chat and the term of reference for National Committee are submitting to the cabinets to get the permission for establishing.

Recent nominations from Myanmar are as follows;

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- G. The Emerald Jungle (Mya Ga Naing); Documentary Heritage submitted by Myanmar and recommended for inclusion in the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register in 2016.

### **Conclusion**

The Recommendation Concerning the Preservation, of and Access to, Documentary Heritage including Digital form have been approved by the UNESCO general conference in 2015. In Myanmar, the recommendation has been officially promulgated and translated into Myanmar language. Myanmar government is also carrying out in respect of or protection and preservation of documentary heritage in conformity with the International Convention and Recommendation and Regional Agreement ratified by the State.