V. Meetings on Intangible Cultural Heritage

An annual workshop on Palau's intangible cultural heritage is conducted by the Bureau of arts and Culture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs. The workshop focuses on strengthening the protection, preservation, and promotion of cultural heritage of Palau. The event is regularly attended by local traditional Chiefs and various stakeholders from relevant agencies such as, Belau national Museum, National Council of Chiefs, Palau Visitors Authority, Belau tourism Association, Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations of related focus, private citizens and the Ministry as a whole. The workshop has been conducted every year since 2005. The last one's theme was “Heritage leads to Economic Prosperity.” Another National conference is the “Mechesil Belau Women’s Conference,” which focuses on the role of women on the strengthening and promotion of Palau’s culture. The conference is traditionally held at the end of March to coincide with World Women’s Day and normally has over 300 participants. During the conference, cultural materials and expressions are displayed and demonstrated. The conference draws participants from leadership and the local women’s organizations.
<table>
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<th>Name of Meeting /Person in charge</th>
<th>Theme /Duration</th>
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| Historic Preservation Symposium by Bureau of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs /Director: Dwight Alenxander | Heritage leads to Economic Prosperity /2011 (every year since 2005) | 68 persons, traditional leaders, State Governments, National governments, National Legislative members, private individuals, Environmenta l Quality Protection Board, Palau International Coral Reef Center | Chief Reklai Bao Ngirmang  
Chief Ngorakebou Roman Bedor  
Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg  
Dr Allen Olson, Palau Visitors Authority, Belau Tourism Association  
Jolie Liston, Bureau of Arts and Culture Staffs | Importance of preserving cultural heritage of Palau, the current work towards its preservation, general public awareness | Belau National Museum project on Birds of Palau, (Asked for a local language presenter, how to include in current school curriculum) Palau Visitors Authority overview of their work (how can traditional leaders help increase knowledge of local historical sites) | Traditional knowledge & expressions law (pending) |
| **Mechesil Belau** | Cultural Practices of Palau /Annual | Est 300 persons | Chiefs of government agencies  
Traditional women groups  
Country leaders  
Cultural material exhibition  
Performance Art | Strengthening of Palau’s culture | Transforming cultures, cultural integrity  
Preservations, responsibility | Complete ban on turtle hunting for 5 years (turtle shell is women’s traditional money and the concern is the decrease in number and sizes from over harvesting |