

I . Safeguarding System & Policy

Nowadays, cultural heritage of both tangible and intangible culture has to come recognized in important parts and discipline in every societies and communities. To preserve and safeguard for Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), it has developed in response to nationally mandated program in Myanmar.

During the colonial period, government acted to emphasize the documentation and collecting on Intangible Cultural Heritage. It was not entirely responsible in each and everything. After Independence, Ministry of Culture was established in 1952. She has been initiated to study and explore for preservation of Myanmar Culture and carried out the various cultural affairs. Ministry of Culture is mainly responsible for to promotion, preservation and plan for substantial in Myanmar Culture and its context.

Today's, Ministry of Culture has laid down the vision:

“To fulfill the moral and morality of the entire nation, national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character, and dynamism of patriotic spirit.”

In Myanmar, there are following methods and techniques to document and safeguard Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritage. It can be enumerated as follow:

- (1) by teaching
- (2) by staging performances
- (3) by holding exhibitions
- (4) by conduction competitions
- (5) by publishing books
- (6) by reading research papers and
- (7) by participating the national level

These ways are practiced effectively and efficiently in preserving the intangible culture.

1. Safeguarding by Teaching

To study, expose and preserve Myanmar traditional performing arts, drama, plays, Anyeint, classical dramas and national races' traditional dance and music and to nurture and bring out new generation, the two National Universities of Arts and cultural and two State High Schools of Fine Arts were opened in Myanmar. The National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) was established and opened on 23 September 1993. The Subjects taught there are:

Major Subjects

- (1) Music
- (2) Dramatic Arts
- (3) Painting
- (4) Sculpture
- (5) Cinematography and Drama

In Yangon University, the Course is four years. There are in taking 606 Male student and 1230 female students, total 1836 students have been conferred degrees till 2011-2012 academic year.

The National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) was opened in Pathaingyi Township, Mandalay Division in 2001. The duration of the Course, educational qualification and academic subjects are the same as the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon). At the University, 303 Male students and 427 Female students , total 730 students have been conferred degrees till 2010-2011 academic year.

The State High Schools of Fine Arts were opened in Yangon and Mandalay. The duration of course is 3 years and recruits trainees every year in March and April. Applicants for admission to the school must have the educational qualification of at least the middle school level of basic education (8th standard passed). Age limit is between 14 and 18 years. The following are the subjects taught at the Department of Performing Arts;

- (1) Myanmar Traditional Dance
- (2) Myanmar Traditional Songs Singing
- (3) Saun (Myanmar Traditional Harp) playing
- (4) Pattala (Myanmar Traditional Xylophone) Playing
- (5) Saing (Myanmar Traditional Drum circle) playing

- (6) Hne(Myanmar Traditional Oboe) playing
- (7) Piano playing (Myanmar Traditional Songs)
- (8) Violin playing (Myanmar Traditional Songs)
- (9) Dramatic acting

The following are the subjects taught at the Department of Visual Arts;

- (1) Aesthetic Art (Fine Art)
- (2) Commercial Art
- (3) Myanmar Traditional Art
- (4) Basic carving and sculpting
- (5) Carving and sculpting animal and human forms
- (6) Myanmar Traditional Kanote (Floral Design)

2. Safeguarding by Staging Performances

Myanmar performing Arts are preserved in a way that they are staged on State Occasions and the significant days. Moreover, local public entertainments are often presented.

3. Safeguarding by Holding Exhibitions

Under the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Ministry of Culture, there are the National Library and State Cultural Libraries which are collecting and preserving Myanmar Literature manuscripts and books on different fields.

At the National Museum, Yangon, there is an Art Gallery where the painting of different periods starting from the Stone Age and the master pieces of famous artists are collected and displayed. On the second floor, collective works of Myanmar ten kinds of arts and crafts are displayed.

4. Documentation and Safeguarding by Holding Competitions

The State Level Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competitions have been annually held in accord with the objectives of vitalizing the traditional fine arts of Myanmar people with high standards and reviving and promoting national traditions, culture and character embedded in performing arts since 1993.

The following are the competition level of Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competitions;

- (1) The amateur Level (First Class)
- (2) The amateur Level (Second Class)
- (3) The Higher education Level
- (4) The Basic education Level (15-20 age group)
- (5) The Basic education Level (10-20 age group)
- (6) The Basic education Level (5-10 age group)

Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competitions;

- (1) Song Contest
- (2) Dance Contest
- (3) Kwetseik Contest (Narration of Jataka Stories)
- (4) Play Contest
- (5) Drama Marionette Contest
- (6) Drama Contest
- (7) Song Composing Contest
- (8) Playing Musical Instruments Contest

5. Documentation and Safeguarding by Publishing Books

Under the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Fine Arts is taking the responsibilities of collecting, doing research and publishing books relating to the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts. For example, the Department of Fine Arts has published "Female Fundamental Dance (Step-1) and (Step-2)", " Myanmar Traditional Instruments in Myanmar and English Languages", "Literary works on Dramatic Arts by Shwe Man Tin Maung", and " Classical Music (Standardized, State Level)". The National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon has published "The Dictionary of Myanmar Fine Arts and Plastic Arts", "Myanmar Traditional Musical instruments".

6. Documentation and Safeguarding by Reading Research Papers

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture, research paper reading sessions relating to culture are occasionally conducted. In 2003 Research Paper Reading Ceremony on "The History of Myanmar Culture" was held. On 27 and 28 February 2004, Research Paper reading ceremony on Aesthetics, specially meant for the National Universities of Arts and Culture was held. At present,

our Ministry of Culture usually holds Research Paper Reading Ceremony once time in three Months.

7. Safeguarding by participating on national level

Ministry of Culture is carrying out a number of activities for the effective documentation and safeguarding of Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Ministry of Culture's Motto is: "Honouring the State with culture". As Myanmar is rich in natural and cultural properties, preservation and protection of those heritages are being conducted in cooperations of institutions and participation of people in local, regional and international.