

V .Meetings/Conferences/Workshops on Intangible Cultural Heritage

As mentioned earlier the government and non-government organisations which are working on the various aspects of ICH, regularly organize the meeting, seminar, conferences and in-house workshops with the field experts.

Besides that followings are the details of meetings held:

A. Expert Meeting on the Lists Established by the 2003 Convention (04-04-2007, New Delhi)

The meeting's purpose was to invite experts to discuss a number of matters of fundamental importance related to the two lists to be established under the 2003 Convention, as well as examine and debate draft inscription criteria for those lists. Of the 30 experts, most were nationals of States Parties to the Convention, and 13 came from States Members of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The debates and results of the India meeting were intended to assist the Secretariat and the Committee in their work on the elaboration of criteria for inscription of ICH elements on the two lists of the Convention, sharpening arguments in favour of and opposed to several options concerning the nature of the lists and the relation between them. The experts were asked to discuss alternatives and to present the strongest possible arguments in favour of opposite positions in order to facilitate preparation of draft documents by the Secretariat for presentation to the Committee at its coming sessions in China and Japan. The draft documents that the Committee will consider have been improved substantially as a result of the lively debates and productive suggestions of the experts. The meeting was made possible with the generous support of the Government of India, supplemented by a contribution from the Norwegian FIT for ICH that permitted funding of travel of participants from developing countries. The meeting also benefitted from the logistical support and facilitation of the Ministry of Culture of India and UNESCO's New Delhi Office.

B. Regional meeting for Asia (20/22-09-2004, New Delhi)

The main aim of the meetings was not only to encourage Member States to ratify the Convention, but also to create an opportunity to exchange views and experiences in relationship to the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. The meeting was participated by policy-makers in relevant fields of respective governments.

C. Safeguarding and Transmission of the Kutiyattam Sanskrit Theatre (01-2004/10-2007, India)

Kutiyattam is the oldest surviving form of Sanskrit theatre in Kerala, India, which developed a rich symbolic set of facial gestures, masks, and colorful costumes. This project aimed to bring Kutiyattam performers, previously working separately, together in creative exchange and expand the interest in their art. The long-term objectives were to:

- Create a network of Kutiyattam institutions and gurukalam (learning centres)
- Nurture the transmission to future generations
- Develop new audiences for Kutiyattam

*Foster further academic research on Kutiyattam, to address them, the project activities included the organisation of:

* A Network of Kutiyattam Associations through joint coordination meetings of Kutiyattam institutions and gurukalam (learning centres), as well as the compilation of a Kutiyattam Register of traditional families and individual practitioners

*Training workshops and art camps for young artists and an increased number of performances, while the wider public was engaged in public performances and festivals *Workshop for performers to handle palm-leaf manuscripts of Kutiyattam, often in possession of families; re-edition of old palm-leaf manuscripts and production of new plays; and audio-visual recordings and a series of documentary films

* Academic seminars and publications A major result was that for the first time Kutiyattam performers cooperated in an association to address common issues and exchange practices, which in the past was kept privately in the last three custodian families. Such generation of social capital in communication is crucial to the survival of any cultural practice.

D. Regional committee of experts on means of implementation in Asia of model provisions on intellectual property aspects of protection of expressions of folklore

(31-01-1983/02-02-1983, New Delhi)

The Working Group on the Intellectual Property Aspects of Folklore Protection that had met in Geneva from 7 to 9 January 1980 had recommended that both Secretariats endeavour to inventory possible ways and means of protecting folklore at the regional level. In order to give effect to that recommendation and in accordance with the approved programmes and budgets of UNESCO and WIPO for 1981-1983 and 1982-1983 respectively, these two organisations convened three Committees of Experts on the means of implementation at the regional level of model provisions of national legislation on the intellectual property aspects of folklore protection. These regional Committees of Experts met in Bogotá (14 to 16 October 1981), New Delhi (31 January to 2 February 1983) and Dakar (23 to 25 February 1983). The Committee of Experts that met in New Delhi expressed the unanimous view that the protection of folklore against illicit exploitation and other prejudicial actions should be provided through an international agreement on the protection of expressions of folklore. The three Committees also formulated a number of suggestions with a view to implementing in each of the three regions considered the 'Model provisions for national laws on the protection of expressions of folklore against illicit exploitation and other prejudicial actions'.

E. A two-day working seminar on “Intangible Cultural Heritage” by National Museum Institute, Museology Department. (4 - 5 May 2012)

In May 2012, National Museum Institute, New Delhi organized a meeting cum seminar on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

IGNCA usually organizes seminar and workshops on ICH and it has many projects related to intangible cultural heritage of India. In 2009, a series of workshops were organized on the ICH with the Zonal Cultural Centres and other related Institutions. In July 2011, IGNCA organized a seminar on Cultural Resource Management.

F. Expert meeting on Cultural Mapping of Himachal Pradesh (4 October 2013)

A meeting was organized at IGNCA for taking up a field survey of the intangible heritage of Himachal Pradesh, one of the northern states in Himalayas. The project was conceptualized by IGNCA in collaboration with British Council and

National council for education research and Training (NCERT). It was a first of its kind approach towards the safeguarding of ICH by conducting a field survey of the state and further to make inventory of the multifaceted ICH forms of the region. The expert from universities, academies and cultural institutions participated in the meeting.