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| Manager in Charge | Division Director Lee Chulwoon  (+82-62-601-4030) | | Staff in Charge | Officer Kim Eunjung  (+82-62-601-4037) | |
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| ACC expands international cooperation for documentary heritage in Asia–Pacific  - 8 projects selected for “MOWCAP–ACC Grants Program”  - Grants to be provided for the digitalization of rare photos in Myanmar and publication projects in Sri Lanka | | | | | |

The Asia Culture Center (ACC) has rolled up its sleeves for the preservation of documentary heritage in the Asia–Pacific region.

On May 22, the ACC (President Lee Jinsik) and the Asia Culture Institute (ACI, Director Lee Gipyo) under the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism announced that eight projects have been selected for the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP)–ACC Grants Program.

Under the program, eight nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in the region will receive up to KRW 5 million for their preservation projects. Such NGOs are required to complete their projects by November this year.

The‘ACC–MOWCAP Grants Program’was launched in 2018 to support projects aimed at preserving, utilizing, and enhancing the accessibility of documentary heritage in the Asia–Pacific region.

The ACC called for proposals for the program in March 2020 and received 31 project proposals, including publication and digitalization projects.

After two screening sessions, the ACC shortlisted eight projects across six countries based on the suitability for preserving and enhancing the accessibility of documentary heritage in the region.

The selected projects include the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation's preservation and digitalization project for the collections of rare photographs dating back as far as 1850 (Myanmar), Janamihira Nirmana's manuscript translation and publication projects on local medicinal palm tree leaves (Sri Lanka), and the Museum Music Indonesia's digitalization project for the music magazine *Aktuil* (Indonesia).

Other selected projects include the Cook Islands Ministry of Cultural Development's Cook Islands newspaper digitalization and rare book collection project (Cook Islands) and the Cultural Heritage Council for Networking and Communication's website development project for the publicization and distribution of Mongolian document heritage (Mongolia).

Save Myanmar Film (Myanmar), the Chitrasena Vajira Dance Foundation (Sri Lanka), and the World Heritage Moving Image Centre (Malaysia) were selected for the program for two consecutive years, which will boost the progress of their projects.

The ACC plans to archive some of the project outcomes at the center and provide access to visitors.

Further information regarding the selected projects and the preservation program is available at the MOWCAP website (http://www.mowcapunesco.org/grants/).

The ACC and the MOWCAP signed a memorandum of understanding in 2015. Since then, the MOWCAP has been operating a local office within the center.

The ACC, the ACI, and the MOWCAP have cooperated for various programs along with UNESCO Memory of the World organizations and other related bodies. In fact, the MOWCAP–Asia Culture Center Grants Program is one of the most notable results of the cooperation.

Upon the launch of the program in 2018, the ACC selected eight projects to receive grants. In 2019, the number of beneficiary projects was 12. The grants contributed to the first video documentary publication by Malaysia's World Heritage Moving Image Centre and the production of the documentary film on the world documentary heritage La Galigo by the Indonesian Oral Traditions Association.

President Lee Jinsik commented on the program, saying, “Asia is home to inexhaustible sources of cultural treasures. However, we have yet to fully avail ourselves of those cultural riches.” He added, “the ACC will assist with the discovery of documentary heritage in the Asia–Pacific region. We will utilize them as sources of cultural resources to develop new original content and foster new cultural values for all of Asia.”

**□ Attachment**

1. MOWCAP–Asia Culture Center Grants Program Selection Results 1 copy

2. MOWCAP Logo Image

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| EMB0000065430a0 | For more information regarding this press release,  please contact Officer Kim Eunjung (☎ +82-62-601-4037)  of the Research & International Relations Division, ACC. |
| The Asia Culture Center (ACC) is an executive agency that enjoys administrative and financial independence and takes full responsibility for the outcomes of its operations. | |

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| Additional Info |  | MOWCAP–Asia Culture Center Grants Program Selection Results |

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| **Country** | **Organization** | **Project Description** |
| Myanmar | Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation | Digitization, preservation and conservation of a collection of rare photos from 1850s Myanmar |
| Myanmar | Save Myanmar Film | A web project to provide public access to surviving film list / film catalogue and live streaming of digitized classic films on social media |
| Sri Lanka | Janamihira Nirmana | Transcribing a rare indigenous medical palm-leaf manuscript titled <Vāsudēva Nighantuva>, then translating and publishing it with a commentary in English |
| Indonesia | Museum Music Indonesia | Digitalization of 1967–1978 issues of the music magazine <Aktuil> |
| Cook Islands | Ministry of Cultural Development | Digitalization of Cook Islands newspapers from 1981 to 2000; collection of 65 rare books from the 1840s |
| Sri Lanka | Chitrasena Vajira  Dance Foundation | Cataloguing, digitizing and conservation of resources on the history of the Chitrasena Vajira Dance Theatre |
| Mongolia | Cultural Heritage Council for Networking and Communication | Building a new website for promotion and dissemination of the documentary heritage of Mongolia |
| Malaysia | World Heritage  Moving Image Centre | National celebration of <World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2020> |