

**TOUR REPORT OF DR. RAMESH C. GAUR, DIRECTOR (LIB. & INF.) & HEAD OF DIVISION, KALA NIDHI WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING & THE EXTRAORDINARY JOINT SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE UNESCO MEMORY OF WORLD PROGRAMME AND OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP OF MEMBER STATES, HELD ON 1-2 APRIL, 2019 AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS FRANCE.**

With the kind approval of the Member Secretary, IGNCA, I visited Paris, France to attend the Meeting and the Extraordinary Joint Session of International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the UNESCO Memory of World Programme (MoW), held on 1-2 April, 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris France.. All the expenses related to the tour were duly borne by the UNESCO and that there was no financial implication on part of the IGNCA in this regard.

I reached Paris on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 and returned to Headquarters on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019.

I attended the above meeting in my capacity as the Member of the IAC of the UNESCO MoW Programme. Also, this was the first meeting after my nomination. Therefore, this was a great opportunity and honour for me to attend the meeting on behalf of IGNCA and also the country.

The Sessions of the meeting included a Joint Meeting with the Nationally Designated Experts from Member States. The main agenda of the Sessions included discussions and brainstorming on the ongoing comprehensive review of the MoW Programme. Discussions were also held on preservation of, and access to documentary heritage; software as heritage for sustainable development, Global Policy Forum on disaster risk reduction as a strategy for documentary

heritage preservation, and International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas, etc.

The discussions during meeting were mainly focused on ongoing comprehensive review of Memory of World (MoW) Programme. I provided valuable suggestions which were well taken.

During the tour, I could meet Mr. Jaco Du Toit, Advisor, Information and Communication, Chair IFAP Programme. I informed him that at present India is not having any activities under IFAP Programme. Hence, we discussed about initiating some important activities under the IFAP Programme by India.

Also had a brief communication with Mr. Bhanu Neupane, Programme Specialist, Communication & Information Sector (CI) regarding Open Access programme and activities in India.

I was also having a fruitful meeting with HE Ambassador of India to France and Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO. I briefed him about the activities/initiatives undertaken by the IGNCA to implement the MoW programme in India. He appreciated the efforts being made by me and the IGNCA and have assured of any assistance and/or cooperation in the matter.

The discussions in the Session were extremely useful to every member, including me. Overall, I felt the Session was highly beneficial to me, being a professional working on Indian Cultural Heritage, and also this would certainly go a long way in discharging my professional commitments in the IGNCA.

( Ramesh C. Gaur )  
HOD(KN)