

TOUR REPORT OF DR. RAMESH C. GAUR, HOD(KN), IGNCA TO ATTEND THE INTER-REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLABORATION ON MEMORY PRESERVATION AND ACCESSIBILITY, DURING 24-27 OCTOBER 2018, AT PANAMA CITY, PANAMA.

As a Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of World (MoW) Programme and the National Coordinator for UNESCO Experts Group on MoW Programme in India, I was invited by the UNESCO, Montevideo to attend the Inter-regional Conference for Collaboration on Memory Preservation and Accessibility, during 24-27 October 2018, Panama City, Panama. 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. A copy of the detailed programme schedules is placed below for kind perusal and information.

I reached Panama on 23rd October, 2018 and returned to Delhi on 28th October, 2018 (early morning).

The details of the Sessions of the Conference are as follows:-

Session: 1

This Session was to ensure implementing the recommendations made in the 2015 Conference : A global and Regional overview is in progress.

Session: 2

The Session was related to preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage: ongoing initiatives, good practices and global challenges.

Session: 3

There were six presentations on disaster risk, reduction and preparedness for memory preservation and accessibility, and also how to protect documentary heritage from all kinds of disasters and preserve them for posterity.

Session: 4

Discussions were held in this Session with regard to strengthening National and Regional MoW Committees for more effective collaboration on Preservation and Accessibility of Documentary Heritage.

Session: 5

This Session was dedicated to updating on the comprehensive review of the MoW Programme and its implications for Regional and National Committees for MoW.

Summary :

The Conference was attended by select Members of the International Advisory Committee of UNESCO MoW Programme, members of the Regional Committees, Asia Pacific, South Korea, Latin America, Caribbean, Europe and USA, etc. Members of the National Committees of MoW from the region were also present.

The deliberations of the Conference were very useful and informative, and especially in regard to implementation of the UNESCO MoW Programme in India.

Outcome :

1. The IGNCA has been designated as the nodal centre for UNESCO MoW Programme in India. Hence, the Conference was very relevant and useful in understanding the current status of the Programme, and also to learn from best practices followed by various countries.
2. The Conference was an opportunity to update the status of documentary heritage in India to the representatives of various countries. This also provided an opportunity to create linkages among various delegates to share, exchange ideas and information and also to explore possible areas of collaboration, especially between IGNCA and other institutions of various countries. In this regard, discussions were held with delegates of Venezuela, Male, Costa Rica, Caribbean Islands, Panama, Japan, Myanmar, South Korea, etc.

3. Discussions were also held with representatives of MoW Programme Regional Committee for Asia Pacific (MOWCAP) to organize a joint training programme for Libraries, Archives in India (at IGNCA, New Delhi). The discussions on this have been further taken up. Tentatively, the Workshop is being planned in March, 2019. Further, discussions and information sharing were also held with UNESCO representatives regarding creation of language Atlas India.

4. Overall, the attending such a prestigious International Conference was very useful, informative and good experience, which will help me in implementing the UNESCO MoW Programme in IGNCA, New Delhi.

(Ramesh C. Gaur)

HOD(KN)

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