

Tour Report of Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, Director(Lib. & Inf.) to attend the 1st Session of the Expert Consultation Meeting on the Operation of the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) on 17th April, 2018 at Paris, France.

With the kind approval of the Competent Authority, IGNCA, I visited Paris, France to to attend the 1st Session of the Expert Consultation Meeting on the Operation of the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) on 17th April, 2018. The agenda of the meeting and other particulars are enclosed for your kind information.

2. I was invited the for the above meeting as one of the Expert for the Consultation meeting. There were five more experts from other parts of the world. I was the only one expert invited from Asia.

3. During the meeting, various aspects related to setting up of an International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) at Cheongju City, South Korea were discussed.

4. Background :

The setting up of ICDH as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre was approved at the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference (39 C/Resolution 40). The ICDH, which will be located in the city of Cheongju, will undertake research and provide education in the area of documentary heritage, as well as working to implement the Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access, to Documentary Heritage including in Digital Form (2015). The Korean National Commission for UNESCO, Cheongju City, and the National Archives of Korea are jointly organizing two Expert Consultation Meeting sessions, in April and October, 2018, as part of efforts to develop plans for operations and programmes of ICDH.

5. In the introductory remarks, I briefed the participants about IGNCA and its activities. I actively participated in the deliberations and given various suggestions. I particularly suggested to develop a Digital Archiving System based on open source tool for digital preservation of cultural heritage. This is an urgent requirement in many institutions all over the world, particularly South Asia. The suggestions were well taken by the Expert Group. I also suggested some collaborative programmes between IGNCA and the Centre.

6. The meeting ended after a detailed discussion. The next Consultation meeting will be held at Cheongju City in South Korea sometime in October, 2018.

7. Benefits for IGNCA :

ICDH is an unique proposal. This is going to benefit IGNCA in many ways:-

(i) IGNCA is the nodal agency for UNESCO of World Memory Programme. ICDH will provide support to Memory of World programme. All the submissions, both at international and regional level will be archived by ICDH.

(ii) ICDH will provide various kinds of collaborative opportunities related to joint education and research collaborative programmes.

(iii) ICDH will also provide standard, guidelines to memory institutions worldwide for preservation of dissemination of documentary heritage.

8. Conclusion :

It is indeed an honour for IGNCA as well as India that someone from India has been invited to participate in the deliberations for such an important international project on documentary heritage. This Centre will be a unique and first of its kind in the world. I have also provided copies of Vihangama, Kala Kalp and some other IGNCA publications to the Director, National Archives, South Korea.

(Ramesh C. Gaur)

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