

**Tour Report of Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, HOD(KN) to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific from May 29 – June 1, 2018 at Gwangju, Republic of Korea.**

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With the kind approval of the Competent Authority, IGNCA, I attended the 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) from May 29 – June 1, 2018 at Gwangju, Republic of Korea. The venue of the meeting was Holiday Inn Gwangju and the Asia Cultural Centre. The meeting was organised by the MOWCAP and Asia Cultural Centre, Republic of Korea. I attended the meeting as a Member of the International Advisory Committee, UNESCO 'Memory of World Programme' and National Coordinator of Expert Group on UNESCO Memory of World Programme in India. My tour was sponsored by UNESCO Cluster Office, Delhi Office.

Day 1 : 29 May, 2018 :

2. The meeting started with welcome remarks from Dr. Lee jinsik, President, Asia Culture Centre, Gwangju. It was followed by opening remarks by Ms. Misako Ito, Regional Advisor, Communications and Information Sector, UNESCO Office Bangkok and Mr. Li Minghua, Chair, MOWCAP.

3. The Session 1 of the Day 1 was devoted to business meeting which included appointments of rapporteur, roll call and review of the minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MOWCAP and adoption of the minutes. Session 2 was devoted to various reports, representations from Chair, Secretary General and Goodwill Patron of UNESCO Advisory Committee on activities, achievements and future programmes of MOWCAP. Session 3 was about discussion on MoW operations, i.e, publication, communication and partnership, etc. Session 4 of the day was devoted in reviewing the international MoW programme . During the session, a presentation was made on current status of MoW programme by Dr.Fackson Banda, Programme Specialist, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Andrew Henderson, Secretary General, MOWCA on MoW review and implications for MOWCAP operational documents. The last presentation of the day was from Director General, National Archives Korea on setting up of International Centre of Documentary Heritage at RoK.

Day 2 : 30 May, 2018 :

4. The day (Session 5) started with repots from various National memory of World Committees and UNESCO National Commissions, which were presented by

representatives/delegates from different countries. I, as a National Coordinator of Expert's Group on MoW programme in India, presented report from India. I updated the Committee and current status of affairs as regards UNESCO MoW programme and National Register in India. It was also presented that India is a country with vast cultural heritage. Various future plans to strengthen the MoW programme were also presented before the Committee. All the delegates of the Committee appreciated and acknowledged the various work done by IGNCA and other cultural institutes in India in preservation of, and access to Indian cultural heritage. Session 6 was devoted to supporting National MoW Committees. It also involved various presentations about formation of National Committees, various roles and responsibilities of the National Committees. Session 7 of the day was devoted to nominations, presentations, Regional Selection Committee Reports and Vote on the nominations for 2017/2018 MoW Asia Pacific Regional Register. During the Session, presentations on nomination were made by the nominators. Later, Regional Selection Committees made their presentation about various nominataions. It was followed by discussion and vote on the nominations. Later, the results of nominations were announced. At the end of the day, successful nominations were awarded with Register Certificates 2017/2018.

#### Day 3 : 31 May, 2018 :

5. The Sessions of the day were held at Asia Culture Centre, Gwangju, Korea. Sesson 8 was started with nomination, election and voting for various positions of the MOWCAP, i.e, Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary General, etc. Session 9 of the day involved an overview of the various discussions, followed by a Closing Ceremony, decision of holding the next meeting of the MOWCAP. In the Session, I proposed that the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MOWCAP may be organised at IGNCA, New Delhi, India. This proposal was accepted by the Committee, which is scheduled to be held in 2020. In the last session of the day, a half-day Seminar on Implementing the 2015 'Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form' was organized, which was followed by an exhibition on MOWCAP activities during last 20 years.

#### Outcome :

6. The meeting was very interactive, useful and helpful in understanding the various aspects of functioning of the Regional Committees, submission to Regional Registers and also in understanding the MoW programme initiated in various countries. Besides, getting my proposal to host the 9<sup>th</sup> MOWCAP meeting at IGNCA will be a milestone for UNESCO MoW programme in India. Through my visit, I am able to connect with delegates of 43 countries. The most important and prestigious

aspect of this meeting is that this is the first time an Indian delegate attending the MOWCAP meeting in the last 20 years.

Acknowledgement :

7. I must thank the Member Secretary, IGNC A for support and guidance. I also thank the UNESCO Delhi Office for sponsoring the visit. The copies of various publications, circulated during the meeting are placed with this report for kind perusal of Member Secretary, IGNC A.

( Ramesh C. Gaur )

HOD(KN)