

V. Meetings on Intangible Cultural Heritage

An annual workshop on Palau’s intangible cultural heritage is conducted by the Bureau of arts and Culture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs. The workshop focuses on strengthening the protection, preservation, and promotion of cultural heritage of Palau. The event is regularly attended by local traditional Chiefs and various stakeholders from relevant agencies such as, Belau national Museum, National Council of Chiefs, Palau Visitors Authority, Belau tourism Association, Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations of related focus, private citizens and the Ministry as a whole. The workshop has been conducted every year since 2005. The last one’s theme was “Heritage leads to Economic Prosperity.” Another National conference is the “Mechesil Belau Women’s Conference,” which focuses on the role of women on the strengthening and promotion of Palau’s culture. The conference is traditionally held at the end of March to coincide with World Women’s Day and normally has over 300 participants. During the conference, cultural materials and expressions are displayed and demonstrated. The conference draws participants from leadership and the local women’s organizations.

Table6. Meetings on ICH

Name of Meeting /Person in charge	Theme /Duration	Participants	Speakers	Main Context	Points of discussion	Actions Adopted
Historic Preservation Symposium by Bureau of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs /Director: Dwight Alenxander	Heritage leads to Economic Prosperity /2011 (every year since 2005)	68 persons, traditional leaders, State Governments, National governments, National Legislative members, private individuals, Environmental Quality Protection Board, Palau International Coral Reef Center	Chief Reklai Bao Ngirmang Chief Ngirakebou Roman Bedor Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg Dr Allen Olson, Palau Visitors Authority, Belau Tourism Association Jolie Liston, Bureau of Arts and Culture Staffs	Importance of preserving cultural heritage of Palau, the current work towards its preservation, general public awareness	Belau National Museum project on Birds of Palau, (Asked for a local language presenter, how to include in current school curriculum) Palau Visitors Authority overview of their work (how can traditional leaders help increase knowledge of local historical sites)	Traditional knowledge & expressions law (pending)

Mechesil Belau	Cultural Practices of Palau /Annual	Est 300 persons	Chiefs of government agencies Traditional women groups Country leaders Cultural material exhibition Performance Art	Strengthening of Palau's culture	Transforming cultures, cultural integrity Preservations, responsibility	Complete ban on turtle hunting for 5 years (turtle shell is women's traditional money and the concern is the decrease in number and sizes from over harvesting)
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