

## III. Relevant Organisations

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### 1. Governmental organisations

1. To development and prepare its function to support, promotion, preservation and restoration of national culture heritage, in 2011 the Government has reformed the Ministry of information and culture and national tourism Authority by Amendment as the name of Ministry of information, culture and tourism.
2. Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism is one of the 18 Ministries in the Lao Government structure. Lao Government also devise to administration for 4 groups: political group, security group, economic group and social culture group.
3. To implement for field work of ICH there are 6 Departments related in charge of intangible cultural heritage:
  - Department of Heritage.
  - Department of Mass Media.
  - Department of Mass Culture.
  - Department of performance Art.
  - Department of film.
  - Department of fine Art.

Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICT) is lay in social culture group.

4. To manage in systematic and continuous manner. The ministry of information, culture and tourism has laid down the operational directive and regulated the advisory committee And intangible Cultural heritage:

- Advisory Committee of Intangible Culture Heritage. Composes of 11 people which long experience related in intangible culture heritage specify for performance Art, fine Arts, film, social science, Anthropology and national heritage experts. This Committee has responsible to conduct and Monitor about intangible culture heritage inventory in LAO PDR also advice and provide research to local level.
- Intangible culture heritage expert committee compose 6-7 people of Governor private organization and NGO organizations staffs this committee have duty to work for field survey, collecting data and complete report to advisory committee.

**❖ Need to enhance the process of development.**

The Lao government considers culture as an important factor of political stability, a matrix for development and the basis of the national cultural identity. Its policy on culture has thus emphasized on the preservation of both material and intangible cultural heritage while nurturing the culture of each ethnicity within the nation. Work plans and budgets have been implemented to encourage the conservation of traditional culture and the transmission to next generations the best traditions of each community. At present the Lao government has signed three main international conventions of UNESCO; the convention of world cultural Heritage (1972) on 23 March 1987, the convention on the protection and promotion of the Diversity of cultural Expressions (2005) on 5 November 2007 and the convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) on 26 November 2009.

The Luang prabang Town and the Wat Phu and its associated ancient settlement within the Champasak cultural landscape are the two sites that have been inscribed on the world heritage list of UNESCO.

The implementation of the two others convention is ongoing and their texts have been translated into Lao language. The expression of cultural diversity and the preservation of cultural traditions are stipulated in a number of legal text such as the national constitution, the law on education, the law on nationality, the law on cultural heritage. The law on cultural heritage covers the material culture, the intangible cultural heritage, the natural heritage, the museums and the national fund for the preservation on cultural heritage. The preservation of and the nurturing of our national cultural are addressed in every five year plan of socio – economic development. The main organization mandated for the implementation of the law and the national policy on cultural is the Ministry of Information and culture which is composed of a number of departments dealing with cultural heritage, fine arts, performing arts, folklore, cultural products well as newspapers, magazines, radio, television and internet.

The Department of Heritage is instrumental in implementing the work plan and the budgets plan that are directed to cultural heritage. This department is composed of several divisions such as Intangible cultural heritage, monuments and sites, museums, antiquities and archeology. As for human resource, The National University of Laos upon the request from the Ministry of Information and Culture created a curriculum on archaeology and cultural resources management two years ago and is now teaching students at Bachelor Degree level.

The Department of Heritage is task force for basic activities aiming to survey, study, inventory, and encourage the preservation and the promotion of both material and intangible cultural heritage. Scholars from other institution have expressed their availability to participate in such activities after they have been contacted and notified on national program on cultural

heritage; they are currently affiliated to several organizations such as the national committee of social sciences, the faculty of social sciences of The National University of Laos, the committee of ethnic affairs, the committee of religious affairs of the national front for the nation edification.

Until now a national plan of survey and inventory of Intangible cultural has yet been conducted; only punctual projects have undertaken by consultancy services as part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for example for the Nam Theun2 hydro power project and Sepon gold mining project. The department of Heritage took part on the last survey conducted within the area that is impacted by the Sepon mining project in the Vilabuly district Savannakhet province.

Recently the department of heritage signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean creation of a system of management of ICH are included within this program. At the same a substantial budget plan has been submitted for the fiscal year of 2009-13. It is expected that with the government plan that will be assisted by Korean co-operation will provide us with an appropriate start in implementing the convention of ICH. For our endeavor, we hope also top benefit from experts and scholars from international organizations as well as from any friendly country. Their support and kind co- operation are most welcomed.

## Organigram of the Ministry of Information and Culture

1. Minister
  
2. Vices Ministers; 2 persons 1 is responsible for Information and the other for Culture
  
3. Departments under Culture are:
  - Heritage
  - Fine Arts
  - Performing Arts
  - National Library and Publishing
  - Mass Culture
  
4. Departments under Information:
  - Media Information
  - National Radio
  - National TV
  - Press (Lao and Foreign Languages)
  - Lao News Agency (KPL)
  
5. Department for General Affairs
  - Cabinet of Ministers (Administration, legal affairs, International Relations)
  - Personnel
  - Finances
  - Control and inspection

6. The Department of Heritage is composed of:

- Direction of Cultural Heritage
- Direction of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Direction of Antiquities
- Direction of Museums
- Division of Archeology
- National Museum of Vientiane (office at Vientiane)
- National Museums of Ho Prakeo, Wat Sisaket and That Luang (office at Vientiane)
- National Palace Museum at Luang Prabang (office at LPB)
- Direction of World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang (office at LPB)
- Direction of World Heritage Site of Wat Phu (office at Wat Phu)
- National Museums at different provinces (office at their respective province)