

IV. Meetings on Intangible Cultural heritage

1) Name of the meeting

NATIONALWORKSHOP SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE COOK ISLANDS

2) Theme

Intangible cultural heritage

3) Duration

28th – 30th June 2010 (3 days)

4) Venue

Sinai Hall, Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

5) Organisers

The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Cultural Development and funded by UNESCO. The person in charge of organising the meeting is the Policy Officer for the Ministry of Cultural Development Liz Ponga pongavdo@oyster.net.ck and can be contacted on phone 20-725.

6) Participants

NAME	ORGANISATION / TITLE
01 Hon Cassey Eggelton	Minister Of Cultural Development
02 Tama Tuavera	Minister Eggelton's Office Staff
03 Mrs Nono Rangi	Ruaau Community
04 Joan Gragg Artist,	Member of the CI Art Assn
05 Terry Utanga	Ministry of Education staff
06 Ian George	Ministry of Education - Visual Arts Advisor
07 Nancy Fulford	Ministry of Education – Performing Arts
08 Vereara Maeva Taripo	Cook Islands Music Association
09 George Cowan	Cultural and Historic Places Trust – Chairman
10 Mita Soatini	Tongareva Island Representative
11 Temu Hagai	Rakahanga Island Representative
12 Pae Tuteru	Manihiki Islands Representative
13 Tere Tangauru	Pukapuka Island Representative
14 Taputukura Mariri	Mauke Island Representative
15 Toka Mariri	Atiu Island Representative
16 Ake Lewis	Mitiaro Island Representative
17 Paddy Walker	PPSEAWA
18 Matilda Tairea	PPSEAWA
19 Aneru Tautu	Office of the Minister Cultural Development
20 Piritau Nga	Oire Nikao Dance Group Representative
21 Marthalina Makimare	CI Association of NGOs
22 Terangi Karotaua	Private - cultural expert
23 Matariki Wilson	Cook Island News
24 Tokerau Munro	CI Tivaivai Association
25 Numa MacKenzie	Private
26 Tereapii Pita	Onu Recording Studio
27 Teaturangi Nepia Clamp	CI Voyaging Society – Navigator
28 Theresa Noovao	Childhood Education
29 Imogen Ingram	Koutu Nui member
30 Giles Peterson	Curator & Lecture – Pacifica
31 Tungane Broadbent	O'ao'a fabric and fibre arts
32 Vai Henry	Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori
33 Apii Turua	Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori
34 Mouria Pokone	Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori
35 Travel Moeara	3 Bros Productions Company
36 Taokia Gill	Nth Western CI Early Childhood, NZ
37 Jane Taurarii	Ministry of Education – Science Advisor
38 Mona Matepi	Te Rito Enea – CEO

39	Charles Egretaud	Pae Tai-Pae Uta / Pro Science
40	Jane Lamb	Te Rito Enuā – Chairperson
41	Eruera Ted Nia	Inanui Gallery
42	Tetika Mataiapo	President of the Koutu Nui

PRESENTERS

43	Dr Jon Jonassen	Brigham Young University, Hawaii
44	Upokoina Teiotu	Atiu Island Representative – Tumu Korero
45	Mapu Taia	Mauke Island Representative – Tumu Korero
46	Henrica Marona	Ministry of Education - Reo Maori Advisor
47	Ina Hermann	Ministry of Education – CEO
48	Elizabeth Munro	National Environment Service
49	Vaitoti Tupa	National Environment Service – CEO
50	Mahiriki Tangaroa	CI National Visual Arts Society
51	Repeta Puna	Traditional Knowledge consultant
52	Tua Pittman	CI Voyaging Society
53	Lynnsay Rongokea	Land agent & Researcher
54	Teariki Rongo	Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori
55	Gina Williams	Performing Arts & Choreographer
56	Mike Tavioni	Carver and Tumu Korero
57	Tingika Elikana	Solicitor General - Crown Law Office
58	Nga Mataio	CICC General Secretary
59	Vereara Maeva Taripo	President of CI Tivaivai Association

MINISTRY OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

60	Sonny Williams	Permanent Secretary
61	Liz Ponga	Policy Unit
62	Ngatuaine Maui	Anthropology Division
63	Justina Nicholas	National Library
64	George Paniani	National Archives
65	Pastor Ngarima George	National Museum
66	Terai Joseph	Administration
67	Puna Teariki	National Auditorium
68	Phillip Tangi	Audio Visual Division
69	Henry Rennie	Foreign Affairs - VIP division
70	Willie Tua	Minister Egelton's Office - Staff

7) Speakers list (detailing keynote speaker, presenters, discussants and their affiliations)

1. Te Reo Maori (The Cook Island Maori Language)

A dual presentation by Ina Herrmann (CEO School Support Service) AND Henrica Marona (Reo Maori Adviser for Secondary Schools), Ministry of Education

The second day of the Workshop started off with representatives from the Ministry of Education speaking on the revitalisation and growth of the Maori language in schools and in various sectors of the communities. They asked for the government to reinstate and reinforce the Language Commission as well as be leaders in parliamentary debates to be conducted in Maori. They felt that as a way forward for safeguarding and growth of the Maori language was for partnerships across the government Ministries and policies and guidelines to be set in place.

2. Are Korero (The institution of traditional knowledge)

Presentation by Mapu Taia, Speaker of Parliament and Member of the Are Korero from the island of Mauke

This was followed by the traditional leader from Mauke speaking about the “Are Korero” and its importance in safeguarding the knowledge of the people within a community. The foreign influences that had merged into the lives of the community had helped with the erosion of traditional knowledge and he asked for the Are Korero to be reinstated and given the importance that it deserves.

3. Tivaivai” (Traditional quilts)

Presentation by Vereara Maeva-Taripo, President of the Cook Islands Tivaivai Association

next speaker spoke about the art of making tivaivai and how it has been accepted into the way of life of the Cook Islands and the pride that the women have in showcasing their skills. However, there was a notable decline in interest from the young generation of today in learning these skills.

4. Raui and Environmental Practices

Presentation by Vaitoti Tupa - Director of National Environment Service

The speakers that followed talked about environmental practices and the legal mandates that have assisted them in their work with environment. With that comes the challenges and issues that they face, such as differences in understanding of traditional practices; the approaches to obtain these traditional knowledge vary from island to island; respect of traditional environment practices such as the ra'ui is challengeable due to generation gap and lastly, the documenting of these oral history is not a norm as knowledge was passed down from generation orally eg traditional medicine.

5. Traditional Medicine

Presentation by Teariki Rongo – President Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori

The tradition medicine presentation focussed on the abuse of traditional medicinal practices. It was customary not to share the ingredients of certain medicines and to keep this knowledge within the families. Skills surrounding traditional medicine include proper diagnosis, the accurate method in preparation the medicine, the active ingredients, the food and activity restrictions (if any) and other general advice. Some users of traditional medicine are known to have passed on the ingredients of medicine without the complete knowledge of the practices surrounding the medicine. If the medicine fails to achieve its task, it is brought into disrepute as well as the reputation of the person holding the knowledge. These practices must be stopped and the practice of traditional medicine protected.

6. Traditional Carving and Boat Building

Presentation by Michael Tavioni - Local Artist and Traditional Craftsman

Mike Tavioni in his presentation outlined the carving programs designed for secondary school students which he is teaching and the intention of inspiring these students to keep carving. He then spoke about boat building and how he obtained this skill.

7. Investitures and Chiefly Titles

Presentation by Upokoina Teiotu – Traditional Orator of Enuamanu

The presentation on investitures concentrated on the island of Atiu where the Papa Ina originates. Each tribe is distinctive in its investiture process of traditional leaders. There is no one set rule for everyone. He encouraged orators to preserve the uniqueness of their ceremonies and refrain from changing the heritage to satisfy a minority.

These presentations were followed by lively discussions by the participants on their own experiences in their various islands or communities.

8. Performing Arts

Presentation by Gina Williams – Former Dance Champion and Choreographer

Gina Williams relayed the story of how she was inspired by family members at a young age into Cook Islands Dancing. For the Cook Islands she noted, dancing was in the blood. When you hear the drums beat, you have to move, it's automatic. She continued to enlighten the audience on the art of choreography and how moves are created to communicate a story or theme.

9. Traditional Hymns

Presentation by Nga Mataio - General Secretary of the Cook Islands Christian Church

The short presentation by Mr Mataio covered a brief history of imene tuki and the performing of the imene tuki in church services in the Cook Islands Christian Churches around the country and those parishes overseas.

10. Education, Culture and Identity

Presentation by Dr Jon T.M. Jonassen - Professor of Political Science and Pacific Island Studies in Brigham Young University, Hawaii

A very well researched paper was presented by Dr Jon Jonassen that highlighted the importance of education, culture and identity of a people.

The discussions that followed were very interesting as each speaker gave their viewpoints and understanding of the various subjects.

11. Art and Craft

Presentation by Mahiriki Tangaroa - Member of the Cook Islands Arts Association and an Artist

The final day of the Workshop started with participants speaking on Art and Craft in the Cook Islands. Mahiriki Tangaroa, a former Curator of the National Museum outlined the growing international interest in Oceania Art especially carvings. While these activities are occurring overseas, it is equally important that the existing local artefacts are protected.

12. Land and Tradition

Presentation by Lynnsay Francis - Land Agent and Researcher

Lynnsay Francis presented some important facts regarding current land issues in the Cook Islands. Through her research she discovered some inconsistencies regarding land titles and processes of accessing land. A greater awareness of land issues is required to further prevent the loss of land.

13. Seafaring and Traditional Navigation

Presentation by Tua Pittman – Traditional Navigator and Member of the Cook Islands Voyaging Society

The personal experience of this presenter, in sharing and learning from a master craftsman in traditional navigation captured an audience who had just recently witnessed the arrival of five traditional vakas into Rarotonga from Raiatea in May this year. He spoke about the whole sky at night becoming a navigation chart or stars; the moon being the beacon; the rising sun in the morning being the compass to what the day has to offer. The participants were mesmerised by his story and realised the importance of maintaining this intangible gift that will be truly lost with time as has been the stories of the great navigators of the Pacific that were travelling the great Ocean before others knew of the vastness of the world around them. The final speakers spoke about Traditional Knowledge and the legal aspects required to safeguard ICH in the Cook Islands.

Strategy and Action Plan for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Cook Islands

The final two presentations examined legal instruments that are in the drafting process to assist with the safeguarding of ICH.

14. Traditional Knowledge

Presentation by Repeta Puna – Consultant

The traditional knowledge presentation covered the project undertaken by Repeta Puna, a consultant formerly of the Policy Unit in the Prime Ministers Department. The project required the contribution of communities in the outer islands. Ms Puna furnished the meeting with her findings and the recommendations that would compose the Traditional knowledge policy.

15. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Presentation by Tingika Elikana - Solicitor General, Crown Law Office

The Solicitor General updated the workshop on the progress of the Copyright Bill and its intentions to protection elements of ICH. The Intellectual Property Right laws of the Cook Islands require updating.

Action Plan Adopted

The Workshop demonstrated the awareness about the importance of safeguarding the Cook Islands ICH especially with statistics offered by the educational sector regarding “Te Reo” as well as traditional navigation as shared by one of the participants and other sectors of the community. Noticeable also was the common factors shared by other Pacific countries as shared by the Director of UNESCO in his speech and raised in the region during the past twelve months through efforts being made by each country.

The participants requested UNESCO’s technical and financial assistance in supporting national capacity building for ratifying and implementing the Convention.

Furthermore, they requested UNESCO to organize national consultation meetings in order to achieve the goals being set at this Workshop as well as to understand the procedures to follow prior to the ratification of the convention.

Reference material e.g.) reports