

IV. Meetings on Intangible Cultural heritage

1. Inter-Departmental Meeting on the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

A. Theme

The Inter-Departmental Meeting was convened to deliberate on Papua New Guinea's ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This follows the commitment by the Deputy Prime-Minister, Hon. Dr. Puka Temu, to the then Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, that the Convention be presented to Parliament in its 2008 April Session, for approval for ratification.

The meeting brought together relevant Government agencies to;

- Consider the relevance and importance of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to Papua New Guinea.
- Consider and discuss strategies to effect the implementation of the Convention in PNG.
- Draft a policy submission for consideration by the National Executive Council

B. Duration

18th -19th March 2008

C. Venue

Crown Plaza Hotel

Port Moresby

D. Organisor

National Cultural Commission

E. Participants – numbers/Organizational affiliation

- Mr. Fernando Brugman
- Programme Specialist
- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, Paris, France

- Mr. Mali Voi
- UNESCO Sub-Regional Representative
- Apia, Samoa

- Hon. Charles Abel
- Minister
- Ministry of Culture & Tourism

- Mrs. Goini Loko
- First Secretary
- Ministry of Culture & Tourism

- Dr. Joseph Pagelio
- Secretary
- Department of Education

- Dr. Jacob L. Simet
- Executive Director
- National Cultural Commission

- Mr. Seri Hegame
- First Secretary
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

- Dr. Paul Ngabung
- Director
- Policy Division
- Dept. of Prime Minister & NEC

- Mr. Fred Sarufa
- Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Immigration

- Mr. Paulias Korn
- Deputy Secretary, Information

- Dept. of Information & Comm.
- Mr. Yori Yei
- Acting Secretary General
- PNG National Commission for UNESCO
- Mr. Michael Kumung
- Dept. of National Planning & Rural Development
- Mr. Paul Barker
- Director
- Institute of National Affairs
- Mr. Jim Onga
- Dept. of Environment & Conservation
- Ms. Karen Haive
- Deputy Secretary
- Dept. of Community Development
- Mr. Yu Minimbi
- Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Immigration
- Mr. Alex Haboic
- Dept. of Education
- Mr. Peter Wahanduo
- Institute of PNG Studies
- Prof. Kenneth Sumbuk
- Pro Vice Chancellor
- University of PNG
- Ms. Grace Kave
- Dept. of Justice & Attorney General
- Mr. John Iso
- Office of the Higher Education
- Mr. Michael Buleau

- PNG Tourism Industry Association
- National Cultural Commission Staff
- Policy, Planning & Research Division

F. Speaker's list

- Opening Remarks by Dr. Jacob L. Simet
- Executive Director
- National Cultural Commission
- Welcome Address by Dr. Joseph Pagelio
- Secretary
- National Department of Education
- Comments by Mr. Mali Voi
- UNESCO Sub-Regional Representative
- Apia, Western Samoa
- Opening Address by Hon. Charles Abel
- Minister
- Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- State of Safeguarding PNG's ICH by Ms. Hale Lahui
- National Cultural Commission
- Presentation on the Convention for Safeguarding ICH by Mr. Fernando Brugman
- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Division
- Ratification of International Conventions by Mr. Fred Sarufa
- Director, International Organization's Branch
- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Immigration
- Legal, Political, Administrative and Financial Implications of ratifying the Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage by Mr. Fernando Brugman
- Capacities of PNG to implement the main obligation of the Convention (inventories – cultural mapping) by Mr. Mali Voi

G. Points of Discussion

The meeting was officially opened by the Hon. Charles Abel, Minister for Culture and Tourism. He expressed very strong views about the need for Papua New Guinea to ratify the Convention for the sake of safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of Papua New Guinea.

The representative from UNESCO, Paris, elaborated on the Convention, highlighting on some important articles. At the same time he highlighted on the need for Papua New Guinea to ratify the Convention immediately rather than later. One of the main reasons was that by ratifying now, Papua New Guinea could be in a position to benefit from the rights under the Convention.

A presentation from the National Cultural Commission highlighted the fact that the protection and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage was already addressed in a number of national legislations and other provisions; including the Papua New Guinea National Constitution, the National Cultural Property and Preservation Act 1965, the National Museum and Art Gallery Act 1992 and the National Cultural Commission Act 1994 and other related legislations and provisions. That the Convention would support these already existing instruments.

The representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Immigration provided the meeting with a background on the Papua New Guinea procedures on ratification of international legal instruments such as the Convention. The meeting was informed of the need to abide by the established procedures to achieve a successful outcome.

On the whole, the meeting supported Papua New Guinea's endorsement of the Convention and the recent commitment by the Deputy Prime-Minister for ratification.

H. Action Plan

The governmental agencies meeting for consultation on 18 and 19 March 2008,

1. Recalling the support given by the Government to the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003;
2. Further recalling the commitment made by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Director-General of UNESCO to proceed with the ratification by Papua New Guinea;
3. Also recalling the strong support given by the Minister for Culture and Tourism to the ratification of the Convention at the opening session of this consultation meeting;
4. Endorses the Government's support for the ratification of the Convention;
5. Further endorses that the National Cultural Commission be the agency in charge of coordinating the implementation of the Convention in Papua New Guinea;
6. Underscores the importance of the involvement of communities, as well as of provincial and local level governments in the implementation of the Convention;
7. Agrees that the National Cultural Commission develop a NEC Policy Submission on the basis of the discussions held at this consultation meeting;

Requests the National Cultural Commission to submit the Convention at its earliest convenience to the State Solicitor for legal clearance and that it undertakes the necessary steps related to the ratification of the Convention.

I. Follow-up activities

An NEC Policy Submission for the ratification of the UNESCO 2003 Convention was formulated straight after the Inter-Departmental Meeting. In June 2008, the Cabinet endorsed the Policy Submission, hence, Papua New Guinea became a State Party of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH.