Workshop on Museums and Intangible Heritage

Asia Pacific Approaches

7th Regional Assembly of the Asia Pacific Organisation International Council of
Museums (ICOM)
Shanghai, China, 20-25 October 2002

Shanghai Charter

We, the coalition of participants, at the 7th Asia Pacific Regional Assembly of
the International Council of Museums convened between 20-24 October 2002 in
Shanghai, affirming the significance of creativity, adaptability and the
distinctiveness of peoples, places and communities as the framework in which
the voices, values, traditions, languages, oral history, folk life and so on are
recognised and promoted in all museological and heritage practices,
recommend that museums as facilitators of constructive partnerships in the
safeguarding of this heritage of humanity:

- Affirm the rich cultural diversity of the Asia Pacific, including the concerns of race,
  ethnicity, colour, gender, age, class, faith, language, sexual orientation and
  regional identities
- Establish interdisciplinary and cross sectorial approaches that bring together
  movable and immovable, tangible and intangible, natural and cultural heritage
- Address the challenges and threats posed by globalisation and develop
  approaches to maximise on the opportunities provided by cultural, technological
  and economic globalisation
- Develop documentation tools and standards in establishing holistic museum and
  heritage practices
- Initiate pilot projects that demonstrate methodologies for making inventories of
  intangible heritage resources through community participation
- Ensure efforts towards the conservation, presentation and interpretation of
  intangible heritage in an authentic manner that is consistent with the local
  character
- Develop public programs and visitor management strategies that comply with the
  laws, conventions and regulations dealing with the conservation of heritage
  resources of significance, and respect for the rules and protocols of the
  community groups as custodians of intangible heritage
- Encourage cross cultural understanding and meaningful exchanges for the
  promotion of peace and harmonious societies
- Make use of all media formats such as print, audio visuals, film and video, digital
  and telecommunication technologies
- Assess and address training needs and capacity building for integration of tangible
  and intangible heritage management
- Offer inclusive interpretation in appropriate languages where possible employing
  local custodians of intangible heritage resources
- Promote the active participation of public and private sectors to maximise the use
  of local expertise, resources and opportunities and diversify the resource base for
  the effective safeguarding of all heritage resources
- Establish criteria and methodologies for the integration of tangible and intangible
  heritage in museums and other heritage institutions
- Support UNESCO’s efforts for the safeguarding and promotion of intangible
  heritage through its various programs and stress the importance of the inputs of
professional bodies in the preparation of an international convention for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

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