

WorldCP-Asia is a major new initiative to document the arts and cultural policies of countries in Asia. The initiative is a central component in the development of *WorldCP-International Database of Cultural Policies*.

Since 2012, WorldCP-Asia is being coordinated by a partnership between the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), the lead partner of WorldCP, and the WorldCP-Asia Secretariat, managed by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). In 2011, the WorldCP-Asia Secretariat was also coordinated by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST), South Korea and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU).

The WorldCP-Asia Secretariat carries out key tasks including administration and coordination; funding pilot profiles; liaison with Asian governments; stimulating policy dialogue, networking and mutual learning through expert meetings and online platforms (culture360.org).

LATEST NEWS

Three country profiles - India, South Korea and Vietnam - were launched in 2013.

Ashish Rajadhyaksha, P. Radhika & Raghavendra Tenkayala of the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, India are the authors of the Indian profile.

Kiwon Hong is the author of the Korean profile, which was commissioned with the support of the MCST, Korea and KNCU.

Bui Hoai Son of The Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) is the lead author of the profile, which was commissioned with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Vietnam.

The profiles of Mongolia and Singapore are currently being written and will be launched in 2014.

Jamiyan Dolgorsuren and Jargalsaikhan Tsamba are authors of the Mongolian profile, which has been commissioned with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Mongolia and the Arts Council Mongolia.

June Gwee is the author of the Singaporean profile, which has been commissioned with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore.

The editorial review process for the cultural policy profiles of Asia is undertaken in consultation with a regional editor. Anmol Vellani, former Executive Director, India Foundation for the Arts, has served as the regional editor in Asia since 2011.

BACKGROUND

Policy dialogue on culture has been increasingly acquiring strategic importance in Asia. This trend reflects the growing importance of culture in international relations, in particular since the adoption of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

In this context, the viability of developing WorldCP-Asia was investigated by the partners in 2010. The report on the research, *Towards Cultural Policy Profiles in Asia* (commissioned by the Hub City of Asian Culture and written by IFACCA) suggested that there was a solid basis for commissioning several profiles of countries in Asia over the next two years.

WorldCP-Asia also builds on Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) initiatives such as the *ASEM Workshop on Enhancing ASEM Visibility through Cultural Activities* (Vietnam, 2010), which recommended an 'open and transparent analysis of national cultural policies for the benefit of decision makers, the media and the cultural sector in the format of initiatives such as the Open Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends'.

DIALOGUE COMPONENT

The research on national profiles is complemented by a series of meetings that facilitate dialogue between WorldCP-Asia authors, partners and government officials:

The **inaugural Experts' Meeting on Cultural Policy** (27-28 July 2011, Seoul, Korea) was co-organised by ASEF, IFACCA, MCST, Korea and KNCU. The event, which gathered 20 policymakers, researchers and commentators from the Asia-Pacific and Europe, served as the first action meeting of WorldCP-Asia.

A **second Experts' Meeting on Cultural Policy** (7 October 2011, Melbourne, Australia) was co-organised by ASEF and IFACCA alongside the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture. At this meeting, creative industries, heritage and arts education were identified as key areas of common interest for future dialogue by 24 participating civil experts and government officials.

The topic of creative industries was explored in-depth at the **ASEF Experts' Meeting & Public Forum on Creative Economy in Asia and Europe: Emerging Pillar of Economic Growth & Development** (4-5 December 2013, Hanoi, Vietnam), co-organised by ASEF, IFACCA and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Vietnam. A WorldCP-Asia meeting was organised alongside the Experts' Meeting to create opportunities for networking and mutual learning among WorldCP authors.

SEEKING PARTNERS

IFACCA and ASEF are seeking expressions of interest from regional organisations, foundations, national government agencies and national policy experts wishing to participate in the development of WorldCP-Asia, in the framework of WorldCP, an international database of cultural policies.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the WorldCP-Asia Secretariat:

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