



Final Report of the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO

**19-21 September 2018,
Gyeongju, Republic of Korea**

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Contents

Summary Report	04
Gyeongju Recommendation	30
Programme	34
List of Participants	38
General Information	
Preamble of Constitution of the UNESCO	42
Charter of National Commissions	44
UN Sustainable Developments Goals	50
UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Gyeongju	52
Photos	56

Summary Report

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Background

National Commissions for UNESCO are vital for the elaboration, execution and evaluation of UNESCO's programmes. Strong and effective National Commissions constitute an invaluable asset for UNESCO, particularly within the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (including the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs) and its implementation at the country level.

Regional cooperation, both among National Commissions and between National Commissions and other members of the UNESCO family, is more necessary than ever in order to tackle the challenges of the Agenda 2030 effectively in Asia-Pacific, a region rich in diversity in terms of culture, language and religion. The need for a regional network of the National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region was raised at the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in Diani, Kenya, in June 2018 (the Kenya Meeting). Against this background, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), the UNESCO Bangkok Office, and the City of Gyeongju jointly organized the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea from 19 to 21 September 2018, to continue the regional discussion on the agenda dealt with at the Kenya Meeting.

It was the first time that Secretaries-General and staff from National Commissions in Asia and the Pacific had gathered as a group since 2010, when the Director-General's Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific on the Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2012-2017(36 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) was co-organized by the UNESCO Secretariat and KNCU in Changwon, Republic of Korea.

Objectives

The three-day meeting aimed to contribute to effective cooperation among National Commissions for UNESCO in the Asia-Pacific region by sharing opinions, ideas and best practices. The meeting also aimed to lay the foundation for a regular regional meeting to discuss the needs and priorities of the Asia-Pacific region and to share the perspectives of the region with the UNESCO Secretariat and National Commissions in the other regions.

Organizers

The meeting was jointly organized by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Bangkok Office, and was hosted by the City of Gyeongju and the Province of Gyeongsangbuk-do. Support for the meeting was provided by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

Participants

The meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO was attended by over 100 participants, representing thirty National Commissions, the UNESCO Secretariat, four Regional Offices and five Category 2 Centers

The Gyeongju Recommendation adopted as an outcome at the meeting can be found in Annex I. The final programme of the meeting, and the list of participants can be found in Annexes, II and III.

Summary of the Discussion

Wednesday, 19 September 2018 (Day I)

Opening Session

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU)**, thanked the participants, on behalf of the Korean Government and KNCU, for making the time to attend the meeting. He also thanked the Province of Gyeongsangbuk-do, the City of Gyeongju and UNESCO Bangkok for their support in arranging the meeting. He mentioned that he was pleased to meet people who had come from countries that cover 60% of the global population. He stated his belief that there were many things to share, exchange, and cooperate on as National Commissions in Asia-Pacific countries. He also noted that UNESCO's current reform process, under the guidance of the Organization's new leadership, called for a strong and effective network of National Commissions. He reiterated the recommendations agreed by the Asia-Pacific countries during the Kenya Meeting in June, 2018, concerning ways to fortify the contribution of National Commissions. He stressed that National Commissions should step up and be bold and creative in discussing the issues on the agenda for the present meeting so that the outcomes of this meeting could effectively build on what was discussed at the Kenya Meeting.
- **Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Bangkok Office**, underlined that the vast Asia-Pacific region, covering 46 Member States, was an important region for UNESCO and the United Nations (UN) as a whole. He said that the UNESCO Secretariat and the National Commissions for UNESCO could further collaborate in setting a good example for how UNESCO works, as well as how UNESCO functions in the context of the UN development system. He encouraged participants to bear in mind three questions in discussing the issues on the agenda: i) how to promote the visibility and credibility of UNESCO; ii) how to get involved in the national decision making process and in positioning each country in the context of the UN reform; and iii) how to contribute to creating a more peaceful and sustainable society to pass on to the next generation.

Welcome remarks

- **Mr. Nak-young Joo, Mayor of the City of Gyeongju**, thanked those who had made it possible for the meeting to take place in the City of Gyeongju, including Mr. Kwangho Kim, the Secretary General of KNCU, Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, the Director of the UNESCO Bangkok Office, Mr. Genc Seiti, Director of the Division of Member States and Partners at the UNESCO Secretariat, and all the other participating Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO. He mentioned his concern that societies today did not appreciate the value of cultural heritage and thanked the National Commissions in each country for working tirelessly with like-minded NGOs to preserve World Heritage. He also expressed his hope that the meeting would provide a platform for cooperation and new partnerships.

- **Mr. Cheol-woo Lee, Governor of the Province of Gyeongsangbuk-do**, delivered his congratulatory remarks through a video clip. He expressed his wish that the meeting would successfully serve as a platform to discuss enhancement of partnership and cooperation among the National Commissions for UNESCO as well as UNESCO Category 2 Centres and Field Offices.

Election of the Chair

- **Mr. Kwangho Kim** was elected Chair of the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO.

Selection of the Drafting Group

- Mr. Kwangho Kim proposed that one representative be selected from each of the five subregions of the Asia-Pacific Region to form the Drafting Group for the Gyeongju Recommendation. Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi proposed that one representative be selected from among the Category 2 Centers as well. The following people were elected as members of the Drafting Group:
 - **Ms. Vicki Soanes**, Secretary-General of the New Zealand National Commission (Chair of the Drafting Group)
 - **Mr. Md. Taz Uddin**, Programme Officer at the Bangladesh National Commission
 - **Mr. Hojatollah Ayoubi**, Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission
 - **Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani**, Secretary-General of the Philippine National Commission
 - **Mr. Kwangho Kim**, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission
 - **Mr. Rigoberto Banta Jr.**, Assistant Programme Officer at the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU)

Session 1 – UNESCO's Place in a Changing World

- Moderator: **Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO**

Transforming UNESCO and Paving the Way for the Next C/5 (2022-2025)

- **Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald, Head of the Section for Cooperation with the UN System, in the Bureau of Strategic Planning at the UNESCO Secretariat**, began by giving some information about the context for the next C/5. She presented the core principles of the 2030 Agenda - universality, leaving no one behind, interconnectedness and indivisibility, inclusiveness, and multi-stakeholder partnership. She mentioned the nine Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17) that UNESCO is directly contributing to and explained the interconnectedness between the goals. She then introduced the main features of the current 39 C/5 (2018-2019) including its contribution to Agenda 2030 and its integrated budget framework. She presented UNESCO's resources mobilization strategy and the roles of Member States and National Commissions in its implementation. She also mentioned the Structured

Financing Dialogue, which she said aimed to build a strong enabling environment for the resources of UNESCO's programme. She gave a brief explanation about the repositioning of the UN Development System, focusing on six points in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly: i) reinvigoration of the UN's Resident Coordinator (RC) system, ii) creation of a new generation of UN Country Teams (UNCTs), iii) repositioning of UN work at the regional level, iv) transparency and accountability, v) the funding dialogue and vi) reporting to the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the progress in establishing a reinvigorated RC system. Following this, she provided some information about the strategic transformation of UNESCO. She presented details of the current challenges requiring in-depth strategic review and the position that the organization wishes to be in by 2030. She introduced three distinct pillars comprising the strategic transformation: i) changing the Organization's structure to strengthen management culture, ii) strengthening the efficiency of the means of action, and iii) strategic positioning for 2030. Lastly, she presented the main features of the 40 C/5 (2020-2021), which she said would include a commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO's two global priorities, UN reform, and the financial sustainability of the organization.

[Review of Implementation of the SDGs at the Regional Level, Focusing on SDGs 4, 8, 13, and 16, and UNESCO's Role in the Context of the UN Repositioning](#)

- **Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of the UNESCO Bangkok Office**, emphasized that the guiding principles of the UN repositioning were as follows: i) reinforcing national ownership; ii) developing country-contextual responses; and iii) ensuring effective delivery of development results on the ground. He reiterated that the role of National Commissions should be revisited, reconsidered and reorganized to better respond to the UN reform. For instance, he said that the role of National Commissions vis-à-vis the UN repositioning had become particularly important in countries with no UNESCO regional office. He said that National Commissions were expected to support the vision, mission, and objectives of UNESCO in each country's context. Mr. Aoyagi also presented the roadmap on Asia-Pacific regional support for SDG4 implementation and the next steps for SDG4. He explained that the annual Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education (APMED) would continue and that the Global Monitoring of SDG4 would be conducted every four years. He also mentioned that the Global Education Meeting would take place in December 2018 and that, for the first time, the progress of SDG4 would be reported to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development.
- **Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Jakarta Office**, shared that Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia were very important partners for the Regional Bureau for Science in Asia and the Pacific in the sense of financial support and implementation of joint projects through funds-in-trust. He also mentioned the partnerships with the Republic of Korea, and the governments of the Philippines and Timor Leste. He emphasized the increasing role of UNESCO Category 2 Centres, especially in the field of science, engineering, technology and innovation.

- **Ms. Marielza Oliveira, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office**, agreed that the UN repositioning process was highly important and emphasized cooperation among the UN agencies in peace-building efforts. She expressed her expectation that the process would increase the relevance and credibility of UNESCO. She also expressed her hope that the National Commissions and Category 2 Centres would take on more roles in the process.

- **Ms. Nisha, Director of the UNESCO Pacific Office** informed participants that the UN would be commissioning an independent Multi-Country Office Review, in recognition that the UN presence in the Pacific (as well as the Caribbean, and other places) was a mix of cluster- and sub-regional offices, like FAO, UNESCO and UNESCAP, and offices that anchor several country offices. She said that the UN agencies' representation offices were spread over Fiji and Samoa and that, while they were called UN Country Teams, they were in-fact UN Multi-country Teams or sub-regional teams. She said that only Papua New Guinea had a UN Country Team that operates only in that country and that UNESCO covered the office through the Pacific Office in Apia. Ms. Nisha mentioned that UNESCO was ready to engage constructively in the Multi-Country Office Review and that the outcome of this review was likely to have direct impact on UNESCO and the National Commissions. She noted that the National Commissions, with the access that they have within their governments, were well-placed to provide inputs to this review, and play a key role in the implementation of any accepted recommendations. She said that, in view of this, it was important that the National Commissions engage with their country's Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York as well as with their ministries dealing with foreign affairs.

[Roles of National Commissions in UNESCO's Strategic Transformation](#)

- **Mr. Genc Seiti, Director of the Division of Member States and Partners at the UNESCO Secretariat**, reiterated UNESCO's current challenges, which he said required in-depth strategic review and major change. He introduced some of the key differences with previous transformation efforts and mentioned the three distinct pillars that compose the strategic transformation, seconding Ms. Théobald's presentation. He stressed that the involvement of Member States was strongly required in pillar 2 (strengthening the efficiency of the means of action) and 3 (strategic positioning for 2030), to strengthen the efficiency of the means of action and strategic positioning for Agenda 2030. He also introduced the recommendation from the Kenya Meeting, which included increasing the role of National Commissions in implementation of the strategic transformation, and stated his expectation that the document would be discussed at the next UNESCO Executive Board.

Discussion

Some participants raised questions regarding the relationship between UNESCO and UN RCs as well as other UN agencies under the UN Reform process. Clarification was also sought on the meaning of 'country-contextual response' and how it could be applied to responding to global problems. Questions were also asked about whether the National Commissions would be incorporated into the UN system or remain operating individually.

Mr. Aoyagi explained that the most important issue was how UNESCO positioned itself within the UN system. He noted his expectation that the role of the National Commissions would become significant in the consultation and decisions on the priorities for the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), for instance. He mentioned that National Commissions were part of drafting the UNDAF in some countries, but that this was not the case for many countries. He expressed a wish for the National Commissions to be more visible in the process. Lastly, he shared that UNICEF and UNESCO were the co-chairs of efforts towards SDG4 in Asia-Pacific, and that the WHO was cooperating with UNESCO in respect of the HIV/AIDS issue.

Ms. Théobald responded that the reform would be challenging due to financial constraints and the scale of change. However, she explained that linking with the RCs may be an opportunity for UNESCO. For example, she suggested the possibility of UNESCO working as an RC as well as the possibility of common programming and funding.

Mr. Seiti said that the objectives and principles of the UNESCO reform process were to put the programmes at the heart of UNESCO and to take measures to improve its management system.

Thursday, 20 September 2018 (Day II)

Session 2 – Strengthening Cooperation between National Commissions and UNESCO's Category 2 Centres in the Region for More Effective Work on the Ground

※ Owing to weather conditions, which necessitated moving the field trip to the afternoon of Day I, the afternoon sessions of Day I and Day II were swapped. The originally scheduled Session 2, 'Moving Forward: Strengthening the Network of National Commissions for UNESCO,' was moved to the afternoon of Day II and became Session 3.

• **Moderator: Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of the UNESCO Bangkok Office**

Mr. Aoyagi emphasized the increasing importance of partnership between National Commissions and Category 2 Centres, and shared information regarding Category 2 Centres at the present critical juncture for UNESCO. He described how, in connection with UNESCO's strategic transformation, the UNESCO Secretariat had conducted an audit of the status of 115 Category 2 Centres around the world in the previous year, and that the following 2 recommendations were given in regard to the procedure for the establishment of Category 2 Centres and their operation: 1) the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) sector should establish guidelines to limit the number of Category 2 Centres and to examine the operation of existing Category 2 Centres, and 2) the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs should standardize the model of the agreement under which Category 2 Centres are established. He added that Category 2 Centres were very important during the current period of the UN repositioning and UNESCO's strategic transformation, especially in terms of programme implementation.

The Asia Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU, located in the Republic of Korea)

- **Mr. Utak Chung, Director of APCEIU**, introduced APCEIU's initiative on Global Citizenship Education (GCED). He stated that APCEIU's main area of focus had shifted from Education for International Understanding (EIU) to GCED, as GCED was included in the post-2015 education agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4.7). He said that APCEIU's main activities were 1) capacity building for educators, 2) research & policy development, 3) development of materials & dissemination of information, and 4) networking & partnership. He shared details of recent collaborative programmes with National Commissions and invited further collaboration, suggesting the following concrete ways in which National Commissions could contribute:
 - nominating participants and conducting follow-up activities for capacity building programmes for educators;
 - co-organizing activities on integration of GCED into national/local curricula and consultation on policy guidelines for Member States;
 - identifying and contributing to quality resources & best practices on GCED; and

- participating actively in the Asia-Pacific Regional GCED Network and the Annual International Conference on GCED.

[The International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management \(ICHARM, located in Japan\)](#)

• **Mr. Toshio Koike, Director of ICHARM**, stated that ICHARM's work was directly related to SDGs 11.5 and 13.1, which address the impact of disasters (including water-related disasters) that are increasing due to climate change. He said that ICHARM's mission was to deliver the best available knowledge to assist local practices, and shared details of the centre's main activities and best practices, which focus on research, training and education, and international networking. He noted that, in terms of research, the centre had various types of hydrological and meteorological models and was currently developing a modeling system. He said that, in terms of training and education, ICHARM provided Master's and Ph.D. courses that bridged science and technology with policy, and were aimed at those in academia, as well as officials and critical leaders in each country. In terms of international networking, Mr Koike said that ICHARM was cooperating with related UN agencies and the international science community on a joint initiative called the International Flood Initiative (IFI). He also mentioned the Platform on Water Resilience and Disasters under IFI. He explained that, through this platform, an 'Integrated Risk Assessment', which involved interdisciplinary collaboration, was being carried out to identify and monitor current changes, and to predict future change for community practice. He also gave details of activities carried out in the Philippines in regard to this platform, as an example of recent work in the Asia-Pacific region.

[The International Science Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation \(ISTIC, located in Malaysia\)](#)

• **Ms. Sharifah Maimunah Syed Zin, Director of ISTIC**, said that ISTIC was an international platform for South-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI), with a large regional coverage that extends to Africa and Latin America. She affirmed that ISTIC was contributing to UNESCO's strategic programme objectives as shown by the fact that its agreement with UNESCO had been renewed for a second term. She said that the centre's objectives were to 1) build capacities of scientists, technologists, innovators and policy makers from countries in the South, 2) address common and specific problems faced by developing countries to set up knowledge-based enterprises in advanced technologies, and 3) facilitate information exchange and transfer between the public and private sector. She noted that ISTIC's activities focused on capacity building, however it also provided consultancy and was involved in information sharing and publication. Mentioning STI policy, Women in STI, and IBSE and STEM education, Ms. Syed Zin introduced various priority agenda-based programmes on which, she said, ISTIC partnered with many institutions, explaining that collaborations were on a cost-sharing basis. Ms. Syed Zin also mentioned the centre's collaboration with the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO, saying that this had focused mainly on dissemination of information about programmes that the centre implemented.

[The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region \(WHITRAP, located in China\)](#)

• **Mr. Simone Ricca, Vice-Director of WHITRAP**, indicated that compared to other Category 2 Centres present at this event, collaboration with National Commissions was an area for development in WHITRAP and said that the present meeting was a good opportunity to do this. He stated that WHITRAP had been providing expertise in World Heritage to Member States and to the network of UNESCO Field Offices under the overall scheme of the World Heritage (WH) Convention. He introduced WHITRAP's mission of strengthening implementation of the WH Convention in the region by building the capacities of state parties in terms of WH property inscription, protection, conservation and management, through training, research, dissemination of information and networking. He also shared WHITRAP's main objectives, and noted that the centre aims to achieve a more balanced geographical distribution for its training and research activities, and foster greater international collaboration with National Commissions. He introduced the following recent initiatives of the centre: 1) protecting and conserving urban heritage and promoting the sustainable development of cities, 2) developing a capacity-building strategy and associated programmes for Asia and the Pacific, in which capacity-building is viewed as a long-term continual process of development that involves all stakeholders, 3) improving conservation and management practices, and 4) awareness raising and education on World Heritage.

[The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region \(IHCAP, located in the Republic of Korea\)](#)

• **Mr. Deoksoon Kim, Chief of Planning and Cooperation at IHCAP**, explained the special circumstances of IHCAP, being one of several Category 2 Centres situated in neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific region that work in the same field, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). He added that the centre had differentiated itself from the other such Category 2 Centres by focusing on information dissemination and networking. He shared details of the regional scope of the centre's activities, the wide range of target levels for collaboration (from regional organizations to local communities and NGOs), and the centre's main activities. Mr. Kim then provided some statistics regarding National Commissions and presented a positioning map of Category 2 Centres in UNESCO networks compared National Commissions, which highlighted the capacity of Category 2 Centres to implement programmes in specialized sectors at the regional and national levels. He stated that IHCAP's previous and current programmes were based on active cooperation with National Commissions in the region and shared details of the centre's practices for cooperation and regular communication with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. He concluded by suggesting 1) strengthening the partnerships between National Commissions and Category 2 Centres by information-sharing through a regular regional meeting of National Commissions, 2) building a system for information exchange by increasing the participation of Category 2 Centres in the governing boards of National Commissions, and 3) developing diverse personnel exchange programmes between Category 2 Centres and National Commissions.

Discussion

Some participants introduced activities that they were undertaking in cooperation with Category 2 Centres in their countries, and suggested that more opportunities be encouraged for exchange between Category 2 Centres and National Commissions. Some participants expressed appreciation for collaborative activities carried out with APCEIU, and shared details of their efforts to pursue GCED. Some mentioned the activities of other Category 2 Centres in the region. One representative pointed out that Category 2 Centres in other regions had same challenge as the Category 2 Centres in Asia-Pacific to build their visibility and credibility, and expressed hopes for inter-regional network exchange. One representative suggested to Mr. Shigeru that further possible ways be sought in which UNESCO could work more closely with National Commissions and support the capacity building of National Commission staff. The Korean National Commission mentioned that it participated in the governing board of each of the Category 2 Centres in the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Genc Seiti, Director of the Division of Member States and Partners at the UNESCO Secretariat, stated that the five Category 2 Centres which had presented their activities at the present event were examples of excellently-operated centres in the region, but that not all 115 Category 2 Centres around the world were in the same situation. He stated that this discussion was timely in respect of the current juncture at which UNESCO found itself, and stated that at the 207th session of the UNESCO Executive Board an integrated framework for Category 2 Centres would be presented for adoption. He reiterated the importance of Category 2 Centres within the framework of UNESCO's strategic transformation and suggested expanding their partnerships globally.

Mr. Utak Chung, Director of APCEIU, stated that strong leadership and coordination was required to enhance networking and information-sharing between Category 2 Centres and National Commissions. He noted, however, that the management of the two types of entity was divided in UNESCO, with Category 2 Centres falling under the BSP section and National Commissions falling under the External Relations and Public Information (ERI) section. He therefore suggested that management of Category 2 Centres and National Commissions be brought under the same section (ERI) as part of the organizational reform.

Session 3 – Moving Forward: Strengthening the Network of National Commissions for UNESCO

• Moderator: **Mr. Alisher Ikramov**, Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

Mr. Ikramov reiterated the important role of National Commissions in promoting visibility of UNESCO's activities. As one way to do so, he stressed that National Commissions should coordinate implementation of UNESCO's normative documents. In relation to this, he stated that regional National Commissions should play a more active role with regard to the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education 2011, which only 5 Member States in the region have so far ratified.

Enhancing the Cooperation among National Commissions for UNESCO

• **Mr. Khaga Raj Baral, Secretary-General of the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO**, briefly introduced his National Commissions and explained some of the challenges it is facing. He gave examples of previous cases of cooperation that Nepal National Commission had experienced with other National Commissions, such as the building of a school/community learning centre with the Korean National Commission. He stressed that there should be more cooperation among National Commissions in terms of capacity building, exchange of manuals and resources, expert assistance and exchange programmes with regard to implementing the SDGs. He also recommended publishing an Asia Pacific Regional Newsletter capturing the major activities of all National Commissions in the region.

Enhancing the Cooperation of the UNESCO Field Offices and the National Commissions for UNESCO

• **Ms. Danielle Cochrane, Secretary-General of the Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO**, gave a brief overview of the various structures and priorities of National Commissions in the Pacific region and elaborated on the financial, structural and HR challenges that these National Commissions face. She emphasized that the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific region should be given greater recognition and that the unique contexts of the individual National Commissions in the Pacific should be understood. She stressed that, in order to address the issue of staff turnover within many National Commissions, there should be regular capacity-building activities for National Commissions in relation to the implementation of the SDGs, and called for increased sectoral cooperation among National Commissions in the form of peer monitoring. In regard to the strengthening of relations between National Commissions and the Regional/Field Offices, she highlighted the importance of information sharing and communication, especially in strategic discussions. Finally, she stated the need for 'one voice' among the UNESCO Secretariat, Field Offices and National Commissions.

The Contribution of National Commissions to UNESCO's Strategic Transformation

• **Mr. Yosuke Kobayashi, Deputy Secretary-General of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO**, introduced four major activities being undertaken by the Japanese National Commission in line with the aims of UNESCO's strategic transformation: i) staff exchanges through fellowship programmes; ii) Funds-In-Trust projects for contributions/cooperation in the Asia Pacific region towards achieving the SDGs; iii) cooperation with private-sector UNESCO-related organizations; and iv) activities with schools within the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) to promote ESD. He called for more participation of the National Commissions from the region in these kinds of activities. He also made comments on the link between these activities and five recommendations for UNESCO's strategic transformation: i) raising the visibility of UNESCO; ii) provision of a capacity-building programme for staff members of National Commissions; iii) further collaboration in the hugely diverse region of Asia-Pacific and in each sector of

UNESCO's programmes; iv) strengthening the cooperation among the UNESCO Secretariat, Field Offices and National Commissions; and v) building a common message or 'one voice' among diverse stakeholders.

Practical Guidelines for the Functioning of National Commissions

- **Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani, Secretary-General of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO**, set out the following factors for reforming National Commissions to be more efficient and effective, summarizing the 'Architecture of National Commissions for UNESCO: fundamentals concerning their status, composition and resources (UNESCO 2009)' and the 'Key Points of the National Commission Action Plan (from 37 C/50, 2013)': i) responsible and yet autonomous relations with government ministries; ii) inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral cooperation; iii) effective leadership and adequate staffing; and iv) mutually-supportive relations with Permanent Delegations and UNESCO Field/Cluster Offices. She also stressed the importance of strengthening interactions and partnerships among National Commissions and improving cooperation between National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat. Finally, she stated that the UNESCO Secretariat should be more accountable to and cooperative with National Commissions by providing communication materials, and the National Commissions should utilize them more actively to implement UNESCO activities domestically.

Discussion

The moderator gave several examples of solidarity funds for cooperation and proposed that the National Commissions in the Asia Pacific region should also establish one. He also suggested that this element be added to the draft of the Gyeongju Recommendation. One representative stated his agreement on the importance of resource-sharing and stressed that the SDGs should be linked more closely to existing activities undertaken by the UNESCO Secretariat, Field Offices and National Commissions. This participant also proposed adding a line to the Gyeongju Recommendation about partnerships in relation to the strategic transformation. Some participants from the Pacific stressed the need for SIDS' voices to be heard, and one representative mentioned in particular that a member of the SIDS should be represented on the Executive Board in accordance with the principle of universality. One representative mentioned that coordination should be improved among National Commissions, Field Offices and Regional Offices with regard to UNESCO's development activities. Another representative stated that interpretation of the SDGs was very important and UNESCO should give written guidelines for National Commissions to be able to interpret the SDGs in accordance with UNESCO's views.

Session 3 – (Parallel Discussions)

Enhancing the Cooperation among National Commissions for UNESCO

- Facilitator: **Ms. Nisha, Director of the UNESCO Pacific Office**

Ms. Nisha opened the session by underlining the role of National Commissions as the liaison between UNESCO and the Member States. She suggested that National Commissions should bring their power and diplomacy together to work for UNESCO's mandate. She asked the participants to give opinions on how National Commissions could better collaborate together, bearing in mind the following issues: i) how should National Commissions cooperate to make decision making processes accessible to all? ii) how should National Commissions undertake capacity building for each other?, and iii) how can National Commissions and other members of the UNESCO family speak with one voice as UNESCO as a whole. She mentioned that human resources, budget, and capacity were some of the challenges faced by the National Commissions and encouraged participants to make their discussions solution-oriented.

Mr. Woo-jin Cho, Assistant Secretary General in the Bureau of Development Cooperation at the Korean National Commission, suggested that the participants from each National Commission share the major activities of their respective organizations to build a better understanding of each other's work and explore potential areas of cooperation.

Ms. Nongsilinee Mosika, Deputy Secretary General of the Thai National Commission, suggested that to enhance cooperation among National Commissions, firstly, each Member State should foster relationships between state agencies and associations, universities, and other research centers and institutions with expertise in UNESCO's mandate areas. Secondly, she suggested that National Commissions should contribute to UNESCO-related activities, programmes and evaluation at the national level. Thirdly, she suggested that National Commissions provide channels for dissemination of information obtained from other countries relating to UNESCO's mandate areas. Lastly, she recommended that National Commissions encourage national-level interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation with institutions concerned with UNESCO's mandate areas.

Ms. Namun Ganbat, Chief Secretary of the Mongolian National Commission, informed the participants that her organization focused on youth, implementing mainly Model UNESCO and ASPnet schools programmes. She requested cooperation with other National Commissions to expand these two activities to the regional level.

Ms. Natasha Hairin Mohamad Yusoff, Executive Secretary of the Malaysian National Commission, suggested sharing knowledge and expertise relevant to UNESCO's areas of competency. As concrete examples of cooperation among National Commissions, she suggested i) establishment of ASPnet modalities; ii) development of world heritage action plans; and iii) exchange programmes between National Commissions to facilitate peer-learning on various themes, including administrative processes, policy and ways of promoting UNESCO in each country.

Mr. Sebastien Goupil, Secretary General of the Canadian Commission, underlined the importance of systematic changes and prioritization when it comes to raising the profile of and enhancing cooperation among National Commissions. He suggested an orientation programme on the role and contribution of National Commissions for newly appointed staff members within National Commissions and UNESCO. He also suggested organizing mandatory sessions for new staff members and other stakeholders, which he suggested could be held, for instance, in the margins of the Executive Board Meetings. He also suggested organizing sessions for sharing knowledge and best practices on enhancing visibility of the Organization, as well as on ways to raise awareness of the contribution that UNESCO makes and the roles of National Commissions. He added that youth engagement was a practical area where National Commissions could cooperate.

Mr. Md. Taz Uddin, Program Officer at the Bangladesh National Commission, pointed out that the monthly newsletter sent to National Commissions contained only limited information about National Commissions. He also mentioned that there was only one page for each National Commission in the annual report, which allows each National Commission to share only a few activities. He emphasized the need for effective ways to enhance collaboration and visibility among the National Commissions. He suggested that the Participation Programme could be used for joint activities among the National Commissions in sub-regions. In addition, he suggested utilizing social media or the common website for the National Commissions to share information.

Mr. Ratnaweera Premalal, Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka National Commission, reiterated the importance of 'one voice'. Furthermore, he suggested that the Secretariat provide stronger and more concrete guidelines for the National Commissions, which, in the case of the Sri Lanka National Commission, would help it gain more authority.

Ms. Jerielyn Teleni, Secretary-General of the Nauru National Commission, suggested hosting of subregional meetings. In addition, she underlined that the learning process among the National Commissions should be a two-way street. Lastly, she asked for commitment from other partners in the Asia-Pacific in making the voice of the Pacific countries heard in the region as well as more widely within UNESCO.

Mr. Jiagui Zhou, Deputy Secretary-General at the Chinese National Commission, pointed out, concerning cooperation among the National Commissions, that there were differences between National Commissions as each of them has its own challenges and demands. He suggested encouraging the expertise of each National Commissions. Second, he suggested establishment of a major channel among the National Commissions. He introduced some of the activities that the Chinese National Commission had been implementing such as a staff exchange programme, capacity-building seminars for Chinese partners, and joint projects with the public sector, such as universities. He suggested creation of a mechanism to exchange information, needs and requests among the National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Mr. Woo-jin Cho suggested utilization of existing UNESCO designation programmes, such as World Heritage, MAB, Creative Cities, and ASPnet, to develop cooperation programmes between the National Commissions. Moreover, reiterating the importance of UNESCO's role in the implementation of Agenda 2030, he suggested that National Commissions focus on the SDGs when planning joint projects in the future. He pointed out that, since most National Commissions are part of the Ministry of Education, they would be interested in the implementation of SDG4, and suggested that development of cooperation programmes for SDG4 would be an effective method of cooperation between National Commissions that would also gain support from the Ministry of Education in each Member State.

The discussion group made the following recommendations:

1. A joint programme among the National Commissions to enhance National Commission visibility using media and the patronage capacity of the National Commissions, which would also build communication capacity among the National Commissions.
2. Mutual capacity-building support for specific SDGs such as 4, 14, 16, which would also contribute to SDGs 10 and 17. This initiative should be combined with an interactive website and mobile application for the National Commissions that enables them to share their programme information and data, and to communicate with one another. Such an initiative could be started by a Member State with IT and social media development capacity, which could also support other Member States to develop these skills.
3. Utilization of Participation Programmes for joint (sub) regional capacity development on issues of mutual and shared priority, such as monitoring and evaluation of activities and National Commission staff development.
4. Creating safe and equal spaces for capacity support from one Member State to another on specific UNESCO programmes, such as supporting a Member State to draft a World Heritage, MAB, or MOW nomination file.

Enhancing the Cooperation of the UNESCO Field Offices and the National Commissions for UNESCO

- Facilitator: **Ms. Jun Morohashi, Head of the Executive Office of the UNESCO Bangkok Office**
Ms. Morohashi introduced the question for discussion in the parallel session: 'how to improve the collaboration between Field Offices and National Commissions', and reminded participants of the purpose of the discussion, saying that the inputs from the group would be reflected in the Gyeongju Recommendation. In response to requests from Ms. Bwakura Metutera Timeon, Permanent Secretary of the Kiribati National Commission and Ms. Danielle Cochrane, Secretary-General of the Cook Islands National Commission, Ms. Morohashi explained the structure and responsibilities of national, cluster and regional offices, and how they work together, noting that all offices were trying to work as part of the regional network of Field Offices, for instance through joint programming and planning, and joint mobilization and sharing of resources and expertise. She noted that challenges arose from this structure, in relation to the overlapping or weak harmonization of actions happening at the country level.

Mr. Karma Yeshey, Secretary-General of the Bhutan National Commission, mentioned that Bhutan geographically fell into the area covered by the Delhi Cluster Office but worked more closely with the Bangkok Office. He explained that collaboration was often relationship-driven and human linkages were crucial. However, he stressed that in order to institutionalize the collaboration mechanism, proper paths to follow were required, to avoid cooperation based on personal relationships being caught in bureaucracy.

Mr. Genc Seiti, Director of the Division of Member States and Partners at the UNESCO Secretariat, recommended four important documents for National Commissions to refer to in relation to the theme of this session: i) Article 7 of the UNESCO constitution; ii) the Charter of National Commissions from 20 years ago; iii) the 39GC Action Plan – including discussion of relations between National Commissions and the Secretariat (and Field Offices); and iv) the Guidelines for National Commissions and the Secretariat presented at the 2016 Shanghai inter-regional meeting. He also called for National Commissions' participation in and review of the annual report of National Commissions, saying that this would be helpful for seeing the main points of interest among National Commissions and how the overall network is functioning. Finally, he suggested that National Commissions actively utilize unesco.int, a website on which all kinds of information, documents, and working tools are available for National Commissions.

Ms. Jun Morohashi asked Mr. Genc Seiti to put all the official documents on the Google platform created for the meeting and proposed that participants focus discussion on collaboration issues related to visibility, credibility, and voices within the government.

Ms. Danielle Cochrane stressed that a more robust communication strategy should be implemented by Field Offices. She explained that as there was a high turnover of staff in National Commissions in the Pacific region, more detailed and specific guidelines for National Commissions were needed. She recommended that the UNESCO Secretariat communicate with National Commissions via Field Offices in order to improve communication.

Mr. Sukarna, a Programme Officer at the Indonesian National Commission, emphasized the importance of information sharing.

Mr. Kwi-bae Kim, Assistant Secretary-General in the Bureau of Sciences & Culture at the Korean National Commission, mentioned the need for capacity-building workshops for new National Commission Secretaries General and staff members. He suggested that regional meetings between National Commissions and Field Offices be held every two years, and that sub-regional meetings be held more regularly as they are more cost-efficient. Also, he stated that Field Offices should utilize National Commissions in implementing UNESCO activities.

Mr. David Imtiaz Ali, a Programme Officer at the Fiji National Commission, agreed with what other participants had said and suggested that National Commissions and Field Offices should work as one group to collaborate and achieve the UNESCO-related SDGs.

Mr. Karma Yeshey agreed with Mr. Kim's suggestion of sub-regional meetings. However, he mentioned that, considering the issues of budget and logistics, the meetings should be held biennially, and share broader and richer experiences. He also emphasized the importance of institutionalization to bolster National Commission systems and activities. Therefore, he said, he agreed with para 3(a) of the draft Gyeongju Recommendation, on the minimum requirements for National Commissions. Finally, he stated that capacity building should be given more recognition and emphasis in the Recommendation.

Mr. Rigoberto Banta Jr., Assistant Programme Specialist at APCEIU, expressed the need for more communication in collaborations with National Commissions. He mentioned that APCEIU was working closely with National Commissions and asked National Commissions to more actively utilize the capacity-building programmes APCEIU provides.

Mr. Simone Ricca, Deputy Director of WHITRAP, asked Field Offices to help coordinate relationships between Category 2 Centres and National Commissions.

Ms. Da Young Lee, a Programme Specialist from the International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement (ICM) mentioned the difficulties ICM was facing as a newly set-up C2C and expressed a wish to receive advice from National Commissions so it could address those difficulties and grow.

Ms. Jun Morohashi said that National Commissions, Category 2 Centres, Category 1 Institutes, the UNESCO Secretariat, and Field Offices were working for the same goal but did not always communicate each other, let alone collaborate sufficiently. Therefore, she emphasized the importance of having 'one voice' among UNESCO entities. She summarized the key points raised and discussed during the parallel session as being: i) information sharing and communication; ii) annual meetings (sub-regional) / biennial meetings (regional); iii) capacity building for new staff and new Secretaries General. As a way of sharing knowledge, she asked participants to share information about National Commissions' activities via UNESCO Bangkok. She elaborated that the Bangkok Office could help promote National Commissions' activities regionally using its public information and outreach channels. Finally, she mentioned that Field Offices and National Commissions could plan together in order to improve cooperation with regard to staff exchanges, capacity-building workshops and revamping of ASPnet, which she suggested could be an excellent platform for cooperation.

Mr. Karma Yeshey suggested that ASPnet and staff exchanges should be broadened and expanded. He also mentioned that capacity building was needed so that each National Commission could carry out more focused activities appropriate to the specific context of each country in the areas of the SDGs, UNESCO Conventions, ESD and GCED, and collaboration on UNESCO heritage.

Ms. Danielle Cochrane stressed that more efforts should be made for sub-regional collaboration among National Commissions. She mentioned that regional meetings such as the present meeting were very

valuable, but if it was practically difficult to hold regional meetings on an annual or biennial basis, annual sub-regional meetings of National Commissions could be an alternative.

Mr. Kwi-bae Kim mentioned that fund-raising and implementation of UNESCO Conventions were fields in which capacity building was greatly needed. Ms. Danielle Cochrane agreed with this and added that it was important to understand how to access funding sources. She also mentioned that extra support was needed for National Commissions to engage in areas where their present capacity was not so strong.

The Contribution of National Commissions to UNESCO's Strategic Transformation

• Facilitator: **Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Jakarta Office**

Mr. Khan explained that UNESCO's strategic transformation would not be the same as previous reform efforts. He stated that, while issues related to budgetary constraints and UNESCO's less-than-satisfactory working methods were still of concern, the reform effort's different working groups were benefiting from rich insights from a wide variety of people. He suggested that the discussion group focus on the three pillars of UNESCO's strategic transformation: 1) changing the structure to strengthen management culture, 2) strengthening the efficiency of the means of action, and 3) strategic positioning for 2030.

Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald, Head of the Section for Cooperation with the UN System, within UNESCO's Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), added that UNESCO's strategic transformation was very closely linked with the general reform efforts of the UN Development System. She noted that the primary aim of the strategic transformation was to place programmes back at the core of the Organization's mandate. To such ends, she added, National Commissions for UNESCO had a key role to play at the national level. She said that as National Commissions were closely linked to their governments, they could help increase ownership at the national level when incorporating UNESCO activities into the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in the context of the new Resident Coordinators (RC) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

Mr. Alisher Ikramov, Secretary General of the Uzbekistan National Commission, pointed out that National Commissions were not a major part of the previous reform efforts, such as Delivering as One.

Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald noted that many Member States had been asking for an evaluation of the impact of initiatives such as Delivering as One. She remarked that such evaluations would prove useful.

Ms. Sharifah Maimunah Syed Zin, Director of the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC), stated that UNESCO was not very visible in some countries, including Malaysia. UNESCO's major programmes, she added, needed to be strengthened, and promoted better to the national audience, especially with regard to their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She added that it seemed better for National Commissions to be autonomous from their governments, since they could then carry out their own programmes.

Ms. Uyanga Sukhbaatar, Secretary General of the Mongolian National Commission, brought up the issue of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of SDG implementation. She explained that it was difficult to have indicators at the country level, but noted that these voluntary reports helped countries define implementation of the SDGs, and assess progress.

Mr. Shahbaz Khan noted that there should be a mechanism to link National Commissions, UN development agencies, UNCT, and UNESCO. He proposed that UNESCO and National Commissions should be trained in this regard.

Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald clarified that such training had already taken place, with courses on common country programming within the UN development agenda. She said that such training was customized for UNESCO field officers, and that UNESCO was currently in the second phase, which was to train people at the Secretariat. She said that UNESCO would like also suggest a one-day training session for the Senior Management Team, and share the information with the Member States if they are interested in more details on this subject. She added that these issues still needed to be highlighted further.

Mr. Alisher Ikramov noted that, since different countries work with different statistics and working methods, institutions such as UIS may be needed to coordinate such training efforts.

Ms. Yang-sook Lee, Head of External Relations at the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), maintained that the role of National Commissions in the monitoring of SDG implementation should be recognized. She added that the next UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which will focus on SDG4, should be taken as an opportunity to train National Commissions and other stakeholders on these issues. She proposed that a follow-up meeting to the Gyeongju meeting be organized to prepare for HLPF together. She shared APCEIU's experience in organizing annual seminars on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) at UN Headquarters, and pointed out that activities in the field were not always satisfactorily shared.

Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald noted that there was a website that compiled all relevant information, including the past VNRs, called the "SDG Knowledge Platform." Mr. Alisher Ikramov suggested that the use of Goodwill Ambassadors would be helpful as well.

Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary General of the Korean National Commission commented that, while UNESCO was very visible in Korea, it had an issue of branding, as it was often confused with UNICEF. He added that there may continue to be political challenges, but that National Commissions and UNESCO needed to go back to core values, such as peace, reliability, and credibility. He noted that if National Commissions and UNESCO were sincere in their work, stakeholders such as goodwill ambassadors would want to work with them.

Ms. Francisca Alzira de Jesus Soares, the National Coordinator at the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO, noted that understanding of the SDGs was very vague at national level. She proposed that the concepts and the messages of the SDGs be simplified for wider dissemination to raise awareness. She added that national five- or ten-year plans on what countries could achieve may be useful.

Ms. Eun-Young Kim, Director of the Division of Sciences and Youth at the Korean National Commission (KNCU), explained that KNCU had been publishing handbooks on a few of the SDGs, meant for public distribution. So far, she added, KNCU had published handbooks on SDGs 4, 7, and 11, with more on the way.

Mr. Eko Windu Prasetya, a Programme Officer at the Indonesian National Commission, suggested that a national network was needed before an international one.

Practical Guidelines for the Functioning of National Commissions

• Facilitators: **Ms. Assel Utegenova, Deputy Coordinator of ERI, at the UNESCO Secretariat, and Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani, Secretary-General of the Philippine National Commission**

Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani suggested focusing the discussion on challenges faced by National Commissions

Mr. Jinsung Jeon, Director of the Division of Culture at the Korean National Commission, expressed regret that National Commissions were recognized by UNESCO only as one among many different partners. He emphasized that the role of National Commissions was unique and differentiated from other UNESCO partners, as it was specified in the UNESCO Constitution. He argued, therefore, that it was time for National Commissions to work to improve their status within UNESCO.

Mr. Arief Rachman, Secretary General of the Indonesian National Commission, mentioned that the biggest challenge was the difficulty of explaining to the general public what National Commissions were and why they were necessary. He said that many people did not even understand clearly what UNESCO was. Hence, he said, the first and foremost task was to popularize the basic philosophy and function of UNESCO.

Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani inquired if the participants thought that their National Commissions were in the 'right' ministry, given the fact that some National Commissions were part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while others were part of the Ministry of Education or Culture. She also asked, if it were possible to decide which ministry National Commissions should belong to, which ministry it should be.

Participants gave a variety of answers to this question, including the presidential or prime minister's office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other ministries. Those who said it would be good for National Commissions to be a part of the presidential or prime minister's office, said that it was because it would promote better cooperation among different government ministries. Those who said it would be better to be under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered it the best since it would help National Commissions

maintain good relationships with their country's permanent delegation to UNESCO, making it easier to speak with one voice. In contrast, some shortcomings of being a part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also mentioned, for example, having limited capacity to implement many domestic activities such as the UCCN and ASPnet programmes. Lastly, participants agreed that it was not necessary to have only one type of National Commission; what was more important than the structure of the National Commissions was a clearer understanding of UNESCO's mandate and securing sufficient financial and human resources to support UNESCO-related activities.

Mr. Hyun Mook Lim, Assistant Secretary General (ASG) of the Bureau of Education at the Korean National Commission, suggested that National Commissions themselves develop a form of guidelines, if necessary, without relying on the UNESCO Secretariat to provide specific guidelines. He also offered as an example the Korean National Commission's structure and coordination mechanism.

Ms. Assel Utegenova shared that UNESCO was planning to organize training for newly appointed Secretaries General of National Commissions in 2019 following a request at the Kenya Meeting. She said that the Organization also expected to create an online platform for National Commissions to improve the means of information sharing. She noted that, in order to implement these activities, 305,000 USD of the remaining 18.5 million USD unspent funds under the 38 C/5 had been requested by the Secretariat. She also said that these plans and the budget for them would be discussed and hopefully adopted at the 205th Session of the Executive Board.

Mr. Jinsung Jeon welcomed these plans and emphasized the importance of this kind of mutual support mechanism between the UNESCO Secretariat and Member States. Pointing out that the UNESCO Secretariat had had a strong National Commission Section in the past, he proposed the necessity of reestablishing this section within UNESCO and the need for UNESCO ADGs and directors to better understand the status and role of National Commissions. This, he said, was because the UNESCO Secretariat's re-confirmation of the significance of National Commissions was crucial to promote their active participation.

Ms. Noraisah Binti Spahat, the Secretary General of the Malaysia National Commission, stated that it was important to prove the benefits of implementing various UNESCO-related activities in a country. She said that, in a similar vein, raising the visibility of UNESCO was crucial, and noted that the celebration of an annual 'UNESCO day' in Malaysia was quite successful for that purpose.

Mr. V.K. Siljo, Secretary of the Indian National Commission, stated that National Commissions were sometimes skipped in the communication process between UNESCO regional offices and local experts or institutions. He insisted that National Commissions should be given all the information regarding UNESCO-related activities happening in their country.

Mr. Jinsung Jeon reiterated the necessity of improving UNESCO's understanding of National Commissions and the necessity of sufficient budget allocation. He suggested that the National Commissions request the UNESCO Director General to secure proper allocation for National Commissions.

Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani suggested amending the Gyeongju Recommendation so that it reflected the requirements needed for National Commissions to function more effectively. She also suggested specifying the Kenyan and Korean National Commissions in the Recommendation as examples of best practice. The participants agreed that the best way to promote the Gyeongju Recommendation was for National Commissions to convey the document to their permanent delegations and relevant government ministries.

Ms. Assel Utegenova advised National Commissions to make active contact with UNESCO's newly appointed Assistant Directors General before and during the Executive Board to help them better understand the importance of National Commissions.

Mr. Hyun Mook Lim proposed two specific suggestions; first, updating the practical guidelines for the functioning of National Commissions (with the UNESCO Secretariat developing the guidelines and the National Commissions then reviewing them), and second, reestablishing the section in charge of National Commissions within UNESCO.

Friday, 21 September 2018 (Day III)

Session 4 – Creating Synergies and Raising the Visibility of National Commissions through Regional Networks

• Moderator: **Mr. Genc Seiti, Director of the Division of Member States and Partners at the UNESCO Secretariat**

How European Networks of National Commissions Help National Commissions to Better Contribute to UNESCO's Work

• **Mr. Sebastien Goupil, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO**, began by emphasizing the significance of National Commissions, stating his belief that it was ultimately National Commissions that could implement concrete UNESCO activities and remind people of UNESCO's values and priorities in a non-political way. He also stated that it was the collective responsibility of National Commissions to make their network stronger and more visible. He then spoke about how National Commissions could contribute to UNESCO's work through their network. First, he talked about the value of working at a regional level. He gave seven specific ways in which National Commissions could contribute: i) building solidarity and trust, ii) providing various institutional and leadership models, iii) enabling the sharing of information, experiences and best practices, iv) acting as think tanks to develop ideas and establish mutual priorities, v) providing a trusted space to comment on proposals and draft resolutions, vi) enabling the development of partnerships between National Commissions, and vii) strengthening the reputation/credibility of National Commissions with their own stakeholders. Second, he introduced the Canadian Commission's experiences and success stories. He said that the Canadian Commission had a clear framework that explains what they do as a National Commission: to be engaging, relevant, and visible. He said that, based on this framework, the Canadian Commission had developed three operational priorities: 1) active support to networks and partners, 2) a strong role as convener and influencer, and 3) highly visible actions and contributions. He shared some examples of actions for networks (such as UNESCO Chairs, and Biosphere Reserves), and of awareness-raising campaigns using social media platforms. Lastly, he mentioned some ideas for enhancing regional/interregional networks: raising awareness about the role of National Commissions, pooling efforts for communications, pooling resources, sharing toolkits/best practices/ready-to-use tools, providing patronage, connecting experts/networks across sectors, and organizing joint training.

Proposal for the Establishment of an Asia-Pacific Regional Network of National Commissions for UNESCO

• **Mr. Hyun Mook Lim, ASG of the Bureau of Education at the Korean National Commission for UNESCO**,

touched upon the challenges of the world's current situation, including President Trump's 'America First' doctrine, Brexit, the refugee crisis, armed conflicts in many parts of the world, and climate change. He also pointed out some characteristics of Asia-Pacific today, with 60% of the world's population and 60% of world economic growth, 5 Asian countries, including South Korea, among the top 10 on the list of countries with the highest Co2 emissions, a high rate of military spending, and weak regional security cooperation. He insisted that, in this context, National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region should play a special role in promoting friendship and solidarity in the region. Reminding participants of UNESCO's mission to promote peace, he pointed out some obstacles, including Member States' pursuit of narrowly defined national interests, stronger emphasis on the inter-governmentality of UNESCO, and decreased emphasis on intellectual cooperation and moral solidarity. He proposed establishing an Asia-Pacific Regional Network of National Commissions, which could serve as a forum for dialogue and consultation among National Commissions and as a platform for developing and implementing regional or subregional projects. He also suggested that a fund could be set up to support regional or sub-regional projects and that this fund could be raised from National Commissions in the form of voluntary contributions, and be managed by a steering committee. He suggested a specific form of governance for the regional network, including a steering committee to guide the work of the network and a secretariat to prepare documents for network meetings and draft reports. Finally, he introduced a possible timeline for establishment, under which the statutes of the network and the operational guidelines of the fund would be drafted and circulated within six months, and adopted at the next annual or biennial meeting of the National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Discussion

Participants thanked Mr. Goupil for sharing the good examples of the Canadian Commission and Mr. Lim for his suggestion. Many agreed that a regional network should be set up. Some stressed that regional meetings of National Commissions were more suitable for exchange and sharing than the inter-regional meetings. Some were concerned that the possibility of forming a regional network would get lost in bureaucratic systems after this meeting, and asked for simple and practical steps that could be taken. The need for a shared communication platform was also raised. A representative from ERI reiterated that the regional network already existed, functionally, but agreed that it was necessary to formalize it, to make the network more regular, and more result-oriented, and to enable funding. The ERI representative also reminded participants that the UNESCO Secretariat had some funds to cover LDC participants.

Mr. Hyun Mook Lim, ASG of the Bureau of Education at the Korean National Commission, agreed with certain opinions from the floor that a formal regional network was not immediately essential but said that it could be established step by step. He reminded the participants to send their feedback on this idea to him by email so that the discussion could be continued before the next meeting. In terms of raising visibility, he also stressed the benefits of National Commissions' developing campaigns for international days, utilizing social media, with the help of information, statistics, and analysis from UNESCO Bangkok.

Mr. Sebastien Goupil, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, invited all participants to make the regional network a formal reality. He also mentioned that not everything needed to be discussed through bureaucratic channels. He also emphasized the importance of each National Commission utilizing its own assets and position to best advantage in order to strengthen the relationship with government and build the credibility of National Commissions.

Closing Session

Report of the Chair of the drafting group for the Gyeongju Recommendation

• **Ms. Vicki Soanes, the chair of the drafting group and the Secretary-General of the New Zealand National Commission**, described the process of drafting the Gyeongju Recommendation and asked for final comments from the floor.

One representative expressed concerns about inter-sectoral projects. One representative pointed out that the word "support" was too weak in paragraph 5. a). After some discussion, the word "support" was replaced in that paragraph with the phrase "champion, amplify, and support". There was a long discussion regarding paragraph 6 c). The debate on this section revolved around the extent to which the National Commissions could play a role in terms of quality assurance of Category 2 Centers within their territory. In the end, it was agreed that National Commissions themselves did not have the right to assess the quality of activities of Category 2 Centers. In this light, paragraph 6 c) was finalized as follows: "National Commissions in the host countries of Category 2 Centres should be proactive and engaging in activities of the relevant Category 2 Centres".

Adoption of the Gyeongju Recommendation

※ The final text of the adopted Gyeongju Recommendation can be found in Annex I.

Closing Remarks

• **Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of Korean National Commission for UNESCO**, thanked all the participants for their active participation. He also asked for cooperation and support from the UNESCO Secretariat, regional offices, government, and other UNESCO-related institutes in creating cooperative networks. In closing, he expressed his hope that the recommendation just adopted would be translated into actions and that the participants would continue to strengthen their mutual friendships and cooperation.

Gyeongju Recommendation

Recognizing that:

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was adopted by the international community in 2015 and UNESCO has a clear mandate in achieving this ambitious yet necessary set of goals and targets in its fields of competence – education, science, culture, and communication & information;

Based on its multidisciplinary approach, UNESCO has a unique contribution to make to the multifaceted challenges of sustainable development; As part of the UN Development Group, UNESCO is also required to align itself with the ongoing UN reform led by the UN Secretary-General;

UNESCO's role in building a lasting world peace has become more critical than ever, and the Organization needs to define its strategic positioning in the changing UN system; this has significant implications for the National Commissions, particularly in terms of their engagement in national decision-making processes for UN repositioning;

As constitutionally recognized entities, National Commissions for UNESCO are vital for the elaboration, execution and evaluation of the Organization's programmes;

Strong and effective National Commissions constitute an invaluable asset for UNESCO in fulfilling its mandate, particularly the context of work towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implementation at country level;

National Commissions have a critical role to play in this regard through mobilizing authorities, partners, experts and beneficiaries in their respective countries, and collaborating with other countries to address common challenges that go beyond the national borders;

Regional cooperation is more necessary than ever in order to tackle the challenges of the Agenda 2030 effectively in Asia-Pacific, a region rich in diversity in terms of culture, languages and religion;

Against this background, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), the UNESCO Bangkok Office, and the City of Gyeongju jointly organized the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea from 19 to 21 September 2018;

The aims of the meeting were to contribute to strengthening the capacities of, and cooperation among, National Commissions in the Asia and Pacific regions, and to continue the regional discussion on the agenda dealt with at the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in Diani, Kenya in June 2018 and the Training Workshops for National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016 and 2017;

Regional meetings of the National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia-Pacific are a useful mechanism, through which the National Commissions can not only share national experiences and good practices, but also address and discuss key progress made, remaining challenges, needs, priorities and collective actions:

We, the participants of the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, representing 30 National Commissions in Asia and the Pacific, the UNESCO Secretariat, and Category 2 Centres, adopt the following recommendations:

1. Partnership between National Commissions and UNESCO:

a) Strong partnership between National Commissions and UNESCO is needed to ensure the collective

action required to achieve the SDGs.

b) UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Jakarta should lead the production of a biennial regional report in collaboration with National Commissions, UNESCO Field Offices, and Category 2 Centres concerning the key achievements in relation to the Agenda 2030.

c) A regional meeting of National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region is highly encouraged to be held on a regular basis, biennially, to explore further opportunities for cooperation among National Commissions and with UNESCO. A sub-regional meeting between National Commissions and Field Offices is highly encouraged to be held on an annual basis. UNESCO Headquarters are requested to support this endeavour and Regional Offices are requested to play a coordination role for it.

d) While recognizing the considerable funding support provided by UNESCO to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific, consideration should be given to the further support of those SIDS, to ensure their representation and involvement at regional and sub-regional level.

2. Cooperation among National Commissions:

a) National Commissions should seek a wide range of modalities of cooperation with other National Commissions, including intersectoral projects, staff exchange programmes, revamping the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) at the subregional and regional levels, and working with UNESCO Field Offices (and Headquarters as appropriate) to develop a common communication platform (CCP) to enhance the visibility of UNESCO at the national and regional levels.

b) More innovative and participatory interventions are needed. The use of art and social media should be encouraged, including through the new CCP, in creating a space for dialogue between countries and partners.

c) Collaboration should be on an equal footing. Mutual learning among Member States in the region should be encouraged and supported.

d) National Commissions and their respective governments are encouraged to learn from the best practices of other National Commissions in the region and beyond.

e) Representation of a wide range of National Commissions and Member States at the governance level of UNESCO is encouraged, particularly from underrepresented subregions.

3. Guidelines for the Functioning of National Commissions:

a) National Commissions should be proactive in consulting with their partners and principal stakeholders to define what they require at a minimum to function effectively in alignment with UNESCO'S goals and strategic direction.

b) UNESCO should, in consultation with Member States and National Commissions, update the guidelines for the functioning of National Commissions, to help ensure that all National Commissions function effectively in alignment with UNESCO's goals and strategic direction.

- c) The government of each Member State should provide National Commissions with the necessary financial and human resources to enable the National Commissions to function effectively, while respecting their autonomy and independence, taking the function of UNESCO into consideration.

4. UNESCO Strategic Reform:

- a) National Commissions, in consultation with their strategic partners including Category 2 Centres, should contribute actively to the reform process that the Organization is undertaking to ensure that it can effectively tackle the challenges it faces in carrying out its mandate.
- b) The UNESCO Secretariat should create further channels to enable National Commissions to contribute to this process.

5. Roles of the UNESCO Secretariat:

- a) A dedicated unit to champion, amplify, and support the work of National Commissions should be re-established within the UNESCO Secretariat.
- b) The UNESCO Secretariat (at Headquarters and Field Offices) should support capacitybuilding of National Commissions, in particular in their thematic areas of interest, and methods of fundraising.
- c) The UNESCO Secretariat (at Headquarters and Field Offices) should play a major role in coordinating the partnerships and communication between National Commissions and UNESCO and their collaboration with the UNESCO family network.

6. Cooperation with UNESCO Category 2 Centres:

- a) Category 2 Centres in Asia and the Pacific are encouraged to share information on their activities and achievements in relation to the C/4 (UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy) and C/5 (UNESCO Programme and Budget) through a coordinating mechanism between the UNESCO Secretariat, National Commissions and Category 2 Centres.
- b) Category 2 Centres are invited to participate in the regional and sub-regional meetings of National Commissions to promote further collaboration.
- c) National Commissions in the host countries of Category 2 Centres should be proactive in engaging in activities of the relevant Category 2 Centres.

We encourage the dissemination and serious consideration of these recommendations.
Drafted in the English language, on 21 September 2018, in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

Programme

Day I. Wednesday, 19 September 2018

09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:30	Opening Session (Room 201, 202) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Remarks<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO- Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Bangkok Office• Welcome Remarks<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Cheol-woo Lee, Governor of the Province of Gyeongsangbuk-do- Mr. Nak-young Joo, Mayor of the City of Gyeongju• Election of the Chair• Adoption of Agenda• Group Photo
10:30 - 12:00	Session 1 – UNESCO’s Place in a Changing World (Room 201, 202) <p>*Moderator: Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of Korean National Commission for UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transforming UNESCO and Paving the Way for the Next C/5 (2022-2025)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald, Head, Section for Cooperation with the UN System, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO HQ• Review of Implementation of the SDGs at the Regional Level, Focusing on SDGs 4, 8, 13 and 16, and UNESCO’s Role in the Context of the UN Repositioning<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Bangkok Office• Roles of National Commissions in UNESCO’s Strategic Transformation<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Genc Seiti, Director, Division of Member States and Partners, UNESCO HQ
12:00 - 13:30	Welcome Lunch (Room 205, 206) <p>Hosted by Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea</p>

13:30 - 18:00	Field Trip <p>UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Gyeongju</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bulguksa, Seokguram Grotto, Yangdong Folk Village <p>* Transportation to the sites will be provided to participants * Participants will be heading to the dinner venue directly from the last Heritage site</p>
18:00 - 20:30	Welcome Dinner (Hotel Hyundai) <p>Hosted by the Province of Gyeongsangbuk-do</p> <p>*Transportation will be provided to participants to and from the dinner venue</p>

Day II. Thursday, 20 September 2018

10:30 - 12:00	Session 3 – Strengthening Cooperation between National Commissions and UNESCO’s Category 2 Centres in the Region for More Effective Work on the Ground (Room 201, 202) <p>*Moderator: Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Bangkok Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) (Republic of Korea)- The International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) (Japan)- The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) (Malaysia)- The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) (China)- The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) (Republic of Korea)
11:00 - 12:00	Special Session – UNESCO Family ‘Market Place’* (Lobby outside the Meeting Rooms) <p>*This ‘Market Place’ session will be a forum for direct communication between participants, with separate areas where the participants can visit each other freely, share information and discuss ideas together.</p>
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch (Room 205, 206) <p>Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea</p>

14:00 - 15:00 **Session 2 - Moving Forward: Strengthening the Network of National Commissions for UNESCO** (Room 201, 202)
 *Moderator: Mr. Alisher Ikramov, Secretary-General of National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO

- **Enhancing the Cooperation among National Commissions for UNESCO**
 - Mr. Khaga Raj Baral, Secretary-General of Nepal National Commission for UNESCO
- **Enhancing the Cooperation of the UNESCO Field Offices and the National Commissions for UNESCO**
 - Ms. Danielle Cochrane, Secretary-General of Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO
- **The Contribution of National Commissions to UNESCO's Strategic Transformation**
 - Mr. Yosuke Kobayashi, Deputy Secretary-General of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO
- **Practical Guidelines for the Functioning of National Commissions**
 - Ms. Lila Ramos Shahani, Secretary-General of Philippine National Commission for UNESCO

15:00 - 15:15 **Coffee Break**

15:15 - 17:30 **Session 2 – (Parallel Discussions)**

- **Enhancing the Cooperation among National Commissions for UNESCO** (Room 201, 202)
 - facilitated by Director of UNESCO Apia Office
- **Enhancing the Cooperation of the UNESCO Field Offices and the National Commissions for UNESCO** (Room 203)
 - facilitated by Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office
- **Contribution of National Commissions to UNESCO's Strategic Transformation** (Room 204)
 - facilitated by Director of UNESCO Jakarta Office
- **Practical Guidelines for the Functioning of National Commissions** (Room 208)
 - facilitated by Director of UNESCO Bangkok Office

18:00 - 20:30 **Dinner (Hotel Hyundai)**
 Hosted by the City of Gyeongju

Day III. Friday, 21 September 2018

09:30 - 11:30 **Session 4 - Creating Synergies and Raising the Visibility of National Commissions through Regional Networks**
 *Moderator: Mr. Genc Seiti, Director, Division of Member States and Partners, UNESCO HQ

- **How European Networks of National Commissions Help National Commissions to Better Contribute to UNESCO's Work**
 - Mr. Sébastien Goupil, Secretary-General of Canadian National Commission for UNESCO
- **Proposal for the Establishment of an Asia-Pacific Regional Network of National Commissions for UNESCO**
 - Mr. Hyun Mook Lim, Assistant Secretary-General, Bureau of Education, Korean National Commission for UNESCO

11:30 - 12:00 **Closing Session**

- Report of the Chair of the drafting group for 'Gyeongju Recommendation'
- Adoption of the 'Gyeongju Recommendation'
- Closing Remarks

12:00 - 14:00 **Farewell Lunch**
 Hosted by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO

14:00 - **Departure of Participants**

• All the presentation files can be downloaded from <https://goo.gl/wybCa2>

List of Participants

National Commissions

Country	Name	Title
Afghanistan	Mr. M. Shakir Habibyar	Secretary-General
Australia	Ms. Susan Ruth Moore	Secretary-General
Bangladesh	Mr. Md. Taz Uddin	Programme Officer
Bhutan	Mr. Karma Yeshey	Secretary-General
Cambodia	Mr. Sothear Sar Mr. Viseth Samreth	Deputy Secretary-General Assistant Secretary-General
Canada	Mr. Sébastien Goupil	Secretary-General
China	Mr. Jiagui Zhou Ms. Qianru Zhang	Deputy Secretary-General Programme Officer
Cook Islands	Ms. Danielle Tungane Cochrane	Secretary-General
Fiji	Ms. David Imtiaz Ali	Programme Officer
India	Mr. Siljo V.K. Mr. Saroj Kumar Choudhary	Secretary Section Officer
Indonesia	Mr. Arief Rachman Mr. Sukarna Mr. Eko Windu Prasetya	Secretary-General / Executive Chairman Programme Officer Programme Officer
Iran	Mr. Hojatollah Ayoubi Mr. Mehdi Hosseini	Secretary-General Executive Advisor
Japan	Mr. Yosuke Kobayashi Mr. Ryu Uwagawa	Deputy Secretary-General Trainee
Kiribati	Ms. Bwakura Metutera Timeon	Permanent Secretary
Lao	Mr. Somboun Masouvanh	Secretary-General
Malaysia	Dr. Noraisah Binti Spahat Ms. Natasha Hairin Mohamad Yusoff	Secretary-General Executive Secretary
Mongolia	Ms. Uyanga Sukhbaatar Ms. Namuun Ganbat	Secretary-General Chief Secretary
Nauru	Ms. Jerielyn Teleni	Secretary-General
Nepal	Mr. Khaga Raj Baral Mr. Shankar Adhikari	Secretary-General Programme Officer
New Zealand	Ms. Vicki Soanes	Secretary-General
Philippines	Ms. Lila Shahani	Secretary-General

Country	Name	Title
Republic of Korea	Mr. Kwangho Kim Mr. Hyun Mook Lim	Secretary-General Assistant Secretary-General
Solomon-Islands	Ms. Christina Victoria Bakolo	Chief Secretary
Sri Lanka	Mr. Ratnaweera Premalal	Secretary-General
Tajikistan	Ms. Zulfiya Burkhon	Secretary-General
Thailand	Ms. Nongsilinee Mosika Ms. Phimwarat Muangnil Ms. Siripakka Dhamabus	Deputy Secretary-General Assistant Secretary-General Programme Officer
Timor-Leste	Ms. Francisca Alzira De Jesus Soares	National Coordinator
Tuvalu	Mr. Tofiga Saosaoa Tinilau	Programme Officer
Uzbekistan	Mr. Alisher Ikramov	Secretary-General
Vietnam	Mr. Duc Han Cung	Programme Officer

UNESCO

Office	Name	Title
BSP	Ms. Marie-Ange Théobald	Head, Section for Cooperation with the UN System
ERI	Mr. Genc Seiti Ms. Assel Utegenova	Director Deputy Coordinator
Pacific Office	Ms. Nisha	Director
Northeast Asia Office	Ms. Marielza Oliveira	Director
Jakarta Office	Mr. Shahbaz khan	Director
Bangkok Office	Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi Ms. Mayuree Viratyaporn Ms. Jun Morohashi	Director Secretary to the Director Head of Executive Office

Category 2 Centers

Center	Name	Title
ISTIC	Ms. Sharifah Maimunah Syed Zin	Director
ICHARM	Mr. Toshio Koike	Director
WHITRAP	Mr. Simone Ricca	Deputy-Director
APCEIU	Mr. Utak Chung Mr. Jong-Hun Kim Ms. Yang-sook Lee Mr. Rigoberto Banta Jr. Ms. Hyunjoo Bae	Director Head, Office of Planning and Administration Head of External Relations Assistant Programme Specialist, Office of External Relations Assistant Programme Specialist, Office of International Teacher Exchange
ICHCAP	Mr. Kwon Huh Mr. Seong-Yong Park Mr. Deok-Soon Kim Ms. Boyoung Cha Ms. Sunyoung You Mr. Sangmook Park Mr. Boram Kim	Director-General Assistant Director-General, Bureau of Strategic Programmes Chief, Planning and Management Section Chief, Cooperation and Networking Section Programme Officer, Planning and Management Section Associate Programme Officer, Information and Research Section Associate Programme Officer, Cooperation and Networking Section
ICM	Mr. Sihyun Kim Mr. Hongki Ahn Ms. Hyewon Lee Ms. Hanna Choi Ms. Dayeong Lee	Secretary-General Senior Programme Specialist, Strategic planning Team Programme Specialist, Strategic planning Team Programme Specialist, International cooperation Team Programme Specialist, International cooperation Team
i-WSSM	Mr. Kwang-suop Lim Ms. Dahae Park	Team Manager, Research & Development Division Programme Specialist, Planning & Management Division

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

Division	Name	Title
Bureau of Sciences & Culture	Mr. Kwi-bae Kim	Assistant Secretary-General
Bureau of Development Cooperation	Mr. Woo-jin Cho	Assistant Secretary-General
Division of Education	Ms. Hyunsook Seo Ms. Joa Lee	Director Programme Specialist
Division of Sciences & Youth	Ms. Eun-Young Kim	Director
Division of Culture	Mr. Jinsung Jeon Ms. Jieun Song Ms. So Ae Shin	Director Programme Specialist Programme Specialist
Division of Communication	Ms. Min-A Kim Mr. Hyunchul Kim	Director Programme Specialist
Division of Bridge Programme	Mr. Jun Ho Ju Ms. Boyoung Kim Ms. Hyunsook Kim Ms. Young Eun Lee	Director Senior Programme Specialist Programme Specialist Programme Specialist
Division of International Relations	Ms. Young-eun Kim Ms. Jihon Kim Ms. Diana Park Ms. Ye-lin Jung Mr. Chris Choi Ms. Sarah Kim	Senior Programme Specialist Senior Programme Specialist Programme Specialist Programme Specialist Programme Specialist Communication Specialist
Division of Development Cooperation & Partnership	Ms. Seunghyun Baek	Programme Specialist
Division of Planning & Coordination	Ms. Bosun Kim	Programme Specialist
Division of UNESCO Associated Schools	Mr. Seolmin Kang	Programme Specialist

Preamble of Constitution of the UNESCO

The Constitution of UNESCO, signed on 16 November 1945, came into force on 4 November 1946 after ratification by twenty countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Greece, India, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Adopted in London on 16 November 1945 and amended by the General Conference at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 31st sessions.

The Governments of the States Parties to this Constitution on behalf of their peoples declare:

That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed;

That ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war;

That the great and terrible war which has now ended was a war made possible by the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, and by the propagation, in their place, through ignorance and prejudice, of the doctrine of the inequality of men and races;

That the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern;

That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.

For these reasons, the States Parties to this Constitution, believing in full and equal opportunities for education for all, in the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth, and in the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, are agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other's lives;

In consequence whereof they do hereby create the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established and which its Charter proclaims.

Charter of National Commissions

Adopted by the General Conference at its 20th session

Preamble

Whereas the purpose of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as assigned to it by its Constitution, is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations,

Whereas it is essential, if the Organization is to achieve this purpose, that in each Member State it should have the active support of the intellectual and scientific communities and the cooperation of the population, *Considering* the framework provided by Article VII of the Constitution, which stipulates to this end that "each Member State shall make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for the purpose of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission broadly representative of the government and such bodies",

Whereas National Commissions, established under Article VII of the Constitution, are helping in an effective way to make UNESCO's objectives better known, broaden its range of influence and promote the execution of its programme, by involving the intellectual and scientific communities of their respective countries in this work,

Whereas the General Conference, on various occasions and particularly at its 19th session, has emphasized the need to associate Member States, through their National Commissions, more closely with the formulation, implementation and evaluation of the Organization's programmes, and has recommended that National Commissions be strengthened as advisory, liaison, information and executive bodies and that cooperation between National Commissions be furthered at the subregional, regional and interregional levels,

The General Conference, meeting in Paris at its 20th session, this twentyseventh day of November 1978 approves the present Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO.

Article I Purpose and functions

1. The function of National Commissions is to involve in UNESCO's activities the various ministerial departments, agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture and information, so that each Member State may:

- (a) Contribute to the maintenance of peace and security and the common welfare of mankind by participating in the activities of UNESCO which aim to advance the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, give fresh impulse to popular education and to the spread of culture, and preserve, increase and diffuse knowledge;
- (b) Play an ever-increasing role in UNESCO's work, and particularly in the formulation and execution of its programmes.

2. For this purpose, National Commissions:

- (a) Cooperate with their governments and with services, organizations, institutions and individuals concerned with questions within UNESCO's competence;
- (b) Encourage participation of national, governmental and nongovernmental institutions and various individuals in the formulation and execution of UNESCO's programmes so as to secure for the Organization all the intellectual, scientific, artistic or administrative assistance that it may require;
- (c) Disseminate information on the objectives, programme and activities of UNESCO and endeavour to arouse public interest in them.

3. In addition, and depending on the requirements and arrangements of each Member State, National Commissions may:

- (a) Participate in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO which are undertaken with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other international programmes;
- (b) Participate in the search for candidates for UNESCO posts financed under the regular programme or from extra-budgetary sources, and in the placement of UNESCO fellowship holders;
- (c) Participate with other National Commissions in joint studies on matters of interest to UNESCO;
- (d) Undertake on their own initiative other activities related to the general objectives of UNESCO.

4. National Commissions collaborate with each other and with UNESCO's regional offices and centres in fostering regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation in education, the sciences, culture and information, particularly through the joint formulation and execution of programmes. This cooperation may bear upon the preparation, implementation and evaluation of projects and may take the form of joint surveys, seminars, meetings and conferences and exchanges of information, material and visits.

Article II Role of National Commissions in their relations with Member States

1. Each Member State defines the responsibilities of its own National Commission. In general, National Commissions:

- (a) Foster close liaison between state agencies and services, professional and other associations, universities and other centres of research and education, and other institutions concerned with education, the sciences, culture and information;
- (b) Cooperate with the delegations of their respective governments at the General Conference and at other intergovernmental meetings convened by UNESCO, inter alia by preparing the contributions of their governments to the work of these meetings;
- (c) Follow the development of UNESCO's programme and call the attention of the appropriate agencies to the potential benefits of international cooperation;
- (d) Contribute to national activities related to UNESCO's programme and to the evaluation thereof;
- (e) Provide a channel for disseminating information obtained from other countries on matters of domestic interest in education, the sciences, culture and information;
- (f) Encourage, at the national level, interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation between institutions concerned with education, the sciences, culture and information, with a view to helping to bring intellectual

resources to bear on certain priorities for development.

2. Depending on the arrangements made by each Member State, National Commissions may also be expected, inter alia:
 - (a) To assume, alone or in collaboration with other bodies, responsibility for the operation of UNESCO projects in the country and for national participation in subregional, regional, or international UNESCO activities;
 - (b) To inform national agencies and institutions of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the General Conference or by other meetings, or included in studies and reports; to encourage their discussion in the light of national needs and priorities; and to provide for such follow-up activities as may be required.

Article III Services rendered to UNESCO by National Commissions

1. In each Member State, the National Commission ensures the permanent presence of UNESCO in its country and contributes to the Organization's effort to promote international cooperation in the field of intellectual activities.
2. National Commissions are important sources of information for UNESCO on national requirements and priorities in regard to education, science, culture and information, thereby enabling the Organization to take Member States's requirements more fully into account when preparing its programmes. They also contribute to the Organization's standard-setting work and to the orientation or execution of its programme by making their views known when surveys or inquiries are carried out and by replying to questionnaires.
3. National Commissions disseminate information:
 - (a) To the mass media and the general public, on UNESCO's objectives, programmes and activities;
 - (b) To individuals and institutions concerned with any aspect of UNESCO's work.
4. National Commissions must be able to contribute effectively to the implementation of UNESCO's programme:
 - (a) By mobilizing on its behalf the assistance and support of the country's specialized communities;
 - (b) By assuming operational responsibility for some of UNESCO's programme activities.

Article IV Responsibilities of Member States towards National Commissions

1. It is incumbent upon each Member State, under Article VII of the Constitution, to provide its National Commission with the status, structure and resources necessary to enable it effectively to discharge its responsibilities to UNESCO and to the Member State.
2. Each National Commission will normally include representatives of ministerial departments, services and other bodies interested in matters of education, science, culture and information, as well as representative individuals belonging to the specialized communities involved. Its members should be sufficiently senior

and competent to secure for it the support and cooperation of ministries, services, national institutions and persons capable of contributing to UNESCO's work.

3. National Commissions may include executive and standing committees, coordinating bodies, subcommissions and any other subsidiary body, as appropriate.
4. For their effective operation, National Commissions require:
 - (a) A legal status which is consistent with Article VII of the Constitution of UNESCO and the provisions of this Charter and which clearly defines the responsibilities vested in the National Commission, its membership, the conditions governing its operation and the resources on which it may draw;
 - (b) A permanent secretariat, provided with:
 - (i) a high-level staff, whose status, and in particular that of its Secretary-General, should be clearly defined, and who should be appointed for a sufficiently long period to ensure the necessary continuity of experience;
 - (ii) sufficient authority and financial means to enable it to carry out efficiently the functions specified in this Charter and to increase its participation in the activities of the Organization.
5. It is important for close collaboration to be established in each Member State between its permanent delegation to UNESCO and its National Commission.

Article V Responsibilities of UNESCO towards National Commissions

1. It is incumbent upon the Director-General of UNESCO to take the measures that he deems most appropriate in order to involve National Commissions in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of the Organization's programme and activities and to ensure that close liaison is established between its various regional services, centres and offices and the National Commissions.
2. The Organization fosters the development of National Commissions and supplies them, to the utmost of its ability, with the facilities needed for the discharge of their functions:
 - (a) By giving advice and making available the services of consultants or members of the Secretariat in order to assist Member States, at their request, to establish or reorganize their National Commission;
 - (b) By providing training for new Secretaries-General and other officials of National Commissions;
 - (c) By providing them with material assistance;
 - (d) By informing them of all missions of visiting UNESCO officials and consultants and of any other UNESCO activity planned in their country;
 - (e) By providing them with documentation and information materials;
 - (f) By providing support for the National Commissions in the translation, adaptation and dissemination of the publications and documents of UNESCO in national languages, and assistance in the production of their own publications.
3. UNESCO can extend and develop its action through National Commissions by:
 - (a) Entering into contracts with them, wherever necessary, for the execution of activities included in its programme;
 - (b) Providing financial support for regular subregional and regional meetings held by National Commissions

- for the purpose of discussing common concerns, formulating proposals relating to the programmes and arranging for the joint execution of specific projects;
- (c) Providing advice and technical support for such meetings through the participation of UNESCO officials;
 - (d) Fostering the establishment of cooperative relationships enabling the decisions taken at subregional and regional meetings to be followed up;
 - (e) Providing financial and technical support for the liaison machinery established by National Commissions;
 - (f) Fostering the organization of meetings of Secretaries-General, particularly in connection with sessions of the General Conference.
4. UNESCO encourages contacts between the National Commissions of the different regions by continuing and increasing the support it gives to:
- (a) Meetings of groups of Secretaries-General from all regions to exchange ideas and experiences on specific problems;
 - (b) Interregional collective consultations of Secretaries-General of National Commissions;
 - (c) National Commissions of one region wishing to send an observer to the conferences of National Commissions of other regions;
 - (d) Joint projects and other cooperative activities undertaken by National Commissions of different regions.

UN Sustainable Developments Goals



<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>  <p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>  <p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>  <p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>  <p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>
<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>  <p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>  <p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>  <p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>  <p>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>  <p>Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>  <p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>  <p>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>  <p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>
<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>  <p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>  <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>  <p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>  <p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>
<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>  <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>	

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

City of Gyeongju

Bulguksa

Epitome of the Finest Stone Masonry



Year of Inscription: 1995 (inscribed with Seokguram Grotto) Criteria (i), (iv)

A representation of the Buddhist utopia taking its form in the terrestrial world, Bulguksa Temple was built in 528 during the Silla Kingdom, in the 15th year of King Beop-Heung's reign (514-540). Located on Mount Tohamsan, the temple comprises a series of wooden buildings on raised stone terraces. The grounds of Bulguksa are divided into three areas, designed to represent the land of Buddha, and boast smooth, well-carved stone pillars and steps that will take your breath away. Along with Seokguram Grotto, it represents a religious architectural complex of exceptional significance.

DID YOU KNOW?

World's oldest existing woodblock print was discovered here in 1966. Found inside a stone pagoda within the temple, the print is of a version of the Dharani sutra, a Buddhist scripture dating back to 704. 6 meters in length, this scripture was locked up inside the pagoda out of the popular belief that it would help prevent disease outbreaks or war.



Seokguram Grotto

Testing the Limits of Human Genius



Year of Inscription : 1995 (inscribed with Bulguksa Temple) Criteria (i), (iv)

Seokguram is an artificial grotto constructed of granite that comprises an antechamber, a corridor and a main rotunda, and is known to have been built with Bulguksa Temple. According to the history book Samgukyusa of the Goryeo Dynasty (the country that unified the Korean peninsula at the end of the Silla Kingdom), Kim Dae-Seong had Bulguksa Temple built for his parents in his current life, and Seokguram Grotto for the parents of his former life. Together with the portrayals of devas, bodhisattvas and disciples, sculpted in high and low relief on the surrounding walls, the statues of Buddha inside the grotto are considered to be a masterpiece of East Asian Buddhist art. The domed ceiling of the rotunda and the entrance corridor employed an innovative construction technique that involved the use of more than 360 stone slabs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nobody knows why this specific place was chosen for this magnificent grotto. Scholars have even speculated that the grotto is located at the top of the mountain to represent the inner world of Buddha, where fundamental truths lie. Its peculiar location differentiates it from the current world, making it hard for ordinary people to access Buddha's inner world hidden behind the stone walls.



Yangdong Folk Village

Centuries of Tradition in One Village



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Year of Inscription : 2010 (inscribed with Hahoe Village, Andong) Criteria (iii), (iv)

Yangdong Village is Korea's largest traditional village, showcasing the traditional culture of the Joseon Dynasty and the beautiful natural surroundings. Approximately 160 old houses and 500-year-old thatched-roof cottages are nestled within the valley. Fifty-four of these homes, are over 200 years old and have been excellently preserved in their original state. Both Yangdong and Hahoe Folk Villages were located to provide both physical and spiritual nourishment from their surrounding landscapes. They include the residences of the head families, together with substantial timber framed houses of other clan members, also pavilions, study halls, Confucian academies for learning, and clusters of one story mud-walled, thatched-roofed houses, formerly for commoners. The landscapes of mountains, trees and water around the villages, framed in views from pavilions and retreats, were celebrated for their beauty by 17th and 18th century poets.

DID YOU KNOW?

The popularity of this symbolic village dates to long before its designation as a World Heritage. When Charles, Prince of Wales, and Princess Diana visited South Korea in November 1992, they were invited on a tour of this village, along with other World Heritage sites in Gyeongju.



Photos



Group photo of participants



Participants listening to presentations



Opening remarks by Mr. Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO



Adopting 'Gyeongju Recommendation'



Group photo of participants at Bulguksa



Participants listening to commentary at Yangdong Village

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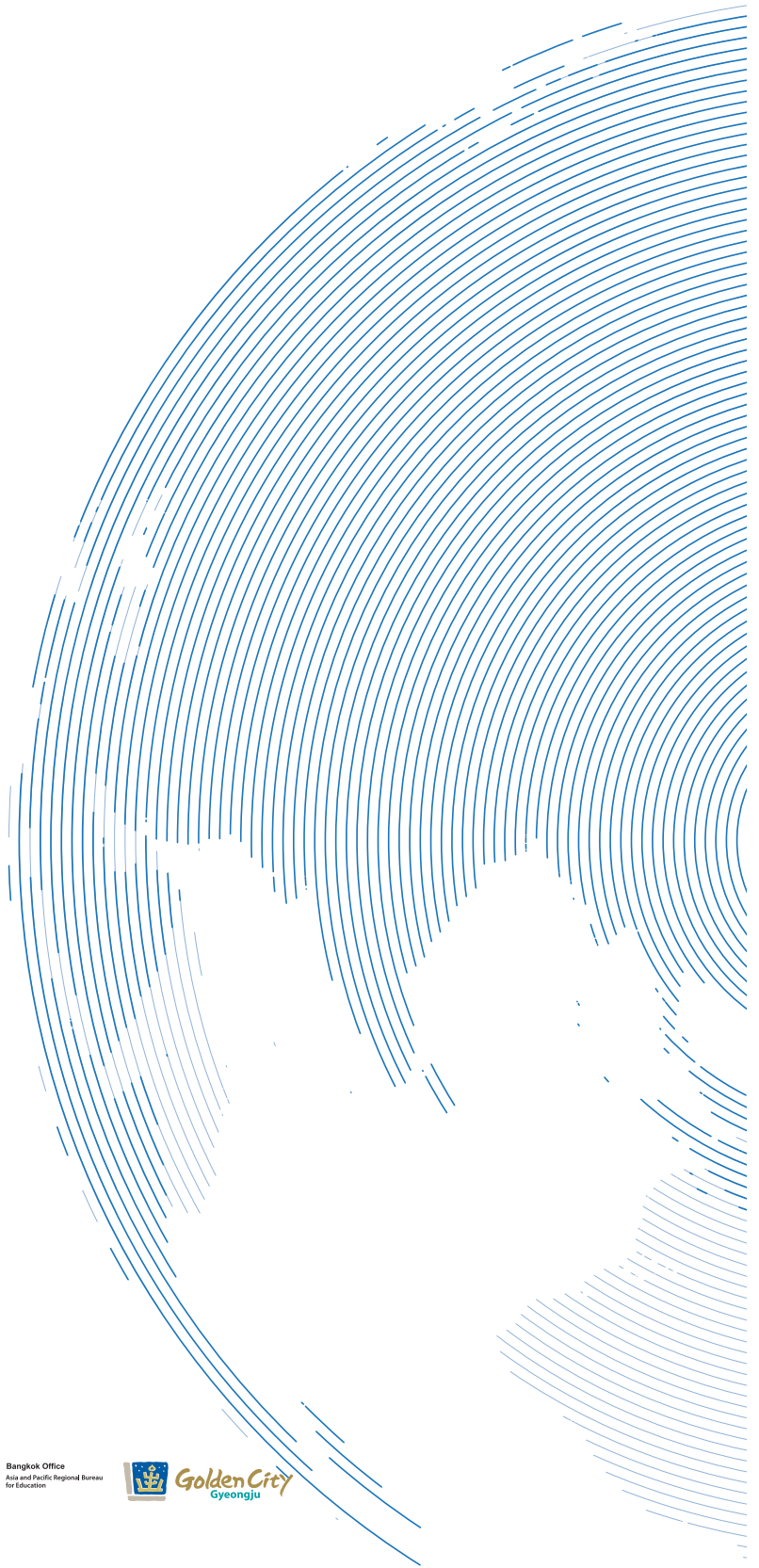
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