THE ROLE OF ICOM FOR PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

The Sub-regional Symposium for the Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage in South-East Asia
Bangkok, Thailand
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• Museums in Southeast Asia have played a vital role in the protection of cultural heritage since earlier periods. Therefore when ICOM was formulated many SEA museums enrolled into the organisation’s membership.

• Through ICOM, museum officials and other responsible officials responsible for the protection of cultural and natural heritage were trained and educated on the preservation and conservation of cultural and natural property.
• Many ICOM activities and programmes are presented to all museum organization members and individual members also to the public which are concerned to the role in protection of cultural heritage as follow:
ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums:

- ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums was adopted in 1986 and revised in 2004. It establishes the values and principles shared by ICOM and the international museum community. It is a reference tool translated into 37 languages and it sets minimum standards of professional practice and performance for museums and their staff.
Standard and Guideline:

• ICOM’s standards and guidelines supply models to museum professionals in order to facilitate the implementation of their good practices in terms of objects acquisition, personnel, conservation of art objects and museum specialism such as “Registration step by step” “Labelling and marking objects” “Guidelines for Disaster Preparedness in Museums”, etc.
Museum Emergency Programme:

• ICOM designed the Museums’ Emergency Programme-MEP, a forward planning and emergency intervention programme designed for museum professionals and experts in emergency-related fields. The Getty Conservation Institute and ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) took part in this programme and helped develop training tools for MEP.
Fighting Illicit Traffic Programme:

• The illicit trafficking of cultural property can take different forms, involve multiple parties and serve diverse purposes, depending on the geographical, socio-economic and political context. Illegal trade in art or archaeological objects contravenes national or international legal instruments.
Red list Programme:

• The Red Lists classify the endangered categories of archaeological objects or works of art in the most vulnerable areas of the world, in order to prevent them being sold or illegally exported.

• ICOM has already published Red Lists in cultural Objects at Risk for many different countries and regions such as Red List of Cambodian, Chinese, African, Columbian, Peruvian, etc.
Object ID project:

- ICOM holds a license to promote the use of this standard among museum professionals. In collaboration with UNESCO and INTERPOL, ICOM also organises workshops on its implementation to train government representatives and police and customs agents. INTERPOL has included the Object ID standard in its stolen objects database. The inventory of cultural and natural property developed more systematically through times.
100 Missing Objects:

- This series presents a selection of objects that have been stolen and whose disappearance has been reported to the police. Each object is registered in the INTERPOL database. ICOM has also later published in: Looting in Angkor, Africa, Latin America and Europe.
Thai National Committee for ICOM

Role for preventing the Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property

- The 1st National Committee for ICOM was set up and under the Ministry of Education. The committee in the first decade was composed of people from the National Museum, Bangkok. Later, in the second decade it was expanded to cover people from science and natural sectors from a general type of museum.
At present The Thai National Committee for ICOM is composed of representatives from variety fields of museums. With the President and secretary are from Ministry of Culture.
• The Thai National Committee for ICOM has been working on activities both National and International level. We have hosted the Second Asian Regional Assembly on Ethnography in Bangkok and Chiangmai, during December 10-15, 1979.
In 2004, ICOM Initiated Inspirations for Museum Association of Thailand (MAT) to be established. The aim of setting up MAT is for developing museum in Thailand and museum professional to become more standard.
• In 2007 MAT had an activities on **ICOM Code of Ethics Promotion** by translated into Thai language and presented to their members and to public on seminar, lecture, published on MAT Journal and through network.
• On around May, 18 of each year, MAT celebrate the International Museum Day (IMD) by creative the event normally as the special talk in the IMD theme such as;

2009 - Museums and Tourism
    New challenges, New inspirations.
2014 - Museum collections make connections
Museum and Tourism in 2009
In 2012 MAT provided the course on “Curator” and in 2014, MAT set up the course for scientifically knowledge in inventory of museum objects by using ICOM Guideline, Object ID standard, as a part of the course.
In the near future, ICOM Thailand will have more active and more cooperation for preventing the Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property.

THANK YOU