Country Report on
‘The Sub-regional Symposium for the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage in Southeast Asia’

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and
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Malaysia
Malaysia has not ratified the Convention but follow closely the convention and all the provisions stipulated in it.
National Heritage Act 2005(Act 645) to safeguard Malaysia cultural heritage.

The act is to provide for the conservation and preservation of Malaysia’s heritage; be it natural heritage, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, underwater cultural heritage, treasure trove and all other related matters.

Commissioner of Heritage is the highest authority to manage the act.

The National Heritage Department is under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia.
Under the Department of Heritage, we have the Division of Registrar of Heritage, which include the sub division for Enforcement.

This division is given the task of enforcing the regulations stipulated in the act. They also oversee the import and the export of cultural heritage in the country.
All Archaeological excavation activities in the country will have to apply for a permit from the Commissioner of Heritage. Under the act, no person shall excavate any land for the purpose of discovering an object unless he holds a licence approved by the Commissioner.

Any person who contravenes the section, will deem commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment or fine or both.
Any person want to export heritage items, needs to obtain a licence to export from the Commissioner.

Import foreign heritage items, shall notify the Commissioner with all the documents certifying that such foreign heritage items was lawfully transported out of the foreign country.
Under the act, all cultural properties that are important and agreed by the Commissioner of Heritage, are registered in the National Heritage Register.

Heritage Items that include National Heritage, heritage objects or underwater cultural heritage, to be registered in the National Heritage Register, will go through several committee appointed by the department and the Commissioner will then declared it as National Heritage, and later registered it in the Register.
Bilateral consultation with Foreign Governments on the matter is always conducted at various levels, and at any opportunity arises. These helps in combating the illegal transits of cultural heritage items in the country.
The Department of Heritage always have good relation with others departments, to protect the illicit transport of cultural properties. These departments includes The Royal Police Department of Malaysia, The Royal Customs Of Malaysia and various other Enforcement body in the country.
Conclusion

- The Department Of National Heritage also, held various campaigns and exhibition throughout the country to educate the public about the heritage and the importance of saving guarding the country’s cultural heritage from being exported to outside countries and should be protected.
Thank You