Australia Council to announce UNESCO tie-up over Asia-Pacific initiatives

MATTHEW WESTWOOD  THE AUSTRALIAN  OCTOBER 30, 2012 6:37PM

The Australia Council has entered into an agreement with UNESCO to promote cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific.

The memorandum of understanding, to be announced tomorrow, is between the federal government's arts-funding body and the Bangkok office of the United Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

In the first project of the partnership, researchers at the University of Western Sydney will analyse cultural diversity in six Australia Council projects.

Arts Minister Simon Crean has welcomed the agreement as supporting the cultural exchange objectives of the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper.

"Relationships built on cultural understanding and a shared appreciation of the arts and creativity are the basis for building economic, political, security and trade links and outcomes," Crean says.

Australia became a signatory to the UNESCO convention on cultural diversity in 2009, after abstaining from a vote on the treaty in 2005.