

CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

UNESCO 2005 CONVENTION

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC

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| Number of countries in Asia: | 48 |
| Number of countries that have ratified the Convention: | 15 (31.25%) |
| Percentage of IFCD funding from which Asia has benefited: | 8.3% |

Countries that have submitted Quadrennial Reports:

Afghanistan (2016), Australia (2015), Bangladesh (2013), Cambodia (2013), China (2013), India (2015), Indonesia (2016), New Zealand (2012 & 2016), Republic of Korea (2015), Tajikistan (2015) and Viet Nam (2013 & 2016)

Asian representatives on the Intergovernmental Committee:

China, Indonesia and Republic of Korea

ACTIVITIES IN LINE WITH THE GOALS OF THE CONVENTION:

CSOs in the Asia-Pacific have undertaken the following types of activities in 2017:

- Creating directories of opportunities, research reports and policy updates, and connecting artists and cultural practitioners
- Creating platforms for dialogue and debate to actively engage civil society in deeper conversations about sectoral development
- Grant making for activities for practice, research and education in the arts
- Residency opportunities for artists, curators and managers
- Developing capacity building initiatives focused not only on artistic work but also managerial skills
- International networks for connecting artists and organisations for sharing knowledge and resources
- Private organisations are taking the lead in engaging in Public-Private Partnership projects: diverse models have been developed for supporting contemporary arts which are privately funded, given the lack/shortfall of public support for contemporary arts
- Producing programmes for access to arts in education projects
- Producing research projects that focus on issues of gender and social issues

KEY CHALLENGES

CSOs across Asia identified the following challenges in respect to the implementation of the Convention:

1. Funding is definitely a challenge given the limited availability of resources from public sources

2. Mobility issue is another factor that emerges as a key challenge for the sector in Asia, particularly around visa which can limit the quality of projects
3. Lack of proper infrastructure to support the development and creation of work in the contemporary scenario and creating access to audiences
4. Limited or complete lack of capacity building and training programmes particularly for cultural managers
5. Issues in cooperation with the local governments due to fewer official channels of communication and complicated bureaucratic procedures which are difficult to negotiate for CSOs
6. Limited access to regular and consistent updates about the new developments in the sector
7. Identifying partners and new sources of funding who share the value and vision for the arts
8. Language issues across different regions where communication is outside of the widely-used languages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for wider awareness about the 2005 Convention and how is it relevant to artists & cultural professionals: this can be done by developing short and easily digestible "2005 Convention 101" course material for raising awareness among CSOs and tie up with key festivals, training programmes and conferences in cultural sector to include it in their programming/curriculum;
- Capacity building/awareness raising/refresher workshops for National Commissions for UNESCO and National Ministries of Culture on the key messages of the Convention, to be organised in partnership with respective State Parties
- Stronger and longer term capacity building programmes, in the area of cultural management which could be region wide;
- Training programmes which focus on developing enterprise models in the culture sector;
- Promoting some of the above-mentioned trainings through the existing mechanisms for bilateral and multilateral co-operation among State Parties, in order to tap on available budgets and programmes
- Supporting the development of national cultural policy profile reports (similar to the European Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends and WorldCP International Database of Cultural Policies model) in partnership with CSOs and State Parties to build robust information systems (maintained on publicly accessible online platforms) so we can learn from best practices and also, as inputs to the Quadrennial Periodic Reporting (QPR) process by State Parties.

This document draws on the global CSO survey conducted in 2017 by a group of volunteers from CSOs working together after the 1st CSO Forum (June 2017, Paris) and through an open call for volunteers on 14 July 2017. Respondents from the Asia-Pacific to this questionnaire include Art 21 (Thailand), Contact Base – banglanatak.com (India), India Foundation for the Arts, Ketemu Project (Indonesia), Live Square Ltd. (Bangladesh), Mongolian Contemporary Art Support Association & Res Artis - Worldwide Network of Artists Residencies (Australia office). To secure adequate regional representation from Asia, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), a publicly-funded intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation, was involved in the preparation of this report and provided insights on regional challenges through its work on the *WorldCP- Database of Cultural Policies*, particularly WorldCP-Asia.