

Case Study Report: Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

Introduction of the target ICH

As culture is essential for the stability of any society and nation, it is significant that indeed cultural conditions greatly influence man's environment. So, the State has laid down the National Cultural Policies as a guide line for the development of Myanmar culture. And the government preserves, promote the Myanmar cultural heritage (both tangible and in tangible cultural heritage) by establishing the Ministry of Culture, holding the national level cultural competitions and traditional religious festivals, and other cultural exhibitions.

Regarding to the intangible cultural heritage preservation and promotion, Myanmar believe that if the performing style and dress styles are being spoiled, the culture will be degraded, if the timing, beats and scale of music are disturbed and spoiled then the music will be also damaged, and if the spelling and writing are spoiled, the grammar of the language will be worst. Performing arts of a nation show its national character and standard of national culture. Throughout the history covering years countable by the thousand, Myanmar people have been safeguarding their performing arts for its perpetuation, handing down the artistic skills, the delicate creativity and the art of composing from generation to generation.

If the embankment of culture of the country is being eroded by the waves of the globalization in the forms of modernization, the cultural heritage of the country will soon be endangered.

Therefore, the government has been holding the Traditional Performing Arts Competition annually as national level competition in grand scale since 1993. The state has been encouraging not only the development and promotion of traditional culture but also the preserving and exposing it among people, especially for young generation by holding the competition on Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts annually, with the participation of artists of all ages. Thus, performing arts competitions play a key role in implementing a delicate national task for preserving and promoting Myanmar culture especially for intangible cultural heritage.

Objectives of the Project

- Uplift of national prestige and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of dynamism of genuine patriotic spirit based on national unity
- Emergence of new generations who will preserve and safeguard national character

Methods of Project Implementation

For the cultural preservation and dissemination of Myanmar cultural heritage, the annually performing arts competitions are held to be participated by all walks of life. Therefore, it calls for the participation and collaboration of the Myanmar people especially young generation to take interest in their own culture and fulfill the objectives of the competition.

Kinds of Contestants

- (1) Singing Competition
- (2) Dancing Competition
- (3) Composing Song Competition
- (4) Musical Instrument Playing Competition
- (5) Theatrical, marionette and Drama competitions

Level of Contestants

Performers compete in divisions based on gender, age group, and educational and professional qualifications. Each competition subcategory is judged by a separate committee made up of veteran artists, performers, instructors professors. The competitions, which have been held yearly since 1993 and participated by thousands of youth contestants, include contests of song, dance, competition, music and play at different stages such as professional, amateur, higher education and basic education levels.

1. Professional level
2. Amateur level
3. Higher Education level
4. Basic Education level [15-20 years old]
5. Basic Education level [10-15 years old]
6. Basic Education level [5-10 years old]

Myanmar people have never considered the fine arts solely for entertainment, but they have applied it as strength for handing down cultural heritage from one generation to the next, and enhancing traditions, customs and knowledge. That is why the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are yearly held at the national level on a grand scale with the aim of preserving, promoting and regenerating the cultural heritage that has been nurtured in the course of the nation's history.

Outcomes of the Project

- improving artistic skills , especially for young generation
- documentation of arts and artistic skill for future generations
- promotion of the cultural activity in safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage
- safeguarding and sustainable development of ICH

Conclusion or Summary

In this era, it is no doubt that globalization will cause the culture to be conflict between young and old, conservative and modern society. The gap to narrow and the difference to summarize is the real social and cultural issue to be solved for the nation.

To maintain peace and tranquility, cultural exchange and cooperation are the vital importance. They have to be sustained and preserved as culture is often harmed and spoiled or eroded by the impact of consumerist values of industrial globalization, mass media and other causes and influences. Therefore, holding of national level cultural competitions aims to preserve Myanmar culture and improve artistic skills, to document arts and artistic skill for future generations, to exhibit works for the general public and to train successors especially for young generation are essential to preserve , promote the culture.

Thus, cultural policies guide the development of culture and make to promote in developing standard of culture, creation and outstanding arts and culture, while maintaining the traditions of ancient culture.