

UNESCO 8th MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC) FOR THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD (MoW) PROGRAMME 11-15 JUNE 2007 TSHWANE SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Arts and Culture hosted UNESCO's 8th IAC meeting on 11-15 June 2007 at Diep in die Berg Conference Centre in Tshwane. The meeting was aimed at evaluating proposals submitted to UNESCO for enlisting in the UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register. A pre-meeting workshop was organized to create awareness to African continent about UNESCO's programme, to encourage them to establish National Committees for MoW Programme and to establish an all African Regional Committee for MoW Programme

About 150 Delegates from 40 different countries attended the meeting and workshop. The Workshop took 5 days and was split into a closed meeting for the evaluation of proposals.

Workshop

The Workshop was attended by delegates from 8 African countries. Its outcome was the establishment of the Interim Regional Committee chaired by South Africa. The "Tshwane Minute", a document reflecting discussions and pledge of the countries that attended was drafted and signed by representatives of the African countries present. Issue of preservation and promotion of documentary heritage and involvement of African governments were discussed at length during the meeting. The first meeting of the Interim Regional Committee is scheduled to take place in December 2007.

IAC Meeting

This closed meeting evaluated thirty eight proposals from all over the world. The South African National Committee for UNESCO had submitted proposals of two SA collections. One of the collections is the Rivonia Trial housed at the National Archives and the other is the Liberation Struggle Living Archive Collection housed by Doxa Productions. The two collections will be listed in the Memory of the World International Register. This will assist in promoting SA collections throughout the world. South Africa boasts two other collections listed on UNESCO's MOW register being the records of the Dutch East Indian Company and the Bleek Collection.

For more information on submission of proposals/ collections for the enlisting in the MOW kindly contact the Chairperson of the National Committee for Memory of the World on 27 12 323 5300 or Mandy.Gilder@dac.gov.za or Private Bag X 236 Pretoria, 0001.