



Asia-Pacific Commission

Chief Advisor: Dadi Pudumjee

President: Tang Dayu

Commissioners: Tito Loreface (Argentina), Ranjana Pandey (India), Samodra (Indonesia), Richard Hart (Australia), Salma Mohseni (Iran), Im Jung-Mi (Korea), Ichigen Takahashi (Japan), Tang Guoliang (China)

Advisory members: Tamiko Onagi (Japan), Tony Riggio (Australia), Kang-sik, KIM (Korea), Danilo Liwanag (Philippines), Wang Xiaoxin (China)

The headquarters of UNIMA Asia-Pacific Commission is located in Chengdu, China.

Main activities

By promoting online and on site exchange activities to enhance understanding and connection among national centers and artists in this region.

To diminish the influence of COVID-19 to puppetry artists, the commission organize online meeting, several members and advisory members from Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and ASEAN participated and discussed possible ways to help artists in difficulty, and promote online puppetry exchange activities. The Commission has been focusing on feasible methods in gaining support from local government to organize online and physical seminars, forums, workshops, as well as provide necessary assistance for artists to participate in activities organized by different counties.

From July 29 to August 3, 2022, UNIMA Asia-Pacific Commission, Sichuan Provincial Department of Cultural and Tourism, Nanchong Municipal Government jointly organized the 3rd Nanchong Puppetry Art Week, which was held at the same time with the International Tourism Festival in Sichuan Province. Puppetry troupes from 20 countries in 4 continents participated in the online performance showcase, including Australia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Spain, UK, USA, etc. The click rate of the online opening ceremony reached over 8 million.

During the festival, a special online introduction of Durga Puppets in Nepal was arranged with an aim to gather more attention on the rejuvenation of this endangered puppetry art form and hope that in turn this kind of art form may receive rescuing protection.

The commission has made some progress in this matter. We are trying to persuade a newly opened Puppetry and Shadow Art Museum to include some of the Durga Puppets in order to guarantee that at least this kind of ancient puppetry art won't disappear. We will try our best to make the exhibition work. We also facilitated the communication between the Sri Lanka Puppetry Museum and National Shadow Puppetry Museum in Chengdu to promote a possible purchase of puppets, in order to provide possible support to the puppetry museum in Sri Lanka.

During the Lancang-Mekong Puppetry Festival, representatives from China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, virtually or personally communicate during the event.



Dossier Council 2023

April 26 - 30, 2023



Assisted the communication between China Zhangzhou Glove Puppetry Protection and Inheritance Center and the Potomac School in Virginia, USA, and brought puppetry art lecture to the children there. Assisted the communication between the Puppetry Theatre in Huan County in China and Akademi Arjunasukma and the organization of two-day Chinese-Malaysian shadow puppetry workshop, lecture, training, etc. Promoted the mutual understanding of each other's culture and art.

On the World Puppetry Day 2022, answering the call of UNIMA, surrounding the theme "the Sea", national centers organized various celebration activities, both online and onsite. Such as the giant sea animal puppets parade by UNIMA Korea; online puppetry activities (including showcases, presentations, workshops, etc. advocating the importance of living environment protection for both animals and human beings) organized simultaneously in tens of cities in China with logos of UNIMA. The commission put great importance in communication and cooperation with other commissions. We participated in spreading the survey of puppetry museums by UNIMA Heritage, Museums and Documentation Commission with an aim to facilitate building an archive of puppetry museums in the world.

The seminar thesis compilation (in both English and Chinese) of the 1st Nanchong Puppetry Art Week was published in 2021. Due to the COVID-19, the thesis compilation of the 2nd Nanchong International Puppetry Art Week will be published in 2023, which by then will be brought to UNIMA Headquarters and be given to the thesis authors and people who need it. The related content will be posted on the website of Asia-Pacific Commission for academic and artistic exchange.

A special explanation shall be made again, that the Asia-Pacific version of Customs of the "4 Continents, 4 Creations" project was exclusively funded by Shanghai Theatre Academy. It is a collective achievement by college teachers and students in puppetry major. A trailer was sent to our UNIMA secretariat. During the Nanchong Puppetry Art Week, the show was well received.

In order to eliminate the barriers caused by the pandemics, national centers in Asia-Pacific region conducted online exchange meetings. National centers and commission members have made plans on promoting mutual understanding and friendship by organizing online and offline puppetry activities including showcases, seminars, presentations, workshops, etc. A project on creating and sharing videos of puppetry featuring certain countries and regions is under discussion.

The preparation of the 23rd council meeting by UNIMA Indonesia and the 24th congress by UNIMA Korea, as well as festivals are carrying on orderly.

In the upcoming November, the Commission will support UNIMA China in preparing the 8th Quanzhou Puppetry Festival within the 7th International Maritime Silk Road Festival in Fujian province. We will welcome the participation of troupes and national centers to join the online showcases.

Plans for the following years:

UNIMA Asia-Pacific Commission managed to gain support from Nanchong Municipal Government in setting space where Commission will set a base for Asia-Pacific Puppetry and Shadow Art Showcases. Commission is also planning to develop an exchange platform for UNIMA national centers here. The commission is planning to cooperate with Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and Nanchong Municipal Government to expand the Nanchong Puppetry Art Week into Puppetry Art Season, in order to enlarge the number of participants from overseas, and grand more opportunities for further communication and more projects.



Dossier Council 2023

April 26 - 30, 2023



Planning to cooperate with Research Commission, Heritage, Museum and Documentation Centers Commission in organizing academic forums and seminar on protecting and developing cultural inheritance during the festivals in Nanchong, Shanghai and Quanzhou.

Planning to cooperate with Professional Training Commission in promoting exchange among puppetry training institutes, such as sending exchange teachers and students, promoting system professional training, etc.

Try to cooperate with International Festival Commission in promote the diversity and richness of activities in the festivals jointly organized by Asia-Pacific Commission and local government.

Making plans on regularly inviting puppetry experts to give presentations, workshops at the Asia-Pacific Showcase Base in Nanchong.

When the situation will permit, Commission will try to carry on promoting the project on puppetry events (such as exhibition, performances, seminars, workshops, etc.) successively held in China, Japan and South Korea within the Culture Cities of East Asia Program joint initiated by the abovementioned countries.

Offering feasible support for ASEAN Puppetry Association to initiate the project on a video compilation of ASEAN Puppetry, by means of social media, to understand the current situation and difficulties of puppetry in different countries, to discuss possible solutions, to enhance cultural exchanges.