



Solomon Islands Government

**Ministry of Culture & Tourism
CULTURE DIVISION
P.O Box G20,
Honiara.**

Report on the Press Conference for the;

“Official Announcement of the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 by the Solomon Islands”.

Held at the National Arts Gallery on Friday 22nd February 2019



Center-Left: Mr. Andrew Nihopara (Permanent Secretary/MCT)

Table of Content	Page
Acknowledgement	3
Introduction	4
Official Announcement	5
Financial Report	7
Summary	8
Appendixes	9, 10, 11
1. Press Conference Photos	
2. Solomon Star Newspaper Article (News Release)	
3. Island Sun Newspaper Article (News Release)	
<i>NB:</i> External attachments	
a. Original text of the Press Statement	
b. Media Release on the Press Conference (Government Communication Unit)	

Acknowledgement

The Culture Division and the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism would like to convey sincere acknowledgement to the mainstream media for the coverage of the Press Conference for the Official Announcement of the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003. Incredible gratitude is expressly given to the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), Island Sun Newspaper, Solomon Star Newspaper, Local Television (LTV) and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industries Media (SICCI) for the excellent coverage of the Press. Culture Division would also like to acknowledge various stakeholders who have attended to witness the official announcement, including the President of the Solomon Islands Artists Association (SIAA), individual artists and the members of the other Government Ministries.

Further acknowledgement is given to the catering group who have prepared the light refreshment for the Press Conference.

On this juncture, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism would like to acknowledge those stakeholders that helped to facilitating the ratification processes, especially, the UNESCO National Commission Desk at the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands.

Introduction

The Press Conference was organized by the Culture Division of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism purposely to officially announce the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003. For the Press Conference, the mainstream media was invited to cover the Press, which all have turned up including; Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), Island Sun Newspaper, Solomon Star Newspaper and Local Television (LTV). The UNESCO National Commission (SI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade including other stakeholders such as the Solomon Islands Artists Association were also invited for the Press Conference. The Culture Division also engaged a caterer which they have provided a light refreshment after the Press Conference.

The Press Conference then, was successfully held at the National Arts Gallery at 2:00 pm on the 22nd of February 2019.

During the Press Conference, the Permanent Secretary has made the announcement of the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of ICH 2003. Also the Director of Culture has elaborated further on the need to ratify other UNESCO Conventions for the cultural sector including the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions as well as the Underwater Cultural heritage Convention 2001. In addition the Deputy Director of Culture have elaborated on the framework for the implementation of the Intellectual Property Rights as well as the review of the Copy Right Act of Solomon Islands.

The Official Announcement:

N0	Name	Title	Remarks
1	Mr. Andrew Nihopara	Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Culture and Tourism	<p>Mr. Andrew Nihopara (PS/MCT) firstly thanked the media team for making their time available for the Press Conference. He then introduced the staff of the Culture Division who are present with him. Immediately after, he proceeded directly with the Announcement.</p> <p>Having deliberating on the Ratification, the Permanent Secretary has highlighted that the ratification is part of the fulfilment of the Solomon Island National Development Strategy (NDS)-2016-2035, Objective 5, MTS 14: improve national unity and sustainability and promote our Cultural Heritage at all levels. He then, also highlighted the 2030 SDG Agenda, especially goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable—and this too, only in terms of “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage,” and Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all—in terms of the need to impart the “appreciation of cultural diversity and culture’s contribution to sustainable development”. The Permanent Secretary then concluded by mentioning the importance to work towards ratification of the 2001 UCH Convention and the 2005 DCE Convention. (See attachment for full Statement of the Announcement).</p>
2	Mr. Dennis Marita	Director of Culture Division	<p>Contributing during the Press Conference, Director of Culture, Mr. Dennis Marita highlighted that the ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003</p>

			marks a significant recognition of the Cultural sector by the Government of Solomon Islands. He further explained that the Government of Solomon Islands need to put strong emphasis behind the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to support the Cultural sector, especially the creative industries. He then highlighted that the Cultural industries has potentials that can be contributed to the economic growth of Solomon Islands in terms of job creation and employment. Mr. Dennis, then also mentioned the connection between the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the need for protection of the Traditional Knowledge in terms of innovation and invention. In this regard, Mr. Dennis make mention of the importance of the Intellectual Property Right which currently Solomon Islands under the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs in collaboration with the Culture Division of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism are working closely to implement the IP-Strategy 2014. With this, he also highlighted that Solomon Islands will celebrate the IP-Day on the 26 th of April which will coincide with the closing of the ICH Capacity building Workshop in Honiara.
3	Mr. Andrew Houlia	Deputy Director of the Culture Division	Mr. Andrew Houlia, the Deputy Director of Culture Division during the Press Conference highlighted the current undertaking of the Culture Division to strengthen and enforcement of the Copy Right Act of Solomon Islands. He mentioned that Culture Division in collaboration with the Registrar General Office (RGO) under the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs are currently planning a nationwide consultation on the review of the Copy Rights Act. Mr. Houlia then further announced during the

			Press Conference, the lending out of the Honiara Crafts Market Centre advertised for interested Cultural groups and Artists to place Expression of Interest (EOI) to rent the rooms for marketing of Cultural products. Along with that, he further highlighted that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Culture Division's hosting of the National Panpipe Festival in July since its inauguration in 2017 as a biannual event.
4	Mr. Steven Namosu Paukari	Principal Culture Officer of Culture Division and responsible officer for ICH in Solomon Islands.	During the Q&A session of the Press Conference, Mr. Steven explained to the media the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at the national level. He then further explained the relationship between ICH and the natural heritage. He also highlighted the importance of ICH safeguarding in the context of Solomon Islands as a diverse cultural society. Mr. Steven also highlighted the major domains of ICH and the values that vested therewith as the living heritage.

Financial Report:

Under the recurrent budget of the Culture Division, Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Culture Division has procured and expended SBD\$2000.00 for the Press Conference refreshment including transport and logistics.

Budget Expenditure Breakdown

N0	Item	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Sandwich	\$5.00 x 50 piece	\$250.00
2	Sausage	\$ 23.00 x 6 pkt	\$138.00
3	Milk Cake	\$15.00 x 25 piece	\$375.00
4	Water	\$ 5.00 x 50 Bottle	\$ 250.00
5	Soft Drinks	\$ 8.00 x 25	\$ 200.00
6	Taxi hire	\$150.00 x 2	\$300.00
7	Labour Cost	\$250.00 x 2	\$500.00
8	Total Expenditure		\$2000.00

Short Summary:

The Press Conference was successfully held on the 22nd February 2019. The Official announcement of the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of ICH 2003 was also inclined with other public awareness of the responsibilities, duties, functions and the national undertakings by the Culture Division of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

In response to the information released through the mainstream media as well as on the Social Media especially Facebook, the wider public have commended the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Government of Solomon Islands in general for the steps taking to be part of the international convention for the safeguarding of the invaluable resources under the cultural sector.

Following the Press release, many community leaders, elders, youths, women, artists and cultural practitioners have shown expression of interest to participate in the upcoming ICH Capacity building Workshop scheduled for 22nd to 26th April. However, the Culture Division have closed the participation at pp 50, because of the budget constraint, and assured the public that continuous follow-up workshop trainings will be organised to include more people as much as possible as the States Parties commitment to the Convention at the national level.

Appendix 1: Photos of the Press Conference (Photos: *Courtesy of Culture Division*)

Centre-left: Andrew Nihopara (PS/MCT)



Media Attention:



Refreshment after the Conference:



Appendix 2: Solomon Star Newspaper Article (News Release)

SI ratifies ICH convention

SOLOMON Islands became a State Party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) after the signing of the Instrument of Ratification on 5th March 2018 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Milner Tosi.

The ratification has made Solomon Islands become the 178th State Party to Convention.

Following the 5th March signing, the instrument was officially deposited on the 11th May 2018 in accordance with article 34 of the Convention. Solomon Islands has entered into force on August 11th – three months after the deposit of the instrument.

In the Pacific region, Solomon Islands was the latest to ratify the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003, joining other Pacific Island States including: Kiribati, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The successful Ratification of the Convention came possible after the approval by the Government in May 2010 and a further Cabinet approval in 2017.

The Solomon Islands Government announced its intention to ratify the UNESCO Conventions (2001, 2003, and 2005) together on the occasion of the visit of Ms. Irina Bokova, the then Director-General of UNESCO in May 2010.

At the request of the authorities of Solomon Islands and as a follow up to the Director-General's visit, a Workshop on the Intangible Cultural Strategy of Solomon Islands was held in Honiara from 18th - 21st October 2010.

The Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in



Permanent Secretary of MCT, Andrew Nihopara (Center-Left) with Officers from the Culture Division announcing the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage at the National Art Gallery last Friday

cooperation with the Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO.

The Workshop puts emphasis on three important areas of the culture sector, namely, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), Diversity of Cultural Expressions (DCE) and Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH). It was funded under the UNESCO/Japanese Fund-in-Trust as well as UNESCO's Regular Programme to cover the component of DEC and UCH.

The fact that Solomon Islands has just ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003, it is also crucial that Solomon Islands opted to ratify the other two UNESCO Conventions which are: Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001 and Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005.

As required, States Parties to the ICH Convention assume certain responsibilities for the implementation of the ICH Convention at country level such as the establishment of ICH inventories with community participation, the submission of a periodic report to UNESCO every six years, the financial contribution to the ICH Fund, etc.

To implement the ICH Convention in an effective and efficient manner at country level, it is necessary for the Solomon Islands to strengthen a capacity of stakeholders and develop national systems for the ICH Safeguarding for sustainable development.

These stakeholders include Government officials, ICH holders and practitioners, community leaders, NGOs, Women and the

Youth.

In this regard, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Culture Division) is organizing a Five-days Capacity Building Workshop on the implementation of the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Honiara starting from April 22 to 26 with UNESCO assistance.

This will be the first training workshop for 50 participants from Government Ministries, Provincial culture offices, Traditional leaders, NGOs, Local Communities, Artist Organizations, Women groups and youth groups that have been identified to participate in this ICH Capacity building Workshop.

The workshop will be based on UNESCO's standard programme developed under the ICH

Global Capacity Building Programme. It will be focused on the implementation of the ICH Convention at country level, including the development of ICH inventory which is one of the obligations of a state party to the ICH Convention.

The programme will consist of lectures and hands on practice for community-based ICH inventorying (CBI) of selected ICH elements (such as traditional performing arts, traditional fishing methods, handicrafts making, etc.) CBI involves the process in obtaining free, prior, and informed consent of community and ICH practitioners, photo taking, video shooting, interviewing, and report making.

The workshop will be facilitated by a UNESCO accredited ICH trainer.

Solomon Star, Wednesday 27 February, 2019

Appendix 3: Island Sun Newspaper Article (News Release)

theislandsun.com.sb

The Island Sun Wednesday 27 February 2019 15

LOCAL NEWS



(Left to right) Principal Culture Officer, Steven Namousi Paukari, Permanent Secretary, Andrew Nihopara, Director of Culture, Dennis Marita and Deputy Director of Culture, Andrew Houlia.

SIs becomes 178th state party to UNESCO

BY LORETTA BRIGIDIA MANELE

SOLOMON ISLANDS has become the 178th state party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) 2003.

The formal announcement was made to the media by Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT), Andrew Nihopara on February 22 at the Art Gallery building.

He explained that this is following the signing of the instrumental ratification on March 5 in 2018 by then Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET), Milner Tozaka.

Nihopara added that the signed instrument was sent to UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, France and officially deposited on May 11, 2018 before Solomon Islands entered it into force three months later on August 11, 2018.

He said state parties to the ICH convention are required to assume certain responsibilities for the implementation of the ICH convention at country level.

This involves the establishment of ICH inventory with community participation and the submission of a periodic report to UNESCO every 6 years on the progress and financial contribution from members to the ICH fund.

Nihopara stressed that to implement the ICH convention in an effective and efficient manner and have it sustainably developed, it is necessary that Solomon Islands strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and develops national systems.

"These stakeholders include government officials, ICH holders and practitioners, community leaders, NGOs, artist groups, women and youth groups in the country," he said.

Nihopara went on to say that the ratification of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is an important strategy, particularly the Medium Term Strategy and that of the global development agenda.

He voiced that at national level, this ratification relates to Objective number five of the National Development Strategy (NDS), particularly the Medium Term Strategy that involves improving national unity, peace and promoting cultural heritage.

"That's basically in terms of provisions that we have at national level embedded in a framework for the protection, preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage and in this particular case, ICH assets that we have," said Nihopara.

He added that in the global development agenda, it relates to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 and 16 of which SDG 11 promotes sustainable cities and communities and SDG 16, states peace, justice and strong institutions.

Nihopara mentioned that in Solomon Islands, communities are embedded based on cultural connections and preserving cultural heritage will help sustain better living among our communities.

As for SGD 16, he said having protection of our ICH in general helps develop the tolerance we have between each other.

The Permanent Secretary for Culture and Tourism furthered that our country is highly diverse but with this framework in place it will help us embrace our diversity and tolerate each other not only on a cultural front but also with civil organizations and faith based organizations in the country.

Present at the press conference with the permanent secretary were Principal Culture Officer from Culture Division, Steven Namousi Paukari, Director of Culture from the Culture Division, Dennis Marita and his Deputy Director, Andrew Houlia.

MCT to undertake nationwide consultation awareness on copyright

BY LORETTA BRIGIDIA MANELE

THE Ministry of Culture and Tourism will undertake a nationwide consultation awareness on the copyright system in Solomon Islands this year.

Deputy Director for the ministry's Culture Division, Andrew Houlia has stated that they are looking at carrying out awareness on this because most people lack understanding of what copyright is.

He added that through this platform, they will be giving out information about how copyright protects people and their products.

"This includes giving them the right information about how copyright will protect them and how they will be protected by their own products," said Houlia.

He expressed that as mandated by the government, respective divisions from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs are heavily involved in building up the intellectual property as well as copyright of Solomon Islands.

MCT to host 5-day intangible cultural heritage workshop in April

BY LORETTA BRIGIDIA MANELE

MINISTRY of Culture and Tourism's (MCT) Culture Division is organizing a five day capacity building workshop on the implementation of the safeguarding of ICH in Honiara from April 22 to 26, 2019.

This was stated by the MCT Permanent Secretary during his press conference on February 22 at the Art Gallery building where he formally announced Solomon Islands as the 178th state party to UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) 2003.

Speaking of the workshop, he said it will be based on UNESCO's standard under the ICH global capacity building programme and carried out in partnership with UNESCO regional office resource people.

The focus of the workshop is said to be on the implementation of the ICH convention at country level including the development of ICH inventory, which is one of the obligation convention.

Nihopara told media representatives that the programme will consist of lectures and hands on practices for community based ICH inventory (CBI) and particularly selected ICH elements such as traditional performing arts, traditional fishing methods, handicraft making and others.

ICH Inventory (CBI), he said this involves the process of obtaining three prior and confirmed consent of communities and ICH practitioners.

"It would also include photo taking, videos, interviews and report making of ICH assets that we have," said Nihopara.

This training workshop is set to be a first for 50 participants ministries, provincial culture offices, traditional leaders, NGOs, local communities, artists, artist organizations, women's groups and youth groups.

The workshop will be facilitated in partnership with technical officers from MCT's culture division with UNESCO