



Regional Seminar on “Living Repositories of Culture and Knowledge: Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future”

1. Background

Southeast Asia has a rich diversity of history, culture, and knowledge that has been passed down through generations. These valuable resources are found not only in museums, archives, and historical sites, but also in the daily lives of communities. Oral traditions, indigenous knowledge, performing arts, rituals, and traditional crafts are examples of living repositories that help preserve the region's identity and cultural heritage.

Today, globalization, digital technology, urbanization, and social change bring both opportunities and challenges. While some traditional knowledge and cultural practices are at risk of being lost, education, digital innovation, and community participation offer new ways to preserve and share them with future generations.

In line with the mandate of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the role of SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT), this regional symposium will provide a platform for scholars, researchers and cultural practitioners to exchange ideas and research. It aims to strengthen regional cooperation and explore how living heritage and knowledge can contribute to sustainable development and inspire future generations across Southeast Asia.

2. Objectives

The symposium aims to:

1. Examine the role of living heritage as repositories of culture and knowledge in preserving and transmitting the region's diverse cultural traditions and knowledge systems.
2. Promote interdisciplinary research and scholarly dialogue on history, culture, heritage, and knowledge systems in Southeast Asia.
3. Explore innovative and sustainable approaches, including education, digital technologies, and community engagement, to preserve and revitalize cultural heritage and knowledge, contributing to sustainable development in Southeast Asia.
4. Strengthen regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among scholars, institutions, cultural practitioners, and SEAMEO Member Countries.

3. Thematic Areas

Papers are invited under, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Living heritage and intangible cultural traditions in Southeast Asia
- Community-based heritage preservation and participation
- Digital technologies in cultural documentation and safeguarding
- Cultural identity, resilience, and sustainable development
- Education and the revitalization of traditional knowledge

4. Target Participants (No fees for registration and participation)

- Academics, researchers, and university lecturers
- Cultural practitioners and community representatives
- Heritage professionals and policymakers
- Representatives from regional and international organizations

5. Submission Guidelines

- Abstract: 250–300 words
- Full Paper: 4,000–6,000 words
- Language: English
- Format: MS Word, Times New Roman (12 pt), Chicago style
- Submission: Via email to the SEAMEO CHAT (seameocharnd@gmail.com)

6. Tentative Date and Venue

8-9 December 2026

SEAMEO CHAT, Yangon, Myanmar (Hybrid Format)

7. Important Dates (Programme Timeline)

- Announcement of Call for Papers: August 2026
- Deadline for Abstract Submission: 1 October 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: 15 October 2026
- Submission of Full Papers: 31 January 2027

8. Contact Information

SEAMEO CHAT

Research and Development Section

thuzaraung68718@gmail.com, seameocharnd@gmail.com