

Thank you Message from APR President on the occasion of WCC Golden Jubilee Celebration held in Dongyang, China, October 18-25, 2014, with details of events.

On behalf of WCC-APR and the delegates from Asia Pacific Region I would like to congratulate WCC AISBL-President, Secretary General, WCC Secretariat team, CACA Personnel's, Organizers, Sponsors and Volunteers for the very well-organized WCC Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Dongyang, Nantong and Yangzhou. We also extend our thanks to the esteemed Hosts whether government officials like Mayors & Deputy Mayors, Leading Masters, and Private Sponsors and others, for their generous hospitality, warm welcome and kind attention. It was a great pleasure and a privilege to attend this magnificent, inclusive, and diversified event which celebrated 50 years of WCC's life-long journey.

The World Crafts Council Celebrates its 50th Golden Jubilee in China this year during 18-25 October. This mega event was hosted mainly in the City of Dongyang, which was designated recently as the World Woodcarving City by the WCC. The event was well attended by 300 artisans from 40 countries and more than 400 international delegates from the 5 regions of the WCC: WCC-Asia Pacific Region, WCC-Africa, WCC-Europe, WCC-North America and WCC-Latin America, in addition to several thousands of local visitors.

The World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR), held its 4th APR Executive Board Meeting on 17th October 2014 at the Convention Center Building, which is part of the Dongyang Woodcarving Museum Complex. The meeting was chaired by WCC-APR President, Dr.Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi and was well attended by most of the Executive Board Members, where handicrafts related issues were discussed. The meeting was immediately followed by the 35th Asia Pacific Region General Assembly, also chaired by WCC-APR President.

The general program of the WCC Golden Jubilee Celebrations included the following activities:

1. Grand opening of the WCC 50th Anniversary Celebrations
2. An International Craft Exhibition Expo in Dongyang with 300 artisans from 40 countries
3. WCC Award of Excellence Exhibition 2014
4. WCC Award of Outstanding Contributions in the field of Crafts
5. Aileen Web (Founder of WCC 1964) Award
6. A Woodcarving Competition, Workshop and Award
7. Traditional Costume Fashion Show
8. A Craft Forum in Dongyang
9. Opening of Red Sandalwood Museum

10. Visits to Dongyang Woodcarving City, a complex of more than 3000 shops of woodcarving products in addition to Bamboo Weaving shops and other crafts
11. Nantong International Contemporary Craft Biennale in which 800 products from 40 countries were submitted of which 380 pieces of crafts have been judged in Nantong 1895 Cultural & Creative Industrial Park, and 28 pieces of them were awarded.
12. Nantong Weft Art Forum in Nantong
13. WEFT Exhibition of International Artisans
14. A Fashion Show of Designers from WCC-Asia Pacific Region
15. Suzhou Embroidery Festival
16. Jurying of the National Award Competition for the Chinese Craftspersons in Yangzhou.
17. Other fairs and visits to cultural sites.

The Opening Ceremony on 18th October 2014 in Dongyang City included the Award ceremony of WCC Craft City to three cities: Dongyang as World Woodcarving City, Yogyakarta as World Batik City and Donihue as World Chamanto City.

This international event served as a means of bringing together traditional crafts from different cultures and demonstrated how the World Crafts Council and its associated bodies can play an extensive role as an international network that offers many opportunities for partnership in the field of crafts.

The delegates and visitors have been all impressed by the magnificent Dongyang Woodcarving Museum, International Convention and Exhibition Center complex which was built from scratch within one year few months especially for inaugurating the WCC Golden Jubilee Celebrations event. The Dongyang Red Sandalwood Museum, which is a major landmark in the World Woodcarving City of Dongyang was also opened on this occasion.

Congratulations to members of the Asia Pacific Region who received the “WCC Award of Outstanding Contribution for Crafts 2014”

- Ms.Usha Krishna - Immediate Past President of World Crafts Council, and APR Executive Board Advisor.
- Y.M. Raja Datin Paduka Fuziah binti Raja Tun Uda – Past President of APR, and APR Executive Board Advisor.
- H.E. Shaikh Salman Sabah al-salem Al-Hamuod Al-Sabah - Minister of information, State Minister for Youth Affairs & Head of the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters - Kuwait.
- H.E. Shaikha Ayisha Bint Khalfan Al-Siyabiya - Chairperson of the Public Authority for Crafts Industries, Sultanate of Oman, and APR Vice-President for West Asia sub-region.

- HRH Madame Gusti Kanjeng Ratu Hemas – Chairperson of National Craft Council, Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia.
- Eng. Ali al-Yooha - Secretary General of National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters- Kuwait.

Special thanks to Ms.Manjari Nirula, VP of South Asia and Mr.Edric Ong, SVP of APR & VP of South East Asia, for their full support, organizing, and contribution towards the Nantong International Crafts Biennale comprising of jurying, exhibition, forum, and fashion show.

Thanks to Raja Fuziah - Advisor, WCC-APR, for being the overall facilitator of World Crafts Forum and for her valuable report.

Thanks to Ms.Usha Krishna for Chairing Session 2 on “WCC Crafts Cities and the UNESCO Creative Cities network”.

Thanks to Ms.Ruby Ghuznavi for Chairing Session 6 on “Recent Trends in Natural Dyes”

Thanks to Ms.Surapee Rojanavongse, Dr. Kevin Murray, HRH Princess Gusti Kanjeng Ratu Pembayun on behalf of HRH Madame Gusti Kanjeng Ratu Hemas, and Ms.Noorjehan Bilgrami, for their active participation in the World Crafts Forum as “Speakers”, and to Ms.Dinara Chochunbaeva for participating in Nantong Weft Art Forum as “Speaker”.

Many thanks go to Raja Fuziah for her valuable contribution in organizing and preparing exhibition, workshop and flyer, for the participation of WCC-APR in the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Cultural Festival (PIIACUF 2014) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of WCC celebration of the 50th Anniversary.

APR is proud of the following APR members for their generous donation to 1985 Culture & Creativity Industry Park in Nantong, many thanks to them.

- Ms.May Mikhail Houry, APR member - Jordan, donated her product “Tanjara Kursi” in person.
- “Carpet X-Ray-Waves” donated by Ms.Faika Sibai Ouayda - APR Executive Board Advisor, on behalf of Ms.Lora Taleb – Lebanon.
- “The Colour Shajarah Runner” donated by President of WCC- APR, Dr.Ghada Hijjawi Qaddumi, on behalf of Ms.Laila Yasser Bader, Sadu House – Kuwait.

In my capacity as President of World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region and on behalf of WCC-APR Executive Board Members, we would like to thank each and every Artisan for his or her valuable participation in enriching this mega craft celebration and leading it to success through their rich experiences, hard work and cooperation. We would also like to congratulate all Award Winners for their wonderful accomplishment.

Photos of the WCC Golden Jubilee Celebration is uploaded in the APR Website under “Photos Gallery” – “WCC-APR Events” – “WCC Golden Jubilee Celebration, China, 17-25 Oct,2014.