



**World Crafts Council** 

Asia Pacific Region

# World Crafts Council Asia Pacific Region

Handicrafts

Preservation, Creativity, Innovation, Sustainability

WCC-APR Secretariat Kuwait (2013-2016)
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# **President's Message**

It has been an honor to be elected President of Asia Pacific Region (APR) for the term 2013-2016. I am committed to serving and accomplishing its noble mission and objectives, mainly, meeting the aspirations of the craftspeople, and promoting crafts as a vital component of culture.



It is, therefore, our responsibility to strengthen the status of crafts, to support craftspeople to develop their valuable skills, through offering technical assistance and creating opportunities to promote their products.

WCC-APR has already initiated TWO main long-term projects, namely: Crafts Education (CE) and Natural Dyes programme (ND). Furthermore, it is now in the process of implementing an ambitious project, namely, "The Crafts Encyclopedia in Asia Pacific Region".

All members of Asia Pacific Region are invited to initiate and implement other vital programmes related to creativity, innovation, marketing, sustainability of available natural resources of crafts, and observation of environmental preservation.

WCC-APR realizes the importance of tightening relations with NGOs, relevant International bodies such as UNESCO, Business Corporations in the Private Sector, as well as Authorities in the Public Sector, such as the Ministries of Culture, Information and Tourism.

It is as important to continue recruiting young people so as to inject WCC with new blood, through education and training, in order to keep it active and alive. The Executive Board and all APR members and myself, are looking forward to having the support and involvement of cultural institutions, of designers and promoters, as well as individuals interested in crafts and arts, hoping that in the future we witness progress and prosperity in the crafts sector.

As a last note, I hope this brief brochure, by highlighting the relationship of APR with the mother organization WCC-AISBL as well as its own objectives, structure, projects and activities, would encourage the reader to join our organization.

Dr. Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi President, WCC-Asia Pacific Region (2013-2016)

# **The World Crafts Council (WCC-AISBL)**

## The Founder



Mrs. Aileen Osborn Vanderbilt Webb

# Co-Founders



Mrs. Margaret Merwin Patch



Mrs. Kamaldevi Chattopadhyay

# WCC Presidents from Asia Pacific Region



Ms.Marea Gazzard, Australia - WCC President (1980-1984)



Desamanya Siva Obeyesekere, Sri Lanka - WCC President (1992 – 1996)



Ms. Usha Krishna, India-WCC President (2008-2012)



Mr. Wang Shan China-WCC President (2013-2016)



# WCC-AISBL Historical Background

The World Crafts Council (WCC) was founded as a non-governmental and non-profit organization, at an international meeting at the University of Colombia, New York, U.S.A., on June 12, 1964, by Ms. Aileen Osborn Vanderbuilt Webb, Ms. Margaret Merwin Patch, and Srimati (Ms.) Kamaldevi Chattopadhyay. The organization's main mission is to bring crafts and craftspeople into the mainstream of life, to elevate the status of crafts, being a vital part of a country's national cultural heritage, and to meet the aspirations of the craftspeople all over the world.

The organization was formally registered in Belgium in 2012 as an international organization, and the new entity is now known as World Crafts Council AISBL, or (WCC-AISBL). This organization began as a single entity in the United States, then eventually branched into five daughter organizations comprising the five regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America). Its Executive Board is made up of the President of WCC-AISBL, the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Five Regions.

#### The main objectives of the World Crafts Council are:

- Strengthening the cultural, social and economic status of crafts and craftspeople.
- Promoting interaction and fellowship among the craftspeople of the world.
- Offering craftspeople encouragement, help, advice so as to improve their socio-economic conditions through income generating activities.
- Providing common information platforms to the crafts communities.

#### The World Crafts Council Comprises Five Regions:



- · Africa
- · Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- North America
- · South (Latin) America

# Presidents of WCC-Asia Pacific Region (1976-2016)



I Mrs. **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay** (1976-1979) India



2 Mr. **Kenji Fujimori** (1980-1981) Japan



3 Raja Fuziah Binti Raja Tun Uda (1982 – 1984) Malaysia



Mr. Bandula de Silva (1985-1988) Sri Lanka



5 Mr. Uxi Mufti (1989-1992) Pakistan



6 Mr. Hamid Reza Mortezale Dr. Foroohar Noormah (1993-1996) Iran



7 Desamanya (Mrs.) Siva Obeysekere (1997-2000) Sri Lanka



8 Mrs. Vijaya Rajan (2001-2004) India



9 Datuk Zakiah binti Ahmad (2005- 2007) Malaysia



10 Dato Abdullah Hj Ab Rahman (2007-2008) Malaysia



11 Mrs. Surapee Rojanavongse (2009-2012) Thailand



12 Dr. (Mrs.) Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi (2013-2016) Kuwait



# About WCC-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR)

The World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) forms the largest and most active Region of the World Crafts Council-AISBL (WCC-AISBL). It is structured into six sub-regions covering Asian countries stretching from the furthest West end (the Middle East) to the furthest East end (Japan, China, etc.), including Australia and other South Pacific Islands.

## The body of WCC-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) comprises the following:-

- The Asia Pacific Region General Assembly (GA) consists of all members of the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region.
- The Executive Board- comprises the President and Vice Presidents of the six (6) sub-regions (please see map below), as well as Advisors and Honorary members .
- The Asia Pacific Secretariat- is headed by the President of WCC-Asia Pacific Region and based in the city and country of the President.



# The 6 Sub-Regions of WCC-Asia Pacific Region(APR):

- West Asia (WA)
- Central Asia (CA)
- South Asia: (SA)
- South-East Asia (SEA)
- East Asia (EA)
- South Pacific (SP)



# **Mission & Objectives**

#### **Our Mission:**

To preserve and develop the traditional handicrafts, and to ensure their status as a vital part of the cultural heritage of each country, as well as to foster craftspeople and meet their aspirations of elevating their socio-economic conditions.

# **Our Objectives:**

- To ensure the status of crafts as a vital part of the cultural life of the people, and to promote the human values inherited in them.
- To promote, develop, maintain, strengthen and ensure the status of crafts as an important medium of artistic expression.
- To revive languishing crafts, preserve them, and be inspired by them in new, modern, creative, and innovative forms.
- To improve the quality of life of the craftspeople and to enhance the quality of their crafts.
- To offer technical assistance to craftspeople by training courses, workshops, and exchange visits.
- To disseminate knowledge by lectures, seminars, research, exhibitions and tours.
- To serve as an agency of cooperation between member countries.
- To support craftspeople by financial assistance and to encourage them by recognition of their work.
- To establish a network of crafts information exchange so as to ensure that craftspeople are in communication with each other.



# **Membership**

Membership of the WCC-Asia Pacific Region is shall be open to any institution, organization and individual from countries of operational areas of the WCC-Asia Pacific Region and is subject to the Rules & Regulations of WCC-APR.

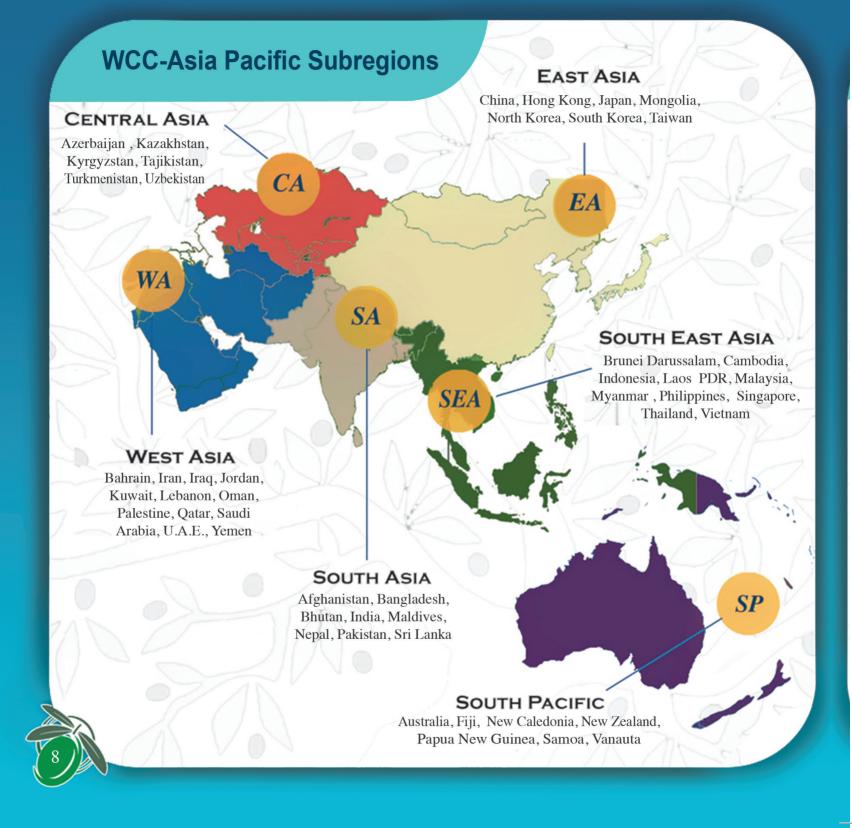
For information on membership fees or to apply for membership, please visit our website (www.wccapr.org) to download the Membership Application Form.

# **Membership Categories**

There are five (5) categories of members of the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, namely:

- 1. National Entity Member
- 2. Associate Member (International/Regional NGO's/ Group Member)
- 3. Individual Member
- 4. Honorary Member
- 5. Student Member







# **Asia Pacific Region Executive Board Meetings**



First Asia Pacific Region Executive Board Meeting, No. 1/2013, held during the term of the current Presidency (2013-2016) on 23rd January 2013, in the State of Kuwait.



Second Asia Pacific Region Executive Board Meeting, No. 2/2013, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 27th July 2013.



Third Asia Pacific Region Executive Board Meeting, No. 1/2014, held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 1-3 June 2014.



4th Asia Pacific Region Executive Board Meeting, No. 2/2014, held in Dongyang, China on 17th October 2014.

# APR Flagship Projects (2008-2016)

## Crafts Education (CE)

WCC-APR considers Crafts Education and

Training as a priority area in human resources development. There is a need to collect data on the subject and undertake researches and surveys. Many member countries in Asia Pacific Region have started to be aware of the importance of crafts education and training as educational tools.







## Natural Dye (ND)

WCC-APR has been interested in reviving the use of natural dyes in the Region for many years. In commitment to the development and promotion of natural dyes, WCC-APR formalized its Natural Dye Project (NDP) at the WCC General Assembly in Hangzhou in 2008.









#### Publication of "Encyclopedia of Handcrafts in Asia-Pacific Region" (APR-EHC)

The Encyclopedia of Handicrafts in Asia-Pacific Region is an ambitious project intended to be used as a reference provide information about the terminology, historical, artistic, technical and raw-materials backgrounds of the crafts in each country in the WCC-Asia Pacific Region. It will be available in both hard copies and soft copies.

Experts in the field of crafts are invited to contribute to this project. Your contributions are welcome through the VPs in the concerned subregions (please refer to the Organizational Chart).

# World Crafts Council Golden Jubilee Celebrations October 18-25, 2014

The World Crafts Council (WCC) Golden Jubilee Anniversary was celebrated from 18-25 Oct,2014 in Dongyang city in China, which was declared this year as the World Craft Woodcarving City. 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.

It was a good opportunity for the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Regions (WCC-APR) to hold its 4<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting and 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on 17 Oct,2014 in Dongyang.

# The Events organized during the Jubilee celebrations included:

- The Grand Opening Ceremony on 18 October 2014 in Dongyang City, which included the Award Ceremony of WCC Craft City to three cities: Dongyang as World City for Woodcarving, Yogyakarta as World City for Batik and Donihue as World City for Chamanto.
- Woodcarving Workshop and Competition, Exhibitions, WCC Award of Excellence Exhibition 2014, WCC Award of Outstanding Contributions in the field of Crafts, the Award of Aileen Web (founder of WCC, 1964), International Craft Exhibition, Traditional Costume Fashion Show, Forum in Dongyang, Opening of Red Sandalwood Museum, Forum in Nantong, Nantong International Craft Biennale in which 800 products from 40 countries participated, WEFT Exhibition, Fashion Show, Souzhou Embroidery Festival, the National Award Competition for the Chinese Craftspersons in Yangzhou, and other tours and visits to cultural sites.



1) WCC - Board Meeting



2) WCC-APR 4th Board Meeting



3) 35th APR - General Assembly



4) 35th APR-General Assembly



5) WCC-50th Anniversary Opening



6) Opening Ceremony



7) Opening of Int. Exhibition





9) WCC-Outstanding Award



10) WCC-Outstanding Award



12) Fashion Show



**International Delegates Group Photo** 



13) Red Sandalwood Museum



14) WCC-Craft Forum



15) WCC - Wood Carving Award



16) WCC - Award Ceremony



17) WCC - Closing Ceremony



18) Dongyang-Woodcarving City



19) Dongyang-Workshop



20) Int. Exhibition



21) Int. Exhibition





22) Nantong- Opening 23) Nantong-Forum and 24) Natural Dye Exhibit





25) Nantong-Fashion



26) Putrajaya Festival-Malaysia

# **WCC-APR** Events

# I. Regional Events hosted in Kuwait

The Asia Pacific Region (APR) is rich in crafts events and activities all year around throughout the region. The current President of WCC-APR, Dr. Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi, organized two major events at the inception of her presidency in 2013 in Kuwait, where the current seat of APR Presidency (2013-2016) is headquartered. The following events were held in Kuwait in collaboration with, and with the full support of the Government of the State of Kuwait, represented by the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters (NCCAL).

## 1- A Regional Event, "The Asia Pacific Handicrafts Week", January 20-25, 2014





WCC-APR President, Dr. Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi, with Immediate Past President (IPP) of APR, Ms. Surapee Rojanvongse, H.E. the Chairman of NCCAL, Sheikh Salman Sabah al-Salem al-Hmoud Al-Sabah, and the Secretary General of NCCAL, Eng. Ali al-Youha, IPP of WCC, Ms. Usha Krishna, and WCC President, Mr. Wang Shan, and WCC Secretary General, Ms. Chen Jing at the Opening Ceremony of Asia Pacific Handicrafts Week event in Kuwait.

#### 2- An Inter-Regional Event, the "African Handicrafts Week", November. 11-15, 2013





The Opening Ceremony of the African Handicrafts Week, at the National Museum Theatre, Kuwait, which was attended by H.E. the State Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Minister of Health, Shaikh Mohammed Abdullah al-Mubarak al-Sabah, H.E. the Advisor at Al-Diwan Al-Amiri, Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Abol Hassan, the Secretary General of NCCAL, WCC President, and the Representative of the President of WCC-Africa Region.

#### 3- An Upcoming Inter-Regional Event, "Latin American Handicrafts Week", January 2016

WCC-APR President is also planning to organize an inter-regional event, "the Latin-American Handicrafts Week" in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters (NCCAL) in Kuwait during 20-25 January 2016.

# II. Exhibitions & Workshops



Exhibition of "UNESCO Award of Excellence , Jan 2013, Kuwait.



African Handicrafts Week Exhibition, Nov. 2013, Kuwait.



African Week Exhibition, Nov. 2013, Kuwait.



Live Demonstration during Asia Pacific Week, Jan 2013, Kuwait.



Recycling Jewelry from Australia, Asia Pacific Week, Jan. 2013.



Live demonstration by Felt artisan in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, July 2013.



Training of Trainers Workshop, Bangladesh, Sep. 2012.



Live Demonstration of Bark Cloth, African Week Event, Nov. 2013, Kuwait.



Live demonstration by Massai artisans from Kenya, African Week, Nov. 2013, Kuwait.

## III. Forums & Seminars



Panel Discussion on crafts in English Language held in Kuwait during the Asia Pacific Handicrafts Week 20-25 Jan 2013.



Panel Discussion on crafts in Arabic Language held in Kuwait during the Asia Pacific Handicrafts Week 20-25 Jan 2013.



1st Semarang International Batik Festival" in May 2013.



Forum held in Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan during 8<sup>th</sup> OIMO Festival in July 2013.

# IV. Crafts Awards in Asia Pacific Region

One of the major APR awards is the WCC Award of Excellence for Handicrafts held under the umbrella of UNESCO. The First Cycle of Jurying for WCC-Award of Excellence 2014 for Asia Pacific Region countries was held in August 2014 in Jakarta-Indonesia. The Second Cycle of Jurying for this Award of Excellence will be held in 2016 in Kuwait.

Many countries in Asia Pacific Region have national awards for crafts awarded to craftspersons for excellence in handicrafts, such as Bangladesh, China, Iran, India, Malaysia, the Sultanate of Oman, and others.



Bangladesh, Master Craftsperson Award.



China, Master Craftspersons Award 2013.



Iran, National Award of Excellence awarded during the annual World Crafts Day event in 2013.



Oman, Annual Sultan Qaboos Award for Excellence in Handicrafts, 2014

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