

UNESCO: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNESCO/JIKJI MEMORY OF THE WORLD PRIZE

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REPORT TO CDNL 2004

The Executive Board of UNESCO approved at its 169th session held in April 2004 the establishment of the UNESCO/ Jikji Memory of the World Prize. The establishment of this Prize was proposed by the Republic of Korea. The aims of this Prize are to further promote the objectives of the Memory of the World Programme and to commemorate the inscription of the *Jikji*, the oldest known book of movable metal print in the world.

The Prize consisting of an award of US\$ 30,000 will be given every two years to individuals or institutions that have made significant contributions to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage. The award itself and the operating costs of the Prize as well as all costs related to the award ceremony will be funded by the Republic of Korea through arrangements made with the Municipal Council of Cheongju City.

UNESCO has launched the Memory of the World Programme 11 years ago to ensure preservation of the world's documentary heritage and to make this heritage accessible to as many people as possible, using the most appropriate technology, both inside and outside the countries in which it is physically located.

The Memory of the World has at present national committees in 61 Member States and regional committees in Asia/Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Memory of the World Register lists documentary heritage that has been identified by the International Advisory Committee as corresponding to the selection criteria for world significance and endorsed by the Director-General.

Today 91 collections from 45 Member States including the *Jikji* are inscribed on the Register. The *Jikji* contains the essentials of Zen Buddhism compiled by priest Baegun in late Goryeo period. The book was printed in two volumes. The first volume has not been found yet and the second volume is being kept in the Bibliothèque nationale of France. This Prize will further promote the objectives of the programme worldwide.

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