

The 1st Symposium on Tribal Crafts and Folk Art (February 4, 2023, Nan in Thailand)

The Symposium on Tribal Crafts and Folk Art is the first international event to be initiated by the city of Nan through joint collaboration by Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA) Area 6 (Nan) and Area 4 (Sukhothai). This symposium was supported by the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) to assist onsite speakers and participants by hiring a venue to enhance the mobility of representatives from the UCCN. The Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design of Naresuan University, led by Associate Professor Witiya Pittungnapoo, who is a co-focal point of the Sukhothai UCCN for Crafts and Folk Art and helped to connect the UCCN members, contributed to this international symposium.



This symposium is timely and was inspired by the MONDIACULT Declaration of 2022 to promote cultural diversity by encouraging Nan and Sukhothai creative cities to promote the tribal crafts and folk art. This effort allowed members of the UCCN from overseas and creative cities in Thailand to share their cultural identity and good practices in driving the city towards multicultural and inclusive societies for achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, one of the emerging concerns among UCCN members and its partners is the co-creation of new dialogue on tribal crafts and folk art to empower ethnic groups to express and exchange their crafts and cultural identities across multicultural societies. The number of participants were 30 onsite including those from the public and private sectors as well as artisans from many partners, 8 city representatives (onsite), and 6 online speakers from the UCCN.



The keynote speaker, Professor Byung Hoon Jeong, focal point of Jinju UCCN for Crafts and Folk Art, South Korea and deputy coordinator of the UCCN Crafts and Folk Art Sub-Network, represented Jinju’s rich experiences and best practices that contributed to its success as a creative

city with a leading role in Asia. Col. Nawin Prechapanitchayakul, managing director of DASTA Area 4 (Sukhothai) and Mr. Weerawit Chanthawarang, deputy managing director of DASTA Area 4 and focal point of Sukhothai UCCN for Crafts and Folk Art, presented Sukhothai's efforts to promote and preserve cultural heritage through more creative approaches. Dr. Witiya Pittungnapoo, co-focal point of Sukhothai UCCN for Crafts and Folk Art and associate professor at Naresuan University, shared insights on how a higher educational institution could work with the city to empower craftsmen and creative entrepreneurs to fulfill the UCCN's mission for achieving the sustainable development goals.

The Governor of Nan (Mr. Viboon Vaewbundit) and the Vice Governor



of Nan (Mr. Kritchphet Petcharaburanin) presented how Nan City prepared its application to the UCCN by integrating the UCCN's mission into its city strategic development and the five-year Nan UCCN action plan (2023-2027). As the managing director of DASTA Area 6 (Nan), Mrs. Suparada

Karndissayakul presented the city's initiatives as a year-round series of creative and cultural-based activities to ensure Nan's vision as a creative city of livable crafts and folk art for all. Dr. Somjin Chankarabi, managing director of DASTA Area 7 (Supanburi), shared good practices in the music sector through public and private partnership.

We would like to express great appreciation to all our honorable speakers (online) led by Mary Hammond, coordinator of UCCN Crafts and Folk Art Sub-Network, focal point of Paducah UCCN, and executive director of Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau from the USA, who presented best practices and the factors of success from the city of Paducah. Professor Christopher Bailey, focal point of York UCCN for Media Arts from the UK, presented how science and technology have been integrated into the cultural heritage of York. Pingping Tan, co-focal point of Weifang UCCN for Crafts and Folk Art from China, shared a wonderful presentation on the international kite festival that made the sky lively and colourful. Ir. Ronny Loppies, focal point of Ambon UCCN for Music from Indonesia, inspired the audience with a presentation on musical phenomena for sustainable development. Finally, Miss Pham Thi Lan Anh, focal point of Hanoi UCCN



for Design and head of Heritage Management Office under the Hanoi Department of Culture and Sports, and Dr. Lu Thi Thanh Le, lecturer of Hanoi National University from Vietnam, shared how to re-design crafts to generate more income for local entrepreneurs to create decent work in a creative economy.

This international event also promoted tribal crafts and Iu-Mien culture (one of the 11 ethnicities in Nan) which was simultaneously celebrated during the 5th World Iu-Mien Cultural Festival hosted by Nan Province (February 3–5, 2023). Of particular note was the participation of approximately 100,000 ethnic Iu-Mien people from seven countries (USA, Canada, France, China, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand) who expressed and exchanged their indigenous crafts and culture during this festival.

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(Co-focal Point of Sukhothai)