



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Urgent Safeguarding List

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CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Fifth session
Kenya
November 2010

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF NOMINATION FILES NO. 00322 FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN NEED OF URGENT SAFEGUARDING IN 2010

Name of the examiner: Craft Revival Trust
Name of the expert (if different): Ritu Sethi
Date of the examination: (revised on) 15 July 2010
Nomination file No. 00322 State Party: China Name of element: Wooden movable-type printing of China
<p><i>Note: Information in italics in boxes is provided for the examiner's reference; it includes excerpts from the Operational Directives or from the explanations given to submitting States Parties in the nomination form. The examiner shall rely upon the information provided within the nomination file, including any photos, video or additional information that is made available as part of the nomination. The examiner shall bring to bear his/her personal and professional knowledge in assessing the credibility and completeness of the information provided within the nomination, but his/her report shall primarily address whether or not the submitting State, within the nomination, has adequately demonstrated that the criteria for inscription are satisfied. The examiner shall neither be a national of the State(s) Party(ies) submitting the nomination nor have any conflict of interest that could influence unduly the results of the examination.</i></p>

Excerpts from the Operational Directives

Examination of nominations:

5. *With a view to their evaluation by the Committee, nominations shall be examined by preferably more than one advisory organization accredited in conformity with Article 9.1 of the Convention. In conformity with Article 8.4, the Committee may invite public or private bodies and/or private persons with recognized competence in the field of intangible cultural heritage, in order to consult them on specific matters. No nomination will be examined by (a) national(s) of the State(s) Party(ies) submitting the nomination.*
6. *Examinations shall include assessment of the nomination's conformity with the inscription criteria.*
7. *Each examination shall include assessment of the viability of the element and of the feasibility and sufficiency of the safeguarding plan. It shall also include assessment of the risk of its disappearing, due, inter alia, to the lack of means for safeguarding and protecting it, or to processes of globalization and social or environmental transformation.*
8. *The reports of these examinations shall include a recommendation to the Committee to inscribe, or not to inscribe, the nominated element.*

Brief textual description of the nominated element

The examiner should provide a brief description of the nominated element, suitable for publication. This may draw upon item D of the Cover Sheet, but should also draw upon the nomination as a whole to provide a summary overview of the essential features of the element. The description should be prepared based on the information provided within the nomination file.

(175 to 225 words)

The Chinese technique of movable type printing, its invention dated to the middle of the 11th century, was widely used for the printing of manuscripts, official imperial documents and genealogies of various clans until the 19th century. With the popularisation of this technique during the 12th and 13th centuries, the clay characters originally used for printing were replaced by wooden as well as metal characters. However, movable type printing as practiced today utilises only hand engraved wooden characters and is largely restricted to the printing of genealogies.

Hand engraved, each wooden block is a laterally inverted version of its corresponding Chinese character rendered in brush calligraphy. The making of the blocks and the text as a whole therefore necessitates the knowledge of not merely printing but also of calligraphy and the grammar of the ancient Chinese language.

The making of the genealogies begins with the interviewing of the clan for whom the manuscript is to be prepared. Based on the data collected, the printers first create a hand-written copy of the text to be printed. The appropriate characters are then selected and then arranged into a typeface and proofread. The typeface is then brushed with ink, covered with paper and an imprint is taken. The thus printed sheets are cut to the desired size, placed between custom-designed, hand-printed covers and thread-bound. These genealogies represent historic clan membership, familial lineage, and ancestral roots.

Criterion U.1 The element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention.

Excerpts from the nomination form

Description of the element (Not to exceed 1,000 words)

A clear and complete description is essential to demonstrate to the Committee that the nominated element meets the Convention's definition of intangible heritage. The description should provide the Committee with sufficient information to determine:

- that the element is among the 'practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith';
- that 'communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize [it] as part of their cultural heritage';
- that it is being 'transmitted from generation to generation, [and] is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history';
- that it provides communities and groups involved 'with a sense of identity and continuity'; and
- that it is not incompatible 'with existing international human rights instruments as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development'.

The description should refer to all the significant features of the element as it exists at present, and should include discussion of its social and cultural functions at present, the characteristics of the bearers and practitioners, any special roles or categories of persons with specific responsibilities towards the element, among others. Nomination files need not address in detail the history of the element, or its origin or antiquity.

Nomination demonstrates that the element satisfies Criterion U.1:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments regarding the element's conformity with the definition of intangible cultural heritage in the Convention

The examiner should address whether the submitting State has adequately demonstrated that the element satisfies the Convention's definition of intangible cultural heritage.

(250 to 500 words)

Criteria U.1: The element constitutes an intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention.

The conformity of the proposed element with the definition of intangible cultural heritage as defined by the convention is clearly demonstrated.

Despite the decline of movable type printing since the advent of modern printing technologies, this tradition has been preserved in the Rui'an Zhejiang province due to the continuity of the practice of compiling and printing genealogies of families and clans. Wenzhou and its neighbouring regions in the southeast Zhejiang province as well as the northern Fujian province have historically been populated by immigrants. Clan membership and the recording of familial roots were therefore crucial to the forging of self and community identity in the new homeland as well as retaining links with one's ancestral roots. As many of 178 of the 209 familial groups in modern Rui'an have migrated to this region and more than 430,000 citizens of this region have settled overseas – with such ever increasing diasporas, the recompiling of the genealogy of the

clan to ensure that the blood lineage and family attribution can be traced irrespective of the geographical location of the various clan members acquires additional significance. It is the continuing relevance of the genealogy to local populations that has sustained the group of craftsmen who specialize in the movable type printing technique.

According to the genealogical records of Wang Chaohui, one of the representative bearers of the movable type printing technique, his ancestors began compiling and printing genealogies for the people of the Zhejiang province in the early 14th century. The knowledge of movable type printing has been orally and practically transmitted from generation to generation over the last 700 years. At present there are 11 highly skilled bearers of this living tradition in Rui'an region, all of whom have likewise inherited their knowledge of the technique of wooden movable type printing as well as complete sets of wooden engraved Chinese characters. The actual printing process is undertaken by these master craftsmen with the assistance of either other family members or apprentices – the master craftsman usually undertakes the orders and manages the business while male assistants perform the engraving of characters, typesetting and printing while women perform subsidiary tasks such as the separating of pages, threading and binding.

The craftsmen carry the whole set of movable-type characters and the printing equipment to the ancestral halls of clans in every community at various points during the year. Once they obtain a commission, they have to go through a 15-step manual process, which include interviewing, making a fair copy of the text, picking out characters, setting type, proofreading, printing, marking circles, drawing divisions, taking out characters, arranging clan names, draft binding, cutting, threading, binding, and covering, all done by hand. The key to the printing technique of fifteen manually processed steps include the selection of good birch leaf pear wood that is hard and tough to make moulds of characters; Writing the characters on the wood block in reverse order, from right to left; Using a special knife to carve the character onto the wooden block and to cut off the negative area, thus allowing the carved character to protrude from the block surface; while the choice of characters and the arrangement of the type facing are executed as per a special rhyme (A sentence has 5 characters, all 160- characters in 32 sentences) in local Rui'an dialect to find the corresponding characters in the reserved plates of characters arranged in the traditional format; using a traditional high quality paper known as Xuan paper, also used in Chinese painting and calligraphy, as the base for the printed material and finally binding the printed material with a cotton thread.

When the genealogy has been completed, a solemn ceremony in which the genealogy is ritually offered to the ancestors is held to mark the occasion. The craftsmen are invited to this ceremony by the clansmen to draw a red line on the genealogy, make a congratulatory speech, and then put the genealogy in the box to be locked and preserved. Wooden movable type printing thus plays an integral role in local cultural heritage and community life.

Examiners comment on whether the element is in conformity with the definition of intangible cultural heritage in the Convention

The submitting State has satisfactorily demonstrated that the element complies with the Convention's definition of intangible cultural heritage.

Wooden movable type printing is not only a cultural legacy now unique to the region but as a living tradition patronized by the local clans and families, it is also among the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills intrinsically linked to local cultural and social life. The craft activity utilizes instruments, objects, artifacts that are traditionally produced or are inherited by artisan families, thereby further strengthening legacy ties. Furthermore, the final product is ceremonially displayed in community festivals conducted in specially demarcated cultural spaces.

Given that the primary movable type printed products are genealogies, the element serves as a means of preserving and expressing self and community identity for the local population as well as its large Diaspora.

Constantly reprinted, the genealogies also serve as a written repository of local cultural memory, thus providing communities and groups involved with a sense of identity and continuity.

The skill of printing and the knowledge of allied fields such as the ancient Chinese language as well as history is being transmitted from generation to generation within artisan families.

The element is not incompatible with existing international human rights instruments as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.

Criterion U.2 The element is in urgent need of safeguarding because its viability is at risk despite the efforts of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals and State(s) Party(ies) concerned.

Excerpts from the nomination form

Viability assessment (Not to exceed 500 words)

Describe the current level of viability of the element, particularly the frequency and extent of its practice, the strength of traditional modes of transmission, the demographics of practitioners and audiences and its sustainability.

Threat and risk assessment (Not to exceed 500 words)

This section should identify and describe the threats to the element's continued transmission and enactment and describe the severity and immediacy of those threats.

Nomination demonstrates that the element satisfies Criterion U.2:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments regarding whether the nomination demonstrates that the element is in urgent need of safeguarding

The examiner should address whether the submitting State has adequately demonstrated that the element's viability is at risk, that the community, group or, if applicable, individuals and State(s) Party(ies) concerned have made efforts to ensure its viability, and that it is consequently in urgent need of safeguarding.

(250 to 500 words)

Viability assessment -

At present, wooden movable type printing and the use of genealogies is prevalent only within the communities of Dongyuan village in Pingyangkeng Township and Xiqian village in Caocun Township of Rui'an, Zhejiang province. The tradition has survived due to the continuing practice of commissioning genealogies of clans and families, a custom critical to preserving community identity in a region marked by a high degree of migration. While demand for genealogies still exists, globalisation has radically altered value systems and cultural mores, resulting in a weakening of the perceived importance of the genealogical concept and by extension, of the necessity for commissioning wooden movable type printed genealogies.

In general, the genealogy of each clan is re-compiled and printed every 30 years. As a result, the quantity of orders that a craftsman can obtain annually is not stable. For example, in 2008, there were around 100 orders in Dongyuan village. People with more orders can engage in printing work through the year. Those with fewer or no orders, however, often find themselves with no source of income and are therefore forced to either try and generate supplementary income through various on-farm activities or wait at home for the arrival of the next order. The reward for every order is determined by the number of people to be recorded in the genealogy – this number may vary from a few 1000 to over 20,000. Each person to be listed in the genealogy will pay 10 RMB yuan. With a few helpers, they will work together for several months or half a

year. The annual income varies from 20,000 to 40,000 RMB yuan, a sum that is comparable to the wage level of workers working in enterprises, but with a higher amount of labour involved.

Due to the low income generated by this work, many people engaged in this field, including several very important bearers of movable-type printing technique have abandoned this ancestral skill and have taken on new jobs or businesses during the last 20 years. As a result, a mere 11 major bearers of the wooden movable-type printing technique have been successfully located through general investigations conducted in 2009:

- Wang Chaohui, male, 55 (1955-12-28~)
- Lin Chuyin, male, 72 (1938-04-08 ~)
- Wang Chuanqiao, male, 54 (1956-08-12~)
- Wang Haiqiu, male, 54 (1956-02-25~)
- WangZhiren, male, 53 (1957-12-02~)
- Wu Kuizhao, male, 48 (1962-01-14~)
- ZhangYishuo, male, 57 (1953-07-07~)
- Wang Chaohua, male, 56 (1954-08-16~)
- Pan Lijie, male, 53 (1957-07-18~)
- Pan Chaoliang, male, 57 (1953-09-03 ~)
- Wang Chaoxi, male, 52 (1958-08-12~)

All of the above are now over 50 years of age. While their respective studios include various family members and apprentices, as yet, there isn't another generation of skilled practitioners on the horizon. Younger members of these printing families are reluctant to commit to the intensive study required to learn the craft in all its nuances especially since the remuneration from wooden movable type printing is in itself not lucrative adding to its high risk viability.

Threat and risk assessment

The main threats negatively affecting the continuity of elements transmission and enactment of this tradition and its conservation are a decrease in the number of people engaged in movable-type printing: Although genealogy printing is an important component of traditional Chinese culture and the skills of printing these has traditionally been passed on within families, many of the younger generations of traditional printing families who are the bearers of this unique tradition are reluctant to learn this heritage craft. To begin with, the process of training is very hard in order to master the whole set of movable-type printing technique, an apprentice needs at least 2 years to learn the brush handwriting of Chinese characters and the manual engraving technique. He also has to learn Chinese history and the grammar of ancient Chinese language. At present, the movable type printing is being used in a few pockets of rural China. Due to the low income generated by this work, many people engaged in this field, including several very important bearers of movable-type printing technique have abandoned this ancestral skill and have taken on new jobs or businesses during the last 20 years. As a result, today there exist a mere 11 master craftsmen (all of whom are over 50 years of age) who have mastered this printing technique. In the past 30 years no one has wanted to learn and master the movable wooden characters or the engraving and printing techniques, thus leading to a crisis of inheritance. In the absence of the transmission of this skill to newer generations of craftspeople, as well as public appreciation and demand for movable-type printed materials, the oral transmission of this intangible heritage will soon disappear.

While competition with modern printing technology and the lack of demand for traditional printing is an additional threat. With the inroads made by socio-economic development in the region and the popularization of computer printing technology, many communities have discarded the traditional movable type printing technique used in the re-writing and compiling the genealogy of clans. Instead, they have adopted techniques such as computer typesetting, stereotypedprinting

and photocopying. Thus, the two most important steps in wooden movable-type printing – reverse brush writing of Chinese characters and the hand engraving technique used to create the printing blocks – have been excluded from the printing process.

With the weakening of cultural customs which created demand for traditional printing the threat is further multiplied. With the demise of older generations who still adhered to cultural customs and the socio-cultural changes visible in younger generations who have received modern education and accepted various new values, the relevance of genealogies to culture and identity have greatly weakened. Consequently, the enthusiasm for compiling the genealogy of clans has reduced and orders for such printing have become fewer and fewer, resulting in the dwindling of the market for movable-type printing skills.

Examiners Comment

The submitting State party has adequately demonstrated that the element is at risk despite the effort made by the community and the concerned state party.

The meager number of practitioners still engaged in the heritage craft and the unwillingness of younger members of the family or other apprentices to assume the mantle of the bearers of tradition clearly indicates a crisis of inheritance. Further, in the context of accelerated modernization the dwindling demand for genealogies and the supplanting of movable type printing by modern technologies for the making of genealogies have sharply affected the income earning capacity of those engaged in the craft as well as the possibility of their securing sustainable incomes from their craft in the future.

The State appears to have initiated various measures to protect this ancient printing technique, including:

- the giving of honorary titles and financial aid to the bearers of the tradition
- enrolling of apprentices to cultivate and train a new generation of skilled bearers of the tradition
- establishing the 'Movable-Type Printing Association' to tap the potential of non-governmental organization and intervention
- enlarging and perfecting the 'Museum of Movable-Type Printing' to demonstrate for the benefit of the public as well as apprentices under training the technological process involved in movable type printing.

These attempts are indeed commendable and have doubtless contributed to the consolidation of currently existing knowledge of the heritage of the element, encouraging new entrants to the field, generating public awareness and appreciation for the craft and building recognition and respect for the practitioners. However, the question of sustainability crucial to the viability of any intangible heritage appears to be in question. Urgent intervention is required to revitalise the tradition and to ensure the elements viability given that the demand for existing forms of wooden movable type printed products is still weak and needs to be addressed.

Examiner's assessment of the viability of the element

The examiner should address whether the submitting State's assessment of the element's viability is accurate, realistic and complete.

(150 to 300 words)

The submitting State's assessment of the elements viability is accurate, realistic and complete. The survival of wooden movable-type printing to date in a relatively rural context has been attributed to the elements inherent suitability for the practitioners working manually in a family, the transportability of the tools and materials to the homes of the client, the low price of the thus printed product, and the strong traditional and cultural moorings which have underwritten the

consumption of the movable type printed genealogies in the past - this is now endangered.

There are but a few practitioners still engaged in the heritage tradition and that over the last 30 years there has been no noteworthy transmission of skills as younger generations of the practitioners' families are unwilling to join their ancestral profession. Further, with changing cultural and social mores there has been a dwindling interest in commissioning and maintaining genealogies with this weakening of traditional social links and cultural contexts even the existing precarious market is diminishing. This is further accelerated by supplanting of movable type printing by modern technologies for the making of genealogies, sharply affected the income earning capacity of those engaged in the tradition as well as the possibility of their securing sustainable incomes from their skills and knowledge in the future. As a result many practitioners have turned to other professions, further reducing the available skill pool.

Based on the information provided, the viability of the element is clearly at risk and in need of urgent, focused, intervention.

Examiner's assessment of the risk of the element's disappearing, due, inter alia, to the lack of means for safeguarding and protecting it, or to processes of globalization and social or environmental transformation

The examiner should address whether the submitting State's assessment of the risk of the element's disappearing is accurate, realistic and complete.

(150 to 300 words)

All the classic causes for the gradual decline of the intangible cultural heritage are present in the case of wooden movable type printing. The dwindling of the number of practitioners reduced to only eleven, (all above the age of 50); rapid social and cultural transformations with a breakdown of tradition, clan linkages and familial affiliations leading to a corresponding decrease in demand for genealogies; the substitution of the heritage technology by newer digital technologies capable of serving the same purpose, that are cheaper and quicker. Reasons attributable to the unavoidable processes of globalization and the consequent social and cultural changes are being experienced by the community of practitioners and users. While the existing community may be interested in protecting and conserving their ancestral knowledge and skills, they themselves lack the resources to do so.

State has here been instrumental in the creation of a Museum that will serve as a repository of this inherited knowledge, documenting it for future generations. The State has also attempted to generate a sense of dignity and pride for their work among the existing practitioners by conferring awards on them among other measures.

Criterion U.3 Safeguarding measures are elaborated that may enable the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned to continue the practice and transmission of the element.

Excerpts from the nomination form

Safeguarding measures

Items 4.a. to 4.c. request the elaboration of a coherent set of safeguarding measures as called for in Criterion U.3. The safeguarding measures, if effectively implemented, should be expected to contribute substantially to the safeguarding of the element within a time-frame of approximately four years. They should include measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the element by enabling the community to continue its practice and transmission.

4.a. Current and recent efforts to safeguard the element (not to exceed 500 words)

Describe the current and recent efforts of the concerned community, group or, if

applicable individuals to ensure the viability of the element. Describe efforts of the concerned State(s) Party(ies) to safeguard the element, taking note of external or internal constraints such as limited resources.

4.b. Safeguarding measures proposed (not to exceed 2,000 words)

This section should identify and describe a coherent set of safeguarding measures that, within a time-frame of approximately four years, could substantially enhance the viability of the element, if implemented, and provide detailed information as follows:

- a) What primary objective(s) will be addressed and what concrete results will be expected?
- b) What are the key activities to be carried out in order to achieve these expected results? Please describe the activities in detail and in their best sequence, addressing their feasibility.
- c) Management and implementation: describe the mechanisms for the full participation of communities, groups or, if appropriate, individuals in the proposed safeguarding measures. Describe the implementing organization or body (name, background, etc.) and the human resources available for implementing the project.
- d) Timetable and budget: provide a timetable for the proposed activities and estimate the funds required for their implementation, identifying any available resources (governmental sources, in-kind community inputs, etc.).

4.c. Commitments of States and of communities, groups or individuals concerned (not to exceed 500 words)

The feasibility of safeguarding depends in large part on the aspirations and commitment of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and the support and cooperation of the State Party concerned. This section should demonstrate that the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned have the will and commitment to safeguard the element if conditions are favourable and that the State Party concerned has the commitment to support the safeguarding effort by creating favourable conditions for its implementation.

Nomination demonstrates that the element satisfies Criterion U.3:

Yes

No

Examiner's assessment of the feasibility and sufficiency of the safeguarding plan

The examiner should address whether the submitting State has elaborated a coherent set of safeguarding measures that can reasonably be expected to strengthen the viability of the element within the coming four years, and assess whether they reflect the priorities and aspirations of the communities concerned, whether the measures are feasible, and whether the communities and States are adequately committed to their implementation.

(250 to 500 words)

Current and recent efforts to safeguard the element

- In 2004, the People's Government of Rui'an invested nearly 600,000 RMB yuan to set up an exhibition hall of movable-type printing, which occupies a floor area of 1,670 square meters. In 2006, the government invested 100,000 RMB yuan in Xiqian village of Caocun Township, helping it build an exhibition hall of movable-type printing, where two sets of wooden characters and related materials and pictures were displayed. Three masters of movable-type printing were invited to conduct live displays of the printing process at the venue so that visitors could fully appreciate the craftsmanship involved.
- The community and the government have jointly contributed to raising awareness about the craft. The number of people who either volunteered or were organized to visit the movable-type

printing exhibition has increased every year. Over 100,000 people have visited the exhibition to date.

- The printing technique was also highlighted in the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games that was televised and viewed across the globe.
- In June 2008, wooden movable-type printing was listed on the 2nd national level listing of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In May 2009, with the approval of the State Council of China, Wang Chaohui and Lin Chuyin were listed as Representative Bearers at the National Level. In September 2009, Wang Chuanqiao was listed as representative bearers of Zhejiang province. In December 2009, Wang Haiqiu, Wang Zhiren, Wu Kuizhao, Zhang Yishuo, Wang Chaohua, Pan Lijie, Pan Chaoliang, and Wang Chaoxi were listed as representative bearers of Rui'an.
- In 2008 and 2009, the People's Government of Rui'an allocated 50,000 RMB yuan respectively as financial assistance to the bearers of movable type printing. Opportunities have also been provided to the listed bearers to participate in various exhibitions and displays of intangible cultural heritage so as to enhance their reputation and sense of honour.
- The State has begun to tap the historical material pertaining to the inheritance of movable-type printing, collecting related cultural relics and representative books dating from various periods, as well as documenting the work of the existing bearers of this tradition and record their oral history. To this end, a special telefilm has been created. Books have also been published to introduce the history and present status of the movable-type printing technique. A set of photos entitled 'Genealogy Printed with Movable-Type Printing Technique' won the HPA2009 Human Contribution Award sponsored by UNESCO and the China Folk Photography Society.
- Ever since movable-type printing technique has entered the national non-material cultural heritage list of China and has been entered for the urgent protection of non-material cultural heritage list of the UNESCO, bearers of the tradition have taken an active role in conservation activities. For example, master craftsmen such as Wang Chaohui, Lin Chuyin, Wang Chuanqiao, Wang Haiqiu, Wang Zhiren, Wu Kuizhao, Zhang Yishuo have travelled several times to other regions in China to demonstrate the process of wooden movable-type printing and advocate the importance of its protection. Pan Chaoliang donated the whole set of wooden characters he inherited to Wenzhou Museum, where they are currently exhibited.

Safeguarding measures proposed

a) Over the next four years, the government intends to implement rescue measures to protect the movable-type printing technique. Through state advocacy and support for the carrying forward of traditional cultural customs, encouraging the re-writing and compiling of genealogy, and the publication of ancient Chinese books, it is hoped that a sustainable platform for the continuity of movable-type printing shall be created.

b) The rescue measures that have been shortlisted include:

- The bearers of this tradition who are over 50 years of age will be encouraged to take apprentices during the next 20 years so as to educate and cultivate young people aged between 20 to 40 years to become the next generation of bearers of the movable type printing technique and thereby lay the foundation for the future development of this tradition. Starting from 2009, training class of movable-type printing will be held every other year, with 50,000 RMB yuan aid from the government, to train 7 craftsmen aged 20 to 40 who are now engaged in movable-type printing, to further their skill in wooden movable character writing, manual engraving and typesetting and to supplement this with knowledge regarding typesetting of ancient books, history and of ancient culture. Further, 7000 RMB yuan government aid will be given annually to each of the present 7 bearers to encourage and support them to take apprentices so as to create a pool of future bearers and trainers who can further the preservation and continuation of the craft.
- In 2009, the Rui'an Movable-Type Printing Association was established with 20,000 RMB yuan aid from the government and 50,000 RMB yuan from the public and individuals. The

purpose of the Association is to organize and enrol bearers and people engaged in genealogy printing to exchange information and skills as well as to work towards improving the movable type printing technique. The future fund of the Association will be from individual collection, community aid and government subsidy. This is an important measure as it is felt that through this Association people directly engaged in movable type printing can conscientiously and voluntarily take part in the protection and passing on of the element. The initiative of the non-governmental organization will also be brought into play, so that more orders can be obtained to sustain and increase the income of the bearers of the element and a protection mechanism of professional organization and individual participation will be formed.

- In 2010, the government will allocate a special fund of 100,000 RMB yuan to enlarge the Exhibition Hall of the Movable-Type Printing, to protect related ancient buildings and to enrich the exhibits and historical objects. Moreover, we will increase the number of live demonstrations of movable-type printing by the bearers so as to integrate information, artistry, knowledge and participation and encourage more visitors. It is hoped that these displays will serve as an educational base for young people to learn and understand traditional culture, resulting in the recognition and influence of the element on a larger scale and involving more people in the protection of the printing technique.

- To supplement demand for printed genealogies, the State will also initiate the use of traditional movable-type printing technique to create second editions and impressions of the various ancient books of China. The Movable-Type Printing Association will thus receive an impetus for development of the technique, equipment and production orders. The fund for the same is to be raised from individual investment, shares and aids from the government. The government will also try its best to guide and promote the implementation of these measures, by which to entrust the bearers with the printing of important ancient books and give economic assistance to this endeavour.

- From 2009 to 2012, the government will provide 20,000 RMB yuan every year to make a general investigation of movable-type printing, such as bearers, clusters, cultural eco-environment, ancient books, techniques of printing, tools and equipment. Based on the findings of this general investigation, further study of specific aspects of the printing tradition will be conducted to strengthen the documentation and research of the traditional printing technique and promote cultural exchanges and dissemination.

- In 2008, the government allocated 15,000 RMB yuan to invite professional photographers to make a detailed tele-film of the whole process of movable type printing thereby creating a audio-visual documentation of the craft process for the benefit of generating public awareness and appreciation regarding the craft.

- In 2010, the government will provide 70,000 RMB yuan to publish a grand photo album of the movable-type printing. In 2011, it will again provide 100,000 RMB yuan to publish a monograph introducing the cultural heritage of movable-type printing technique.

c) Various bodies have partnered to oversee the management and execution of the safeguarding of the element:

- Culture Ministry of China (The administrative organ for national culture and art management under the State Council)

- Protection Centre of Non-Material Cultural Heritage under China Art Research Academy (The executive organ for the protection and research of non-material cultural heritage at the national level. The Centre includes experts and scholars of Chinese movable-type printing technology as well as personnel trained in relevant archival research and is currently involved in the making and execution of the action plan, the research of movable-type printing, and the organization and coordination of exhibition activities)

- Protection Centre of Non-Material Cultural Heritage, Zhejiang (The executive organ for the protection and research of non-material cultural heritage at the provincial level)

- Radio and Television News Publishing Bureau of Rui'an, Zhejiang (The administrative organ for culture and art management at the county level, this group participates in the making and

execution of the action plan)

- Protection Centre of Non-Material Cultural Heritage of Rui'an, Zhejiang (The executive organ for the protection and research of non-material cultural heritage at the county level, this group participates in activities such as the general investigation of resources, talent protection and cultivation, as well as exhibitions)
- Movable-Type Printing Association of Rui'an, Zhejiang (A non-government research and protective organization for promotion of the movable-type printing technique)

Commitments of States and of communities, groups or individuals concerned

- The People's Government of Rui'an and Zhejiang province have solemnly promised to strengthen the protection of this heritage. On the basis of the previous 1,200,000 RMB yuan protective fund, the government will allocate an annual 200,000 special protective fund for the passing on and revival of the heritage craft.
- The establishment of Rui'an Movable-Type Printing Association in June 2009 is a key step towards the protection of the item. The regulations of the Association states that in order to promote and carry forward the movable type printing technique, the Association will carry out various activities to document, protect and study the technique, history and objects of movable-type printing, impart knowledge regarding the movable type printing technique, cultivate its bearers, set up a platform for information exchange, and take an active part in the activities organized by the government. At the same time, it will publicize movable-type printing as a unique heritage craft and seek more orders for movable-type printing so as to ensure abundant market requirement and economic resources for artisans already engaged in or learning movable-type printing.
- The bearers of movable-type printing – Wang Chaohui and Lin Chuyin – have promised that they will cooperate actively with the communities and government to conduct all kinds of activities for the protection and passing on of the movable type printing technique. They will catalogue and protect the historical records and objects of movable-type printing and enrol apprentices to whom they will impart the technique. For example, Wang Chaohui is cultivating his son Wang Jianxin and enrolling Wang Fazai and Pan Yanxiang as apprentices. Lin Chuyin is cultivating his eldest son Lin Jiazheng. Wang Haiqiu is cultivating his two sons Wang Chongren and Wang Chongde. Zhang Yishuo is cultivating his son Zhang Xiaowu. Wang Chaoxi is cultivating his son Wang Xulin and other members in his clan. At the same time, they will use their own experience to advocate the advantages of movable-type printing in the inheritance of traditional culture and seek more orders to increase income so as to have a solid economic foundation for the individual's contribution to the movable-type printing technique. In 2010, these 11 bearers have contracted more than 20 orders to print genealogies with wooden movable-type printing technique, amounting to over 600,000 RMB yuan, which is a great encouragement to the protection and inheritance of the heritage.

It clearly appears that the community and the State party concerned has the commitment to support the safeguarding effort by creating favorable conditions for its implementation.

Examiners assessment of the feasibility and sufficiency of the safeguarding plan

The safeguarding measures advocated by the applying State address various issues critical to the conservation of the craft:

1. Documentation of the endangered crafts processes and skills as well as the related oral knowledge for posterity.
2. Preservation of the cultural spaces as living cultural spaces for the use of the community
3. Preservation of products, materials and tools involved in the heritage craft as references for future work and as teaching aids for newer generations of craftspeople.
4. Utilizing the documentation and cultural artifacts etc for building public awareness and

appreciation of the craft.

5. Encouraging younger craftspeople to join the profession and undergo training to further their skills, thus addressing the crisis of inheritance.

6. Creating supplementary sources of income by promoting the use of movable type printing for publishing of books, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the craft.

7. Generating awareness and interest in the craft through live demonstrations.

8. Improvement and diversification of the technology through continued sharing of skills and research.

As such, the State has created a multi-pronged strategy which addresses the current threats to the element and the viability of its practitioners as well as safeguards and promotes the tradition of wooden movable type printing for the future.

The practitioners have actively demonstrated their commitment to protecting their heritage and passing on their knowledge to successive generations through their participation in various exhibitions, thire advocacy work as well as revival of apprentice training.

The above listed measures could perhaps be supplemented by encouraging academic study in history, anthropology, culture and other areas to study and trace genealogies and further historic research.

The measures could perhaps be further supplemented by a still more active promotion of the craft both within China as well as in other countries.

Criterion U.4 The element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent.

Excerpts from the nomination form

a. Participation of communities, groups and individuals

Describe how the community, group and, if applicable, individuals concerned have participated in the nomination process at all stages, as required by Criterion R.4. States Parties are further encouraged to prepare nominations with the participation of a wide variety of other concerned parties, including where appropriate local and regional governments, neighbouring communities, NGOs, research institutes, centres of expertise and other interested parties.

b. Free, prior and informed consent

The free, prior and informed consent of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned may be demonstrated through written or recorded concurrence, or through other means, according to the legal regimens of the State Party and the infinite variety of communities and groups concerned. The Committee will welcome a broad range of demonstrations or attestations of community consent rather than specifying any single standard.

c. Respect for customary practices governing access

Demonstrate that inscription and implementation of the safeguarding measures fully respects customary practices governing access to specific aspects of such heritage, if such practices exist (cf. Article 13). Describe any specific measures that might need to be taken to ensure such respect.

Nomination demonstrates that the element satisfies Criterion U.4:

Yes

No

Examiner's assessment of the participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned

The examiner should assess whether the community, group or individuals concerned have participated fully in the nomination process at all stages and whether the nomination reflects their participation.

(150 to 300 words)

a. Participation of communities, groups and individuals

In the application of the element for nomination to enter the List of Urgent Protection of Intangible Culture Heritage, the bearers of movable-type printing Wang Chaohui and Lin Chuyin have read the relevant texts of the application, understood the procedure and processes, voluntarily and actively provided related historical material, objects, evidences, and handed on information regarding the movable type printing technique. Being involved in the whole process of the application, they have promised to enrol apprentices to impart skills and continued to use the traditional movable-type printing technique so as to protect and pass on their heritage skills and traditional knowledge.

On learning the news that the item is applying for the List of Urgent Protection of Intangible Culture Heritage, the people engaged in movable type printing in Rui'an have actively and positively responded. They have raised a fund of 50,000 RMB yuan and established the Rui'an Movable-Type Printing Association in June 2009 with an initial 100 members. According to the regulation of the Association, they will devote themselves to the protection and passing on of the heritage and enlarge the quantity of orders. Besides, they have also been aware of the relevant texts and procedures of the application and will take an active part in the application.

Dongyuan Movable-Type Printing Exhibition Hall of Rui'an Zhejiang province has provided relevant materials and object references for the application of the item. They have added ancient wooden movable Chinese characters and related objects for the publication so as to attract more people for a visit. The bearers reside regularly in the exhibition hall to make an on-the-spot performance of the movable-type printing to arouse the attention of the general public. The Culture, Broadcasting and Television News Publishing Bureau of Rui'an and China Academy of Art have participated in the collection and the sorting out of the application material. During the compilation of the application material, the related communities, groups and individuals have also given great support and help.

b. Free, prior and informed consent

The People's Government of Rui'an, the region where the wooden movable type printing is practiced, has issued a written statement announcing its support for the State's application for wooden movable type printing to be included in the 'Urgent Protection of Non-Material Cultural Heritage List'. All the members of the Movable-Type Printing Association of Rui'an have unanimously agreed to participate and assist in the protection of the craft as well as the application. The representative bearers of Dongyuan village, Rui'an have signed the application collectively and expressed their knowledge and consent in the traditional 'finger pressing signature'. They have pledged to support the application and take an active part in the whole process.

c. Respect for customary practices governing access

The completion of genealogy printed in the form of wooden movable type printing is a symbol of the clan and has spiritual/religious associations. For this purpose, the clan in question will select an auspicious time and day when a solemn ceremony will be held in the clan hall to mark the completion of the genealogy. During this ceremony sacrifices are offered to the ancestors in the presence of the related clans bearing the same surnames, clans of other surnames and people in the villages and towns who are invited to mark the occasion. During the ceremony, the bearer of the wooden movable-type printing will draw a red line under the name of the first generation of ancestor on the front page of the family tree and extend the line to the name of the second

generation. He and the head of clan will then make an elegiac address, offer the new genealogy to the ancestors, and bow to the heaven and the earth and the ancestors. Afterwards, the new genealogy will be locked into the box and kept sealed. This is usually followed by a banquet and the construction of an altar for offering of sacrifices. The genealogy may be carried as a roving exhibition. In such instances a play is staged in the village theatre and the whole clan participates in a gala celebration.

While implementing the safeguarding measures proposed, especially the conservation of spaces and objects related to the element, care needs to be taken to ensure that access to this traditional context of consumption is not hampered. If the community halls and suchlike spaces are being protected by the State, care needs to be taken to ensure that the local communities who have historically used and maintained the spaces are made stakeholders in the conservation process. They also need to have continued access to the spaces for their traditional ceremonies. If necessary, the State could create guidelines for the use of the space to guard against mismanagement or damage of the site.

Likewise, given the deep religious and community associations of the genealogies that form the bulk of historic samples of wooden movable type printing, documentation and conservation efforts need to take into account the sensibilities of the communities, groups and individuals who own the samples and artefacts. Displays of such artefacts needs to be accompanied by text, visuals and other interpretive material that explains the context these objects were produced and consumed in, thus retaining links to the community of makers and patrons.

Although it is necessary to explore alternative products that could employ wooden movable type printing (for e.g., the publication of books), these new avenues ought to supplement and not to supplant or negate the traditional market i.e. commissions received from the clans.

Examiners assessment of the participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned

The application has been supported by the representative bearers of the tradition of wooden movable type printing as well as by various other people engaged in the craft.

In the case of the representative bearers, this support has been expressed by:

- signing a pledge to support and actively participate in the application process
- contribution to the application by way of providing relevant historical information and objects
- enrolling apprentices for training
- promotion of the element through live lecture-demonstrations

In the case of others engaged in the practice, their support has taken the form of:

- fund raising
- establishment of the Rui'an Movable Type Printing Association , the regulations of which bind the members to protect and pass on the heritage craft as well as to increase the quantity of movable type printed products
- participation in the application process

Further the State has through various initiatives and sub-organisations contributed to the documentation, awareness generation and promotion of the heritage, as well as interfacing with the practitioners of the element.

The nomination was therefore certainly a collaborative process between the bearers, the larger community and the State. It would be still more interactive if the nomination and the safeguarding plan proposed officially made the practitioners stakeholders in and beneficiaries of any conservation activities. This will seek to create a greater sense of ownership and promote proactive participation on the part of the practitioners. It may also be useful to involve the user-community, i.e. the clans who commission the genealogies and the patrons of the ancient Chinese books printed using the movable type technology, in the nomination and safeguarding

plan so as to authenticate their acceptance of the element as an integral part of their intangible cultural heritage and identity.

Examiner's comments on their free, prior and informed consent

The examiner should assess whether the submitting State has provided satisfactory evidence of the free, prior and informed consent of the community, group or individuals concerned.

(150 to 300 words)

The submitting State has successfully obtained the informed participation of the local government body that is the People's Government of Rui'an, the region where the movable type printing tradition is located through a written statement of support.

The representative bearers of the heritage craft in Dongyuan village in Rui'an have signed their name collectively in the traditional form. As well as a significant number of other practitioners in the region which has been obtained through the Movable Type Printing Association of Rui'an. This consent has taken the form of a written statement of support for the application, along with a unanimous vote and the signing of consent forms respectively.

The consent of the Movable Type Printing Association of Rui'an have agreed unanimously.

It is apparent that the submitting State has provided a satisfactory evidence of the free, prior and informed consent of the concerned community, association and local government body.

Examiner's comments on respect for customary practices governing access to the element, if applicable

The examiner should comment on whether the submitting State has adequately addressed the question of any customary practices that might govern access to the element.

(not to exceed 300 words)

While the submitting State has adequately addressed the question of customary practices that govern access to the element in addition it may be necessary to extend the safeguarding measures proposed by addressing certain issues of customary practices that are still extant and which govern access to the element i.e the clan halls and suchlike spaces. This can be further supplemented by the local communities who have historically used and maintained the spaces and who can be engaged as stakeholders in the conservation process and to guard against mismanagement or damage of the site.

Given the deep religious and community associations of the genealogies that form the bulk of historic samples of wooden movable type printing, documentation and conservation efforts will need to take into account the sensitivities of the user communities, groups and individuals. Displays of such artefacts need to be accompanied by text, visuals and other interpretive material that explains the context these objects were produced and consumed in.

While it is necessary and appropriate to explore alternative products that could employ wooden movable type printing (for e.g., books), these new avenues need to supplement and not to necessarily supplant the traditional genealogy commissions received from clans.

Criterion U.5 The element is included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies) as defined in Articles 11 and 12.

Excerpts from the nomination form

The submitting State should identify the inventory in which the element has been included and the office, agency, organization or body responsible for maintaining that inventory. The description also should demonstrate that the inventory has been drawn up in conformity with Articles 11 and 12, in particular Article 11(b) that stipulates that intangible cultural heritage shall be identified and defined 'with the participation of communities, groups, and relevant non-governmental organizations' and Article 12 requiring that inventories be regularly updated.

The nominated element's inclusion in an inventory should not in any way imply or require that the inventory(ies) should have been completed prior to nomination. Rather, a submitting State Party may be in the process of completing or updating one or more inventories, but has already duly included the nominated element on an inventory-in-progress.

Nomination demonstrates that the element satisfies Criterion U.5:

Yes

No

Examiner's comments on the nomination's conformity with Criterion U.5

The examiner should comment on whether the submitting State has adequately demonstrated that the element is included within an inventory, and has shown that the inventory was drawn up in conformity with the Convention, especially Article 11(b) requiring the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations.

(100 to 200 words)

The tradition of wooden movable type printing has been included in the following inventories:

1. Wooden movable-type printing technique: The 2nd Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of China issued by the State Council (Document No. 19 (2008), June 7th, 2008), Protection Unit: Rui'an of Zhejiang province.
2. Wooden movable-type printing technique: The 2nd Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of Zhejiang issued by the provincial government of Zhejiang province (Document No. 33 (2007), June 5th, 2007), Protection Unit: Rui'an of Zhejiang province.
3. Wooden movable-type printing technique: The 1st Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of Wenzhou issued by the municipal government of Wenzhou (Document No. 4 (2007), February 21st, 2007), Protection Unit: Rui'an of Zhejiang province.
4. Wooden movable-type printing technique: The 1st Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of Rui'an issued by the municipal government of Rui'an (Document No. 45 (2007), March 26th, 2007).
5. Wang Chaohui & Lin Chuyin: The Third Batch of Representative Bearers of National Non-Material Cultural Heritage (Document No. 6 (2009), May 26th, 2009).
6. Wang Chuanqiao: The Third Batch of Representative Bearers of Non-Material Cultural Heritage of Zhejiang (Document No. 65 (2009), September, 2009).
7. Wang Chuanqiao, Wang Haiqiu, Wang Zhiren, Wu Kuizhao, Zhang Yishuo, Wang Chaohua, Pan Lijie, Pan Chaoliang, Wang Chaoxi: The First Batch of Representative Bearers of Non-Material Cultural Heritage of Rui'an (Document No. 116 (2009), December 21st, 2009).
8. Movable-Type Printing Association of Rui'an: (Document No. 3172, June 25th, 2009).

Examiners comments on the nomination's conformity with Criterion U.5

The submitting State has demonstrated that the element has been consistently featured in various inventories for the protection of non-material cultural heritage and that the representative bearers have also been given due recognition as repositories of intangible cultural heritage. The description provided in the application clarifies that the inventory has been drawn up in conformity with Articles 11 and 12 and that the listing of wooden movable type printing has been identified and defined as intangible cultural heritage with the participation of communities, groups, and relevant non-governmental organizations. The element is listed in the 2nd Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of China issued by the State Council for Rui'an of Zhejiang province; in the 2nd Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of Zhejiang issued by the provincial government of Zhejiang province ; in the 1st Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of Wenzhou issued by the municipal government of Wenzhou ; in the 1st Non-Material Culture Heritage Protection List of Rui'an issued by the municipal government of Rui'an among others.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION

The examination report shall include 'a recommendation to the Committee to inscribe, or not to inscribe, the nominated element'.

Recommend to inscribe:

Recommend not to inscribe:

Examiner's comments on the overall recommendation

To be inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, an element must satisfy all of the criteria. If the examiner concludes that any criterion is not satisfied, the overall recommendation cannot be to inscribe the element. The examiner may wish to offer further explanation of any such negative conclusions, or may wish to suggest to the Committee certain conditions it might consider attaching to a favourable decision to inscribe the element.

(150 to 300 words)

Wooden movable type printing is a unique and important intangible cultural heritage of China. Utilizing a complex set of skills, orally transmitted knowledge that is currently under threat of extinction and surviving only in the region of Rui'an, the value of this heritage lies as much in its historic roots as in its continuing relevance to history, local culture and community life. It has been found to comply with the definition of intangible cultural heritage provided in Article 2 of the Convention as well as indicates the urgent need for safeguarding measures to be instituted. The State and the community in question appear to have made sincere efforts to document and promote the heritage craft and have evidenced by their consent and continuing participation in the application and in the future protection of the element.

Furthermore, we would recommend that the safeguarding measures proposed continue to actively involve local user communities given the deep clan and community associations of the genealogies that form the bulk of historic samples of wooden movable type printing the documentation and conservation efforts will need to take into account the sensitivities of the user communities, clans and individuals. Additionally the safeguarding measures continue to actively involve practitioners as stakeholders and beneficiaries, simultaneously addressing the creation of sustainable livelihoods so as to ensure its continuity as a living tradition.

I recommend that the element 'Wooden Movable Type Printing of China' be included in the List for Urgent Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.