



seacha
SOUTHEAST ASIAN
CULTURAL HERITAGE ALLIANCE

In 2019, at a pan-Asian conference on “Heritage Protection: The Asian Experience” held in Bangkok, activists, academics, practitioners and a highly engaged audience explored the experience of protecting cultural heritage within the Asian socio-cultural and political context. This event showed there was a wealth of local wisdom in the region to pursue Asia’s own vision of cultural heritage protection, but presently no organization for this role. Several civil society bodies joined together as the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance, or SEACHA, to develop indigenous Asian concepts of cultural heritage protection, and to initiate programs of protection in the region. SEACHA was registered as a cultural non-profit association under Thailand’s law in 2021.

The founding members are: the Indonesian Heritage Trust; Yangon Heritage Trust; Penang Heritage Trust; The Heritage Conservation Society, Philippines; The Siam Society Under Royal Patronage; Center for Research and Promotion of Cultural Heritage of Vietnam; Mulberries, Lao PDR; and Singapore Heritage Society.

SEACHA aims to promote effective government-community partnership in cultural heritage management, to strengthen the ASEAN socio-cultural community as a people-centered third pillar of ASEAN, to serve as a networking forum between ASEAN member organizations, and to become an entity associated with ASEAN governments and the ASEAN secretariat. Its regular activities include a monthly online talk called “Cha-Time with SEACHA”, an annual Cultural Heritage Management Clinic, and biennial conferences. SEACHA focuses on promoting culture as one of the significant tools and solutions for mitigation and adaptation of climate change.

The SEACHA logo, inspired by the basketweaving skills that are part of the cultural heritage found across the region, presents SEACHA as the hub of creative collaboration among partners in safeguarding Southeast Asian cultural heritage.