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MAIDEN ENTRY

MALAYSIA WINS SEAT ON UNESCO HERITAGE PANEL

It reflects nation's expertise in the protection of intangible cultural heritage

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MALAYSIA made its maiden entry into the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (IGCICH) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Or-

ganisation on Thursday for the 2022-2026 term.

The Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry said Malaysia clinched the seat after 110 out of 132 countries in the Asia-Pacific region voted for it.

"This is indeed an achievement that we should be proud of as it a recognition of Malaysia's expertise and capability in the protection of intangible cultural heritage.

"The responsibilities as a member state of the IGCICH require a steadfast commitment.

"These include implementing the convention's objectives, developing guidelines for best practices, making recommendations for the protection of intangible cultural heritage, as well as eval-



'Mak yong' is one of six intangible cultural heritage assets listed under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which Malaysia ratified in 2013. FILE PIC

uating potential candidate countries to be part of the committee.

"Other responsibilities include approving programmes, activities and international assistance, and preparing a draft plan and budget to obtain approval from the UN General Assembly.

"Malaysia's presence in global

platforms, such as Unesco, will increase the country's identity and the visibility of our efforts to preserve valuable cultural heritage for our future generations to inherit," the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Malaysia had ratified the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding

of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on July 23, 2013.

Six intangible cultural heritage assets have been listed under the convention: *mak yong* in 2005, *dondang sayang* in 2018, *silat* in 2019, *upacara wangkang* and *pantun* in 2020 and *songket* last year.