

Name of the Element: Sangrain 'Relong Pwe' (water pouring)

Name of Inventory: Test Inventory 1

Serial No: D3-00001

Brief Description

'Relong Pwe' is a water festival of the Marma/Mogh indigenous community in Bangladesh. The festival is celebrated during New Year of the "Mraima" calendar. It is a blessing ceremony which is celebrated by the all members of the community.

Three days, out of the four-day festival, are spent bidding farewell to the outgoing year. The fourth day focuses on greeting the incoming year. On the first day of the festival, both male and female members of the Marma tribe form a procession to take their images of Buddha down to the riverfront. The images are washed on a raft with either a mixture of sandalwood and water, or milk and water in preparation for reinstalling them at the temple or in their shrines at their homes.

The festival is celebrated in several parts during the day. A water festival competition is specially participated in by young, unmarried boys and girls, which also includes performance of traditional dances. The community also celebrates the festival early in the morning by showering elders with water, as well as showering the Buddha statue in the monastery.

Anybody can join the festival irrespective of caste, creed and color. It is opportunity for everyone to extend a hand of friendship, even to strangers. On this auspicious occasion, everyone is a friend. Everyone is determined to start with new hope and new way of life.

The community also go to the temple, wash the Buddha statues, recite the eight precepts and take the five oaths before circumambulating the pagoda together. The monks in the temple take this opportunity to remind everyone of the dharma; the right way of living and practicing as Buddhist. The elders are worshiped and they bless the young ones for a bright future.

Region: Marma communities are prominent

Photographs: Video: Consent:

Submitted by: Arthy Ahmed, Director, Marketing & Strategy, Shadhona – A Center for Advancement of Southasian Culture

E-mail: ami.arthyahmed@gmail.com ; www.shadhona.org