ADVOCATING FOR THE SUPPORT OF ENDANGERED FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES IN THAILAND

November 19, 2011

The Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) encourages, endorses and supports efforts to assist our colleagues in Thailand's film and audio-visual archives in their struggle to save and secure their collections from the devastation caused by ongoing flooding.

The affected archives include the Thai Film Archive at Salaya, on the outskirts of Bangkok, and the Cylinder and Phonograph Museum near the Lad Prow Road. Both institutions are surrounded by water. Staff have stayed with their archives overnight to maintain vigilance.

Thailand's main broadcasting archive, the PRD Museum and Archive, has several storage locations. One of these has been flooded to a depth of 1.5 meters. Videotapes were moved to higher shelving before flooding occurred, but their current condition is unknown. At PRD headquarters in central Bangkok, volunteers celebrated World Day for Audio-Visual Heritage by moving 40,000 items to higher floors.

Collections in Thai archives that survived the flood waters with little or no damage are now in danger from mold growth due to the increase in temperature and humidity caused by power failure disabling HVAC systems.

AMIA, through its Advocacy and Preservation Committees, will support efforts to secure help for the Thai archives. This includes the provision of archival supplies, technical expertise, or, if possible, on site physical assistance to help minimize damage to their collections.

The Board asks for an immediate 'Call to Action' to assist the Thai film and audio-visual archives, and hereby states that AMIA will do its utmost in this regard.