

Introduction

Asia and the Pacific region is an area rich with various elements of intangible cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage has been handed down from generation to generation and has contributed to the development of cultural diversity and the creativity of humanity. Intangible cultural heritage for social development is well recognised as it represents the evolvement of historical traditions and the cultural identity of a society embodied in creative expression.

Over time, the form and substance of intangible cultural heritage has become vulnerable to deterioration. In particular, rapid social change and globalisation have made this situation even more pressing. Fortunately, there has recently been an increase in global awareness in relation to the value of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding.

In this regard, ICHCAP has created a survey study plan to collect all the necessary information related to current safeguarding systems for intangible cultural heritage in the region. ICHCAP has been preparing this survey since 2008, and 2014 is the sixth year of the implementation of this project.

ICHCAP has collected relevant data from reports, workshop books, meeting resolutions, internet databases, etc. While the information is valuable, in many cases, the data is neither accurate, nor up to date. This is the reason ICHCAP has prepared a new survey to accumulate more current pertinent data.

The field survey was carried out by respected researchers in each country. For this project, ICHCAP developed a questionnaire to guide the research teams conducting the field surveys in each country. The questionnaire encompassed topics pertaining to safeguarding the present system & policy; intangible cultural heritage inventory; information regarding relevant conferences, symposiums and workshops; national and local pending issues and urgent needs within the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding.

Lastly, the information and data may be open to the public and ICHCAP will share necessary data with other Member States to support the implementation of the most effective and appropriate practices for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. We expect the project will assist in strengthening regional capacity and solidarity as well as international cooperation for the safeguarding of ICH in the region.