

VI. Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)

Mongolian-Korean Joint Cooperation Project entitled 'Establishing a Safeguarding System for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia', launched in 2008. This project aimed to introduce and implement the UNESCO Program Living Human Treasure System in Mongolia and through which establish a concrete safeguarding system for the ICH and its bearers of Mongolia. This project is sponsored by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea and was launched in 2008 by Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Title

Introducing UNESCO Program Living Human Treasures System in Mongolia

2. Year of establishment

The project to establish the system has launched in 2008.

3. Objectives

This project is focused on implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as well as the Living Human Treasures System. The Living Human Treasures System was adopted in 1993 at the 142nd UNESCO Executive Board Meeting to officially identify and recognize ICH bearers, which subsequently would play a significant role in disseminating ICH through generations. With these basic objectives, we also expect to ensure a sustainable relationship between countries by contributing to a collaboration and exchange in the field of ICH.

Within the framework of the Project, there are number of activities, such as an extensive field surveys on the ICH and its bearers, elaboration of tentative list of the ICH bearers of Mongolia and e.g., planned to effectively raise public awareness on the importance of ICH, ensure and strengthen cooperation among civil, legal, cultural and economic bodies to engage them in greater collaborative activities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia. The field survey trips aim to identify the bearers and practitioners of intangible cultural heritage in the Central, Eastern and Gobi regions, as well as to conduct on-site

registration and documentation on their unique and extraordinary skills, wisdom, knowledge, manner, accomplishments and other values of intellectual culture of great scientific and artistic importance. Result of the field trips are expected to be of high importance as it would serve as a first-hand material for follow-up activities for the overall safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia. One of the features of the field trips carried out within the framework of the Project is that, the experts and researchers broadened their research target effectively. In other words, the research area covered all of the domains of intangible cultural heritage, as reflected in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible cultural heritage, rather than only focusing on the performing arts and oral traditions.

4. Legal provisions

Through the implementation of the project, following legal provisions were approved by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science so far: National Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mongolia, and National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding of Mongolia was approved by the ordinance No.293 of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia; whereas the 'Regulations on Identifying and Registering Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers', 'Membership Components of the National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' and 'Rule of National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' were approved by the ordinance No.414 in 2009 respectively.

5. Identification and designation process etc

The Council for Identifying ICH and its Bearers is the key institution for the identification and designation of the ICH and its bearers in association with the Center for Cultural Heritage, and Culture and Arts Committee, affiliated to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The Center of Cultural Heritage takes duty as an advisory body to the Council, and undertakes the activities for the documentation and registration of the ICH and its bearers and further maintenance of the database thereof. There are provincial branch offices/departments to affiliate to the Council, which are to be a hub for linking the ICH and its bearers to the governmental bodies for the safeguarding, transmission and enhancement of the ICH.

Basic process scheme of the identification and designation of the ICH and its bearers is to be as following:

Annunciation – Application Submission – Deliberation – Identification and Designation

6. The commission of experts

The Council for Identifying ICH and its Bearers is consisted of the various stakeholders from the diverse areas of the field of intangible cultural heritage, involving the research community, heritage bearing community, governmental bodies, non-governmental organization and etc. Center of Cultural Heritage, particularly the Division for the Safeguarding of the ICH is a main partner of the Council.

7. Criteria selection

- The bearer must be possessing the heritage in a high degree of skill and knowledge
- The heritage must be authentic, genuine and be keeping its traditional characteristics and features
- The heritage at the brim of extinction and disappearance or in need of urgent safeguarding should be considered with exclusive priority
- The heritage should demonstrate the outstanding and unique characteristics
- The social reputation and recognition of the heritage among the concerning community, group and/or society should be notable
- The heritage should be keeping its identifiable manner, way and method to practice, perform and execute
- The heritage bearer must have ability and skill to conduct training (at some extent) for the transmission of the heritage
- The heritage should be coherent and relevant with the traditional environment and customs

8. Number of nominees

105 bearers are registered on the “National List of ICH bearers Possessing a High Level of Skills and Knowledge”.

9. Rewards for appointees

Rewarding system has not been formed and formulated yet. However, from 2013 the Government of Mongolia, the first initiative towards inclusion of designated ICH bearers in the system of allowance has been made. 105 designated bearers are provided in 2013-2014 with incentives \200,000 MNT per year\.

10. Duties of appointees

(1) Responsibilities of cultural heritage bearers

A heritage bearer shall be responsible for transmitting own outstanding talents and skills to the next generation, particularly traditional and ethnic intangible cultural heritage endangered to extinct.

- 1) A heritage bearer shall make agreement with the Center of Cultural in valid for 2 years. The regulation of agreement shall be approved by the director of CCH.
- 2) A heritage bearer shall inform the Center of Cultural Heritage about changes happened in information specified in application materials at each time changes occurred, such as address, telephone numbers, company name, location, administrative affiliation, membership, statistics on heritage learners, their achievements, operation opportunities remained or changed etc.
- 3) A heritage learner shall teach and transmit his outstanding skills and talents t heritage learners fully, and ensure their preparation prior submitting application for registration in the list of intangible cultural heritage bearers.
- 4) A heritage bearer shall submit annual reports to the Center of Cultural Heritage within the last quarter, as well as participate in national and international events regularly.
- 5) A heritage bearer shall demonstrate skills and talents transmitted to heritage learners during his/her annual reporting period to MECS, the National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' and the Center of Cultural Heritage a part of his performance evaluation.
- 6) A heritage bearer shall consider and seek for ways to develop own intangible cultural heritage and outstanding skills in line with achievements of modern technology and science and with existing needs and demands.
- 7) Heritage bearers shall consider own outstanding talents and skills as Mongolian national cultural heritage property, make efforts and initiative to inscribe them in the List of world intangible cultural heritage and uphold the reputation of Mongolia within international arena.
- 8) In case changes happened in information specified in heritage bearer's application materials, his affiliated organization has dissolved, the heritage bearer has died, lost his functional capacity or been imposed legal liabilities and upon other emergent situations, the heritage bearer or his/her representatives shall inform such situations to the Center of Cultural Heritage within 14 days.

(2) Rights and responsibilities of Heritage learners

- 1) A heritage learner shall be entitled to choose heritage bearers and present requests on learning heritage bearer's outstanding talents and skills.
- 2) A heritage learner shall hold rights to express opinions, request and complaints to the MECS, the National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' and the Center of Cultural Heritage in

regards to training policy, approaches and activities, as well as rights to refuse from trainings.

- 3) A heritage learner shall learn heritage bearer's outstanding talents and skills chosen, and prepare for registration in the List of intangible heritage bearers.
- 4) A heritage learner shall demonstrate learned talents and skills in person during the performance reporting to MECS, the National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' and the Center of Cultural Heritage in order to get relevant evaluation approval.

11. Cancellation of appointment

Conditions for the cancellation of appointment are currently under deliberation and elaboration by the relevant bodies.

12. Training

According to the 'Regulations on Identifying and Registering Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' the issues related to ICH training is stipulated as following: 'A heritage bearer shall be responsible for transmitting own outstanding talents and skills to the next generation, particularly traditional and ethnic intangible cultural heritage endangered to extinct. A heritage learner shall teach and transmit his outstanding skills and talents to heritage learners fully, and ensure their preparation prior submitting application for registration in the list of intangible cultural heritage bearers'

13. Copyright

Copyright related issues and relations are arranged in accordance with the Law on Copyright of Mongolia, and other international copyright and ownership instruments.