Reference Materials

1. Draft Cultural Heritage Bill
2. Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bhutan, National Library and Archives, 2014

Information gathered through interview and survey with the following agencies:
   1. Royal Academy of Performing Arts
   2. Driglam Division, Department of Culture
   3. The National Library and Archives
   4. The College of Language and Cultural Studies
   5. Department of Traditional Medicine
   6. Institute of Zorig Chusum (13 Arts)
   7. Dzongkha Development Commission
   8. Shejun Agency for Bhutan’s Cultural Documentation and Research
   9. The Music of Bhutan Research Centre

Concluding Remarks

Over the period of six years from 2010 since the last report concerning ICH safeguarding activities of Bhutan was submitted to ICHCAP, we are able to make great progress in the activities of ICH safeguarding measures in Bhutan. Foremost, the Department of Culture family is proud for having able to prepare a draft Cultural Heritage Bill in which ICH is also included. The draft bill is awaiting deliberation in the Parliament. A total of three workshops on capacity building and process of preparing nomination dossiers have been held in Bhutan with support from UNESCO Delhi. Besides capacity building, the workshops also educated those working in the field of ICH and stakeholders about the UNESCO Convention 2003 as well the importance of safeguarding ICH. The young staff (researchers) of the National Library and Archives having got an opportunity to work under the ICHCAP support project gained tremendous experience in the research and documentation of ICH. ICHCAP’s financial support and NLAB staffs’ undaunting effort have resulted into publication of first ever Bhutanese ICH book. It is heartening to see that more Government as well as private organizations are either directly or indirectly involved in the research, documentation and archiving of ICH. Over this period two new non-government organizations (viz. Shejun for Bhutan’s Cultural Documentation and Research and Bhutan Oral Literature Project: Culture, Language, Environment) have been established and they are directly involved in the documentation and inventorying ICH. Because of more organizations taking part in the ICH documentation activities, awareness-raising is increasingly created. Despite all these, there are still lots to be done in the field of ICH safeguarding. A positive trend has already been set and it is hoped that time will come when Bhutan will have full ICH safeguarding measures in place and ICH inventory of its own.