

I . Safeguarding System & Policy

1. National Law & Act

In Thailand, there are acts related to ICH, such as National Culture Act, B.E.2485 (1942) and National Culture Act (No.2), B.E.2489 (1946) and amended National Culture Act of B.E. 2553 (2010). This Act regulates the duties of the National committee and National culture council, when determining the qualifications of a National artist. This Act has been revised, as the previous Act was too antiquated and not related to the current time.

1. Under this Act, the meaning of culture was revised as “lifestyle, thoughts, beliefs, values, traditions, rituals, folk wisdoms, and social works, cultivating creative learning in order to achieve growth mentally and materially and reach the peace and sustainability.
2. The National Culture Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister or assigned Deputy Prime Minister, was established. The commission consists of members from related cultural organizations such as Minister of Culture, Permanent Secretary from various agencies such as the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education etc. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture is assigned as secretary of the commission.
3. The Council of Cultural Affairs was also established for the purpose of preservation and restoration of local and national cultures through the cooperation among cultural network. The Council of Cultural Affairs consists

of the members from Cultural Council of Thailand, Provincial Cultural Council, District Cultural Council, and Sub-district Cultural Council.

4. The Cultural Promotion Fund was established to support art and cultural activities such as providing welfare for the National Artist and supporting art and culture researches and development programs.
5. The persons with outstanding in cultural work, were honored as National Artists.

Even though this Act has not specified for Intangible Cultural Heritage term, there are several specific laws related to intangible cultural heritage in Thailand such as the Protection and Promotion of Traditional Thai Medicine Wisdom Act B.E. 2542 (1999), which provides for the safeguarding of traditional knowledge on Thai traditional medicines. The Boxing Act B.E. 2542 (1999), which provides for the promotion, support, preservation and safeguarding of boxing competitions viewed by Thailand as a national art.

2. Cultural Policy

1) Philosophy

- A. Culture is a strategy in strengthening awareness, values, ethics and moral integrity of the people in the country.
- B. Culture is a foundation and an impetus in social, economics and quality of life development.
- C. Culture is a major factor in strengthening unity and cooperation of peoples, nationally and internationally.

2) Vision

The Ministry serves as an organization integrating religion, art and culture to the people, fostering pride in Thai identity with proper culturally based lifestyle that leads to sustainable and peaceful society.

3) Mission

- A. Promotes national religions, art and culture and serves the requirement for major tasks of the country, religion and the monarch, fostering sustainable propagation and development;
- B. Integrates religions, art and culture to the people and communities;
- C. Develops socio-economics with cultural dimension, at community, locality, national and international levels;
- D. Integrates co-operation in the administration of knowledge, art and cultural heritage for the benefits of the Thai people and the world community

4) Goals

- A. To uphold nation, religion, monarchy and cultural identity.

- B. The general public should be good and possess ethical values while taking pride in Thai culture and applying religious principles in their daily life. They should also possess creativity and appreciate aesthetics.
- C. A harmonious society with ability for selecting and creating valuable products including culture-based socio-economic development is encouraged.
- D. The body of knowledge on culture should be systematically managed and promoted among the general public.

5) Strategies

In order to exercise government policy actively, The Ministry of Culture has planned the following strategies based on the government policy on culture in the Master Plan on National Culture (2007-2016) and the Cabinet Resolution.

Strategy1 to steadfastly preserve and propagate diverse national and local culture

Strategy2 to create values, awareness and Thai wisdom

Strategy3 to bring about national cultural base to benefit social value and increase economic value

Strategy4 to manage the body of knowledge on religion, art and culture

The strategies are designed and set forth in pursuance to the government policy: to respect and honor the monarchy, to nurture the religions, to conserve the nation's cultural heritage and Thai wisdom, and to develop the cultural heritage as a foundation of the creative economy.

Towards this end, many projects will be continuously carried out. Such projects are, for example, conducting a survey, creating a database, restoring and enlisting

the national archaeological sites. The Ministry of Culture will also provide training and conduct campaigns to raise public awareness relating to the value of the national heritage and wisdom. Other areas of emphasis will include the promotion of creative thinking, the support of the creative Culture-based economy, the integration and cooperation with cultural networks, legislative reforms, the development of management systems designed to preserve the nation's cultural heritage against radical socio-economic changes, sudden technological shifts, unrestrained industrial development, and drastic increases in the number of tourists. To achieve these goals, the Ministry of Culture has set forth strategic plans to promote, and enhance public awareness on good values, morals and ethics with the aim of leading the nation towards the path of sustainable peace and quality livelihood.

In addition, the Ministry of Culture has actively taken actions in applying cultural capital to increase creative economic activities, and urgently implement preparatory work on the advent of the ASEAN Community in the near future.