

## **IX. Pending issues & urgent needs regarding the safeguarding of ICH**

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**Q1. *Is any of the intangible cultural heritage in your country in danger of disappearance or transformation? (Please include name of the heritage, location, problems encountered, etc.)***

There is no doubt that there are many elements of intangible cultural heritage in Indonesia which are in danger of disappearance or transformation. It is hoped that by conducting of inventory of intangible cultural heritage according to the new system developed by the Directorate General of Cultural Values, Arts and Film, information will be gathered as to which elements of intangible cultural heritage are developing, which are maintaining, which are fading out, which are threatened with extinction, and which are already extinct. In this way, stakeholders may be alerted to take the necessary action to safeguard these elements, by involving the community in action plans.

Two examples are Wayang Palembang and Wayang Banjar, which in 2002 were identified as being in danger of extinction (only one Wayang Palembang puppeteer was alive at the time) and fading out. Action plans were executed from 2005-2007, and these two styles of wayang puppetry could be brought back from the brink of extinction.

The Saman Dance of Aceh is another example of an element detected to be in danger of disappearance or transformation. It is for this reason that Saman has been nominated to UNESCO for the Urgent Safeguarding List, and a four-year Action Plan has been drawn up to safeguard and develop Saman.

**Q2. *What are the reasons the heritage is in danger and what type of safeguarding measures have been taken? Please be specific.***

The rapid advance of globalization and modernization.

The rapid spread of television and electronic media as the preferred forms of entertainment, as compared to participation in live activities of intangible cultural heritage.

The younger generation are busy with compulsory education, and therefore have less or no time to imbibe the skills and knowledge of varieties of intangible cultural heritage from the older generation.

The central and local governments have according to their limited capacities and resources made efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, for example, by including heritage in school curricula as local content or extracurricular activities, by presenting intangible cultural heritage at celebrations held by the central and local governments, by holding festivals (eg. Sasando Festival in Pulau Rote), and by supporting efforts by NGOs to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. Safeguarding measures have to be tailored according to the particular situation and condition of each respective element of intangible cultural heritage.

**Q3. *What are the pending issues for safeguarding ICH in your country that you have found through interviews and the field survey?***

1. Although Indonesia has become a State Party to the 2003 Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage since 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008, the general public are not yet much aware of the 2003 Convention, and thus the involvement of communities in inventory of intangible cultural heritage and other safeguarding activities is not yet at an optimum level.

Until now, the government, through the Directorate General for Cultural Values, Arts and Film have been conducting socialization of intangible cultural heritage in various parts of Indonesia, in collaboration with the culture and tourism services in all provinces.

This socialization still has not sufficiently involved communities, social groups and individuals, and thus community involvement in inventory or intangible cultural heritage inventory of intangible cultural heritage still faces a major impediment.

2. Although communication and information technology is available in carrying out inventory of intangible cultural heritage, yet many communities are not yet familiar with this technology, and thus manual inventory is still required..

Development of information and communication technology is advancing rapidly. For example, the development of the web from web 1.0 (one way) to web 2.0 like the interactive technology used by Wikipedia. In subsequent developments, limited communities have developed known as social networking, developed from personal networks which in time have broadened to become social networks.

The obstacle faced is that such an expanded social network has not yet been developed, to the extent that every individual can play a role in inventory of intangible cultural heritage.

3. The method of inventory of intangible cultural heritage through information and communication technology still needs socialization, so that communities, social groups and individuals can participate in inventory of intangible cultural heritage through the website. [www.budaya-indonesia.org](http://www.budaya-indonesia.org).

The Directorate General for Cultural Values, Arts and Film have carried out collaboration with the organizers of the web 2.0 website [www.budaya-indonesia.org](http://www.budaya-indonesia.org). This collaboration is not only in the matter of inventory of intangible cultural heritage, but also for developing their website to become a publication media for intangible cultural heritage in Indonesia.

In the future, [www.budaya-indonesia.org](http://www.budaya-indonesia.org) needs to be expanded by involving social networks such as blogs, twitter, panoramio, etc. so that even more community members, social groups and individuals can be involved in the work of inventory of intangible cultural heritage.

**Q4. *What kind of problems and difficulties were encountered during the safeguarding projects?***

Limitations in funding for safeguarding projects  
Difficulties in motivating people to be engaged in safeguarding projects on an ongoing basis  
Lack of teaching materials for intangible cultural heritage.

**Q5. *What future plans are there for the safeguarding of ICH (programme information)?***

At present, the concentration is on inventory of intangible cultural heritage, as the basis for all safeguarding activities. The new system of inventory also includes information regarding who are the main community members involved, what is the present status of the element, what efforts have been made to safeguard, what activities are suggested by the communities themselves to safeguard the element. etc. The Minister of Culture and Tourism has also signed a joint decree with the Minister of Home Affairs, regarding duties of local government in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

**Q6. *What type of contribution and cooperation from international society is needed for the safeguarding of ICH in your country?***

Information sharing workshops on a subregional and regional level are a good way for stimulating cooperation for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Such workshops serve to increase local awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage, and also to increase practical capacity of the participants to engage in safeguarding activities of intangible cultural heritage.

For example, Indonesia hosted one such workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> August 2009 (described above) with participation from Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, Japan and Brunei Darussalam.

Another recent example is an information sharing workshop on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage conducted between Indonesia and Vietnam in Hanoi on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**Q7. *What role do you expect ICHCAP to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region in terms of programmes, projects, etc.?***

ICHCAP could facilitate information sharing workshops and training workshops in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as it has been doing already.

**Q8. *What should be considered to encourage or to ensure active involvement from the community in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage?***

Workshops need to be conducted on a local level to increase the practical capacities of communities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

**Q9. *Suggestions to ICHCAP for Consideration to Benefit Member States of UNESCO***

ICHCAP is publishing an excellent periodical on ICH titled ICH Courier. We suggest that this periodical should be circulated as widely as possible throughout the Asia-Pacific Region and even beyond, both in printed as well as in electronic forms (by email). For this purpose, ICHCAP could ask the UNESCO Member States in Asia-Pacific Region for names, addresses and email addresses of important people, both government and non-government, who they feel should receive ICH Courier on a regular basis.

ICHCAP should hold further seminars and workshop regarding ICH as it has already done several time in Korea and in other countries, to raise

awareness and build capacity for safeguarding ICH. Besides holding these events in Korea, ICHCAP might consider collaborating with UNESCO Member States to also hold workshops in other countries. The Workshops which Indonesian delegates have participated in so far have been very well organized, and have served their purposes. The information from these workshops has been then disseminated by the delegates, on their return to their home countries.

ICHCAP should try to foster networking among all those involved in ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region. At the moment, safeguarding activities are going on in each country, but there is still room for increasing awareness regarding safeguarding activities in other countries in the region. Sometimes we can learn from what others are doing, in order to increase the effectiveness of our own safeguarding activities. Two examples from Indonesia's experience are firstly: the Symposium and Workshop on Inventory in Safeguarding of ICH held in Jakarta on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Delegates from Japan, People's Republic of China, and Republic of Korea (Mr. Seoung-Yong Park, Director of ICHCAP) participated and made presentations. Their presentations on the ICH inventory systems in their respective countries provided valuable input in designing Indonesia's new ICH inventory system. Secondly, a bilateral information sharing workshop between Vietnam and Indonesia, held in Seoul on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in Hanoi. In this half day workshop, 3 speakers from each country spoke. This sharing of information regarding ICH related matters was judged of benefit to both countries. It also gave the visiting delegation a chance to see the institutions engaged in safeguarding ICH in Vietnam.