
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project, preliminary inventory making, took two years of strenuous activity, involving field visits, documentation and subsequent writing up. The writing up of the data and compilation of this report remained a work in progress for much longer than we would have wished, principally due to the wide scope of the subject matter and also to the authors' other professional commitments in their respective positions. Now it is with great pleasure that we present the results of two years of research in this modest book, entitled "*Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bhutan (ICH)*".

In bringing this report to its present form, we have many debts to acknowledge. First and foremost, we must put on record that this book on ICH would not have seen the light of day in its present form without the generous financial support of International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP). We are very happy to acknowledge our profound debt of gratitude to ICHCAP for both financial aid and their continuing support and encouragement of our efforts to document and safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Bhutan. Their most kind assistance to us will not be forgotten.

Dorjee Tshering, former Director General of the Department of Culture and Harka B. Gurung, Director of the National Library and Archives have been the inspiration and guiding force behind this project since its inception. Throughout the project period we have benefited from their advice, encouragement and guidance. We are most grateful to them.

The researchers for this book are: Gengop Karchung, Galey Wangchuk, Jigme Choden, Tshering Choki, Sonam Yudon, Sonam Yangdon and Yeshe Lhendub. Within the time limit imposed by many other commitments, they and various other members of our National Library family patiently journeyed to remote villages of almost all dzongkhags (districts), enduring many hardships along the way. Reaching their destinations, they gathered up information on both ICH activities still practiced today and also on those now forgotten except in the memories of village elders. Despite being neophytes in research, they were able to achieve the project goal. Our particular thanks are due to their commitment and meticulous work.

We would like to record our gratitude to the Dzongdas (District Administrators), Cultural Officers, Gups (heads of administrative blocks) and Tshogpas (Village Representatives), who provided every possible support and help to ease the path of our researchers in carrying out their important mission. Even more importantly, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to all bearers and custodians of our ICH, village community members who enthusiastically collaborated with our researchers and shared with us their knowledge and memories for recording and storing for future generations. Without their friendly understanding and support, this project could not possibly have been a success. We also relied on the valuable works of prominent researchers and scholars who have contributed significantly to studies of Bhutanese culture, especially its ICH. We express our deep thanks to them.

Warm thanks are due to professional educationist and former Director of Sherubtse College, Dr. Jagar Dorji, who patiently read through the draft report, attended to improvements in grammar, and also brought the content into a structurally unified form, to preclude the most obvious infelicities. Most of all, many thanks to Felicity Shaw for her meticulous copy editing and smoothing out of the text of the final draft, and her detailed checking of the bibliographies which follow each chapter to bring individual references into the approved format. The photographs scattered throughout the book were taken primarily by members of the

research teams. Some photos were provided by the following friends of the National Library, to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks for sharing: Karma Jigme (Cosmic Craft), Yeshe Dorji (Photographer), Felicity Shaw, Drungtsho Singye Wangmo (Physician at NITM), Royal Institute of Performing Arts (RIPA) and other individuals.

For remaining typos and mistakes, the authors hold full responsibility. Suggestions and comments on the text and on any perceived omissions, inaccuracies or oversights are most welcome and should be addressed to Dr. Yonten Dargye, Chief Research Officer.

In conclusion, we would like to place on record that until now nothing about the ICH of Bhutan encapsulating its entire spectrum of elements has been published. Our book is, therefore, a pioneer effort and we hope and believe that this contribution on our part will serve in some small measure to lay the groundwork for a full and less time-bound national inventory of ICH of Bhutan.

2 June, 2015

Research & Media Division
National Library & Archives of Bhutan
Department of Culture