



Outcomes of realizing project objectives and goals

1. The National Coordinator of this project is Dr. N. Urtnasan, Secretary General of Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, while the Expert Team Leader is Dr. T. Dorjdagva (Professor), Head of Philosophy Department of NUM and President of Culture Study Association of Mongolia.

The research team has reviewed UNESCO conventions and related implementation guidelines translated from English in order to analyze current situations of intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia based on concepts and principles stipulated in them. In this regard, experts have collected and reviewed the following reference and resource materials, including over 50 academic books and research brochures, several hundred articles and historical data materials, in addition to research documents and reports released from Language and Culture Institute of Science of Academy, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, faculties and research centers of National University of Mongolia, Culture and Arts Research Institute, National Center of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as Long Song Association, Morin khuur players' Association, Huumii Players' Association and other governmental and non-governmental organizations so that the overall resource materials have played essential tools to understand and determine historical evolution and current context of intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia. The research team also reviewed audio and video tapes and documentary films lasting over 20 hours which they collected in relation to intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, team members have interviewed and surveyed municipality officers of aimags and Ulaanbaatar city, professionals and some intangible cultural heritage bearers within their observations. Based on findings of the research works, the subsequent report on 'Current situations of safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage within the Mongolian territory' has been distributed to experts and professionals. Mr. N. Urtnasan, National Project Coordinator has prepared a presentation based on this research report and delivered it on III Joint Mongolian and South Korean experts' seminar. The presentation is enclosed to the report.

2. First of all, we translated applicable legislations, particularly specific provisions related to intangible cultural heritage of South Korea which originally initiated and successfully implemented UNESCO Living Human Treasures System Program on safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage and so allowed our experts and researchers to review them effectively. Notably, translated materials of South Korean legislations and other legal documents related to cultural heritage have been essential tools and main references for designing and drafting relevant legal documents.

We have also translated legal provisions related to cultural heritage from applicable Vietnamese and Japanese laws from English and so compared with that of Korea so that some common ideas and principles have been reflected in drafting legal documents. However, we are continuing our work translating and legal documents of Philippines and Cambodia and reviewing legal provisions on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and promoting its bearers in these countries successfully implementing the UNESCO program, in order to possibly adopt suitable practices in the Mongolian context.

Moreover, translation and subsequent reviews on intangible cultural heritage related documents and reference materials issued by UNESCO have definitely allowed us to formulate one of main opportunities to adopt and implement efforts on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage preserved in our country. For instance, based on concepts of 'UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' adopted in 2003, the following categories have been developed to classify intangible cultural heritage elements preserved in Mongolia:

- a. *Intangible cultural heritage forms expressed in Mongolian language*
Mother tongue, fairy tales, legends, praise songs, well-wishing songs, idioms, traditional poems, well - wishing rhymes (tsatsal) and phrases, tongue twisters, folk poem contest (dairaltsaan), and other oral traditions and literature works.
- b. *Performing arts and such forms*
Traditional long and short songs, huumii (throat-singing), whistle songs, morin khuur (horse-headed violin), tsuur (bagpipe), bii bielgee (body dance) and tsam (mask dance) traditional dancing forms
- c. *Social practices, rituals and festive events*
Traditional customs, techniques, ceremonies and festive events etc.,
- d. *Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe*
Traditional knowledge and skills analyzing the Earth, watercourse, sky and weather patterns, approaches towards their surrounding nature and environment, customs related to sacred places, nature protection and restriction doctrines
- e. *Traditional craftsmanship*
Traditional Mongolian-style jewelry, carpentry, woodsmith, embroidery, stitching, felt quilting, leather and animal-hides arts, traditional techniques processing animal products, hunting related traditional techniques (technology) etc.

Based on observations and findings resulted from studying document related to implementing 'Living Human Treasures' Program, we have performed tasks aimed to designing and drafting legislations and regulations referred to determining, registering, documenting, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State supports for genuine forms of intangible cultural heritage and their bearers in Mongolia.

For instance, the initial draft of ‘Regulations of determining, registering, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State support for intangible cultural heritage’ consists of following parts and provisions:

- ① Objectives
- ② Interpretations
- ③ Determining and registering genuinely original forms of intangible cultural heritage and the bearers (16 articles)
- ④ Rights of cultural heritage bearers (4 articles)
- ⑤ Responsibilities of cultural heritage bearers (9 articles)
- ⑥ Rights and responsibilities of cultural heritage learners (4 articles)
- ⑦ Rights and responsibilities of relevant public institutions (9 articles)

However, the proposed draft of ‘Rule of the National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage and its bearers’ includes the following parts and articles:

- ① General provisions (4 articles)
- ② Structure of the National Council (8 articles)
- ③ Rights of National Council members (6 articles)
- ④ Obligations and responsibilities of National Council members (6 articles)

The initial drafts have been distributed and circulated among governmental and non-governmental organizations, researchers, scholars, intangible cultural heritage bearers and individuals so that they have been amended several times based on their comments and recommendations contributed.

Currently, final drafts have been submitted to MECS for further approvals of ‘Regulations of determining, registering, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State support for intangible cultural heritage’ under a Resolution of Government of Mongolia, whereas ‘Membership components of National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage’ and ‘Rule of National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage and its bearers’ under a Decree of Minister of Education, Culture and Science, respectively(drafts of the procedure and rule enclosed to the report).

These procedure and rule drafts can be considered to have adequately designed and coordinated suitably with Mongolia’s history, traditions and people, as well as with existing legal frameworks and structures of public institutions operating in culture and arts sector, and with needs and requirements of practical reality. However, the current draft versions must be updated and strengthened upon further in-depth research and based on practical needs in reality in addition to serving as the key basis for developing and drafting ‘Law on determining, registering, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State support for intangible cultural heritage’ in the future.

3. In 2007, South Korean experts and researchers visited Mongolia with the purpose of reviewing, determining and planning feasibility of implementing UNESCO Living Human Treasures program in Mongolia. In 2008, Mongolian experts and researchers visited South Korea and thus bilateral parties have organized twice policy-based meetings discussing feasibility of implementing this program and reviewed existing situations in person. These exchange visits and meetings have notably contributed significant inputs to launch the ongoing extensive work aimed

to realizing concepts of 'UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' adopted in 2003, as well as to determining, safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia.

The third joint seminar has been held on 12-13 December, 2008 and attended by Mongolian and Korean experts that also produced substantial and positive impacts to our activities (some event photos taken during the seminar are enclosed).

The following officials and representatives have been attended the joint seminar:

From Mongolia

- Erdenbet, Director of Culture and Arts Department of MECS
- N. Urtnasan, General Secretary of Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and National Coordinator of 'Introducing UNESCO Living Human Treasures Program in Mongolia' project
- T. Dorjdagva, President of Mongolian Culture Research Association and Leader of Expert team of 'Introducing UNESCO Living Human Treasures Program in Mongolia' project
- Ts. Jargalsaikhan, Senior officer of Culture and Arts Department of MECS
- G. Enkhbat, Director of Cultural Heritage Center
- Ts. Purevkhoo, Head of Culture and Arts Department of Ulaanbaatar city
- A. Tseden-Ish, Director of Folklore Song and Dance Academic Theater
- Founders of professional non-governmental organizations, representatives of intangible cultural heritage bearers and field survey team member-researchers

From South Korea

- Mr. Park, Seong-Yong, Executive Director, Establishment Initiative for the Intangible Heritage Centre for Asia-Pacific (EIIHCAP)
- Mr. Park, Weonmo, Head of Research, EIIHCAP
- Ms. Bak, Sang-Mee, Professor of International Study Department of Hangeuk International Study University
- Mr. Kim, Yong-Whee, Deputy Director, Intangible Cultural Heritage Department of Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea
- Cho Hyo-Min, Project Officer, EIIHCAP

Mongolian representatives have delivered the following presentations for discussion during the joint seminar, including 'Present situation of safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia', 'Initial draft of Regulations of determining, registering, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State support for intangible cultural heritage', 'On the draft of National institutional structure of implementation UNESCO Program-Living Human Treasures in Mongolia', 'On the draft of criteria for selection of bearers of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' (the presentation attached to the report), and 'Current situations and further perspectives of intangible cultural heritage bearers in Western Mongolia – Khovd, Bayan-Ulgii and Uvs aimags' – the report of survey study carried out within the project implementation.

On the other hand, Korean representatives have delivered presentations, such as 'On the role of the Governmental agencies in the Implementation of the Important Intangible Cultural Heritage System in Korea', 'Intangible Cultural Heritage System in Korea', 'Safeguarding of the Intangible cultural Heritage in the Republic of Korea', and 'On the Legal System of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the republic of Korea' respectively. In addition, they shared their experiences and viewpoints on proposed drafts of procedural rules.

Presentations, recommendations and questions raised by South Korean counterparts have provided valuable and new ideas and so contributed substantial inputs to our efforts to designing proposals and drafts of legislations which will serve as one of essential conditions for creating intangible cultural heritage system in Mongolia, in addition to further implementation efforts. Comments and recommendations suggested by South Korean counterparts have been reflected and amended in proposal drafts of procedures and rules to be submitted to and approved by MECS and the Government. It should be noted that seminar activities have been effective, successful and with friendly atmosphere, despite many issues to be discussed and covered within the short time.

The joint seminar has concluded further follow-up activities, such as continuing ongoing research on opportunities and feasibility of implementing 'Living Human Treasure System' in Mongolia, and collecting and reviewing applicable laws and regulations of Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and other such countries succeeding to implement the UNESCO program, as well as publications concerning on their challenges, urgent issues and other relevant information. Moreover, seminar participants have agreed on joint cooperation focused on implementing multi-faceted and comprehensive activities, such as determining genuine forms of intangible cultural heritage and the bearers in Mongolia; creating and enforcing legal frameworks for safeguarding, maintaining and developing intangible cultural heritage; preparing and training professionals specialized in areas safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage; publishing training materials, textbooks, manuals and guidance brochures; and organizing trainings. In addition, participants shared viewpoints and agreed to collaborate in terms of proposing Mongolian *bii bielgee* (body dance), *huumii* (throat singing), *tuuli* (ballades) and *tsuur* (bagpipe) and three-manly games, and some forms of traditional Mongolian arts to be registered in the UNESCO's List of Outstanding intangible cultural heritage.

Considering South Korean counterparts' suggestions, the Mongolian project partners have outlined the main framework and scheduled plans of the project implementation activities for the next coming 2 years and presented them to guest visitors. A field survey trip have been organized for South Korean representatives during the joint seminar to let them introduce some intangible cultural heritage bearers in Mongolia that the Korean representatives valued their experience of the field trip positively and noted its importance at the end of the seminar.

4. In order to identify, register in advance and illustrate locations and distribution scopes of genuine forms of intangible cultural heritage and the bearers, it was necessary to visit their residential areas and meet them in person so as to document with photographs, audio and video tapes, in digital forms, to collect comments and approvals of cultural heritage bearers in writing, and makes notes of oral legends, historical stories and interviews on paper.

The field survey team comprised of six members (researchers and a cameraman) conducted survey study to investigate and identify intangible cultural heritage forms and the bearers in Western regional aimags, namely some soums of Khovd, Bayan-Ulgii and Uvs on 15-29 November, 2008. Team members include A. Duurenjargal, Z. Lkhagvasuren, B. Naranbat, T. Bayasgalan, Sh. Enkhjargal and B. Pamaasuren. (some photos taken during field surveys are enclosed here).

During III Joint policy-oriented seminar of Mongolian and South Korean experts held in Ulaanbaatar on 12-13 December, 2008, the brief survey report has been presented by T.Bayasgalan, a researcher of Language and Culture Institute of the Academy of Science, based on findings collected and observed by field survey team members worked in the Western region.

The field research team members traveled flew by plane from Ulaanbaatar to Khovd one way there and from Uvs to Ulaanbaatar the other way back, yet covered in total of 2,500 km long routes by car while visiting local communities and carrying out surveys in place to another. Team members met over 50 individuals in person within the survey trip; among them 24 people have filled questionnaire sheets. In addition, they took over 500 photos and made video records of over 10 hours.

Survey research have focused mainly on folklore performing arts, such as bii bielgee (body dance), huunii (throat-singing), tsuur (bagpipe), ikel khuur (mandolin), tuuli (ballade) and long songs, in addition to social practices related to sacred mountains, intangible cultural heritage expressed in certain rituals and languages. In accordance with field survey guidelines, residential locations and distribution scopes have been determined and illustrated in maps.

Tsuur-making techniques and technology were documented along with needed raw materials, plants used and wildlife conditions. In addition, interviews with cultural heritage bearers were recorded and noted as much as possible, particularly those focused on transmitting and teaching these above-mentioned folklore performing arts to younger generations. Survey respondents have expressed their sincere wishes to register their outstanding talents and skills in UNESCO List of intangible cultural heritage, while providing their proposals and approvals as signed.

It should be noted and appreciated that field survey team members have worked hard and patiently during freezing cold winter climates, when high mountain passes were blocked with snow piles and ice. Despite such harsh weather and conditions, field team researchers' exceptional efforts are appreciated for having documented folklore performing arts forms within their original homeland settings.

Recently, another field research team has been appointed to carry out field surveys in Eastern regional aimags and so investigate and identify existing intangible cultural heritage forms and bearers there. Findings and results of this field survey work will be soon presented and delivered duly.

Besides, we have initiated one more activity within the project. That is our effort in creating database of preliminary information about intangible cultural heritage bearers. In this regard, questionnaire sheets titled 'Survey questionnaire of intangible cultural heritage bearers' and the survey guidance have been distributed to responsible Culture and Arts departments of Ulaanbaatar city and all aimags and their heads, along with an enclosed official letter signed by Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Science. In relation to this nationwide survey research, sizable materials have been collected from all aimag and Ulaanbaatar city so that we are performing tasks to review survey findings, making classified records and summarizing relevant information accordingly. As new legal acts concerning to protecting intangible cultural heritage enacted and enforced in place, these survey materials must be reviewed and analyzed thoroughly.

5. As a result of developing and maintaining applied culture studies effectively in Mongolia, nowadays we are able to collect and analyze numerous publications, articles and data materials on intangible cultural heritage and printed in Mongolian and foreign languages so as to let researchers and scholars work upon such extensive resource materials in place.

In order to identify and determine intangible cultural heritage practiced within different areas of our country, a number of serial meetings and interviews has been organized among and with governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, training and research institutions, partnership groups, scholars and researchers, while their comments and viewpoints were surveyed and reviewed. Initially, we have designed the Preliminary list of intangible cultural heritage forms based on comments and recommendations from scholars and researchers, and suggestions from intangible cultural heritage bearers, organizations and individuals. Then, further comments have been received from experts again.

Currently, the list has been named 'List of intangible cultural heritage forms in Mongolia' tentatively; based on it, initial drafts of 'The List of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding', 'The representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia' have been separately developed, respectively.

These drafts have been updated with experts' comments and recommendations, and thus submitted to MECS for further approvals (drafts are attached to the report). After approved and endorsed by MECS, the drafts will be submitted to the Government of Mongolia for final approvals.

6. To safeguard and maintain intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia, it appears necessary to raise public awareness concerning its importance, needs and requirements, and this to implement extensive research and public awareness campaign work among the general public in this respect.

Some relevant public awareness activities have been conducted through the media means, particularly the project team members regularly express their concerns to include intangible cultural heritage classes in to both majored and non-majored culture study programs as well as to reflect in arts-majored curriculum, while providing methodology guidance and advice to teachers and professors in this respect.

We have started to prepare public awareness and education manuals for the general public with colored illustrations and documented materials, in terms of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia. Domestic specialized scholars and researchers participate in the activity to prepare the materials.