Established on the basis of the Cultural Properties Protection Law, the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation is a corporation that specialises in traditional culture, and pass on traditional Korean culture, while engaging in international joint projects to develop intangible and tangible cultural heritage worldwide.

The foundation promotes cooperative activity through its interaction with various intangible heritage safeguarding bodies from governments and public institutions, to centres for intangible cultural heritage, bearers and the general public. The foundation plays a key role in using traditional culture to enhance communication and understanding across generational, class and sectoral divides.

The Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation has implemented various projects in order to promote and popularise traditional Korean culture including reproductions of traditional ritual ceremonies, traditional music and dance performances and exhibitions of arts and crafts, educational programs and publications, cultural tour souvenir product development, traditional Korean weddings, excavation and investigation of cultural relics.

In an effort to expand upon the existing cultural base, the foundation also provides an opportunity to develop and utilise traditional cultural contents to the general public in addition to arts practitioners. Through this process, the foundation is committed to continuing to develop as a future-oriented institution of cultural heritage transmission and dissemination.

The Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation applied for accreditation as a non-governmental organisation and is currently waiting for accreditation approval from the General Assembly. Once accredited, non-governmental organisations have advisory functions to the Intergovernmental Committee, in reference to nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List as well as requests for international assistance.

In addition to international activities, ICHCAP is also involved in several domestic projects. In order to coordinate local efforts, build upon domestic awareness and lend this knowledge to international efforts, a network of intangible heritage experts and practitioners has been established within Korea. Several meetings have been held in which cultural representatives from the government and academic sectors as well as intangible cultural heritage safeguarding organisations, institutes and practitioners met to present, discuss and debate the current issues being faced in Korea in the field of intangible cultural heritage. Through this process, meetings of cultural heritage experts have also been held to discuss the successes and challenges among current safeguarding efforts as well as the future of policy directives and cooperative international projects.

On a public scale, ICHCAP has also organised and sponsored the Understanding the Cultural Heritage of Korea programme in conjunction with the Training Center for Traditional Culture (based out of the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage). The programme includes site visits to historic sites, museums, and temples along with lectures and workshops that provide hands on experience in traditional performing arts, crafts and cuisine. Targeting foreign students and researchers residing in Korea, the programme has welcomed a very diverse group of participants from across the globe and provided them with an in-depth look at and broader awareness of the cultural heritage of Korea, both past and present.

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