

# HOLISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF LIVING HERITAGE

This publication of the guide book on intangible cultural heritage of the Philippines is the precious result of the enthusiastic efforts made by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) to reconfirm and restore the national treasure of the long protected traditional culture, which have been alienated and marginalized during the colonial period of many centuries.

Foreign intrusions have massively impacted on the diverse ethnic culture diminishing and distorting the authentic quality of the tradition, however, could not prevent the Filipino people from persisting in their living heritage.

Asian people, who have experienced the deprivation and suppression of the native cultural heritage by the colonial power, understand well, how important it is to restore their cultural heritage, valuable sources of creative and sustainable development.

In this regard, ICHCAP, International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO, which is based in Korea, is very privileged and honoured to cooperate with the NCCA for this valuable publication.

As the Category II institute of UNESCO implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding ICH, ICHCAP is very delighted to see that this guide book has been edited to understand holistically the entire aspects of living heritage, the five domains defined by the Convention, and emphasize the importance of the communities practicing and transmitting them.

I hope, this initial publication will contribute a great deal to strengthen the visibility and awareness-raising on ICH, not only for the people in the Philippines, but also in the whole world.

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