

## Preface

Intangible cultural heritage, the reflection of humanity's socio-cultural development and precious living heritage is currently facing great challenges. Among these pressing challenges, urbanisation, industrialisation, and globalisation are undoubtedly causing great damage to intangible cultural heritage. At the same time, exploitation and misuse of intangible cultural heritage, due to the development of cultural industry and technology, is degrading the value of our cultural identity and violating the rights of bearers of ICH.

Legal protection of intangible cultural heritage has been a concern of UNESCO and the World Intellectual Property Organization for quite some time. However, it is not easy to reach a common consensus in relation to ensuring the comprehensive intellectual property rights on intangible cultural heritage since it is recognised as communal property coupled with the existence of a radical gap between developing and developed countries. There are also cases where the value of cultural heritage has been damaged and the rights of communities violated due to reckless commercialisation and abuse of intangible cultural heritage in Korea, even still, a satisfactory solution has not been developed.

In order to facilitate substantial discourses to develop possible solutions to these issues, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific invited experts from the fields of intellectual property rights and intangible cultural heritage to participate in an intensive discussion concerning the topic, *Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Intellectual Property Rights - Trends and Challenges*. From this meeting, various possible solutions were exchanged and elicited which are introduced in this book.

Issues which appear during international debates, the difference between safeguarding practices and relevant legal approaches, granting legal rights to communities, intellectual property rights of digital archives on intangible cultural heritage and so on are noteworthy to emphasise. To say the least, this book will be a great contribution to the safeguarding efforts of intangible cultural heritage for the future.

We are very pleased to publish this book, especially at this time which parallels ICHCAP's success in the establishment of becoming a UNESCO Category 2 Centre. We deeply appreciate the active participation of Tae Yong Choi, Planning Director of the Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation for his opening speech at the conference and Dawnhee Yim, Chair Professor of Dongguk University for taking on the role of chairperson for the first session of our conference. We would also like to give thanks to Professor Chul Nam Lee and Soyoung Yook of Chungnam National University Law School and all the other participants for their participation in the fierce discussions which took place.

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