

Preface

Intangible cultural heritage, the common heritage of humanity, has been recognised as a resource of creative value and sustainable development. And this living heritage has maintained traditional knowledge, skills, arts, and wisdom that have been historically very useful and valuable to human society and culture. However, despite its value, ICH is in danger of deterioration and extinction due to the rapid globalisation and social transformation, and thus UNESCO adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003.

The 2003 Convention, which more than 150 countries have ratified, emphasises that ICH is a valuable asset, driving cultural diversity and guaranteeing sustainable development for present and future generations. To effectively implement the 2003 Convention, ICHCAP organised the 2012 International Conference on ICH Safeguarding to explore the creative value of ICH and the rationale to revitalise ICH under the 2003 Convention and to discuss the roles and directions of safeguarding ICH for the sustainable development of humanity.

This report includes presentation papers and a discussion summary of the three sessions of the conference. The first chapter, under the theme ‘What is the Significance of the 2003 Convention?’, includes papers on the historical meaning and current situation of the Convention. The second chapter, ‘How to Safeguard the Value of ICH?’, reviews measures for ICH to promote cultural diversity, sustainable development of humanity, and social development in developing countries. The last chapter includes country reports that outline the efforts each country has taken to promote and use ICH.

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Samuel Lee, Ph.D.
Director-General
International Information and Networking Centre for
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