

Annex 2 | **Project Introduction**

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Field survey of safeguarding effort for ICH

1. Field Survey of Safeguarding Efforts for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific

Culture has been considered as the most prominent factor associated with the identity of societal groups, communities and even a person. Culture is considered as the product of different incidents, traditions, beliefs, practices passing through generation to generation. It is the reflection of historical legacy, religious faith, typical and specific tradition. In fact, culture is one of the embodied components of human life and civilization. It is the treasure of belonging society, group and people. So, cultures have been recognized as one of the heritage of mankind.

With the evolution and Development of modern education the culture has been divided into two broad categories of Tangible and Intangible. Tangible Cultures are considered as the cultural objects having historical, religious, place specific and to some extent certain groups specific values, significances, and representation which can not be moved from one place to another like temples, monuments, historical places etc. In contrary to this, the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 defines intangible cultural heritage as " the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills-as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural Spaces associated there with – that communities, groups, and in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage"(CSICH 2003- art.1). So, the intangible cultural heritage transmits from generation to generation.

Though intangible cultural heritages are being practiced from long ago as mere traditions many more communities have been found less aware with the ICH perspectives. The safeguarding efforts of ICH have not institutionalized systematically and scientifically in many parts of the globe. The tremendous development and expansion of science and technology mainly the electronic media has increased the threat of cultural contamination and even disappearance. This can easily be seen in the young generation adopting of new culture in the name of development. So, in this era of globalization safeguarding of ICH for the sake of identity and originality has become more crucial. It is also an issue of human rights. So, ICH is certainly of complex in nature and extensive in scope. The collaborative efforts among the countries, communities and even groups could be very useful in taking the issue on board for safeguarding of ICH.

Realizing the richness in diverse intangible cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific region, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific (ICHCAP), Republic of Korea has designed a project under the title "Field Survey of Safeguarding Efforts in Asia and the Pacific Region" to be implemented in 24 UNESCO member states in Asia and the Pacific Region.

2. Objective of the survey

This survey has aimed as following:

- To collect data on current safeguarding efforts of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region,
- To build a network of concerned experts in the field of ICH among the region's Member States, and
- To promote groundwork for the establishment of an informational and research system for ICH data.

3. Envisioned methodology

Field survey including interview and document review is the envisioned methodology. In addition, documenting of ICH through photograph and interpretation are also included as methodology.

4. Envisioned activities

The project has envisioned following project activities

- Collection and analysis of existing material/data related to ICH
- Select a contact point for each state
- Carry out a field survey in the Asia-Pacific region
- Submit final report

5. Targeted countries for field survey

The field survey has targeted to be implemented in seven UNESCO member states in 2010, who have already become party of the Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003, from among the 24 states of Asia and the Pacific Region.

6. Expected results of the project

ICHCAP has set the expected results of the project as following:

- Raise awareness of the significance of intangible cultural heritage and stimulate further study in the field of ICH for each country in the Asia-Pacific region
- Construct expert networks among relevant organisations by providing an opportunity to exchange information & experiences related to ICH
- Share accumulated information collected during the field survey for public use among Member States in Asia and the Pacific region

7. Introduction of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific

Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific is an organization established in the Republic of Korea under the auspicious of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The 35 General Conference of UNESCO has approved the proposal of Republic of Korea to establish this centre under UNESCO's auspicious. The main objectives of this centre are to promote the safeguarding efforts of ICH in Asia and the Pacific through strengthened networking and enhanced cooperation in between related authorities in Asia-Pacific Region.