

I . Safeguarding system & policy

1. National Law

Government of Pakistan

Ministry of Law, Justice, Human Rights and Parliamentary
(Law, Justice and Human Rights Division)

Islamabad, the 1st September

2002

F.No. 2(1)/2002-Pub. The following Ordinance promulgated by the President is hereby published for general information:-

ORDINANCE No: LIV OF 2002

AN ORDINANCE

To provide for reconstitution of the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) to effectively preserve indigenous cultural heritage to project true identity of Pakistan;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the reconstitution of the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), and for matter connected herewith or ancillary thereto;

AND WHEREAS the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action.

Now, THEREFORE in pursuance of the Proclamation of Emergency of the fourteenth day of October, 1999, and the Provisional Constitution Order No. 1 of 1999, read with the Provisional Constitution (Amendment) Order NO.9 of 1999, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement

- (a) This Ordinance may be called the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Ordinance, 2002.
- (b) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.
- (c) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions:

In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

- (a) "Board" means the Board of Governors of the Institute;
- (b) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board;
- (c) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Board;
- (d) "Executive Director" means the Executive Directors of the Institute;
- (e) "Fund" means fund of the Institute.
- f) "Institute" means the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) established by the Government of Pakistan vide its Resolution No. F.1011/82- Admn, dated the 19th June, 1983;

- (g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules or regulations;
- (h) "Regulations" means the regulations made under this Ordinance

3. Establishment of the Institute

- (a) The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) as reconstituted in accordance with the Provisions of this Ordinance shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with powers, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both moveable and immovable, and shall in the said name sue and be sued.
- (b) The head office of the Institute shall be at Islamabad.
- (c) The Institute may, with the approval of the Federal Government, from time to time establish regional offices, local offices and research establishments at such places as it may deem fit.

4. Functions and Powers of the Institute.

The functions and powers of the Institute shall be-

- (a) to engage in research, systematic collection, documentation, scientific preservation, projection and dissemination of oral tradition, folklore and other aspects of indigenous cultural heritage;
- (b) to aim at strengthening and nurturing the roots of Pakistan culture and to achieve fundamental objectives regarding its rediscovery and reinterpretation to project the true identity of Pakistan;

- (c) to establish cultural complexes and museums for the purpose of displaying living arts and crafts, cultural artifacts and rare objects from all parts of Pakistan;
- (d) Establish cultural industries, art and craft galleries, artisan villages and to hold and organize festivals;
- (e) to retrieve advance knowledge of the general public and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural industries of Pakistan;
- (f) to carry out studies, investigations, surveys, to collect data to prepare feasibility report about schemes, projects and programmes to the extent required for fulfilling the objects;
- (g) to arrange and provide training and technical assistance to its staff as well as participating NGOs and community based organizations, educational institutes through training programmes, purchase of existing services, workshops, seminars, publications and training programmes and scholarships within Pakistan or in such other countries as the Board may deem appropriate;
- (h) to improve knowledge, understanding and practices of different aspects of indigenous cultural heritage and to devise ways and means for a broader dissemination through employment of modern media technologies;
- (i) to establish centers of excellent and to activate existing institutions and build or innovate new institutions and forge mutually beneficial private/public sector partnerships;
- (j) to prepare and implement such other plans and programmes to promote cultural heritage of Pakistan;

(k) to promote cultural heritage such that it plays its rightful role in developmental issue such as economic reforms, investment, industry, education, literature, poverty alleviation, human rights and human development;

(l) to cause to be prepared and implemented such schemes and programmes for the promotion of welfare of its employees; and

(m) to do all such other things as are necessary or incidental to the promotion or advancement of the objects of the Institute.

2. Current Situation & Future Nation Strategies regarding the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

At present there are a lot of governmental bodies both at national and regional levels which are busy in the documentation, preservation and development of the intangible cultural heritage. On which I have discussed in detail in the section of relevant organizations. Then there are few NGOs also who are working in this field.

However, there is greater need to extend our research and documentation work for the recording and documentation of a huge number of things at micro level which still remains untapped and undocumented. Furthermore, in the face of the onslaught of rapidly increasing technology and changing of means of earnings and of communication, of transportation and of course of environmental changes also, there is need of a quick and prompt response.

Of course, we are looking forward to the international society and ICHCAP to learn a lot of strategies, plans, mechanisms, and expertise to safeguard the ICH in our country. These things and projects could be from the stages of the preparation of the inventories to the proper safeguarding and development of the ICH at ground level.

For the maximum community involvement for the safeguarding activities we would have to consider the economic factor as the first and most important factor. Then we would have to maximize the governmental and non governmental patronage and involvement in the sector. Other factors like religious fanaticism also needs to be addressed and misconceptions in this regard needs to be dispelled.