

Holistic Development Model of Community-Based Intangible Cultural Heritage of Yuen Long in Hong Kong of China

Kai-kwong Choi, Life Encouraging Fund

Abstract

Yuen Long Community Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Project is a proposal of the Life Encouraging Fund, a non-governmental organization based in Yuen Long district. This pilot project is an exemplar of an NGO working for community-based ICH education and transmission with a holistic development model. It covers all five domains of ICH in the district with priority to elements on the representative list for development as a whole.

Planned activities for residents in the district are listed by domain as follows:

1. Oral traditions and expressions: Wai Tau Dialect Interactive Classroom
2. Performing arts: Cantonese Opera Demonstration Performance
3. Social practices, rituals and festive events: On-site Festivals and Rituals Guided Tours
4. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe: On-site Making of Herbal Tea
5. Traditional craftsmanship: Paper Crafting Technique Workshops

The NGO would maintain a Facebook page as an online platform fostering communication between ICH bearers, bearer organizations, and other district stakeholders for the collaborative development of ICH.

The NGO would finally publish a guide booklet with an illustrated map of ICH elements in the district for long-lasting promotion.

With the above package, the NGO integrates various ICH resources, empowers ICH bearers and bearer organizations, and foster interaction between residents and ICH bearers for sustainable development of ICH in the Yuen Long district. Being empowered by the NGO, ICH bearers and bearer organizations would continue transmission on their own with more participation from the residents in the same district. This holistic development model of community-based ICH would be a valuable reference for other districts in Hong Kong.