3rd APHEN-ICH International Seminar
Concept Note

1. Overview

- **Theme**: Diversity and Distinctiveness: Looking into Shared ICH in the Asia-Pacific
- **Date**: 18-19 February 2021, 15:00-17:00 (Korea Standard Time)
- **Venue**: Online Livestreaming at ICHCAP’s Youtube and Facebook Channels
- **Language**: English / Korea
- **Host**: APHEN-ICH Secretariat (Korea National University of Cultural Heritage), International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP), UNESCO Bangkok Office

2. Background

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is transnational in nature. It is necessary to spread the perception that ICH transcends geographical spaces and national borders, creating dynamic relations, connectedness, and continuity, which is why it is a timeless bearer of cultural diversity, the foundation of the heritage of humanity. However, as the modern structure of nation-state determines the boundaries of culture with national borders, forming the concept of "culture within the country", subsequently led to the perception that the ownership of culture belongs to the state. The concept of exclusive ownership of culture is often controversial in the UNESCO listing process, particularly in instances where cultural heritage and cultural domains have been shared for a long time by two or more nation-states. Such conflicts lead to excessive competition for nomination, overshadowing UNESCO's fundamental purpose of contributing to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations, as well as the very spirit of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding
of the Intangible Cultural Heritage that promotes international cooperation and assistance in the safeguarding of ICH as a matter of general interest to humanity.

Consequently, UNESCO encourages multinational inscriptions of shared intangible cultural heritage to promote regional cooperation and international safeguarding activities, preventing conflicts among countries and coping with already existing ones. By emphasizing joint nominations of shared ICH, UNESCO revised its implementation guidelines three times to deal with conflicts between countries due to the cultural property rights. In addition, States Parties are encouraged to develop networks among relevant communities, experts, professional centres, and research institutes, particularly with regard to their ICH, to cooperate at the sub-regional and regional levels.

At the 13th Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in the Republic of Mauritius in November 2018, Traditional Korean Wrestling was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as the first joint designation by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea. This milestone in the life of the Convention demonstrates that ICH contributes to the peace-building, reconciliation, mutual understanding, and solidarity among peoples. Indeed, only when acknowledging that shared cultural values are empowering characteristics of ICH, the true perspective of the unifying agent of the cultural diversity can be achieved, and that it is the cornerstone of reaching peace among nations.

Countries in the Asia Pacific region are deeply connected by a long history of interactions, exchanges, flows of people, goods, and ideas that have shaped shared values, practices, and traditions. Having a balanced view, advocating for cultural diversity, and recognizing the commonalities among individuals, communities, and countries as a strength are virtuous tenets in the present time.

In this regard, APHEN-ICH Secretariat, ICHCAP, and UNESCO Bangkok Office are inviting the APHEN-ICH member institutes and public to this seminar under the theme of Diversity and Distinctiveness: Looking into the Shared ICH in the Asia-Pacific, to re-assess that while fragile, intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity, connecting bounds, and enhancing international dialogue and peace.
### 3. Seminar Programme

**Keynote Presentation and Session 1: Asia’s Shared Heritage across Borders - Lacquer**

**February 18 (Thu), 15:00-17:00, KST**

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| **Keynote presentation** | Comonalties and Diversity of Asia-Pacific Intangible Cultural Heritage: For Asian values and safeguarding strategies of lacquer crafts | Ki-dong Bae  
(Professor emeritus, Hanyang University) |
| **Session 1** | **Moderator: Gongho Choi**  
(Professor, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage Studies at Korea National University of Cultural Heritage) | Jaeho Lee  
(National Museum of Korea, Art Department Curator) |
| Presentation 1 | Historical change of Korean lacquerware and najeon craft                                                                                      | Yuji Yonehara  
(Director, Center for Innovation in Traditional Industries Kyoto Seika University) |
| Presentation 2 | Urushi Lacquer in Japan: Restoration of Cultural Properties and the Current State of Urushi Production                                          | Trieu Khanh Tien  
(Deputy Dean of Painting Faculty, Vietnam University of Fine Arts) |
| Presentation 3 | Vietnam Lacquer Painting – A Link Between Oriental Lacquer Crafts Tradition and Western Plastic Art Value                                      | Kyaw Swe Nyunt  
(Professor, History Department, Mandalay University) |
| Presentation 4 | Myanmar Lacquerware and Its Prospects                                                                                                         | Zaha Ahmed  
(Acting Head of Heritage Section, National Center for Cultural Heritage, Maldives)  
Abdul Matheen Abdul Rheem  
(Lacquer craftsman) |
| Presentation 5 | Lacquer work in the Maldives - the best surviving craftsmanship from the early days                                                            |                                                                                               |
### Keynote Presentation and Session 2: Diversity and the Unifying Values of ICH - Shared Heritage and Its Safeguarding Efforts

February 19 (Fri), 15:00-17:00, KST

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<td>Shared heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region: focusing on UNESCO multinational inscription</td>
<td>Nguyen, Thi Hien (Vice Director, Viet Nam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies)</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator: Alicia P. Magos</strong> (Professor emeritus, University of the Philippines Visayas)</td>
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<td>Presentation 1</td>
<td>Foods, Roots and Routes: Gendering Memory in the Age of Displacement</td>
<td>Khatharya Um (Associate Professor, University of California, Berkeley)</td>
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<td>Presentation 2</td>
<td>Shared heritage of India and Pakistan: A case of Gujhart and Ajrakh</td>
<td>Aanchal Mehta, Jyoti Shukla, Teena Dhabale (Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University, India)</td>
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<td>Presentation 3</td>
<td>Human-Anito-Nature Relationship: Indigenous/Local Knowledge, Anitism, and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Bobby dG. Lopez (PhD researcher, University of the Philippines, Diliman)</td>
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<td>Presentation 4</td>
<td>The universality and specificity of printing skills in East Asia</td>
<td>Kim Bang Ul (Researcher, Korea National University of Cultural Heritage)</td>
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<td>Presentation 5</td>
<td>Sharing, Sustaining, and Safeguarding to the ICH of East Asian Seasonal Festival</td>
<td>Xiao Fang, Huo Wen, Xu Qian (Beijing Normal University)</td>
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4. Biography of participants

- Session 1 -

Ki-dong Bae (Keynote speaker) teaches cultural anthropology at Hanyang University. Received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in anthropology and archaeology from the Seoul National University; Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently serving as chairman International Council of Museums for the Asia-Pacific region and vice-chairman of Blue Shield International. He is also the vice-chairman of the cultural division of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the head of the Institute of East Asian Archaeology.

Gongho Choi (Moderator) served as the president of the Korean Art History Association, the general director of the Cheongju International Craft Biennale, and an advisory committee member of the Blue House/Ministry of Culture and Tourism/Cultural Heritage Administration. He is currently a professor at the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage Studies at Korea National Univesity of Cultural Heritage.

Jaeho Lee is a researcher at the National Museum of Korea, and his research focuses on Korean paintings. He has published several research papers on Korean painting. From 2013 to 2016, he also worked as a researcher at the National Palace Museum of Korea and the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage. Currently, he is working on his Ph.D. at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage.
Yuji Yonehara is a Director of the Center for Innovation in Traditional Industries at Kyoto Seika University. Also, he is a Kyoto-based writer and journalist specializing in the field of craft. His publications include *Kyoto Shokunin – Takumi no Tenohira* "Kyoto Artisans: The Palms of the Masters" and *The Emperor Higashiyama's Enthronement Ceremony in the Edo Period, and Its 1/4 Size Model*.

Trieu Khanh Tien is a Deputy Dean of the Painting Department at Vietnam University of Fine Arts. He has participated in large international exhibitions in many countries including, Vietnam, Sweden, and Japan. Also, he has participated in various academic symposiums related to lacquer in Asia. He received his Bachelor's degree from Hanoi University of Fine Arts, a Master’s degree from the Vietnam University of Fine Arts, and a doctoral degree from Tokyo University of the Arts.

Kyaw Swe Nyunt is a history professor at Mandalay University and Myanmar ICH Scholars Organization’s member. He has published many research papers and reports and actively participated in international academic conferences. He received his degrees from Mandalay University. His distinguished publication includes "*An Anthropology of Papers on Northern Myanmar*" and *Chronology of Kachin State.*

Zaha Ahmed is working in the National Centre for Cultural Heritage and currently heads the Heritage section ensuring the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Maldives. She has been involved in conservation and preservation of the cultural heritage of the Maldives for over 10 years. At present, she is leading the project to inscribe the Coral Stone Mosques of the Maldives on the UNESCO World Heritage list.
Thi Hien Nguyen (Keynote speaker) is a senior researcher and professor at the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism at the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies. She served as a member of UNESCO's evaluation committee from 2012 to 2014 and 2017 to 2020. She received her degree in Russian literature at Oriol University in Russia. She earned her Ph.D. in religious studies from Indiana University. Also, she worked as a pre-postdoctoral fellow at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City from 2002 to 2003 and postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles, from 2003 to 2004.

Alicia P. Magos (Moderator) is a socio-cultural anthropologist. She has worked as a professor for more than forty years at the University of Philippines Visayas. She also served as Director of the Center for West Visayan Studies (CWVS). She was also one of the 10 Team Leaders who won in the UNESCO research "Learning from Life" in 1994 and awarded by UNESCO headquarter. Currently, she is working on video and CD projects with two government agencies.

Khatharya Um is a political scientist, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. She is also a core faculty of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies and the Global Studies Program at Berkeley and co-founder of the Critical Refugee Studies Collective. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was also the Chancellor's Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow. Her research and publications center on Southeast Asia and Southeast Asian diaspora, migration, and comparative genocide with a focus on the politics of memory.
Aanchal Mehta is an architect with a Master's degree in Heritage Management from Ahmedabad University. She has experiences in the conservation and revitalization of built heritage. Her research is closely associated with the indigenous pastoralist community of Banni grasslands of Kutch for inventorying intangible cultural heritage. As part of her research and work, she has documented indigenous knowledge systems and examined cross-border intercultural relationships. Moreover, integration of creative and cultural sectors in development strategies of urban areas is the interest of her research as well.

Jyoti Shukla received her Bachelor's in History from the University of Delhi and a Master's degree in Heritage Management from Ahmedabad University. As part of her exchange program in Germany, she has worked with refugees. Her research area includes Indian crafts, textiles, heritage management, and ICH integration in school education.

Teena Dhabale received her Bachelor's in Architecture from Ideas Institute of Design Education and Architecture Studies and Master's degree in Heritage Management from Ahmedabad University. As a professional architect and heritage enthusiast, she is interested in India's vernacular architecture, traditional art, and craft. Her research works are closely associated with the interests mentioned above.

Bobby dG. Lopez is a graduate student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. His research interest and publications primarily focus on Philippine's history, culture, society, and gender. He advocates for the use of the national language and indigenization of discourses in social sciences, promotion of gender equity and equality, and protection of the natural environment. Besides his research, he has engaged in writing historical/cultural books and helped local communities to become more self-reliant.
**Bang Ul Kim** received his Bachelor's degree in Cultural Heritage Management from the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage and his Ph.D. in Buddhist Literature from the Academy of Korean Studies. He previously worked as a researcher at the Jangseogak, National Historical Data Center. Currently, he is working at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage's Institute of Korea Philosophy to develop a digital archive for "**Morality Dispute**" (심설논쟁) of Joseon dynasty.

**Xiao Fang** is Head of the Department of Anthropology and Folklore at Beijing Normal University. He is currently serving as a Vice President of the Chinese Folklore Society. His research interests include historical folklore, folk culture history, seasonal festivals, and ritual folklore.

**Huo Wen** is a Ph.D. student of the Faculty of Folklore, School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University. She received M.A. in Fine Arts.

**Xu Qian** is a Ph.D. student of Faculty of Folklore, School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University. She received M.A. in Folklore.