

VI. Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)

1. LHTS of Korea

Living Human Treasures are persons who possess to a very high degree the knowledge and skills required for performing or re-creating specific elements of the intangible cultural heritage. In Korea, the title of LHTS is Holder of an element of Important Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In 1993, the Republic of Korea proposed to the UNESCO Executive Board, the establishment of a UNESCO “Living Human Treasures” programme, and the Board adopted a decision inviting Member States to establish such systems in their respective countries. Since then, several meetings and international workshops have been organized with a view to promoting the concept and encouraging the establishment of national systems.

2. Inheritance System of IICH

For the stable and systematic activity of Cultural Heritage, Korea Intangible Cultural Heritage system maintains a consistent inheritance procedure from skill holder-apprentice-graduate-scholarship student(general student).

The main responsibility of holder is to spread traditional culture and inherit their property to the next generation. Once certain individuals or organizations are acknowledged as holders, they select student with the will and the ability to inherit their skill and property. When the selected students complete the course of three years and reach up to the definite ability, they are recognized as graduate. Among these graduate, the most excellent will be selected as 'apprentices' by recommendation of holders and the evaluations of cultural experts. These chosen apprentices have the duty to assist the holders, as well as learn their skills.

Important Intangible Cultural Heritage have been designated and holders have been authorized since 1964. Over the last forty years, present holders have changed from first generation to second or third generation. When the authorized holders cannot normally initiate the skills due to old age or disease, they are acknowledged as honorary holders.

As explained above, Korea's inheritance system of Intangible Cultural Heritage has been providing and supporting a stable atmosphere for the inheritance of precious skills and properties.

3. Defintion on Transmitters

Holder	any individual who can learn, preserve, and practice artistic and technical skills of important ICH as original forms
Holding Organization	any organization that can learn, preserve, and practice artistic and technical skills of important ICH as original forms (only in cases where the element cannot be practiced individually or there are many individuals worthy of recognition)
Apprentice	selected individuals among graduates who assist holders for training
Graduate	selected individuals among students who complete a training of more than three years
Scholarship Students	selected individuals recommended by holders and holding organizations (Recently, government-supported scholarship students have tended to be limited to those studying vulnerable elements for transmission.)
Honorary Holders	holders who have difficulties training students for transferring skills

4. Transmitter's Status (as of 30 Sep. 2013)

Field		Performing Arts			Traditional Crafts			Total
		Individual	Group	Sub-Total	Individual	Group	Sub-Total	
Designated Items	Number of Items	15	50	65	Individual 51, Combined 1		52	117
	Number of Items (Including Sub-Items)	15	60	75	53	1	54	129
Designators	Holders	32	76	108	69	-	69	179
	Apprentice	46(1)	197	243(1)	49	-	49	294(1)
	Graduate	1,893	2,483	4,376	538	3	541	4,917
	Scholarship Student	24	-	24	51	-	51	75

	Total	1,995(1)	2,756	4,751(1)	707	3	710	5,461(1)
Honorary Holders		5(1)	17	22(1)	12	-	12	34(1)

5. Public Support for Transmitter

(1) Supporting for inheritance

Providing a monthly subsidy to

- individual holder of the skills, assistant transmission trainer, scholarship

transmission apprentice, and organization holding the skills

Providing a special subsidy to

- honorary holder of the skills
- organizational holder with no individual holder

Providing support to the items whose transmission is encouraged

(2) Supporting performance and exhibition

Supporting open events of important ICH assets and their performance and exhibition in other countries

Supporting the exhibition of the works of important ICH asset holders

Supporting the touring performance of ICH assets

Supporting the grand exhibition of traditional craft-works

Supporting the participant in local festivals (or international events)

(3) Establishment of heritage education centre of ICH and additional supports

Supporting the construction of transmission training center

Supporting the production of transmission equipment (teaching materials for transmission training)

Providing a subsidy to pay the costs of craft-work materials

Providing a subsidy to pay the medical insurance

Providing a subsidy to pay funeral expenses

Reference

Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea, "Important Intangible Cultural Heritage in Korea" (2009)