Preface

ICHCAP, a UNESCO Category 2 Centre, has carried out activities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in the Asia-Pacific region with a centralised function in ICH information and networking. In this role, the Centre has worked towards protecting intellectual property rights related to ICH information. The Centre held expert meetings on ICH safeguarding and intellectual property rights in 2009 and 2010, and in 2011, the Centre proposed a project for protecting ICH intellectual property (IP) rights in the process of ICH information building and sharing.

In 2011 and 2012, as part of the new project, field surveys were conducted with the cooperation of ICH information–related institutes in the Asia-Pacific region to examine IP issues that could arise in the process of ICH information building and sharing. The survey was conducted in eleven countries—Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. The purpose of the surveys was to highlight the IP-related problems that ICH-related organisations may encounter while conducting ICH information–related activities, such as identification, documentation, digitisation, etc., and promoting the groundwork for a guide to protect IP-related aspects of ICH in the process of information building and sharing.

For the field surveys, a questionnaire developed by ICHCAP was provided to key organisations, and surveys were carried out by each organisation according to the questionnaire. A research team based in each organisation lead the surveys. Upon completing the surveys, the organisations involved compiled a report. ICHCAP collected the submitted reports and is now making them available in this publication, *Field Survey on IP Issues in the Process of ICH Information Building and Sharing*.

The survey reports from each country are being provided as a resource to exchange experiences related to the IP aspects of ICH information. Also, it is expected that publishing reports can foster an environment to understand and resolve problems related to IP aspects of ICH information in the Asia-Pacific region.

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