

Preface

ICHCAP, the international information and networking centre that aims to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region, was first founded as the Establishment Initiative for the Intangible Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific (EIIHCAP) in 2006. This name was changed to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific (ICHCAP) in 2008. After being officially approved as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre in 2011, we underwent another change to our current name, the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO.

ICHCAP's main role is to strengthen the ICH safeguarding capacity of the forty-eight Member States of the Asia-Pacific region. With the Centre's primary functions related to information and networking, ICHCAP supports activities directed towards ICH safeguarding among the Member States. ICHCAP intends to help enhance cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific region and promote sustainable development through various safeguarding activities.

This report is a collection of the discussion papers presented on 28 November 2011 at the International Conference on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage under the theme 'Regional Collaboration for Safeguarding ICH in Asia and the Pacific: Tasks and Strategies', which was held in commemoration of ICHCAP's inauguration. The conference provided an opportunity to look into the current ICH status and environment of the five sub-regions within the Asia-Pacific region and to seek measures to overcome the many different challenges involved with ICH safeguarding.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to UNESCO and the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea, who provided us with their total support. In addition, I want to thank the presenters and discussants who contributed to the conference as well as the other attendees who took time out of their busy schedules to join us.

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The International Information and Networking Centre for
Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region
Under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP)