
Summary of Conference

International Conference on Safeguarding ICH Regional Collaboration for Safeguarding ICH in Asia and the Pacific: Tasks and Strategies

28 November 2011
Grand Hilton Hotel, Seoul

The Inaugural meeting of ICHCAP titled ‘Regional Collaboration for Safeguarding ICH in Asia and the Pacific: Tasks and Strategies’ was held at the Grand Hilton Hotel on 28 November 2011. Acting Director Seong-Yong Park, ICHCAP, opened the commemorative events and international conference with a warm welcome to participants, presenters, and discussants. He stated the unique position of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region and emphasised the importance of international collaboration in ICH safeguarding efforts. He also expressed his hope that the international conference will aid not only ICHCAP, who will primarily play roles in facilitating communication and cultural solidarity among stakeholders, but also Member States throughout the region as they move forward with their safeguarding endeavours.

Mr Kim, Administrator of the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea, also offered words of welcome. He expressed his hopes that the day would contain fruitful discussions on the importance of collaboration and the sharing of various ICH safeguarding techniques, since safeguarding has its share of challenges.

Mr Curtis, Chief of the Culture Unit for the UNESCO Office in Bangkok,

expressed his pleasure and feeling of honour at being present at ICHCAP's official launching. He also expressed the need for more international collaboration and sharing of knowledge among Member States. Mr Curtis stated that Korea has begun to help the international community achieve this goal by starting ICHCAP, since ICHCAP's main role is to strengthen information and networking in the framework of the 2003 UNESCO Convention.

Dawnhee Yim, Distinguished Professor, Dongguk University, said that since the 2003 Convention, collaboration among bearers, local communities, and governments has been emphasised. International collaboration, Dr Yim went on to say, has also been encouraged. First though, it is important to construct a stable local collaboration system for ICH safeguarding efforts. Today, Dr Yim said, ICH experts in Asia and the Pacific region have gathered to discuss regional collaboration for ICH safeguarding. Although every nation and sub-region has different circumstances, active discussion about ICH safeguarding methods is expected during the conference.

Session 1

Central Asia Safeguarding of ICH in Central Asia: Overview and Perspectives

Safeguarding ICH in Central Asia: Overview and Perspectives

Sergey LAZAREV

Director of the UNESCO Office in Almaty

Unfortunately, Mr Sergey Lazarev was not able to be present, so Mr Shahin Mustafayev presented on behalf of Mr Lazarev. Mr Mustafayev opened by illustrating that the unique position of Central Asia as an ancient crossroads of civilisation has given the region a variety of cultural heritage spanning centuries. He went on to explain how the ICH safeguarding environment of modern Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) since independence in 1991 is markedly different to when the culture sector was under Soviet authority. Under free-market conditions, the culture sector no longer

enjoys state funding nor does it have a prominent position in state planning activities. At the same time, modern socio-economic growth and the desire for a sense of history and cultural identity have been playing an increasingly more important role in the lives of Central Asian People. For these reasons, effectively managing heritage sites, safeguarding ICH, and developing traditional arts and crafts to promote tourism play vital roles in the long-term socio-economic and cultural development of Central Asia.

In recent years, as Mr Mustafayev explained ICHCAP and UNESCO institutes have coordinated projects and workshops that have initiated efforts to safeguard oral, musical, and handicraft traditions. Mr Mustafayev mentioned some of these projects and workshops, including the Boysun workshop in 2009 and sub-regional meetings (2010 and 2011). Although these efforts have helped facilitate the inscription of five elements to the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, many factors still threaten Central Asian ICH safeguarding and transmission. Foremost, there are too few, if any, institutes or experienced experts in the field, so there is a limited understanding of the core concepts and mechanisms involved with implementing the 2003 Convention. As a response to this situation, emphasis has been placed on strengthening national capacities. As such, between 2012 and 2013, the UNESCO offices in Almaty and Tashkent will, with the support of the Government of Norway, implement additional budgetary means to aid in strengthening national capacities in the Central Asian region.

In closing, Mr Mustafayev reiterated the importance of intangible heritage in Central Asia, and he expressed his hope that the budgetary expansion will lead to greater attention being put on increasing sub-regional capacities for cooperation in identifying and safeguarding shared heritage. He made a final special note that the recent decision by the parliament of Kazakhstan to ratify the ICH Convention will help facilitate more effective implementation of the Convention, and therefore contribute to sustainable development in the Central Asian sub-region.

Discussant: *Assel UTEGENOVA*

Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO

Ms Utegenova began by saying the region of Central Asia is a unique space where throughout time civilisations, religions, and cultures have intersected, and ICH provides the basis for historical self-identification. According to Ms Utegenova, the joint cooperation of Central Asian countries in the field of ICH is the primary condition for the preservation and promotion of the region's ICH at the international level.

Ms Utegenova noted that Kazakhstan is still in the process of ratifying the 2003 Convention. However, within the next year this gap will be filled up due to the large amount of materials related to the ICH that have been accumulating in the field of historical and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan.

Despite the difficulties of safeguarding ICH, from 2004 Kazakhstan has been successfully implementing an important initiative—the National Strategic Programme Madeni Mura, which means 'Cultural Heritage'—aimed at creating an integrated system of studying the historical and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan, including its intangible component.

In closing, Ms Utegenova mentioned that the thirty-sixth session of the UNESCO General Conference adopted a resolution submitted by Kazakhstan regarding the proclamation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures from 2013 to 2022. She believes such national and international projects aimed at fostering compliance with the Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH is a key factor in preserving the identity of every nation.

Discussant: *Shahlo ABDURAHIMOVA*

Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan for UNESCO

Ms Abdurahimova began by noting the day's meeting is a continuation of the 2003 Convention's initiatives on ICH safeguarding. The activity of safeguarding ICH in the Central Asian region has become more intensive during the last few years. In March 2010, the first sub-regional Network Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, took place. An additional sub-regional meeting took place in July 2011 in Dushanbe.

Until recently, due to the centralised authority of the former USSR government, some countries of the Central Asian region were carrying out the duties of safeguarding ICH independently from one another. However, now, according to Ms Abdurahimova, these countries are endeavouring to work together in their ICH safeguarding activities. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have successfully collaborated on the safeguarding of ICH. They were able to have Shashmaqom included on the UNESCO Representative List, which is a wonderful achievement because despite this region's historical richness, its heritage is currently underrepresented on the UNESCO ICH lists.

Next year, there will be an international celebration of Navruz in Dushanbe. Ms Abdurahimova hopes guests from various parts of the world will take part to consider the issues and techniques of safeguarding ICH in the region. Since Tajikistan was not a state party of the UNESCO Convention at the time of Navruz's inscription to the Representative list of ICH of UNESCO, it couldn't join the nomination. Ms Abdurahimova kindly requested further inclusion of Tajikistan in the nomination, especially when considering the great efforts the country is making in safeguarding ICH.

Discussant: *Shahin MUSTAFAYEV*

Director of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies

Mr Mustafayev echoed Mr Lazarev's statements of Central Asia being a historical crossroad and full of ICH. After detailing the ICH elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, he itemised the challenges associated with inventory making, a crucial component to safeguarding measures.

Mr Mustafayev then went on to indicate areas that need international assistance, including capacity building, creating technological and communication systems for ICH safeguarding, conducting research expeditions, and publishing ICH inventories.

Mr Mustafayev wraps up his session with a brief overview of the International Institute of Central Asian Studies' activities, which are focused on scientific ICH research and documentation in Central Asia.

Session 2

South Asia Safeguarding of ICH in South Asia: Overview and Perspectives

Regional Collaboration for Safeguarding ICH: Overview, Tasks, and Strategies: with Special Reference to India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives

Shubha CHAUDHURI

Director of American Institute of Indian Studies

Ms Chaudhuri began by stating the importance of ICH. The 2003 Convention has greatly enhanced the safeguarding of ICH. However the UNESCO Convention, whose main aim is safeguarding, has helped bring these issues to the centre, resulting in the need to define the word 'intangible'.

Ms Chaudhuri gave a brief overview of the status of the implementation of the ICH Convention in Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and India.

Ms Chaudhuri addressed the issues and challenges that arise from safeguarding by reviewing the Convention and its basic aims, which are inventorying, awareness raising, and revitalisation. She went on to discuss at length the pros and cons of inventorying and its relationship to nomination. Next, she gave an overview of the measures that are considered part of safeguarding according to the Convention. She put special emphasis on the ways in which safeguarding can be developed.

Ms Chaudhuri concluded by mentioning the on-going collaboration in the region through various agencies and the new initiative by UNESCO for Capacity Building workshops. She believes the partnerships she mentioned will lay a foundation for policies and programs, which in turn will provide a more stable base for the creation of matrices for safeguarding.

Discussant: *Sudha GOPALAKRISHNAN*

Executive Director of Sahapedia

Ms Gopalakrishnan began by sharing a few of the countless expressions of intangible heritage. She noted that apart from culture-specific expressions, ICH in South Asia has pan-Asian traditions that aren't confined to a particular nation but rather exist in interlinked multiple versions, independent from each other.

Considering the multiplicity and complexity of intangible heritage in the region, programmes for revitalisation have so far been too dispersed and isolated. Therefore, as Ms Gopalakrishnan surmised, a broader approach for safeguarding ICH has to be taken. According to Ms Gopalakrishnan, a well-defined policy in regards to safeguarding should be realised, people should sustain their tradition through documentation, institutions should network with one another, well-trained personnel should be hired to manage cultural heritage, youth should be encouraged to foster their heritage, and tourism should be promoted, among other tasks.

The most effective implementation of the UNESCO Convention on ICH, Ms Gopalakrishnan stated, has to start at the regional and national levels. This can be achieved through the creation of regional resource centres, national inventories, extensive documentation, as well as trans-national and regional research and the development of guidelines for protecting IPR relating to ICH.

Ms Gopalakrishnan closed by suggesting some activities that ICHCAP needs to pursue to safeguard efforts of ICH. She also mentioned the role of Sahapedia, an open online encyclopaedia of Indian and Asian cultural heritage, in helping to disseminate cultural heritage to registered users.

Discussant: *Khalid JAVAID*

Executive Director of the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Pakistan

Mr Javaid briefly introduced his audience to the rich history of Asia. He specified the countries of Asia have been the bedrock for the world's great religions. This fact has taught Asian society to be a culture governed by love, peace, and tolerance. Asian countries also have a wide variety of art, craft, culture, music, and other folk traditions.

Pakistan, since it is not as modernised or industrialised as other countries, has a strong folk culture practiced by a dominant majority of its people. Mr Javaid noted Pakistan has evolved and flourished for over 9,000 years; thus Pakistan stands out for its dynamic and diverse culture. UNESCO, by lending assistance to Pakistan, has helped the country promote its culture.

Lok Virsa, the organisation to which Mr Javaid belongs, has created the single largest archive of Pakistan's ICH anywhere in the world. Thus, Mr Javaid suggested a joint strategy between UNESCO and ICHCAP to safeguard ICH. Then, Mr Javaid advised mutual cooperation among cultural organisations of member countries, joint collaboration between analogous institutions in member states, training course/workshop on 'Role of Museums in Safeguarding ICH', and series of festivals at the regional level

Mr Javaid wrapped up his discussion by thanking the countries, organisations, and in particular ICHCAP and UNESCO (ACCU) for all of their efforts to promote intangible culture in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Discussant: *Yonten DARGYE*

Chief Research Officer in Research and Media Division, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs

Mr Dargye began by articulating some of the obstacles that currently limit the promotion and preservation of ICH, such as globalisation. In order to promote safeguarding against the seepage of foreign cultures into pre-existing traditions, Mr Dargye first identified rapid socio-economic development, changing core cultural values in the youth population, shifting thoughts regarding materialism and its development, rural-urban migration trends of the youth population, and materialistic development as the challenges facing most countries in Asia:

Considering the challenges that face safeguarding ICH, Mr Dargye said it is important for member countries need to build closer relations with one another. In hopes of leading member countries to stronger collaboration, he makes the following points:

- more studies should be undertaken
- values should be reinterpreted and shared

- public awareness of ICH should be mobilised
- ICH safeguarding fund should be established
- expertise and scholars should be shared
- a networking centre for ICH learning must be established

In closing, Mr Dargye reiterated that ICH is due to the rapid changes cultures are undergoing. Mr Dargye states Bhutan Department of Culture and ICHCAP are taking steps towards a collaboration to safeguard ICH in Bhutan.

Session 3

The Pacific Safeguarding of ICH in the Pacific: Overview and Perspectives

Regional Collaboration for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Context: Overview, Tasks, and Strategies in the Pacific Region

Akatsuki TAKAHASHI

Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office in Apia

As an overview, Ms Takahashi used the unique characteristics of the Pacific island countries as an illustration to put ICH safeguarding in the broader context of sustainable development of the Pacific region. First, Ms Takahashi presented a summary of the history of the Pacific World Heritage Programme and progress of its implementation since the adoption of the World Heritage Convention in 1972. Then, Ms Takahashi explained in further detail how the linguistic, cultural, and geographical diversity of the Pacific community leaves the region simultaneously vulnerable and resilient.

Ms Takahashi went on to outline the development of the Pacific ICH Programme since the preparatory and adoption phase of the ICH Convention 2003 until the organisation of multi-stakeholder consultations in seven Pacific island countries in 2010 and 2011. She did so by discussing Pacific cultural heritage and going into the heritage of words that have helped shape the Pacific community

and are deemed important by it. Ms Takahashi noted the Pacific community has withstood some outside cultural influences, while integrating others. This dichotomy has resulted in the creation of a unique combination of traditional and modern systems. Ms Takahashi tied up her outline by sharing that the ratification of Palau of the ICH Convention was announced last month at UNESCO. She also indicated that more ratifications are on the way.

Ms Takahashi identified two tasks to be carried out to maintain safeguarding in the Pacific: the organisation of consultations on ICH safeguarding and the elaboration of a mid-term strategy for the ICH safeguarding in the Pacific community.

Ms Takahashi presented a strategy that would focus on the contribution of Pacific ICH to the achievements of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and other internationally agreed goals such as Education for All (EFA) and Traditional Knowledge and Skills (TKS). Ms Takashi gave illustrative examples of how the MDG, EFA, and TKS help contribute to the wellbeing of its Pacific community members, especially women.

In conclusion, Ms Takahashi argued that safeguarding the Pacific community can be attained by building strength through its own culture. This resilience-building can be done by maintaining on-going good practices, such as information sharing and networking, and by strategically highlighting the central role of ICH in achieving sustainable development of communities.

Discussant: *Adi Meretui Tuvou RATUNABUABUA*

Principal Cultural Development Officer, Ministry of Education, National Heritage & Culture & Arts, Youth & Sports

Ms Ratunabuabua emphasised the need for developing ICH inventories and seeking endorsements for Pacific regional collaboration and strategies to strengthen heritage activities at the community level and at the policy formulation and implementation levels in the Pacific. Highlighting the challenges outlined in the UNESCO Pacific World Heritage Action Plan, Ms Ratunabuabua created a vantage point for discussing the issues involved with implementing the 2003 Convention, and she stated the recommendations identified at a regional meeting

in the Kingdom of Tonga in 2011, namely that the Pacific sub-region should promote the 2003 convention by encouraging Pacific Member States to ratify it, increase information sharing and networking through ICHCAP activities , strengthen ICH safeguarding in the Pacific, continue discussions on strategies for ICH safeguarding in the Pacific, and disseminate a report on the second Networking Meeting to participating UNESCO Member States

The land and sea activities Ms Ratunabuabua identified as having the potential to promote ICH through language revival include the promotion, development, and documentation of a curriculum that emphasises the skills of food securing and house building, the collecting of oral history and mapping of cultural sites related to indigenous navigation and boat building, and a partnership with the Pacific Islands Museum’s Association

In conclusion, Ms Ratunabuabua suggested that the identification of Living Human Treasures and revival skills will promote recognition at the local and national levels as well as further enhance regional collaboration in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Discussant: *Siosua Vaea LOTAKI*

Ministry of Education in Kingdom of Tonga, Senior Education Officer Culture Division

Mr Lotaki began by expressing ICH safeguarding concerns and dissatisfactions in Tonga. Currently, Tonga is trying to keep pace and follow the 2003 Convention but two challenges—limited resources and lack of financial assistance—hinder the country’s progress.

Mr Lotaki mentioned the recent ICH meetings of March as a catalyst for his country. Since these meetings have begun, his country has made a leap forward in safeguarding ICH. If not for these meetings, he thinks, his country wouldn’t be moving forward as swiftly as it is now.

Currently, Tonga has no cultural policy; however, it has established an ICH committee and is developing an evaluation form of ICH.

Session 4

South-East Asia Safeguarding of ICH in South Asia: Overview and Perspectives

Regional Collaboration for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Asia: Overview, Tasks and Strategies

Tim CURTIS

Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Office in Bangkok

Mr Curtis began by stating that he will give an overview of the various laws related to ICH in the countries of the South-East Asian region. Six of the eleven countries in the South-East Asian region have ratified the convention; another five countries have unsure statuses towards ratification. Mr Curtis also noted there are fifteen elements from five countries in this region inscribed in UNESCO lists. Briefly, Mr Curtis covers all of the inventories of ICH from the countries in this region.

Some of the laws the countries in this region have enacted match the articles of the 2003 Convention. For example, Thailand has an inventory about eighty elements, most of them traditional, except for sports. Mr Curtis spends some time covering the safeguarding initiatives from the different countries in this region. He hopes a platform for capacity-building programmes on ICH can be established between countries, even if they haven't ratified the 2003 Convention. Some of these countries are awarded funding from NGOs; even if those countries haven't signed the 2003 Convention. Therefore, Mr Curtis noted, some countries, even if they haven't signed the Convention, are still affected by the standards set by the Convention.

Some of the challenges in the South-East Asian region include:

- fully recognising the extent of an individual country's diversity
- getting national education systems to teach ICH
- addressing how economic growth and technology affects the rituals of people's lives
- getting different government sectors to work together
- developing a more widely accepted definition of ICH

- getting different countries to acknowledge shared cultural elements

One way, Mr Curtis explains, these challenges can be overcome is by UNESCO's assistance through field offices. Also, projects can be carried out and the results can be documented, such as the project in Thailand that exposed children to traditional games during classroom time. Mr Curtis noted, the children reacted positively to this project.

In closing, Mr Curtis stresses the importance of the programme for national capacity building in order to fully implement the 2003 Convention. One of the successful programme activities is the setting up of regional and national workshops. Mr Curtis hopes programme activities like this will help address various communication problems, enabling better safeguarding techniques.

Discussant: *Jesus T. PERALTA*

Consultant, National Commission for Culture and the Arts

Mr Peralta began by telling how long it took to implement the law related safeguarding under the Convention. Then he went on to wonder how one can safeguard ICH that is constantly evolving, especially since one cannot channel the direction and manner in which the change will take place. The most common agent of change is the practicing society itself. Therefore, detailed knowledge of the organisational structure and operations of a society must be acquired so that a specially designed strategy for safeguarding can be employed. However, first the following general actions should be taken

- publishing social practices
- building Schools for Living Tradition (HSLT)
- recognising and honouring practices
- engaging key community members
- researching culture by experts
- continuing social practices of ICH

Mr Peralta went on to discuss the particular techniques that have been taken

throughout the Philippines to safeguard intangible heritage. Mr Peralta further illustrated the difficulties he has encountered safeguarding the specific groups within the Philippines.

In conclusion, Mr Peralta advocated the exchange of safeguarding measures so that specific actions may be taken to protect ICH.

Discussant: *Thi Minh Ly LE*

Deputy Director-General of Department of Cultural Heritage in Vietnam, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

To begin, Ms Le said that she would like to elaborate in further detail on Mr Curtis's presentation about the ways in which the 2003 Convention has been implemented in the South-East Asian region. In the past twenty years, this region has experienced many challenges in the field of safeguarding ICH. Thanks to the transmitting of ICH, Ms Le believes, her country is able to keep its spiritual values alive.

Due to the effects of globalisation, safeguarding ICH has become of vital importance. In Viet Nam several measures have been enacted to ensure the safeguarding of ICH. These include passing a law on cultural heritage in 2001, revising and amending said law in 2009 to meet the 2003 Convention guidelines, and passing improved safeguarding measures

Despite passing these measures, Ms Le said that the lack of information and financial and human resources still hinder the effective safeguarding of ICH. This could be improved, Ms Le stated, by sharing information through establishing a strong ICH database at ICHCAP and database satellite centres in other countries. Ms Le closed by expressing her wish that ICHCAP will task each Member State with specific information-related duties.

Session 5

North-East Asia Safeguarding of ICH in North-East Asia: Overview and Perspectives

Regional Collaboration for Safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific Context: Overview, Tasks, and Strategies in North-East Asia

Abhimanyu SINGH

Director UNESCO Office in Beijing

Mr Singh began by giving an overview of the status of ICH in North-East Asia. Considering North-East Asia is composed of five countries, under the responsibility of the UNESCO Beijing Office, a wealth of intangible heritage manifests itself, from oral traditions, performing arts, customs and rituals to festivals, clothing, crafts, and food. An equal number of preservation and safeguarding techniques have developed to promote ICH. Mr Singh names a few examples of the UNESCO affiliates who have been successfully safeguarding ICH and raising awareness at the national level.

Mr Singh then noted that North-East Asia has been instrumental in the elaboration of the 2003 Convention and in the early stages of its implementation. Mr Singh gives examples of how, since the 2003 Convention, North-East Asia has emerged at the forefront of international efforts to protect and promote ICH.

According to Mr Singh, the ICH convention provides a common platform for the safeguarding of ICH in North-East Asia, which is currently imperative due to globalisation threatening these countries. Mr Singh gives several examples to show how support for the Convention has been achieved over the past forty years through a wide range of national legislative and administrative regulations in all five countries. Mr Singh stated that due to the particularly quick implementation of the 2003 Convention, awareness needs to be further raised about the different mechanisms established by the Convention and the concrete implications of the ratification in terms of safeguarding. Since UNESCO considers capacity-building key to implementing the 2003 Convention effectively, the Republic of Korea, China, and Japan, jointly agreed in 2008 to establish in each country an ICH centre for the Asia-Pacific region to promote ICH. Mr Singh detailed the

individual centres in each country.

Considering an effective heritage strategy is required for safeguarding, the identification, inventorying, and documentation of ICH information and traditions should be set as one of the key priorities. Furthermore, Mr Singh went on to note, this will help to establish a standard information system. To make up for a lack of human resources and technical know-how, capacity-building should be emphasised. Guarantees should be made to the bearers of a heritage that their knowledge and skills will be transmitted to younger generations. Local communities should sensitise all stakeholders. Since the 2003 Convention has established two mechanisms to ensure greater visibility of intangible heritage, a wider context of shared heritage should be encouraged and supported.

Mr Singh concluded by commending the recent establishment of three Category 2 Centres responsible for the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Discussant: *Weonmo PARK*

Chief, Information & Research Section, ICHCAP

Mr Park began by announcing that Mr Singh thoroughly covered the ideas Mr Park had originally prepared; so instead of duplicating information, Mr Park presented the goals and policies of ICHCAP.

The three UNESCO Category 2 Centres that support ICH safeguarding activities have been simultaneously going through the establishment process in the Republic of Korea, China, and Japan. This is the first opportunity to observe the establishment of three related centres in one region. As reflected in ICHCAP's, the main function of the centre in the Republic of Korea is in information gathering and networking.

The official announcement from the government of the Republic of Korea to establish the Centre was at the 33rd UNESCO General Conference. Ever since this time, ICHCAP has been fulfilling its functions and objections.

The following are four major objectives of ICHCAP:

- promote the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH
- increase the participation of communities, groups and individuals in

safeguarding ICH

- enhance the capacity for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region
- foster regional and international cooperation for the safeguarding of ICH

The following are four major functions of ICHCAP:

- establish an information system to ensure the effective management of ICH data
- make use of the accumulated information and data on ICH for the purpose of dissemination
- build networks among concerned communities, groups and individuals to reinforce the transmission and dissemination of ICH
- strengthen international and regional networks to exchange information and knowledge concerning the safeguarding of ICH

Discussant: *Tomoaki FUJII*

Director-General of IRCI

Mr Fujii ruminated over the series of disasters that unfolded in Japan in 2011, noting that ICH often sustains extensive damage from radical changes in the natural environment. However, he continued, other serious risks can extinguish ICH. One of the major causes of said risk may be the tendency toward modernisation. Currently, aged people who have stayed in local communities have no successors to take over traditional cultures, since the youth population is migrating to cities. This trend increases the risk of ICH extinction.

Many traditional cultures succeeded to local communities are forced to transform, as a response to political and economic changes, therefore it is crucial to collect historical records of ICH handed down by the elderly. Mr Fujii fears this may sound repetitive, but he believe survey research is critical, in addition to data collecting, especially since aspects of ICH are handed down from generation to generation. Mr Fujii also stated the necessity of enhanced financial and institutional support as well as active promotion and publication through cultural policies and the education system.

Mr Fujii concluded by summing up his insights on the protection, restoration,

and rehabilitation of ICH.

Discussant: *Zhi YANG*

Director of CRIHAP

According to Mr Zhi, there is vast potential for regional cooperation in this field in the Asia-Pacific and North-East Asian regions due to frequent cultural exchanges and geographical closeness. Mr Zhi stated that some countries don't fully recognise the value and significance of ICH safeguarding and/or lack experience in safeguarding and researching ICH.

China, according to Mr Zhi, has all along placed importance on safeguarding ICH. Since 2000, China has been particularly proactive in responding to UNESCO's initiative. During these years of ICH safeguarding, China has accumulated quite rich experience in this field. In fact, in May 2010, the Chinese government signed with UNESCO the Agreement regarding the Establishment of the International Training Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP). CRIHAP, Mr Zhi went on to say, is an important international platform for the region to develop regional cooperation aiming to safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is the duty and mission of CRIHAP to promote regional cooperation in the field of ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, to carry out bilateral or multilateral cooperation and exchange, and to assist Asia-Pacific countries in building their capacity for ICH safeguarding.

To develop more effective the regional cooperation in the field of ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, Mr Zhi recommended establishing a productive mechanism for cooperation and exchange, establishing an effective meeting mechanism, forming regular regional safeguarding programs to guide regional cooperation, and setting up a special regional fund for regional cooperation in the field of safeguarding ICH

Closing

Mr Galla began by questioning how one could give a full report of a day like this. Instead, Mr Galla chose to focus on a few key issues that were mentioned during the day.

First, Mr Galla mentioned the challenges of the framework that has been handed down to countries from the 2003 Convention. Since each country is at a different point in the process, Mr Galla stressed that people should more openly share how to deal with the professional side of ICH. For example, especially after the global crisis, governments don't have the same budgets as they used to.

Mr Galla spoke also of the importance of letting communities have their voice. In fact, he expressed some disappointment in the lack of discussion throughout the conference about indigenous people and cultures.

Briefly, Mr Galla summarised what he thought were some key points mentioned throughout the conference:

- the digitising and sharing of information
- the establishing of the three Category 2 Centres
- the initiating of community-based safeguarding
- the improving of collaborative efforts

Considering a large portion of the world's population is located in South Asia, Mr Galla stated, this region hasn't yet achieved as much as it can. In fact, he spoke of his surprise that no one mentioned how few inscriptions there are on the Representative list. If a country has an inscription on the list, it isn't a shame job but an act of respect for one's country. An inscription shows one cares about his or her country.

Mr Galla also spoke of the documentation, which he said was often mentioned throughout the day. Although, documentation is important, it isn't, Mr Galla pointed out, an end in itself but a part of the nomination process. What is more important, Mr Galla said, is learning how to get better involved with communities, because if communities are not involved, ICH isn't being safeguarded.

Mr Galla concluded by encouraging people to make an effort to engage with ICH safeguarding on a more community-based level. Then, Mr Galla closed by

quoting Gandhi, 'when an old person dies, lively words come.'

Mr Ikramov spoke up to second Mr Galla's comments. Mr Ikramov said that more effort should be made to better identify the elements of indigenous culture. Mr Ikramov also said that ICH should be bulked with tangible cultural heritage. Mr Ikramov said that unfortunately there aren't many examples of the harmonisation of ICH and tangible heritage.

Ms Hahm closed the ceremony by thanking everyone for participating.