

## IV. Meetings on Intangible Cultural Heritage

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### **The Academic Symposium on Lifelong Ceremonies in Terms of Historical Folklore**

**1) Theme:** Lifelong ceremonies in terms of historical folklore

**2) Duration:** 8 July, 2011

**3) Venue:** National Palace Museum

**4) Organiser:** National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage Studies(NRICH)

#### **5) Speakers List**

JOO, Kanghyun (Jeju University)

OH, Jongrok (Sungshin Women's University)

JEONG, Yeonhak (Researcher, National Folk Museum of Korea)

HWANG, Kyungsoon (Researcher, NRICH)

SONG, Minsun (Researcher, NRICH)

BANG, Ina (Researcher, NRICH)

#### **6) Description**

NRICH hosted an academic symposium on 'Lifelong ceremonies in terms of historical folklore' on 8 July, 2011. Lifelong ceremonies are the socio-cultural ceremonies that a person experiences in lifetime. They are important to understand Korean culture. NRICH has been conducting the field survey on 'Lifelong ceremonies' since 2007, and finally completed it in June 2011, producing the final report, 'The report of lifelong ceremonies in Gyeonggi Province'. The series of the reports have contents of examples of the ceremonies in the whole provinces in Korea, conducted by eighty experts of NRICH and others. This symposium aims to share the results of the five years' field survey. Throughout the presentations and discussions of researchers from NRICH and others, the changes and maintenance of lifelong ceremonies are analyzed.

## **Special Exhibition of Important ICH of Korea at UNESCO Headquarters**

- 1) Theme:** Special Exhibition of Important ICH of Korea
- 2) Duration:** 19-29 September, 2011
- 3) Venue:** UNESCO Headquarters
- 4) Host:** CHA, and the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO
- 5) Description**

The Special Exhibition of Important Intangible Cultural Heritage, hosted by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea and the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO and supervised by the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, was held from 19 to 28 September 2011 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. This exhibition was also planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea. The opening ceremony was held at Miro Hall, with participants from the host organizations and UNESCO. Celebrating the opening of the exhibition, there was a performance of Gayageum Byeongchang, a choral arrangement accompanied by a Korean twelve-string zither. Following the opening ceremony, the ICH holder of Mokjogakjang(wood sculpting), Important Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 108, impressed the audience by carving a Korean camellia in the shape of man and woman smiling. Under the theme of Dreaming with Nature, this exhibition included eighty-nine pieces made by ICH practitioners, such as holders, apprentices, and graduates. Above this, Korean traditional crafts were on display through various programs, showing the artistic value of Korean traditional crafts.

## **The 2012 International Conference on ICH Safeguarding**

- 1) Theme:** Creative values of ICH for sustainable development
- 2) Duration:** 5 October, 2012
- 3) Venue:** Hotel Shinra, Seoul
- 4) Organiser:** ICHCAP
- 5) Description**

On 5 October, the 2012 International Conference on ICH Safeguarding opened with a performance by the Ensemble of Cultural Partners, an international ensemble composed of participants in an exchange programme at the National Theater of Korea. Hailing from seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the twelve musicians performed special arrangements of 'Arirang' and Johannes Brahms' 'Hungarian Dance Number 5'. Both song performances created a

meaningful segue into the important topics of the day and more importantly showed how divergent cultures can be linked as a single unit through song and creative art.

In his opening speech at the conference, which was attended by over three hundred participants and prominent international speakers, Dr Samuel Lee (Director, ICHCAP) emphasised that the main purpose of this meeting is to reflect on whether the creative values of ICH exist, and if they do, how they contribute to the sustainable development of human society. This kind of reflection will help us clarify why we should safeguard and promote the ICH in each community.

This theme of diversity leading to unity was echoed as the participants discussed the creative value of ICH for sustainable development. As Chérif Khaznadar (President, Maison des Cultures du Monde) stated in his keynote speech on the progression of the concept of sustainable development in international instruments, a single ICH element is necessarily linked to the greater social and cultural needs of a society and vice versa. And these single elements are sustainable as they are passed from one generation to another.

Through the insights presented, conference attendees were able to walk away with a better understanding of how ICH and sustainable development are linked and of the various ways in which diversity enriches and sustains a society.

Based on the information provided through the presentations, academic inquiry on sustainable development will likely develop more in the ICH field.

### **The International forum for the UNESCO-accredited NGOs**

**1) Theme:** The Importance of the UNESCO-Accredited NGOs of ICH, and Their Role and Cooperation Measures to Construct Network

**2) Duration:** 13~14 October, 2011

**3) Venue:** Korea House, Seoul

**4) Organiser:** Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation

#### **5) Description**

Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation(CHF) with the support of the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea organised and hosted an international forum on 13 and 14 October 2011 at the Korea House, in Seoul.

This forum became the first place where UNESCO-accredited NGOs in Asia gathered and discussed on the requested role as advisory NGOs for further cooperation in the field of safeguarding ICH. It consisted of 3 sessions under the

theme of "The Importance of the UNESCO-Accredited NGOs of ICH, and Their role and Cooperation Measures to construct Network;

Session 1. The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Role of NGOs

Session 2. Introduction of Asian UNESCO-Accredited NGOs' Activities for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Session 3. NGOs' Prospects and Cooperation Measures for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritages.

There are about 30 participants from 9 UNESCO-accredited NGOs of China, India, Mongolia, Vietnam and Republic of Korea, one participant from UNESCO Bangkok Office and several cultural heritage experts, scholars and government in republic of Korea.

Over two days, the forum discussed finding ways to share experience and knowledge, and talked at length about roles and responsibilities, the widely diverse environments in which we all work, the challenges we expect to face in the years ahead. We hope outcomes like cooperation, and networking between UNESCO-accredited NGOs at the international level which emerged from our forum in Seoul will be continued to develop it

### **The International Conference on ICH in celebration of UNESCO 2003 Convention**

**1) Theme:** Reflection on the efforts to safeguard ICH and prospects for the future

**2) Duration:** 27~28 September, 2013

**3) Venue:** Kimdaejeung Convention Center in Gwangju

**4) Organiser:** CHA, ICHCAP

**5) Speakers List:**

Tu Weiming (Harvard University)

Ms Lourdes Arizpe (former Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO)

Mr. Noriko Aikawa (former Director of Intangible Heritage Unit of UNESCO)

Prof. Yim Dawnhee (Dongguk University)

**6) Description**

The Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) jointly hold an international conference to commemorate the 10th

anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The conference is held at Kimdaejung Convention Center in Gwangju on Sept. 27-28, 2013.

Under the title “Reflection on the Efforts to Safeguard ICH and Prospects for the Future,” the conference will review the hitherto activities and achievements made under the scheme of the 2003 Convention, that has since overall innovated the safeguarding system for ICH. It also seems to become the venue to discuss ICH’s future about its challenges and regional cooperation.

Held as part of the 5th Culture Ministers’ meeting of Korea, China and Japan, the conference is expected to be a good opportunity to strengthen tripartite cooperation in this field.

The panel includes Prof. Tu Weiming (Harvard University), Ms Lourdes Arizpe (former Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO), Mr. Noriko Aikawa (former Director of Intangible Heritage Unit of UNESCO) and Prof. Yim Dawnhee (Dongguk University). About 250 participants from regional state parties, UNESCO offices and academia is expected to join the conference.

### **International Conference on Museums and Intangible Heritage**

**1) Theme:** promote the use of intangible heritage in museums, increase awareness of the value and importance of intangible heritage

**2) Duration:** 28-29 August, 2012

**3) Venue:** The National Folk Museum of Korea

**4) Organiser:** The National Folk Museum of Korea

#### **5) Speakers List**

Ms Alissandra Cummins (Barbados Museum and Historical Society)

Mr James Deutsch (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage)

Prof Catherine E. Bell (Alberta University)

Prof Hanhee Hahm (Chonbuk University)

Prof Amareswar Galla, (International Institute for the Inclusive Museum)

Prof Soojin Jung (Dongguk Universtiy)

Ms Damodar Frlan (Croatia National Ethnology Museum)

Mr Kunwook Lee (National Folk Museum of Korea)

Prof Kenji Yoshida (National Ethnology Museum of Japan)

Mr Changhyun Oh (National Folk Museum of Korea).

### **6) Description**

The National Folk Museum of Korea held an international conference on museums and intangible heritage. The conference was organised as a way to promote the use of intangible heritage in museums. In addition, the conference provided an opportunity to increase awareness of the value and importance of intangible heritage.

Ten renowned international scholars and museum experts presented papers on various topics related to museums and intangible cultural heritage. Mr Jingi Cheon, the Director of the National Folk Museum of Korea delivered the welcoming speech, and Prof Kidong Bae of Hanyang University, who is also a chairperson for ICOM Korea, delivered the keynote speech. Following the introductory speeches, seven papers were presented, and a follow-up group discussion, which was chaired by Prof Kyeongsu Na of Chonnam National University, took place to close out the first session. On the second day, the final three participants presented their papers. The closing discussion session was chaired by Prof Jeongpil Choe of Sejong University.

### **2013 Jindo ICH Festival -International Symposium on Safeguarding Asian Shaman Heritage and Public Events**

**1) Theme:** current safeguarding status and challenges of Shaman heritage by each country, measures for safeguarding the shared shaman heritage through international cooperation

**2) Duration:** 1-3 November, 2013

**3) Venue:** Jindo Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre

**4) Host:** Jindo County

**5) Organiser:** International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP), The World Ethnic Dance Institute (WEDI)

**6) Support:** Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea (CHA)

### **7) Description**

Jindo, located in South-West part of Korea, is home to a shaman heritage called ssitgimgut, which is a part of the commemorative rites for ancestors. Jindo County, with the collaboration of ICHCAP, hosted the International Symposium on Safeguarding Asian Shaman Heritage from 1 to 2 November at the Jindo ICH Preservation Centre to raise awareness of the importance and values of shaman

heritage and to seek measures to safeguard this heritage through international cooperation. As a subsidiary event, shaman performances of Mongolia, Japan, Viet Nam, Myanmar, and India were organised by the World Ethnic Dance Institute (WEDI).

On 1 November, the symposium, with a title of 'Diversity and Commonality of Shaman Heritage in Asia: Current Safeguarding Status and Challenges of Asian Shaman Heritage', began with the keynote speeches by Distinguished Professor Dawnhee Yim of Dongguk University and by Distinguished Professor In Whoe Kim of Hanyang University. Dr Yim pointed out that academic research on shamanism so far has been focusing on doctrine, rituals, and the shaman itself. She suggested, however, that future research should focus on the shaman community to develop the international cooperative measures for safeguarding it as an ICH. Dr Kim mentioned that the shaman heritage possesses humanistic, egalitarian, communitarian, communicational, and reconcilable values, and he highlighted that those values should be more disseminated through institutional education.

During the following three sessions, nine presenters invited from Mongolia, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Laos, Viet Nam, India, Bhutan, and Turkey introduced the characteristics, status, and the current challenges with transmitting and safeguarding shaman heritage in each country. Throughout the presentations and discussions, many common elements—such as the belief in spirits, communications with supernatural beings, and shamanistic rituals—are found in Asian shamanism. However, there are also lots of complexities in the shamanism in each country. Most of all, the concept and the definition of shamanism in each country is different. Also, the social conception of shamanism also varies among the countries, especially in India, where the shaman tradition is under the cultural struggles due to the misunderstanding and abuse of shamanism. Many kinds of sexual and physical acts are committed during some rituals, which brought about an anti-shamanism (superstition) movement throughout the nation. However in Viet Nam, Len Dong, one of the nation's representative shaman rituals, was registered on the national intangible cultural heritage list, and many safeguarding programmes and projects are being conducted for Len Dong. Throughout the symposium, most presenters and discussants agreed that shamanism is an important cultural phenomenon that is in danger in terms of quantity and quality. However, due to the diversity and complexities of shamanism in each country, safeguarding measures should also depend on each state's circumstances.

In the evening of 1 November, after the symposium, there was a lecture demonstration hosted by Dr Rushi Hwang, a professor at Midea Literature Department of Gwandong University. Seven performing groups from six

countries—Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Japan, Viet Nam, and India—gave short speeches on their shaman performances and showed a part of their performance as prelude for the next day's full performances.

On 2 November, a special performance called Representation of Primitive Culture of Humanity-Shaman Heritage in Asia was hosted by Ms Kyeong Soon Hwang, a researcher at the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of the Cultural Heritage Administration. Groups from the represented nations gave full performances to an audience of two hundred people who had a chance to enjoy the splendour and spectacle that unfolded on the stage.

Hosted by Jindo County, co-organized by ICHCAP and WEDI, and supported by the Cultural Heritage Administration, the International Symposium on Safeguarding Asian Shaman Heritage and the related events made an opportunity to reconfirm the value of shaman heritage as the origins of human culture and to raise public awareness on the importance and value of it. The symposium was also very meaningful in terms of expanding the network among the shaman practitioners in Asia.