

V. Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)

The Living Human Treasures System was introduced by the Republic of Korea to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 142nd session in 1993. The aim of this system is to encourage Member States to take prompt and vigorous measures to safeguard their traditional culture and folklore.

Is there a Living Human Treasures System or relevant system to ensure transmission of your traditional culture and folklore?

No. The Cook Islands currently does not have a Living Human Treasures System. In 2002 a Living Human Treasures System was proposed by John Hermann who was the convenor of judges during the Te Maeva Nui Festival at the time. Mr Hermann saw the need to recognise the experts in the Performing Arts and credit them with a prestigious title. By awarding these specialist the Living Human Treasures honour, endorses their credibility as judges of the most prestigious Performing Arts competition in the Cook Islands. Therefore each judge on the judging panel is required to be inducted in the Living Human Treasures system as a prerequisite for being accepted as a Te Maeva Nui Judge. In a sense, the Living Human Treasures System will prevent the scepticism surrounding the integrity of the judges.

The proposal is currently on hold and may be revived in the near future.