

IV. Achievements on ICH

1. Achievements by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Fully aware of the importance of the concept of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the role it plays in encouraging peace and well-established understanding among the communities world-wide, the Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries that joined the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The great deal of experience and expertise having been acquired through decades of conducting anthropological studies throughout the country, soon enabled the Iranian experts, as well as the interested governmental and non-governmental organizations to devise an Iranian perspective within the framework sketched by the Convention. Soon after, national and regional manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage were determined for various levels of registration, and safeguarding. Then a comprehensive perspective followed, which determined the role envisaged for the Islamic Republic of Iran at the sub-regional, regional, and international levels.

What follows is an outline of the activities on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Member state to the 2003 Convention,
- Observer state at Intergovernmental Committee sessions,
- Regular attendant at UNESCO expert meetings on ICH,
- Regular attendant at regional and international training courses on ICH,
- Leading state in preparing the first multinational ICH nomination: Nowruz
- Member of the Intergovernmental Committee,
- Headquarter for Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West And Central Asia: The fifth Category II Center for ICH worldwide
- Regular inscriptions of Iranian ICH on the Representative List: 8 files
- Regular inscriptions of Iranian ICH on the Urgent Safeguarding List: 2 files

- Regular submissions of nominations for inscription on the Representative List: 15 files
- Regular submissions of nominations for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List: 4 files
- Harmonizing the 2003 Convention content with the national Iranian perspectives
- Compilation of comprehensive lists on the Iranian national heritage
- Compilation of a regional tentative list on Iranian shared heritage
- Regular inscriptions of Iranian ICH at the national level
- Holder and sponsor to cultural events on ICH at national, regional and international levels
- Holder and sponsor to training courses on ICH at national and regional levels
- Close collaboration with UNESCO Intangible Culture Sector
- Close collaboration with the National Commission for UNESCO, Tehran
- Close collaboration with the UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran
- Close collaboration with ASPAC Group Member States to the 2003 Convention
- Member of the Subsidiary Body responsible for the evaluation of the 2012 nomination files for inscription on the Representative List
- Member of the Bureau of the 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the States Members to the 2003 Convention

2. The Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (Tehran ICH Centre)

The fifth among the UNESCO Category II Centers on ICH, the Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia has, by this time, held two Governing Council Meetings, where it has succeeded in adopting its basic texts (including its constitution, staffing table, book of rules and regulations, strategy, and programmes).

The centre has accomplished considerable achievements in conducting its duties, notable among which are the following:

- June 2011: Gathering of experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage on the occasion of the Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Rapprochement of Cultures, in the Iranian Cultural Heritage Week
- Titled "Propagation: a Method for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage", the gathering constituted an opportunity for Iranian experts to exchange their views on ICH and the methods for safeguarding it.

- July 2011: National training course on Intangible Cultural Heritage, directed towards the needs of Deputies for Cultural Heritage, Provincial Directorates for Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization.
- September 2011: Collaboration with the Deputy in Cultural Heritage, Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, and a number of other governmental and nongovernmental organizations of Iran in compiling the list of nationally and regionally oriented activities directed toward the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the 2003 Convention in 2013.
- 2011 and 2012: Participation in the Annual Meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of States Members to the 2003 Convention (6th and 7th Meetings).
- April 2012: Meeting of Category 2 Centres on ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok
- November 2012: 1st Governing Council of Tehran ICH Centre
- November 2012: 2nd Meeting of the Nowrouz Celebrating States for the drafting of the Nomination File in the name of 3 newly joining states
- November 2012: Inauguration Ceremony of Tehran ICH Centre
- December 2012: MOU with Crespial, ICHCAP, and CRIHAP on cooperation on fields of interest
- May 2013: 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council to Tehran ICH Centre
- July 2013: Workshop on ICH Inscriptions and Advice for Utilizing the Methods at the national level, held for the personnel of Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO,
- August 2013: World Meeting of Category 2 Centres on ICH, Bulgaria