

Summary and further goals



1. Based on the above-mentioned project implementation activities, the current outcomes of ongoing 'Introducing UNESCO Living Human Treasures Program in Mongolia' project can be concluded successful and effective in line with its planned schedules and objectives to safeguard and maintain intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia, within concepts of UNESCO Living Human Treasures, while benefiting supports from South Korean counterparts.

2. It can be considered that there are several factors which may cause obstacles to further implementation activities aimed to safeguard and maintain intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia as mentioned below:
 - a. One of obstacles appears internal migration and influx to urban areas prevailed nationwide cross Mongolia. Nowadays, our youths and new generations typically endeavor to acquire high quality education and to get enrolled in trainings of different levels that have prompted ever-increasing internal migration flows and, subsequently, one third of the entire population of Mongolia have settled in Ulaanbaatar capital city of the country. In the such existing context, basic conditions for transmitting and learning intangible cultural heritage forms from parents and the elderly to young generations within home-based environment, natural settings and original homeland areas have been distracted and collapsed.
Traditionally, intangible cultural heritage forms used to be transmitted and learned within home-based environment and saahalt ger neighbors who live close to one another, yet such traditional arrangements have been lost due to increased lifestyle change and urbanization trends. One feature of the existing context suggests that intangible cultural heritage forms have been reserved in remote and isolated areas of the country. Therefore, young potential learners have been geographically isolated from intangible cultural heritage bearers so that it becomes hard to transmit such rare heritage treasures due to transportation costs, time and other challenges.
 - b. Moreover, generational cultural heritage bearer-kinship traditions have been cut off, because heritage bearers' transmission speed cannot catch up ethnic minority groups' migration and geographical distribution dynamics. Eventually, some heritage forms have come close to disappearing.
 - c. It should be noted that another feature of folklore performing arts appear inseparable living connection between such heritage elements and natural environment, traditional industry and surrounding settings.
 - d. More scattered populations in rural areas, subsequent changes in the demographic structure, particularly inbreeding problems, intermarriage trends and chaotic assimilations among those representing one ethnic group have all impacted to weaken identities of different ethnic origins and unique characteristics and so cause them become with unnatural and fake forms.

- e. Due to long-term lack of government policy and support promoting intangible cultural heritage in place, not only the number of genuine heritage bearers have decreased, but also original features and performance skills have diminished. Considering the age and health conditions of intangible cultural heritage bearers, it suggests getting late to wait for taking urgent measures aimed at protecting heritage treasures.
- f. Dynamic globalization phenomenon and drastic changes happening within the overall social sphere of the country appear endangering historical and cultural traditions and further threaten them to disappear.
- g. Similarly, other factors such as existing economic incapability and global financial crisis may well affect the current situations as well.

Therefore, to revive and protect living qualities of intangible cultural heritage elements, it is required to take systematic urgent measures, such as carrying out research, trainings and public awareness campaigns, while activating, providing adequate support and incentives to heritage bearers and learners, governmental and non-governmental organizations to allow them operate efficiently.

3. We plan to focus on realizing the following goals further within the project activities:
 - a. Lobby draft proposals of 'List of intangible cultural heritage types and forms in Mongolia', 'List of intangible cultural heritage subject to urgent protection in Mongolia', 'Representative list of intangible cultural heritage forms in Mongolia' and 'List of intangible cultural heritage forms to be proposed for registering in UNESCO List of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage' to be approved and enacted by MECS and Government of Mongolia as soon as possible
 - b. Lobby 'Membership structure of the National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage bearers' and 'Rule of the National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage bearers' to be endorsed and approved by MECS, while 'Regulations of determining, registering, safeguarding, maintaining, developing and promoting State support to intangible cultural heritage' to be endorsed by MECS and enacted by Government of Mongolia as soon as possible
 - c. Draft legislations and legal amendments related to protecting intangible cultural heritage, and submit to responsible governmental institutions for further actions
 - d. Summarize and report findings resulted from field surveys carried out by the research team appointed to identify and determine intangible cultural heritage forms and bearers in some aimags of the Eastern region, send the research team to Central and South regions and report summary of field survey findings and observations
 - e. Translate and review relevant legislations and regulations of Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and other countries which successfully implement this UNESCO program, and make comments and recommendations consequently

- f. Organize academic conferences and roundtables on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage by covering scholars, researchers and heritage bearers
- g. Prepare textbooks, manuals and other training materials, publish training materials, books and brochures, and train professionals specialized in areas of safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage
- h. Organize trainings on protecting intangible cultural heritage among local authority officials, employees of governmental agencies and NGOS, heritage bearers and general public
- i. Organize the next joint seminar of South Korean and Mongolian experts in South Korea, and discuss and analyze ongoing performance results and achievements
- j. Identify, determine and register intangible cultural heritage bearers, and organize heritage transmission trainings for learners under such bearers' assistance