



## Background

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Due to the countless reasons affect the intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia, number of heritage elements are on the very brim of extinction. Therefore, establishing concrete and inclusive system for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage is crucial in Mongolia.

One of the measures taken by various stakeholders for the protection of intangible cultural heritage as well as development of overall safeguarding capacity of ICH is the Mongolian-Korean Joint Cooperation Project 'Establishing a Safeguarding System for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia'. This project is sponsored by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea and was launched in 2008 by Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific.

By the implementation of the first-phase activities under the framework of the Project, a number of meetings were held among the Project partners, implementers and coordinators.

For instance, in 2007, South Korean experts and researchers visited Mongolia with the purpose of reviewing, determining and planning feasibility of implementing UNESCO Living Human Treasures program in Mongolia. In 2008, Mongolian experts and researchers visited South Korea and thus bilateral parties have organized twice policy-based meetings discussing feasibility of implementing this program and reviewed existing situations in person. These exchange visits and meetings have notably contributed significant inputs to launch the ongoing extensive work aimed to realizing concepts of 'UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' adopted in 2003, as well as to identifying, safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage and introducing the UNESCO Program 'Living Human Treasures System' in Mongolia.

The third joint seminar has been held on in Ulaanbaatar on 12-13 December, 2008 and attended by Mongolian and Korean experts that also produced substantial and positive impacts to our activities. The joint seminar has concluded further follow-up activities, such as continuing ongoing research on opportunities and feasibility of implementing 'Living Human Treasure System' in Mongolia.

Moreover, following fundamental documents for the establishment of the safeguarding system for the intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia were drawn up for further approval.

The initial draft of 'Regulations of identifying, registering, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State support for intangible cultural heritage', 'Rule of the National Council for Identifying intangible cultural heritage and its bearers',

'Regulations of identifying, registering, safeguarding, transmitting, developing and promoting State support for intangible cultural heritage', 'Membership components of National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage' and 'Rule of National Council for Determining intangible cultural heritage and its bearers' were elaborated and were submitted to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science for further approval. (These legislative documents were approved by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science during the second phase of the Project, of which English translations were annexed to this report along with the original forms)

In addition, field trip on the status of ICH and its bearers in Western Mongolia, and collation and studies on the legal background for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage of other countries were carried out. Through the field trip, a considerable amount of materials, including the documentation, registration, and recordings were made and used for the further activities related to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. The western region is especially a hub habitation of the diverse ethnic minorities in Mongolia, and thus provides numerous diversifications in terms of culture, arts and social life as well.

A questionnaire sheets titled 'Survey questionnaire of intangible cultural heritage bearers' was elaborated and used during the field trip. Along with this questionnaire, the survey guidance have been distributed to responsible Culture and Arts departments of Ulaanbaatar city and all aimags and their heads, along with an enclosed official letter signed by Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Science.

In order to identify and determine intangible cultural heritage practiced within different areas of our country, a number of serial meetings and interviews has been organized among and with governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, training and research institutions, partnership groups, scholars and researchers, while their comments and viewpoints were surveyed and reviewed.

Within the framework of the second-phase of the Project:

- Continuation of field surveys in other regions, including Central, Eastern and Gobi aimags
- Organization of the symposium and workshop on the issues of intangible cultural heritage and safeguarding thereof
- Elaboration of tentative list of ICH and its bearers
- Text preparation of guidebook of ICH in Mongolia were planned to be implemented respectively