



## Annex 2

# *Symposium & Workshop Report*

*Symposium on the issues of safeguarding and promoting of the intangible cultural heritage*  
Meeting Hall, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
7 September 2009

*Workshop on the implementation of UNESCO program –  
Living Human Treasures system in Mongolia*  
Children's Book Palace, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
8-10 September 2009

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## I. Background

UNESCO established and adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage on 17 October 2003, which is the latest international legal instrument related to intangible heritage this far.

Since its ratification of the Convention in 2005, Mongolia has been taking various large-scaled measures and activities for the safeguarding, researching, promoting and inheriting of the intangible cultural heritage in national and local levels. One of such efforts is the Mongolian and Korean joint project for implementing the UNESCO programme entitled 'Living Human Treasures' System in Mongolia.

UNESCO programme 'Living Human Treasures' System has been implemented in many countries across the world under various titles and names. Living Human Treasures are persons who possess to a high degree the knowledge and skills required for performing or re-creating specific elements of the intangible cultural heritage. The Living Human Treasures programme aims at granting official recognition to talented tradition bearers and practitioners, thus contributing to the transmission of their knowledge and skills to the younger generations. States select such persons on the basis of their accomplishments and of their willingness to convey their knowledge and skills to others. The selection is also based on the value of the traditions and expressions concerned as a testimony of the human creative genius, their roots in cultural and social traditions, and their representative character for a given community, as well as their risk of disappearance.

## II. Objectives of the Symposium

Since 2008, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO has been implementing a project to introduce UNESCO programme 'Living Human Treasures' System in Mongolia with the cooperation of relevant stakeholders through the support of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific and the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea, in order to establish a safeguarding system for the intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia.

The Symposium on the issues of safeguarding and promoting of the intangible cultural heritage(hereinafter ‘the Symposium’)organized as a part of the joint project aims to introduce the activities within the framework of the project and raise the awareness of general public, researchers and specialists and the decision makers on the international legal instruments related to intangible cultural heritage, significance and value of the intangible cultural heritage, current situation thereof, and the steps and measures need to be taken for the overall safeguarding, promoting, maintenance and transmission of the intangible cultural heritage. In addition, main objectives include, to learn the experience and know-how in detail from the Korean party on their diverse activities for protecting and promoting the intangible cultural heritage and its bearers, as well as to share ideas and opinions on the given topics for better efficiency.

### III. Objectives of the Workshop

In regards to the Workshop on the Implementation of UNESCO Program ‘Living Human Treasures System’ in Mongolia(hereinafter ‘the Workshop’), main objectives were to improve the awareness of the heritage bearers on the international legal instruments related to intangible cultural heritage, as well as international and national programs, projects, measures and activities in accordance with the legal instruments for protecting, promoting, encouraging and maintaining the intangible cultural heritage and also encouraging and ensuring the networking among the heritage bearers and relevant organizations. Moreover, raising awareness of the heritage bearers on the value and significance of their social reputation and recognition appropriately, as well as sharing the individual practices and techniques were the main objectives.

### IV. Organizers

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia
- Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO
- Centre for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia
- Mongolian Cultural Studies Association
- Foundation for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific in Korea
- Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea

### V. Participants of the Symposium and Workshop

Representatives from various stakeholders in the field of decision making or involvement in the culture and arts policy, as well as the bearers of the intangible cultural heritage have participated in the Symposium and the Workshop. To list the main attendees:

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia
- Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO
- State Specialized Inspection Agency
- Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific
- Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea

- Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation
- Mongolian Academy of Sciences
- Culture and Arts Committee
- University of Culture and Arts of Mongolia
- Culture and Arts Administration of Ulaanbaatar
- Mongolian Cultural Studies Association
- Foundation for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Heritage
- Center for Cultural Heritage
- Association of Mongolian Long Song
- National Center for the Development of Mongol Ger
- Bearers and practitioners of manifold elements of the intangible cultural heritage representing different regions of Mongolia and etc.

## VI. Reports

### Symposium Plenary session

The Symposium was high of importance in terms of raising awareness of the key entities and bodies in the field of safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage on the measures and activities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in international and national levels.

Following reports and presentations have been made at the Symposium and followed by the comments, question and answer sessions and effective discussions:

- UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Mongolia
- On the ICH safeguarding measures taken by the Government of Mongolia, objectives
- On the introduction to the Mongolia-Korean joint project ‘Establishing a Safeguarding System for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia’
- Traditional performing arts and issues of safeguarding and promoting
- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding
- Safeguarding and promoting of Mongolian traditional craftsmanship
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, safeguarding and promoting issues
- Social practices, rituals and festive events and safeguarding issues thereof
- On the legal background for the safeguarding of ICH of Mongolia
- ICH in formal education curricula, and its improvement
- ICH and apprenticeship



Participants at the symposium

### Workshop Plenary session

Below-mentioned presentations were made at the Workshop and followed by the comments, question and answer sessions and efficient discussions.

- On the rule and regulations in relation to the safeguarding of ICH of Mongolia
- Institutional Safeguarding of ICH in Korea
- On the criteria for selection of bearers of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- On the issues of registration, documentation and database of ICH
- Utilization and Dissemination of ICH project in Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation
- On the improvement of legal background for the safeguarding of ICH of Mongolia
- On the transmission of Mongol Biyelgee: The Body Dance
- On the transmission of Mongol Well-wishing praises and eulogies
- On the transmission of Mongol Tuuli: Mongolian epic
- Introduction to some extracts and findings of the field researches on the ICH in rural areas of Mongolia

During the workshop, the issues and challenges faced to the heritage bearers on the heritage transmission activities were discussed and digested among the participants, which was an effective experience-sharing activity. Consequently, it facilitated the mutual understanding between the practitioners and bearers of both common and diverse ICHs, as well as enhanced the cooperative sense between the relevant NGOs and governmental bodies on the safeguarding of ICH hand in hand with the concerned community, groups and individuals.



ICH experts and specialists at the workshop

It was also suggested that the heritage bearers are to serve as messengers to their own respective communities to disseminate and distribute all the information gained and digested from the Symposium and Workshop, in order to contribute raising nation-wide awareness on the intangible cultural heritage and related issues thereof.

## VII. Discussion outcomes

It was suggested that the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage requires broad involvement from both the governmental power and public power and orchestrated efforts engaging diverse stakeholders would improve the efficiency of the measures and activities taken for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

As a result of the Symposium and the Workshop, the Draft Recommendation addressed to the governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, and youth as well as to the bearers of the intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia has been developed.

## VIII. Conclusion

Both the Symposium and Workshop have been held with great success to facilitate the further activities. With the help of the distribution of various means and materials, such as the manual for the heritage bearers and other relevant people entitled "Compilation of the documents concerning the intangible cultural heritage", 'National representative list of intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia' and 'National list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding of Mongolia', as well as the aforementioned presentation handouts and other working documents, participants gained great information on the given subjects. Handing out the above mentioned documents to the heritage bearers and practitioners, and collecting their comments on them were of great significance in the further formulation of the legislative foundation for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, particularly for promoting and supporting the bearers and practitioners with variety of measures for the effective transmission of the heritage to the next generations.

All these activities are the fruits cultivated from the previous meetings, and other activities organized within the framework of the joint project and thus facilitated to enhance and ensure the cooperation between the Mongolian and Korean experts and specialists and enrich its ways and means.



ICH bearers, practitioners and foreign researchers

It was emphasized that the great expertise from the Korean part was essential for the effectiveness and productivity of the overall project implementation.

In addition, it was also important for deepening the mutual understanding between the local heritage bearers and the decision makers and other relevant entities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

At the end of the Workshop, a small-sized live show by the heritage bearers organized to demonstrate their outstanding and genuine ability and skills to all the participants, which encouraged their self-confidence; promoted sharing their opinions, skills and talents; as well as strengthened the networking among people.

Moreover, the Symposium and Workshop supported the cooperation among the foreign and domestic researchers, heritage bearers, centers of expertise, research institutes and local entities for further encouragement and activeness.