



## **Appendix**

Opening Remarks  
Summary of Discussion  
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## Opening Remarks

Samuel LEE

Director, ICHCAP

On this beautiful day of the harvesting season in autumn, when hundreds of fruits and grains are ripening and trees in the mountains and fields are tinging maple colours, I am very delighted and filled with the feeling of great honor that our Centre of UNESCO for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia and Pacific Region (ICHCAP) is privileged to host this year International Conference on Safeguarding ICH to reflect on the creative values and productive utility of our intangible heritage that our forefathers have inherited to us.

I would like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude and respect to President Chérif Khaznadar of the World Cultures House (Maison des Cultures du Monde) in France and other distinguished scholars and experts from around the globe for travelling all the way to Seoul, as well as to my fellow Koreans who are involved to safeguard and promote ICH in every corner of this country for taking the precious time out of your busy schedules to participate in today's conference.

It has been less than a decade since the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003, and yet this UNESCO Convention is now spreading across borders like a newly found gospel, raising the respect and affection for the cultural heritages and traditional values. Many countries are now taking various measures to safeguard their ICH: establishing institutional systems and laws, compiling inventories and continuing to search for performers and bearers and transmitters of ICH.

While the program to nominate UNESCO's Representative List of the

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and Best Practice has been started only since 2008, already over 140 nations have joined the program, and over 260 elements have been inscribed, and the competition and enthusiasm to register more ICH elements on the Lists is growing in intensity day by day.

However, because a large percentage of the world is still not familiar with the concept of ICH and each nation differs in their scope, categories and inscription criteria of ICH, a fair amount of difficulty and confusion remains that continues to impede the implementation of the Convention.

Ever since the establishment of ICHCAP in Korea last year to assist the implementation of the Convention in the Asia-Pacific, a region blessed with an abundance of diverse cultural heritage, we have travelled to quite many countries and subregions to promote information work and networking among experts and stakeholders regarding ICH. In this process, we have felt seriously a severe lack and want of systematic understanding and problem consciousness concerning ICH, as well as the urgent need for further institutional improvement and cultivation of expert personnel in order to successfully implement the Convention.

We have acknowledged, we have to raise up ourselves the level of our knowledge and understanding about the valuable ICH in various countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to arrive at a better recognition of how ICH functions and contributes for human and social development. This conviction has induced us to invite these distinguished experts with long and rich experiences in research and activity to this international conference.

Especially the main issue we hope to reflect together today is “Wherein lies the creative values of ICH, and in what ways do they support or influence the sustainable development of human society.” This is a very fundamental question that will help us clarify why we must safeguard and promote the ICH of humanity.

I am sure, the presentations and discussions today will be very significant and enlightening, as they are conducted by prominent figures with considerable expertise and research experience, some of whom have played important roles in the creation and implementation of the UNESCO Convention. I also expect that many innovative suggestions will be voiced on how to safeguard and promote a common heritage that is invaluable to all human life and societal development.

All presentations and discussions will be recorded, documented and sent to the

UNESCO headquarters in Paris as well as various national, international and non-governmental organizations throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and therefore, I believe that our efforts will serve as a meaningful contribution to achieving full global implementation of the Convention.

I would once again like to extend my sincerest appreciation to our distinguished presenters and discussants, and also to all participants for devoting your day to this conference, and especially to the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korean government and the Dangjin City for the generous sponsorship and cooperation. I hope today’s meeting will bring beneficial fruits to all of us.