
**Towards Efficient Roles of NGOs
for Safeguarding ICH
in the Asia-Pacific Region**

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Summary of Discussion

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Session 1 Discussion

Dr Diego Gradis expressed his regret at Dr Karma Phuntsho's inability to attend the conference.

Mr Guri asked Ms Joanne Orr to expand on the conditions and the environment for NGO network building. He asked Mr Gauthier whether NGOs in Quebec had other focuses besides research. Regarding African countries, he explained that since societies survived for generations before development, it is possible to build on indigenous knowledge—not for the sake of culture, but for the sake of development.

Mr Jung-yeop Chun suggested that Mr Gauthier form a workshop for ICHCAP such as the ones that are held in Quebec. He argued that UNESCO should pay closer attention to the qualifications of ICH experts and not have them selected by the Secretariat. He proposed that the bank of UNESCO work with ICHCAP to prepare capacity-building programs.

Ms Orr explained that her association has been mapping networks of NGOs geographically and thematically. The association has worked on matchmaking between NGOs. Ms Orr noted that there was some tension between local governments and NGOs but that local governments could be catalysts to bringing NGOs together.

Mr Gauthier explained that NGOs in Quebec determine which research is necessary, but the associations are mainly of practitioners who represent themselves

in their municipalities or head NGO.

Dr De Coninck advocated for heritage education, suggesting that the ministry of education be engaged so that the curriculum is changed and heritage education becomes mainstreamed. Dr De Coninck said that East African governments are fixated on solutions dictated either by the donor community or by ideas of the future that clash with the cultural heritage. Dr De Coninck has helped clan leaders to develop a charter that helps them resituate themselves in the modern context.

Dr Kwang-hee Kim explained that the Korean government has made progress through trial and error. She argued that ICH is best supported when there is a solid legal foundation, which Korea has worked on for over fifty years. She suggested that countries start by developing separate laws focused specifically on ICH to receive governmental support.

Dr Gradis then opened the floor for remarks.

Dr Heek-yung Choi from ICCN asked Dr. De Coninck to expand on the idea of NGO and government cooperation by clarifying whether he was talking about local authorities or the central government. Dr Choi also suggested cultural tourism as a way through which NGOs can participate to facilitate the bridge between tourists and local communities.

Dr De Coninck explained that in East Africa, the cultural sector is very marginalized by local governments. He encourages the mainstreaming of the cultural dimension into the service industry to show the value of culture and the money to be made through culture. He said that the main issue for African NGOs is a lack of resources. NGOs do not receive help from local governments, so they depend entirely on donor funding.

Mr Gauthier said that countries and municipalities that have a decrease in practice may find it relevant to have specific criteria, but those should be focused on fairness rather than identity.

Session 2 Discussion

Dr Faroghat Azizi spoke of her experience with the Ministry of Culture in Tajikistan and explained the benefits of digitizing archives and technical digitizing restoration. She suggested the production of movies on Central Asia ICH

accompanied by comments by experts.

Mr Gaura Mancacaritadipura asked Dr Huffer about the problem of secret and sacred knowledge and about the safeguarding of ICH in an urban context. He asked Ms Gasaucalayawa whether those studying traditional handicrafts were gaining some economical benefit. He asked Ms Jae Eun what has motivated Korea to reach out internationally through the ICH center.

In response to the issues of secret and sacred knowledge, Dr Huffer explained that some inventorying methods include different levels of access. However, piracy and abuse of traditional knowledge remain a problem. Legislation and protection of traditional knowledge is another tool she listed to confront this problem. In regards to the urban context, she explained that youth are sometimes taught traditional art through contemporary art. She also gave social media as a powerful tool for communities to keep their art alive.

Ms Gasaucalayawa replied that the artists have a handicraft center where they can have their own business. They also earn money through exhibitions, festivals, demonstrations, and various venues, including museum gift stores, where they can sell their artworks.

Ms Jae Eun Yu explained that because the Korean government is aware of the vulnerability of ICH, the GO wants to support ICH transmitters and get them to live in a community. The GO must look at ICH around the world to enhance Korea's own capacity of ICH safeguarding.

In regards to finances, Mr Valentin said that although his organization receives grants, it does not rely on the government for money. It organizes advanced classes that it charges for and many activities for tourists. Money also comes from community donations and from fundraising events.

Dr Yu explained that documentation initiatives are usually led by government bodies. However, she explained that the top-down approach was being replaced by a bottom-up approach, according to which communities are taking the initiatives.

Mr Du Hyun Kwon argued that since governments are based on institutions, they are not compatible with ICH's living nature. He explained that NGOs became mistrusted by the public in the past because they lacked a solid base of expertise, and he thus argued for a higher focus on expertise gain. He also explained the need for NGOs to have their own financial base.

Dr Arantes then opened the floor for discussion.

Mr Osman asked what NGOs were doing in each region to ensure that the education system was not alienating the culture and to make the safeguarding process natural.

Eduardo Perez asked how to make sure performances do not deviate from the original concept.

Dr Huffer said that some contemporary artists negotiate with the original creators how they will reproduce the original idea for a public performance and always acknowledge where the art came from. In response to questions of education and culture, Dr Huffer explained that teachers in the Pacific do not know how to teach their language in pedagogical terms. However, festival and other events work well for building up culture and education.

In response to a question by Dr Curtis, Dr Huffer explained that funding sources come more readily to registered NGOs.

Session 3 Discussion

Mr Herbert Pikela defined empowerment as a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. He argued that sustainable development should not be considered only in the ICH context, but rather in a holistic manner. He called for more investment and research in technology to find compatible techniques so that ICH can be accessed and promoted on every platform and forum.

Dr Urtnasan Norov explained that sustainable development did not relate only to economic development, but also to environmental and cultural development. He highlighted the need for ICH to be seen as evidence of the creative industry and of unique creative minds. He stressed that every country has a different and unique landscape and that future ICH NGOs should therefore be specifically established for each area.

Dr Heek-yung Choi described the work done by ICCN, whose vision is worldwide living heritage empowerment. She gave the example of the 2012 World Intangible Heritage Festival to illustrate how multicultural festivals can help promote cultural pluralism, dialog, and understanding of others. She also stressed the economic benefits of hosting festivals. She then illustrated the peace-promoting

aspects of festivals with the announcement that Iran will host the second ICCN festival in October 2014.

Ms Jung Ok Lee then opened the floor for discussion.

Dr John de Coninck asked Ms. Hahm how Korean NGOs are financed and whether dependence on the state is ever an issue. To Ms. Bhattacharya, he asked whether tourism presents areas for disquiet whereby ICH becomes packaged in order to meet the needs and interest of an external audience.

Ms Hahm explained that there were two types of NGOs, some that receive funding of from the government and some that do not. While the NGOs that do not receive government funding tend to have less money, they receive help from donors and they are usually happy. According to Ms. Hahm, NGOs that receive government funding are more prone to conflicts and issues.

Ms Bhattacharya recognized that tourism can be a threat. However, she tries to create an environment where people can use their skills to overcome poverty. She responded to the questions about funds explaining that, at first, money came from the European Union but eventually started coming from diverse sources, especially after aligning with city-branding.

Mr Guri asked about the focus on identity, explaining that in countries such as his, focusing on identity appears to be a form of luxury, and that the focus should be more on sustainable development.

Mr Desiderio expressed his will to cooperate with Ms Hahm as they have a similar experience with online inventories, to which Ms Hahm replied that the Korean researchers were ready to share their methodologies for cheaply creating online inventories.

To Mr Guri, Mr Desiderio answered that the main value for his NGO has been social participation. He explained that while identity might be a focus for tourism, his organization encourages people to go out, speak, and participate in ICH activities.

Dr Norov brought up the problem of safeguarding ICH with nomadic cultures. While tourism organizations have helped with the safeguarding of ICH, tourism has also cause very quick change that threatens the livelihood of some of the aspects of the nomadic way of life.

Parallel Discussion 1

The first parallel discussion session was chaired by Ms. Joanne Orr.

Presenter Jorijn Neyrinck introduced an exercise to draw a roadmap for NGO networking. First, a series of potential axes for grouping were introduced. However, Ms. Neyrinck pointed to the importance of also focusing on external aspects and landscapes, such as the UNESCO framework, growing regional interconnections, financial constraints, and the need for sustainable development.

Ms. Neyrinck argued that we are situated in a critical stage that may determine the direction of the impact of NGO integration in UNESCO and (inter) governmental safeguarding efforts. This, nevertheless, also presents an opportunity for NGOs to take initiatives in directions that seem preferable and to draw the axes of more efficient networks.

For the exercise, participants were asked to discuss opportunities and barriers to developing closer relationships between NGOs and to share processes toward more efficient working. The discussants broke into two groups and presented their ideas after thirty minutes.

Together, the groups listed four outcomes of NGO networking: the sharing of information, the strengthening of NGOs' voices, better monitoring systems, and capacity building.

To achieve these outcomes, the following processes were suggested: sharing mistakes in addition to successes, mapping facilitators and doers, cooperating to determine how NGOs may complement one another, taking into account the multiple identities of NGOs, and developing methodologies to strengthen NGOs in different parts of the world.

Three specific suggestions were made: to create an outside observatory that would monitor NGOs, to create translations in other languages than French and English, and to host a conference in the near future that would focus on the methodologies of strengthening ICH NGOs

Parallel Discussion 2

The second parallel discussion session was chaired by Dr. Seong-Yong Park. During this session, NGO representatives and experts from the Asia-Pacific region discussed NGO networking for ICH safeguarding in the region.

The session began with MD Muthukumaraswamy, who presented an Indian perspective on NGOs. In addition, Deok Soon Kim gave a regional perspective on the topic of NGO networking. Eduardo Perez talked about the role of NGOs in the preservation and development of ICH in the Philippines.

The discussion revolved around two main questions—namely, why should NGOs participate in networking and how should networking be facilitated especially in the context of Asia-Pacific region.

In response to the first question, it was determined that networking allows organizations to share resources, including knowledge, and learn from one another. Networks bridge communities to governments and other organizations, including UNESCO. Funding opportunities can also develop. In addition, networking avoids having to approach problems alone, which compounds the workload. In terms of methodologies for efficient networking, participants also delved into different approaches—face-to-face meetings, online and off-line communications, and other social networking services.

In response to the second question, it was argued that higher education and universities should be involved with research and implementing post-graduate degree options. Working through ICHCAP as a center for networking can create new connections and open the door to new opportunities. Exchange of information and expertise should be further promoted. In this regard, for example, the CPI program, through the Ministry of Culture in Korea, is helping to link NGOs and other organizations.

It was concluded that networking for NGOs is not an option; it is a necessity. And, more importantly, the life of the Convention is reliant on networking.

Plenary Session Discussion Summary

After Dr Lee gave his closing remarks, Ms Orr and Dr Park gave summaries of the two parallel discussions. Dr Lee then opened the floor for comments.

Ms Hahm explained that despite Korea's long history of ICH safeguarding, to endure the transmission of ICH to the next generations, Ms Hahm said that the government and expert NGOs need to know about the problems ICH safeguarding faces.

Dr Lee added that Korea was currently struggling with a new law that aims to differentiate ICH from TCH. He talked about the expansion of the concept of ICH, which has caused the existing laws to be insufficient. He explained that previous experience focused on tangible elements and that more international discussions were needed.

Mr Mancacaritadipura found the meeting especially fruitful because of the inclusion of people from all areas of the world. He said that the differences among the countries did not seem to be in how advanced each was, but rather in which ways each was advanced.

Ms Bhattacharya expressed her interest in further discussions concerning difficult situations that were brought up during the conference. She asked that ICHCAP make plans for future conferences and work to create networks that address these issues.

Dr Curtis said that the next phase of the Convention should integrate information from universities, NGOs, State Parties, and other stakeholders. He called for the creation of a comprehensive database of NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region, a project ICHCAP could undertake.

Dr Huffer talked about the role of NGOs in the linkage between world heritage and ICH. She said that ICH elements are often related to TCH. She asked how ICHCAP and other UNESCO C2 centers can approach the relationship between tangible and intangible heritage.

Ms Jorijn Neyrinck talked about the mapping of the axes that she and Ms Orr had mentioned and the need to take NGOs' multiple-layered identities into account when mapping.

Dr Gradis asked Dr Lee whether the new legislation being drafted will include recognition of the need for NGO support. Dr. Lee answered that the legislation

promoted the support of civilian activities, which can be interpreted as support for NGO movements.

Dr De Coninck asked whether the ICHCAP center could network with other C2 centers to encourage counterparts in other regions to emulate the work ICHCAP has done.

Dr Lee explained that UNESCO has the intention of founding C2 centers in each region. The Secretariat is organizing yearly meetings with the directors of all of the centers, so the idea should be further developed in the future.

Ms Jung Ok Lee announced that a proposal had been submitted to the Prime Minister for a database project.

Ms Bhattacharya then gave the conference outcomes.

Sun-Hwa Rha, administrator of the Cultural Heritage Administration, gave remarks on the conference.

Dr Gradis and Dr Curtis closed the conference by thanking the Republic of Korea, the Cultural Heritage Administration, ICHCAP, the Korea cultural Heritage Foundation, and everyone present.