



Cultural Partnership Initiative

Comparative Study about Intangible Cultural
Heritage Safeguarding in Republic of Korea and
Republic of Indonesia (TMII)

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Abstract

In recent years, many countries are really aware of the efforts of Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding. Moreover, the adoption of 2003 UNESCO convention became a milestone for each country for promoting cultural diversity. Regarding to the ICH policy and institutions, every country has their own regulation. In Indonesia, we have one of the institutions for education, development and safeguarding ICH, to be called Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) or literally translated as Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park. TMII is a cultural space showcasing the diversity of culture and civilization of Indonesia. TMII is created to safeguard and transmit ICH to next generations in an urban area like Jakarta. Throughout the year, TMII holds events related to safeguarding, transmitting, and promoting ICH. Activities and live experiences in all five ICH domains are held in 33 provincial pavilions, 17 museums and other recreational units in TMII. There are stages and training workshops, where visitors can experience and learn traditional dance, music, handicrafts, cuisine, etc. here, through this paper, the writer intend to do comparative study about the safeguarding efforts in Republic of Korea and Republic of Indonesia, especially in TMII.

Introduction

Nowadays, the term of Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding becomes a main issue in the world. As the time passed by, many of cultural heritage begin to disappear. In line with the modern era, young generations do not really know and care about their culture. Therefore, a cultural space that can preserve and transmit cultural heritage, especially intangible cultural heritage to the young generations is being needed.

Since the UNESCO 2003 convention of the intangible heritage safeguarding, many countries especially state parties who has ratified it try to safeguard its living heritage on their own territories and in cooperation with others. However, the convention itself does not intend to make an element that already inscribed in nomination list became higher or more valuable than others which do not inscribed. It is just affirm that each elements of living heritage in any countries and communities need to be respected.

Republic of Korea has a good platform for safeguarding its tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as implementation of safeguarding. This country is very active in the field of intangible cultural heritage, regarding its own intangible heritage and its support for UNESCO's programs. In this case, the writer intend to do comparative study about how Republic of Korea has gone about safeguarding its intangible cultural heritage in comparison with Indonesia, especially with the efforts of Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park (Taman Mini Indonesia Indah - TMII) to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

ICH safeguarding in Republic of Korea and Republic of Indonesia

The UNESCO 2003 convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage defines the ICH as the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills- including the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural associated with them – that communities, groups and individuals recognize as a part of their culture heritage.

While the safeguarding based on the convention, means measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.

Republic of Korea

According to the Cultural Heritage Protection Act article 1, the objectives of Intangible Cultural Heritage safeguarding in South Korea describes as: “to promote the cultural edification of Korean nationals and to contribute to the development of human culture by transferring national culture and enabling it to be utilized through the preservation of cultural heritage”.

Republic of Korea has national institution for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage called Cultural Heritage Center, an International organization namely ICHCAP, and non-governmental organization namely Korea ICH Promotion Center that to be established following the adoption of ICH law.

There is ‘bearer’, a term used to define the master or transmitter in the intangible cultural heritage safeguarding. These bearers are selected by the government through selections process. The state or local governments can allot the budget necessary for the transmission education and may grant free usage of governmental or common property either obtained or established for the

purpose of transmission education. There are also scholarships provided by the head of the Cultural Heritage Administration for those who are undergoing transmission education.

Here is the types and hierarchy of intangible cultural heritage transmitters in Republic of Korea according to the Cultural Heritage Administrator;

- Bearer: those who practice the heritage in its original form and entrusted with the authority and responsibility of the transmission education by the government.
- Assistant: those who aid the transmission education of the bearer, who have completed the education at least five years prior, and must be recommended by the bearer and are accepted by the head of the Cultural Heritage Administration.
- Completer: those who have received at least three years of transmission education and have reached a certain level. The bearer must issue a certificate of completion and report it to the Cultural Heritage Administration.
- Scholarship student: bearer should recommend a student who has been under transmission education for more than six months and get the financial aid for up to five years.

During the field trip, the writer had a chance to meet some bearers in related field, such as Hansan Mosi, natural dyeing center in Naju, etc. Normally, the government provides the facilities for them to transmit intangible cultural heritage in an educational training center. There, they can work, teach as well as transmitting the element to the next generations. The products that they produced are available for sale and it is of course give a value for the communities and contribute much in economic aspect.



The Bearer - Weaving of Mosi in Hansan



Education and Training Center in Pilbong Village, Imsil.

Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia has ratified the 2003 UNESCO convention for the safeguarding of ICH. Accordingly, Indonesia has accepted the definition of ICH mentioned in the convention, namely: "the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups, and, in some cases individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.

In general, Indonesia has no regulation yet particularly about the term of intangible cultural heritage. There are regulations about intangible cultural heritage under the terms of cultural property, culture, or traditional cultural expressions.

Apart from the law, regulation, and cultural policy, we do have some institutions or organizations related to intangible cultural heritage safeguarding. Besides the government, there are many non-governmental organizations that focus on intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, one of them is Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) or literally translated as Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park. It is such a cultural space for safeguarding, development and education of intangible cultural heritage and is created based on a cooperation of center government, local government of thirty-three provinces, and other stakeholders. Several provinces in Indonesia have created cultural spaces similar to Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII).

Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park (TMII)

Along with the demands of the times, many people move to big cities to earn a better living. It might take them away from their own culture and they may lose their cultural identity. Therefore, communities and government decided to create a cultural space for safeguarding, education and development of intangible cultural heritage, namely Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) or literally translated as Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park.

TMII was conceived by Madame Siti Hartinah Soeharto and dedicated on 20 April 1975. Presenting the whole Indonesia nation, it is located in the capital city, Jakarta, which covers 150 hectares of land. This cultural - based tourism park is a synopsis of Indonesian culture, which represents all aspects of daily life in Indonesia's 33 provinces, encapsulated in separate pavilions with the collections of Indonesian architecture, clothing, dances, traditional music instruments, handicrafts and traditions are all depicted impeccably. It also has 19 museums (10 of them are under the Ministries) and other recreational units. There are stages and training workshops, where visitors can experience and learn traditional dance, music, handicrafts, cuisine, etc.

The objectives of TMII, reflected in its general policy:

1. To appreciate and promote Indonesian culture by researching and revitalizing intangible cultural heritage transmitted from previous generations;
2. To introduce cultural and natural heritage to the young generation of Indonesia and of other nations in the world;
3. To present a place of cultural recreation and education in intangible cultural heritage to the people of Indonesia.

TMII was also built to create a balance between physical-economic development and mental-spiritual development. Indonesia's development has five pillars: Spiritual, Education and Culture, Technology, Economy, and Welfare. TMII also represents Indonesia motto 'Bhineka Tunggal Ika' (Unity in Diversity). It expresses a hope that the multicultural nation can build a common national culture overlaying ethnic and regional ones.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia through some Ministries has paid tribute to TMII, by assigning it as:

1. Vital National Object, by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (2008)
2. Flora and Fauna Conservation Area, by the Ministry of Forestry (2010)
3. Institution for Indonesian Culture Safeguarding, by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (2011)
4. Vehicle for Tolerance and Harmony, by the Ministry of Religious Affairs (2012)
5. Area for the diversity of Museum, Inspiration of Nations Civilization, by the Ministry of Education and Culture (2013)
6. Forum for National Unity, by the Ministry of Home Affairs (2014)

Promoting and transmitting ICH in TMII

TMII has implemented the intangible cultural heritage safeguarding for almost 40 years. It has raised public awareness of the importance of Indonesia intangible cultural heritage through activities that held throughout the year.

Following are the activities in five intangible cultural heritage domains, based on UNESCO 2003 convention that held in 33 provincial pavilions, 17 museums and other recreational units, namely:

1. Oral cultures covering local language, traditional storytelling, the use of local languages in community gathering, poetic songs (mocopotan, kidung, mawalan, didong), poetry competitions (pantun), traditional discussion (sarasehan), indigenous hospitality, etc.
2. Performing Arts including folk songs and musics, cultural parades, dance drama, cultural night at the pavilion area, traditional dances, wayang puppets theater, etc.
3. Traditional customs, rites and festivals including purificatory ritual (ruwatan), local new year carnival (Kirab Selamatan Agung Suro), lifecycle customs: the seventh month, birth, circumcision and traditional marriage, the ceremony of treatment for medication, religious festivals (serentaun, mauludan), harvest festival, games and sports, etc.
4. Knowledge about nature and universe; knowledge of traditional architecture, construction and positioning of buildings/ building layout, repulsion of negative forces (tolak bala), purification of villages (ruwat bumi), knowledge of rainmaking, traditional medicine, traditional beliefs, ritual decoration, etc.
5. Traditional handicrafts including sculpture, carving, painting, crafting wayang puppets, batik, leatherwork, bamboo, shell, metal, reed, rattan, and metal crafts, weaving, etc.

Each provincial pavilions pavilion has conducted conservation of its ethnographic collections such as apparel and handicrafts. Most of pavilions and units at TMII have stages for performance and training of performing arts and most hold regular public performances of dance, puppetry, drama, music etc. Artists from the provinces who perform at TMII are facilitated by being provided venues and accommodation at TMII.

Total, TMII has 27 education and training centers that conduct in pavilion exhibits. It operates education and training workshops for children, once, twice or three times a week. Each has at least 50 students for one semester; some has more, such as Balinese Dance which has 800 students. The workshops provide training in traditional performing arts and/or traditional handicrafts, such as traditional dances, traditional music instruments, wayang puppet theater, etc. Participants are from all Indonesian ethnic communities and from overseas. These training courses have proved effective in transmitting intangible cultural heritage.



Education and Training Center in Provincial Pavilions



Kirab Agung Suro (Local New Year) Carnival

TMII also organizes periodic graded proficiency tests for both students and trainers, and issues certificates. Many of graduates later become trainers and some of them join into “Pelangi Nusantara” cultural group. The members of Pelangi Nusantara are the professional dancers who are elected and qualified based on the qualification results of Education and Training Centers of Provincial Pavilions. They have been performed ‘friendship through culture missions’ in national level as well as in overseas.

TMII also regularly organizes big events, both nationally and internationally, such as parades, involving all provincial pavilions, museums and other units as ICH needs to be performed and transmitted in order to be viable. The events are often broadcast in radio, television and printed media, so it can be appreciated by the wider society. TMII also managed a website www.tamanmini.com as well as social media. TMII regularly promotes its activities in order to attract participants and raise public awareness of ICH.

Here are some of the programs that are regularly being held in TMII :

- ✓ Ramadhan Festival during Ramadhan fasting month.
- ✓ Bedug Parade in Ramadhan (islamic month).
- ✓ Traditional Dance Festival - annually.
- ✓ Traditional Music Festival – annually.
- ✓ Kirab Agung Suro/ Muharram (Local New Year) Carnival – annually.
- ✓ Local Folk Song Festival – annually.

Republic of Korea is also actively conducting many programs related to promoting and safeguarding its ICH, such as workshop, festivals, performances, and education and training. ICHCAP as the center 2 of UNESCO often conduct workshop regarding the intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, as well as other related organizations. There are also many festival, such as Gangneung Danoe festival, Andong Mask Dance festival, Nongak performances, etc.

At TMII we find Indonesian ICH elements that have been inscribed by UNESCO and which are well displayed, practiced and performed in some museums and provincial pavilions at TMII :

- Wayang Puppet as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2003 and a Representative List in 2008.
- The Indonesian Kris as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2005 and a Representative List in 2008.
- Indonesian Batik as a Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009.
- Indonesian Angklung as a Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage for Humanity in 2010.
- Saman dance as a list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2011.
- Noken as a list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2012.

The provincial pavilions at TMII often invite foreign guests on sub-regional (ASEAN), regional (Asia) and international level to attend special events that held regularly in each provincial pavilions. The events are in the kind of performing arts, traditional dances, drama, traditional wedding ceremony, etc.

TMII is opened for public who want to conduct comparative study, research etc. The Culture and Tourism Information Centre at TMII is digitizing its ICH information inventory collected over the past 40 years in the form of books, audio and visual recordings. In addition, TMII also produced 10 volume encyclopedia series, DVD series on traditional dance, songs, performances, etc. and also monthly newsletters of events. All of these materials are available in the library of TMII. The collections in the library are also now being digitalizing.

Community involvement in TMII

TMII is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) under the management of Harapan Kita Foundation. It is built by mutual cooperation involving governments, the whole provinces, environmentalists, cultural lovers and private. TMII is run by the Management and Development Body of TMII. It is cooperation between Central Government through some museums and the provincial government of provinces represented by thirty-three Provincial Pavilions, Liaison Offices of thirty-three Provinces and their respective communities. It is also involved TMII community, Provincial Community Associations, artists, academics, culture experts, nineteen museums (ten of them are under the Ministries) and their communities, Recreation Units, Parks, teachers, students groups, communities of traditional customs and various common interest groups, and other stakeholders.

Many local communities gather in the provincial pavilions for discussions, sharing, doing cultural activities based on their each local knowledge, enjoying traditional cuisines, etc. Local artists, who live in Jakarta or come from other provinces, frequently held performance and provide the education and training to the teachers and students in the provincial pavilions.

A Chinese cultural park and Chinese temple have been constructed in TMII in collaboration with Chinese ethnic community. It symbolizes the mutual respects between ethnics and religions. In addition, there are also 7 house of worships constructed side by side representing 7 religions who live in harmony in Indonesia; Islam, Catholic, Protestan, Hindu, Buddha, Konghucu and traditional beliefs. Each of them has their own communities who always come, pray and conduct many activities in TMII.

Communities must be actively involved in safeguarding and managing their living heritage because it is only them who actively practicing, continuing and transmitting it to the next generation.

Challenges and opportunities

In the process of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding efforts, Taman Mini Indonesia Indah faces some challenges and opportunities;

- Lack of interest of young generations in learning the traditional culture and keeping it sustainable. Since culture is actually the identity of the nation, we need to find an effective way to attract their interest and make them engaged in learning the traditional culture.
- There are many tourism spots, malls and other public attractions to visit in Jakarta. However, TMII is the only one culture-based tourism park that represents the whole Indonesia. Hence, the Management and Development Body of TMII need to create more creative programs in education and training of intangible cultural heritage. So, it may increase the number of visitors and students in education and training center in each provincial pavilion.
- Lack of qualified human resources regarding the efforts of safeguarding and developing the intangible cultural heritage, especially in transmitting the elements. Therefore, TMII try to send its staffs to follow some training held by the ministry or other organizations related to ICH safeguarding. TMII also held some training and education programs for teachers in education and training center. In addition, the graduated students from the educational and training center in provincial pavilions later also became teachers who continue to transmit his/her knowledge to the next generations.
- TMII is purely non-profit organization. We do not get support from the government or other parties. It is focus on education, development and safeguarding the cultural heritage to the next generations.

Conclusion

During the last 40 years, TMII - as a cultural space for safeguarding, education and development of intangible cultural heritage - has gone through some changes in line with progressive development the dynamics of community life. There were many steps that have been done and also still many to going through. In comparison with the Republic of Korea, Indonesia is still preparing the law and regulations related to the term of intangible heritage safeguarding. Hopefully in the future, after the law and regulation in Indonesia is applied, the government can pay much attention in safeguarding ICH, especially for the bearers who are going to transmit the element to the next generation, and has a transmitter system like the one in Republic of Korea.

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