



Comparative study of Mongolia & Republic of Korea ICH inventory system and the process of the ICH community involvement

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Abstract

Under the framework of implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention, Mongolia has implemented from 2012-2016 ICH related capacity building and safeguarding activities and workshop at national level. State Party has proposed to commence a project "Establishment of a National Inventory and Electronic Database of Mongolian Intangible Cultural Heritage" and generally agreed. However, in order to run this proposed project properly and to get expected results it might be urgent to carry out a small research activity relevant to the community and civil society involvement in the inventorying process. The comparative research activity will preliminary define the current status & analyses of the community based inventorying, (stakeholders) participating institutes, the urgent needed sessions and general guidance on inventorying guideline/procedure for the future.

1. Introduction

Mongolian intangible cultural heritage have evolved through increasingly challenging historical periods, such as socialism and globalization, yet managed to preserve main context, characteristics and values up to date so that they still play a major role within social life of Mongolian people. As a result of Mongolia opened itself to the world and embarked on a new path of new development since 1990, national pride has been revived and so as favorable circumstances created to safeguard and maintain traditional cultural

heritage. The Mongolian Government has directed serious attention in this regard and Mongolians have also demonstrated initiative and efforts to develop their traditional identity features so that substantial measures have been taken to performing arts, social practices, rituals, traditional craftsmanship, knowledge and techniques promote, safeguard and maintain cultural heritage, including oral traditions and folklore respectively.

There is still no specific national law or act particularly focusing on the intangible cultural heritage in whole, there are national laws regarding the protection of cultural heritage. The fundamental legislative act on the given theme is the “Law on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage, approved by the Parliament of Mongolia in 2001 and amended in 2014. This law is based on the other previous legislative instruments, such as The Constitution of Mongolia (1992), the State Policy on Culture (1996), the Law on Culture (1996), and in connection with the other laws in the field of culture, education and arts. And international agreements to which Mongolia is a ratified state party.

The urbanization-taking place in Mongolia has different attributes from the urbanization-taking place in other countries with sedentary civilizations. The change of urbanization taking place in Mongolia is considered not only as a shift from one place to another, but also from one lifestyle to another, from one civilization to another. Thus, the diversity of intangible cultural heritage created from nomadic lifestyle, associated rituals, customs, traditional knowledge, harmonic co-existence of human with nature, and such traditions are in grave danger of perishing.

There is still a lack of awareness rising on the guiding principles of the ICH and its relevant notions for general public, especially in rural area, as well as decision-makers.

2. Background

Mongolia has benefited since 2012 through a cycle of capacity-building activities including implementation, community-based inventorying and elaboration of nomination files, developing safeguarding plans for intangible cultural heritage for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention.

Moreover, Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture and Science started to organize regularly National program on apprenticeship trainings on various ICH elements in all provinces and the capital city so that those activities have contributed significant impacts and outcomes in those areas which evolves necessary update of the Mongolian ICH Inventory.

2.1 Implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention

The study examined what kind of measures Mongolia and Republic of Korea have carried out to implement the convention and who the central actors in the process have been.

The Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage gives each of the state parties the freedom to conduct their own system of inventorying responding to its obligations. The comparative study revealed that there is a large amount of variation in how the different both countries have interpreted the convention nationally. In both studied countries the ministry responsible for culture is in charge of the implementation of the convention therefore, responsible of the inventorying system. The choice of where the responsibility is assigned undoubtedly influences the emphases in the implementation. The work of community based inventorying is however always carried out in cooperation among various institutions and citizens.

The study also examines how intangible cultural heritage has been inventoried in both countries, with what kind of criteria and to what extent. Here national practices vary from one county to another. The greatest differences in the practices have to do with whether the inventorying process has been prepared by smaller expert groups or by communities.

The aim of this comparative study is to provide background information on how the convention has been implemented in Mongolia and Republic of Korea. Another objective is to find interesting examples of intangible cultural heritage community based inventorying system, with the purpose of creating an inventorying process for a model for implementing the convention and fostering intangible cultural heritage more generally as well.

2.2 Parties responsible for inventorying the national intangible cultural heritage

In the Republic of Korea, national inventorying work is the responsibility of the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea (CHA), while in Mongolia the agency responsible for inventorying is the Cultural Heritage Center of Mongolia (CHC). The inventorying work is presumably financed by the ministry governing culture or cultural heritage in both countries. The allocation of responsibility for inventorying work to a specific agency undoubtedly influences what factors are emphasized during the process. For example, both CHC and CHA are specialisedinevitably emphasises differentfactors in its work compared to other cultural houses more widely on different forms of art. Also within the ministry of Culture and Tourism of Korea, close cooperation between cultural and tourism divisions may facilitate wider acceptance of cultural heritage if it is also considered to have positive effects related to tourism and the economy. On the other hand, this type of cooperation may also shift emphasis towards commercial dimensions at the expense of other values. Conversely, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia does not emphasis on science and research in choosing the organisation responsible for safeguarding undoubtedly in needs of strong academic foundation, stay away from the communities. The intangible cultural heritage inventorying process should ideally be carried out in cooperation between various organisations and communities concerned, including universities and youth as well as institutions and associations specialising in intangible heritage or specific forms of art. Yet the participation of these communities in different processes varies significantly. When examining both countries inventorying work, it is difficult to determine exactly how much concerned communities are involved. The materials examined do not reveal how extensively communities have been able to participate in the inventorying processes impacting them, even though this kind of participation is at the very heart of the Convention.

3. Research Goals

3.1 Status report

Gaining some familiarity with Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory under UNESCO 2003 Convention framework, discovering Mongolian and Republic of Korean inventorying entities and their process, particularly focused on community and civil society involvement in the inventorying process while definingthe current status & analyses of the community based inventorying.

3.2 Analyse the achievements and failures

Since the activation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention Mongolia and Republic of Korea have past over than a decade to implement efficiently this Convention and particularly make national ICH Community Based Inventorying (CBI) in line with UNESCO Framework. Both countries located in North East Asian region and considered to be leading and active member state in implementing the 2003 Convention. However today is right time to evaluate the achievements and failures, the advantages and disadvantages of the community based inventorying as an effective step to Safeguard and sustain the intangible cultural heritage. Also analyse the appropriateness of the Inventorying policy under UNESCO 2003 Convention framework as a global language.

Therefore, put forward suitable solution for overcoming those difficulties.

4. Research Methodologies

With those research goals in mind, I have reviewed and drawn upon the available data sources, which are rich in analyses and proposals. I have paid particular attention to understand and include ICH field survey and documentation process of the inventorying activities that influenced the methodology adapted in the three phases of the study, which may demonstrate clearly the community involvement. I have identified a number of professionals working closely in the ICH field from whom information was gathered.

4.1 Identification and use of available data.

In this context I will take existing data and on the results already identified on these various items.

- 2009 Field Survey Report “Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in Mongolia”, ed.ICHCAP
- 2013-2014 Field Survey Report “Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in the Republic of Korea”, ed.ICHCAP
- September 2015, Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory of the Republic of Korea,
- UNESCO database of inventory
- CHC database of inventory
- CHA database of inventory
- Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Mongols, N.Urtnasan, 2013, ed.ICHCAP
- Methodology of establishing the national registration and information database of ICH, 2014, ed.CHC.
- UNESCO Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2014
- Institutions and Policies for ICH safeguarding in Korea / Role of Safeguarding Institutions. 2014 NIHC

4.2 Interviews and survey questionnaire with ICH experts.

- MsArslanSaruul, Head of ICH division, CHC, Mongolia
 - Mr Lee CheolKyu, Chief of Public relations team, NIHC, ROK
- On the basis of responses given in direct discussion by the experts, information was gathered and combined in a study of practices to bring out advantages and disadvantages of the community involvement during inventorying process.

4.3 Inventory survey making within the community in Mongolia

There is no specific national law or act particularly focusing on the intangible cultural heritage in whole, there are national laws regarding the protection of cultural heritage. The fundamental legislative act on the given theme is the “Law on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage, approved by the Parliament of Mongolia in 2001 and amended in 2014. This law is based on the other previous legislative instruments, such as The Constitution of Mongolia (1992), the State Policy on Culture (1996), the Law on Culture (1996), and in connection with the other laws in the field of culture, education and arts. And international agreements to which Mongolia is a party state.

Centre of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia, one of the key institutes for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. In 2009 CCH were launched a national project to establish an extensive database and inventory on the intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia.

The Primary Registration work of ICH was held in 2010 and covered 85 percent of all the administrative units in Mongolia. 283 out of 329 soums of 21 provinces and 9 districts of Ulaanbaatar city were involved. Overall, 88 ICH elements were identified and registered 3,339 individuals were identified as ICH bearers.

Since 2010, CCH is annually organizing the Registration work and covered Covered 329 soums and 9 districts, and increased the number of individuals identified as ICH bearers to 7,923.

The results of the registration census are a valuable asset gathered as a source to further elaborate the short and long term objectives, policies and programs for safeguarding and transmitting ICH.

The national representative list of intangible cultural heritage of Mongolia, incorporating 88 intangible heritage elements; and national list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding of Mongolia, incorporating 16 intangible heritage elements, were elaborated by the key stakeholders in the field of intangible cultural heritage, and were approved by the ordinance No. A41 Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Mongolia, in February 08, 2013.

The identification process of the ICH element is elaborated by three different ways.

- 1/ Recommendation through local authorities;
- 2/ Recommendation through experts and scholars;
- 3/ Through providing choices of free participation by receiving application forms from communities, groups and individuals.

Mongolian ICH inventory questionnaire as proposed in the UNESCO Convention similar with the new model of the CBI survey. However the questionnaire is being in UNESCO global language, CHC and the National committee for designating ICH and the bearers had to adapt to Mongolian nomadic civilization language definition and movement.

Once the identification of the element or bearer is identified, CHC collaborate with academics and local office in charge of cultural affairs for registration and documentation processes and consecrate time to observe and understand the involved community and give the free prior informed consent form, focused on bearers, ICH element, involve in their activities in order to understand and adapt the questionnaires and documenting processes. Then establish the registration and information database.

UNESCO emphasizes the importance of communities, and according to its definition, intangible cultural heritage can only be considered cultural heritage when the communities, groups or individuals who create, preserve or transmit it recognize it as part of their cultural heritage. As such, the term community is extensively used both in the element nominations submitted to UNESCO as well as the national reports pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, even though it is unclear exactly to whom the term refers to in each instance.

Through the interviews, I could notice many issues to overcome the lack of community involvement during the inventorying process.

Encountered challenges are:

- Definition of the term Community, in actual Mongolian herders understanding is more individual or group. Therefore staying often within the same community is not culturally compatible with the pastoral traditions.
- In this process emphasizing the importance of community and involving them while filming or elaborating the questionnaires also encounter its own challenges due to community it self's lacks in knowledge of their own elements and values.
- But the financial provision and rewarding mechanism for the ICH bearers are the number one challenge for the safeguarding of ICH, as each and every resource people addressed these issues. Lack of governmental recognition coherently, this is more to do with the policy makers as they apportion the state budget.

- Lack of technical and other important information tools prevent the communities to involve and express themselves.
- Mongolian climate gets colder and dryer by year, reducing number of herders and leaving behind the pastoral traditions. Climate changing issues is not only affecting the communities but also destroy its eco-systems.

4.4 Filming audiovisual documentation within the community in ROK

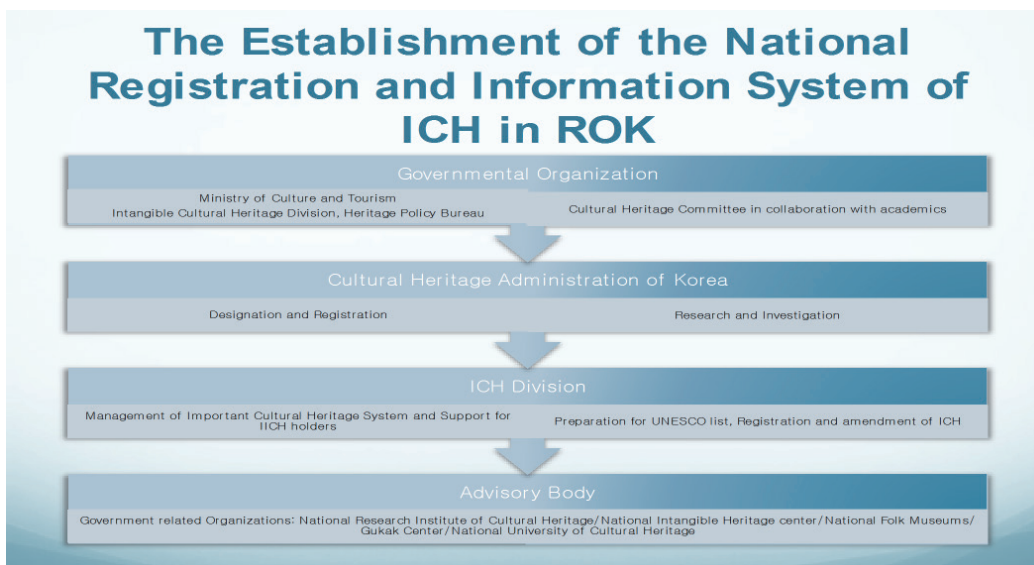
B. Republic of Korea

- The Cultural Heritage Protection Act was enacted in 1962 in Korea.
- 2015 New law focused on utilizing ICH, ex craft sector; ICH bearers system Updated and adopted in June 2016
- CHA = Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea is in charge of the national inventorying

* Reference : <http://www.law.go.kr/main.html>

Cultural Heritage Administration of Republic of Korea is one of the governmental agency specialized in cultural heritage protection. CHA is the decision maker/ making institution regarding all cultural properties. CHA is also responsible for delivering permissions of construction and participate actively in infrastructure domain.

Since 1962, Cultural Heritage Protection Act is valid to all Traditional Cultural Heritages. And CHA is responsible for the national inventory making. Inventory elaboration is made by CHA through close investigation before hand and collaboration with cultural heritage committee and experienced academics. Inventory updates are done by CHA.



Korean Inventory categories have been updated to 7 domains and the intangible assets of Korea have been protected under the leadership of the ROK government for about half a decade. In this process, the government of ROK regards transmitters and bearers not main agents but rather as a community to be supervised while the individual transmitters in the private sector also consider themselves as receivers of governmental support. ROK government is currently establishing a bottom-up safeguarding system for ICH where the participation of the local government is more important than the central government. Therefore ROK is under ongoing process to update the national community based inventory project till 2021. Which will be more in line with UNESCO framework in community involvement.

In this study I have explicitly choose the audiovisual material recording process of the inventory, where most of the work is directly proves the community involvements.

Before commencing an audiovisual recording for inventory process on specific element there`s few preliminary steps to follow;

- Investigation (academically investment)
 - At professional field, CHA will establish a contract or cooperate with specific agency to collect relevant books, photos
 - Documentation project must focus and find interesting points, practitioner`s biography, and his real story. Example of Folding Fun: find where is the raw materials are from and certain knowledge about related materials.
- Filming must not show any opinion therefore show the truth.

All recorded audiovisual materials are available to public through homepage of the NIHC. But only 20min of the documentary is available through website, the longer or full versions are available for professionals such as ICH experts and researchers at archiving hall.

However when it is about the community participants to document themselves via photos or films, there`s few challenges also have been encountered. Such as technical knowledge or skills to be exercise. Most involved communities even local NGO`s lack of fund to start a documentation even at amateur level. Example: does not concentrate the recording on the gestural or hand movements of the craftsman. Community role in documenting is limited due to quality issues. There`s also copyright issues are coming in conflict between the communities.

Documenting the ICH field is far more challenging if not following the technological advancement and innovation that follows. Transition from existing copy to digital version has certain limitation that relives the issue of the original version. ICH elements are in frequent innovation so will be the inventorying process.

5. Analysis of National inventories

The inventorying of intangible cultural heritage has been carried out under different system in each country. In the Republic of Korea inventorying had already commenced prior to the Convention- in ROK such inventories have been compiled as early as the 1960s, while in Mongolia inventorying commenced quickly following ratification. Factors that have had an impact on the inventorying time frame of the both country include the cultural practices of the country in question, the status of cultural institution and the country`s relation with UNESCO. In Mongolian state the historical background-comparatively young country in the field of safeguarding of the ICH- and the lack of financial resources have been delaying the accomplishment of national level inventory work.

The most common procedure has been establish an expert group under the ministry in charge of implementation for the purpose of elaborating process and model for the inventorying, and for choosing

the elements to be included in the inventory. The processes most in line with the Convention involve representatives from the state administration, associations and expert group composed by relevant stakeholders and communities.

Members of the Committee are divided into 6 expert teams in the following fields:

- 1. Cultural theory, history, cultural management, marketing;
- 2. Oral traditions and expressions, including language;
- 3. Performing arts;
- 4. Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- 5. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- 6. Traditional craftsmanship and technique

Mongolian National Committee for Selecting and Designating ICH and its Bearers

- Established in 2009
- The Committee consists of 22 individuals including
 - Director General (Education, Culture and Science Vice-Minister)
 - Deputy-Director (Head of Culture and Art Development Policy Division, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism)
 - Secretary-General (Head of the ICH Protection Division at the Center of Cultural Heritage)
 - Representatives from the NGOs from each field of ICH.

While Mongolia has categorized their inventories into 6 domains based on the intangible cultural heritage domains as proposed in the UNESCO Convention. Similarly the inscription criteria are often the same as those used for UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. ROK has, however, established their own criteria in order to more closely define the categories to be included in their inventories into 7 domains. In many cases the definitions and terminologies are largely open to interpretation. For example, what exactly do terms like "community" or "unique" really mean, and how does it relate to the spirit of the Convention? Similarly, some nationalistic expressions and prides give competition between communities, impression that the spirit of the UNESCO Convention as regards encouraging dialogue which respects cultural diversity may have been lost in translation. If an intangible cultural heritage element is practiced outside of its pre-defined environment and community, does it mean cultural industries? In these examples Mongolia has encountered challenges of the definitions that have different attributes from rural area as nomadic society to urbanization as sedentary civilization. While Korea is facing the challenges to find the "original" of ICH element frequent innovation due to highly developed technology.

At the same time drawing up of national inventories whether they are restricted inventories drawn up by expert groups or online-based inventories open to everyone. Some online inventories are compiled by researchers but accessible to everyone. NIHC make accessible to all public the short version of all video documentations of the inventorying and full version is only available to professionals.

An alternative method is developing in Mongolia as an extensive online inventory supplemented by the communities themselves- such as Mongolian knucklebone shooting association website or Naadam festival organizing committee website- in which the responsibility for the inventorying and keeping the inventory updated is transferred almost exclusively to communities concerned. This method has been first adopted in the Republic of Korea. Then the third option has been to adopt a combination of the two previously mentioned methods. In Mongolia, ministry first compiled a list of all existing inventories of intangible cultural heritage, and then worked together with communities in order to draw up a more concise inventory composed of the country's central intangible cultural heritage elements, as chosen by the communities, associations and experts. Conversely, the Republic of Korea has compiled both a concise national inventory as well as a wiki-based inventory composed of over 30,000 elements. Korean inventorying is not only carried out at the national level but regionally as well, with regional level operators being in charge of their own inventories. This method has the advantage of creating a more comprehensive picture of the entire

country's intangible cultural heritage. Elements included in these regional inventories are then nominated for inclusion in the national inventory. While Mongolian inventorying is centralized and executed through ministry's national cultural offices network by CHC in each region.

Mongolian National ICH inventory activities might be divided by registration cycles:

ROK National ICH inventory activities might be also divided by registration cycles:

Inventorying at the national level is also influenced by how extensively intangible cultural heritage has been previously inventoried in the country or how existing inventories have been incorporated into the process initiated by the Convention. More often than not, the inventories drawn up prior to the ratification of the Convention are "top-down" inventories compiled by experts, which communities have not had much input in. Moreover, such inventories have often been compiled based on the needs of experts, such as archivists – meaning that they are not meant for communities concerned or the general public and thus may not serve the spirit of the Convention. For example in Mongolia it has proved challenging to find the right balance between research-based inventories and the new open operating method that respects communities. Similarly in Korea there are a large number of existing inventories since 1960's, the harmonisation of which into a single inventory is currently being processed till 2021.

6. Conclusions

This comparative study explored that each country has its own challenges and its own way to implement community based inventorying therefore implementing the 2003 Convention depending on their own conditions. If the Europe centered policy of the Convention's language create some disadvantages in specific cases – nomadic civilization; which community to belong? How to make an inventory mapping?– Convention's global language generally has more advantages to be adapted by any nation, culture and create inter-cultural dialogue. Current Global (UNESCO) inappropriateness of the community based inventorying policy and implementation measures on ICH under UNESCO 2003 Convention framework at national and regional levels are only possible with strong support of the government but also raise general public awareness and attention in isolated rural areas. And how about the transfer to the urban area? The Convention's policy intend to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of the communities for their own benefices and sustainability of the elements however we need to implement very efficient and short way of awareness raising and capacity building activities at the decision makers level and isolated community level. We must open the discussions on what the UNESCO Convention policy has to innovate and offer for those countries facing financial and climate changing issues. We need to establish or propose a new concept at sub-regional or common cultural area level based inventorying policy and implementation measures in line with the particularity of the region.