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## CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Congratulations on publishing Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bhutan through the collaborative efforts of Korea and Bhutan!

Published with funding from Korea's ODA budget, the book is a product of the past four years of mutual cooperation between the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP), with support from the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea, and the Bhutanese Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.

Early on, in 1962, the Korean government, well aware of the value and importance of intangible cultural heritage, enacted the Cultural Properties Protection Act and has been taking the lead in the field of cultural heritage safeguarding and transmission. Later on, Korea joined the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and has since been making considerable efforts to support safeguarding and research activities regarding the intangible cultural heritage in other countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Since 2011, Korea has been enthusiastically supporting the activities of ICHCAP, a UNESCO Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region.

Created as part of that effort, Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bhutan will serve as an important resource for establishing the identity of traditional Bhutanese culture because the cultural heritage, especially that which is intangible, is a reflection of humanity, of every community's philosophy of life, their set of the beliefs, and the manner they go about their daily lives.

Numerous countries in Asia and the Pacific were relatively slow to be exposed to the influences of Western industrialization, and even as late as the final years of the twentieth century had been successful in preserving their traditions and intangible cultural heritage. In the twenty-first century, however, influenced by the rapid progress in information technology and exchange of goods across borders, our common heritage is losing its original form, sometimes even vanishing, at an alarmingly dangerous speed.

Traditional cultures in their original form serve as positive proof of the development, evolution of human civilization, making the process of cultural archiving an imperative precondition to ensure a prosperous future for humankind. I believe it is highly meaningful, therefore, to compile a reference book as part of an effort to archive the intangible cultural heritage of Bhutan.

Like the beauty of Bhutanese architecture that incorporates and blends in with its surrounding nature, the archived records of the intangible cultural heritage of Bhutan, I hope, will also secure its position as a cultural resource that is appreciated by the world.

I express my sincere gratitude to the experts from both countries and ICHCAP for your hard work and dedication in making this book a reality.

Rha Sun-hwa



Administrator  
Cultural Heritage Administration  
Republic of Korea