

FOREWORD

I would like to offer my congratulations on publishing *Intangible Cultural Heritage of Tajikistan* and to extend my gratitude to my Tajikistan colleagues who were involved in this publication.

Since 2010, ICHCAP and four Central Asian countries have carried out cooperative projects for promoting, understanding, and raising awareness about ICH and ICH safeguarding in Central Asia. This project, *Publishing an ICH and Society Book in Tajikistan*, was implemented as a part of the second three-year project, *Raising the Visibility of ICH in Central Asia*, in collaboration with the Research Institute of Culture and Information in Tajikistan.

This book, which has a significant meaning for safeguarding ICH, would not have been possible without the dedication of numerous people, and I would like to express my appreciation to those ICH practitioners and communities who contributed. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Sh. Orumbekzoda, Director-General of the Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO, for his efforts from the very inception of the project. I am also grateful to Dr. Rahimov D. who contributed to editing and categorizing various articles and wrote the introduction.

I am certain that all the articles under the seven themes, Oral Tradition, Performing Arts, Traditional Celebrations and Ritual, Traditional Knowledge and Social Practice, Traditional Folk Crafts, Traditional Food, Traditional Sports and Children Games, will help our readers to understand more about Tajikistan intangible cultural heritage that is transmitted through generations and is still much a part of Tajikistan people's lives.

I hope this book will be recognized as an important resource of Tajik ICH and used not only by Central Asian researchers and educators but also by anyone interested in safeguarding and transmitting the Tajik ICH.



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