

# FOREWORD

It is truly a joy and an honor to be given the opportunity to write the foreword for the publication entitled *Intangible Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan*, which contains broad and detailed information on Uzbekistan intangible cultural heritage. This book is the product of the past three years of shared efforts between National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO and International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP).

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 Promotional Book in Uzbekistan*, was implemented as a part of the second three-year project, *Raising the Visibility of ICH in Central Asia*.

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 apprecia-

tion to those ICH practitioners and communities who contributed. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Alisher Ikramov, Secretary-General of National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, for his efforts from the very inception of the project.

I am certain that 120 articles under the five themes, Oral Traditions and Forms of expression, Performing Arts, Customs, Ceremonies and Festivals, Knowledge and Customs related to Nature and Universe, Knowledge and Skills related to Traditional Crafts will help our readers to understand more about Uzbekistan ICH that is transmitted through generations and is still much a part of Uzbekistan people's lives.

I hope this book will be recognized as an important resource of Uzbekistan ICH and used not only by Central Asian researchers and educators but also by anyone interested in safeguarding and transmitting the Uzbekistan ICH. Furthermore, I believe that this book will become an opportunity to broadly spread the importance of ICH safeguarding.



**Kwon Huh**

Director-General

International Information and Networking Centre  
for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region  
under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP)