



**Comparative Study
on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory-Making and
Designation Process
in Thailand and the Republic of Korea**

Ratchada Sukka

Cultural Officer

Department of Cultural Promotion,

Ministry of Culture

Thailand

Thailand



Thailand

Comparative Study on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory-Making and Designation Process in Thailand and the Republic of Korea

Abstract

On 16th June 2016 Thailand ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. Since then, and in order to meet the requirements of the Convention, Thailand has made considerable efforts to work more closely with stakeholders, government agencies and local communities. Regulatory bodies, as well as the Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act B.E. 2559 (2016) have been established in order to regulate, advise, consider and grant approvals for policies and plans, and to issue the rules in connection with the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) activities.

In order to raise awareness on the value and wisdom of ancestors, to promote cultural pride and identity of communities across the country as well as to protect the ICH in the country; registering the ICH to the Intangible Cultural Heritage's database Inventory either at the national level or the provincial level, would be a tool to increase attention and awareness from Thais to understand the importance, value and significance of our ICH.

This report intends to compare the ICH Inventory-making and designation process in Thailand, with the model used in the Republic of Korea. This will allow for analysis of the similarities and differences between the two systems. It will also assist with disclosure of best practice that will benefit the Thai system in engaging with ICH Inventory. Moreover, the challenges and future effort to Inventory-making and designation process in Thailand and the Republic of Korea will be elaborated for the lesson learned.

Introduction

Thailand is a country in Southeast Asia that is rich with natural resources, arts, live performances, festivals, cultural rituals and traditions. According to CNN Travel (CNN, 2018) Thailand is one of the world's quint essential paradise destinations where there is a variety of natural sceneries, cooking, and both modern and ancient lifestyles.

The Department of Cultural Promotion (DCP), Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Thailand recognizes the importance of safeguarding Thailand's ICH. In order to do so the DCP has started researching, preserving, promoting, recreating and developing activities and innovation for safeguarding the ICH; especially the local cultural heritage and wisdom. The DCP has also launched policies, strategies, measures, projects and activities to respond to this urgent safeguarding mission.

With reference to Article 2 of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2003) (Further Convention) *"Intangible Cultural Heritage"* means *"the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith –that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity"*. From this meaning ICH refers to activities that are exercised within communities and are transmitted from generation to generation. However as time passes by latter generations may not see the importance of such activities and this can lead to a shortage of local wisdom.

Thus the reason we should raise awareness in safeguarding our ancestors' wisdom is so we can maintain and recreate such invaluable knowledge and skills. Safeguarding then will be a significant term we use to describe the whole process, or measures we exercise to protect the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Follow the definition of the UNESCO, *"Safeguarding"* 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 educations, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage"* (UNESCO, 2003).

According to the Convention, each country is required to conduct Inventory. The Inventory will be a means of identification with a view to safeguarding and understanding its own situation. The numbers of Inventory in each territory do not matter unless they are regularly updated (UNESCO, 2013).

For Thailand, the DCP has carried out the Inventory project for ICH in Thailand since 2005. Currently, there are 335 elements registered with the DCP on the national intangible cultural heritage list.

Although Thailand has been attentive to ICH and has inscribed ICH elements in the country, the challenges in modernization, economics and access to education affects the sustainability of ICH and bring an element of risk in the near future (DCP, 2018).

This Research is intended to study the Inventory-making process in Thailand and the Republic of Korea respectively. By looking at each aspect in Inventory process (regulatory bodies for the ICH approval and designation process, institutional infrastructures, ICH domains, ICH Inventory system as well as community's involvement); best practices in that specific area will be attracted and discussed for the lesson learnt for further improvement. Thus, Thailand is able to prepare to cope with the challenges and enrich efforts in ICH Inventory-making and designation process in the country.

Research Methodology

This research will be conducted by using both primary and secondary data. For primary data, semi-structured interview methods with a number of questions will be used to gather information from experts and staff in local government in Thailand, and NIHC and ICHCAP in Republic of Korea. The secondary data collection for both countries will include publications, magazines, books, research papers and reliable websites. In addition, modern social media, email and phone calls will also be used for interviews and during the collection of data and information.

This paper will firstly give an introduction about ICH circumstances in Thailand and the Republic of Korea, and, the situation after ratification of the Convention. Following the comparative study on ICH Inventory-making and designation process (including ICH domains, ICH Inventory system, regulatory bodies, process of doing Inventory, status of national elements, designation process and community involvement etc) this paper will elaborate the similarities and differences of the two systems. Then, an example of ICH element in each country will be given. Finally, the paper will come up with the conclusion and recommendation to explain the lesson learnt from the study.

Part I: The situation on ICH safeguarding in Thailand and the Republic of Korea and the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention

Although the Convention was established in 2003 Thailand did not ratify the Convention until 2016. Nowadays, there are 178 members, and Thailand is the 171st country member. Thus, Thailand has to put in a great deal of effort to work to the Convention and to register Thai wisdom ICH under the UNESCO's list. Following the operational guideline of the Convention, Thailand conducted programs such as researches, promotion and perseveration of ICH to develop and prepare staff in conducting the Inventory

by the UNESCO's operative guideline. Also, Thailand has subsequently revised laws and regulations and set up working groups, committee and sub committees to monitor and provide recommendation on the relevant issues. Rules and procedures in doing Inventory together with Inventory-making forms were established to meet International Standards. The domains of ICH has been revised from 7 domains to 6 domains; by merging the Folk Literature and Languages. The domains will be elaborated in the next chapter.

The Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act B.E. 2559 (2016) was established with the purpose that ICH is the vital and invaluable treasures created, collected, fostered and transmitted from generation to generation. However, intangible cultural heritage has been ruined from both internal and external changes such as modernization, higher education, technologies and inappropriate using. This causes the decreasing appearance of ICH. Thus, it is urgent to have the act to continue the sustainability of our nation's ICH (DCP, 2016).

The DCP is responsible for carrying out cultural research and the promotion and perseverance of ICH. In fact, involvement of public participation in order to conserve, rehabilitate, inherit, protect, and safeguard the custom, wisdom, arts and culture as well as reinforce the proper social values is the main issue now. (DCP, 2018).

In 2017, Thailand has nominated Khon, masked dance drama as a representative list and currently still in process of consideration. In fact, Thailand has prepared the lists to nominate in the coming years.

The Republic of Korea recognized the importance of ICH many decades ago. Korea established the first Cultural Heritage Promotion Act in 1962 and ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention in 2005. Korea has effectively strengthened the safeguarding policies and management system.

In 2015, Act on the safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage Act No. 13248, Mar. 27, 2015 was enacted to work in accordance with the Convention. A well-framed policy framework and ICH safeguarding system was established. In addition, the act was amendment and enforced in 2017 [Enforcement Date 21. Jun, 2017.] [Act No.14434, 20. Dec, 2016., Partial Amendment] Until now, Korea has 19 elements including 2 multi nomination files on the Representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under the UNESCO (CHA, 2018).

Following the establishment of ICH Act, many legal bases were changed. The main ideas of these changes appears as follow:

1. Expansion of ICH safeguarding; the act has expanded the scope of ICH, including traditional knowledge, oral culture, and traditional ways of life, in addition to existing craft and performance art skill.

2. Designation of National ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; the Korean government established a legal basis for designation of national ICH in need of urgent safeguarding. ICH in danger of disappearance can be designated as National ICH in need of urgent safeguarding to receive comprehensive support.

3. Variation of Transmission system; the transmission system includes both transmission education based on apprenticeship and through university education. So, this can ensure the future successors.

4. Enhancement of Traditional Craft Product Certification System and Bank of Traditional Craft Products; the system is introduced to enhance customer trust and sales in traditional craft products. Many craft projects and grand exhibition for Korean ICH have been carried out to vitalize local economy through job creation.

5. Successor Evaluation and Certification; it is issued by NIHC under Cultural Heritage Administration in order to increase transparency and fairness. Elements for evaluation are selected bases on demand surveys of holders and successors of the elements are evaluated after submitting their evaluation application (ICHCAP, ICH Sub-Regional Network Meeting in South Asia, research paper presented by Mr. Yang Jinjo, 2017).

As clearly stated in the law, the purpose of ICH safeguarding is cultivating of national identity, transmission and development of traditional culture, and realization and enhancement of value of intangible cultural heritage (Act on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage cited by Dronjic, 2017). The current Korean law is oriented toward cultural sustainability by safeguarding and promoting the ICH (Jihon Kim and Sungtae Nam, 2016).

Part II. Comparative Study on the ICH Inventory - Making and Designation Process in Thailand and the Republic of Korea

This report will focus on comparative study of Regulatory Bodies, Designation Process, ICH domains, process of Inventory-making, Inventory system and the involvement of communities in doing such Inventory.

Regulatory Bodies for the ICH approval and Designation Process in both Countries

The ICH Inventory-making and designation process in Thailand are carried out and monitored by the Ministry of Culture. DCP will be responsible as the secretary to the Promotion and Preservation of ICH Commission under the Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act. The DCP compiles the preliminary list for each province and review the important ICH before passing to the commission for consideration.

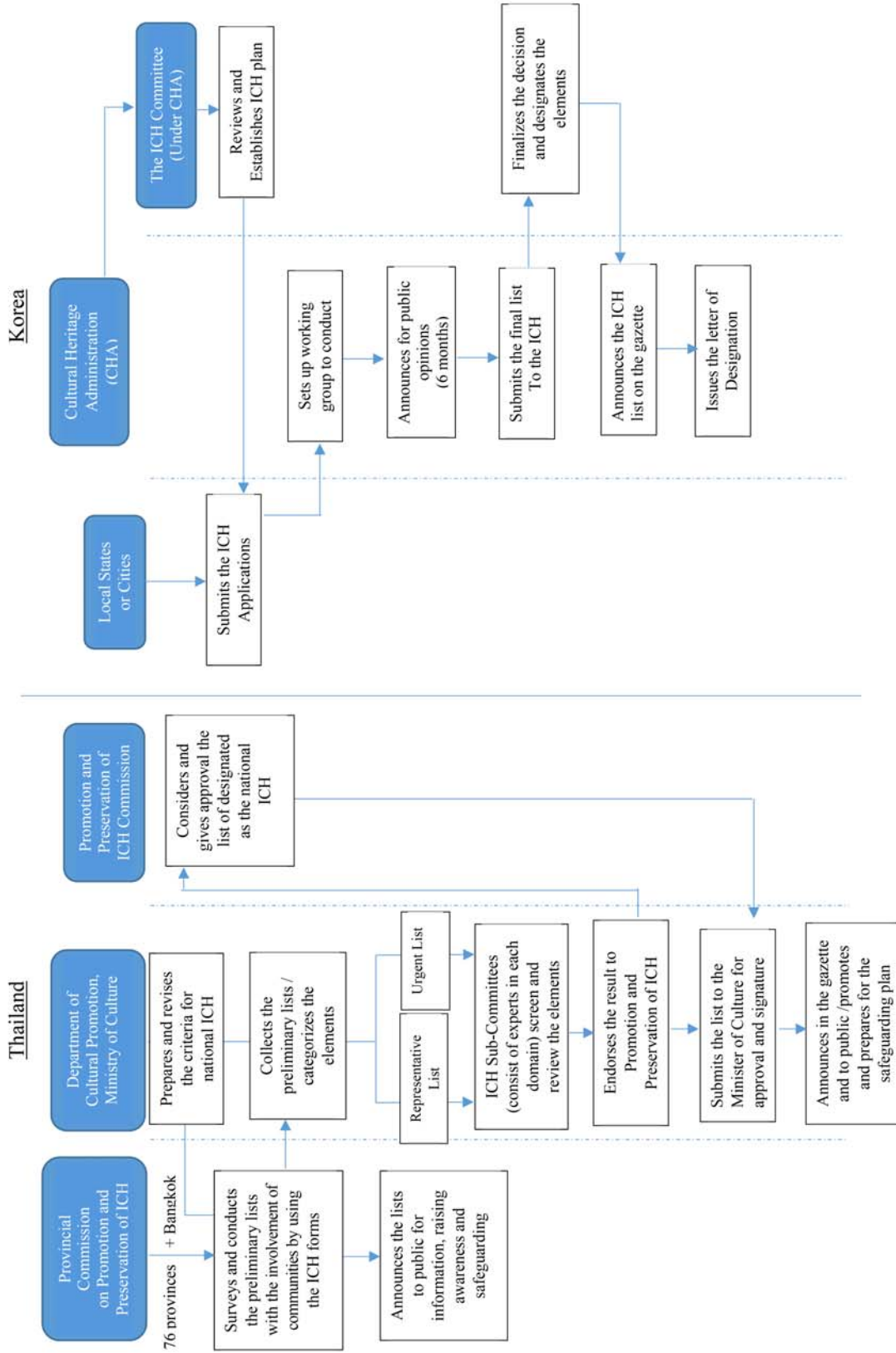
For the Republic of Korea, the Policy relating to ICH and designation of the ICH is prepared and conducted by Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) before submitting to the Cultural Heritage Committee for final consideration.

The following table and chart are summarized to explain the regulatory bodies, functions, list of related laws and regulations as well as the designation process in Thailand and the Republic of Korea. It can be seen that both countries have similar top-down policy which means that the central government will design and prepare criteria for ICH inscription as well as finalize the ICH designation. Local governments and communities need to comply with the procedure established by the state government.

Summary of Regulatory Bodies for Safeguarding ICH in Thailand and the Republic of Korea

Thailand			The Republic of Korea		
Regulatory Bodies	Functions	Regulations/Acts	Regulatory Bodies	Functions	Regulations/Acts
Cultural Promotion, Ministry of Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes the cultural contents and activities and enhances participation of civil society to conserve, rehabilitate, inherit, protect, and safeguard the custom, wisdom, arts and culture as well as reinforce the proper social values - Secretariat to the Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Commission 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act, 2016 2. Regulations of Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage on Criteria for Preliminary Listing of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2017 	Cultural Heritage Administration under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to safeguard the integrity of the cultural traditions of Korea and enhance the cultural life of Korean people - manages important cultural properties, which were designated as State or City/Province-designated Cultural Heritage. - registers particular cultural properties that require special attention for conservation as Registered Cultural Heritage. - Conducts researches and international cooperation on cultural heritage - reviews and establishes plans for national ICH designation - Identifies, reviews and approve the ICH elements 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2016 2. Regulation of national ICH element designation and holder deification 3. Regulations on Management of National Lists 4. Regulations on Provision and Management of National ICH Transmission Aids
Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considers, reviews, give recommendations and advices and approves the plans, programs or activities concerning Intangible Cultural Heritage 				
Provincial Commission on Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gathers and prepares preliminary lists of ICH of the country - Propose policies, plans and actions for promotion and conservation of ICH 				

ICH Designation Process in Thailand and the Republic of Korea



In addition, the institutional infrastructures in both countries involving in implementation of the Convention and undertaking ICH work is as follows;

Issues	Thailand	The Republic of Korea *
Governmental organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Culture - Department of Cultural Promotion (DCP) - Institution of Cultural Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism - Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) - Heritage Policy Bureau - Intangible Cultural Heritage Division
Associated organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fine Art Department - Bunditpatanasilpa Institute - Prince Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center - Cultural Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Intangible Heritage Center - International Information and Networking Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific The region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) - National Gugak Center
Education Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bunditpatanasilpa Institute - Office of Traditional Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korean National University of Cultural Heritage - Korean National University of Arts - National Middle & High School of Traditional Korean Arts
Research Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prince Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage (NRICH) - Art Research of Intangible Cultural Heritage
NGOs	(No accredited NGOs under the UNESCO in Thailand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter-City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network (ICCN) - International Mask Arts & Culture Organization (IMACO) - Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation (CHF) - World Martial Arts Union (WoMAU) - The Center for Intangible Cultural Studies (CICS)
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tai Lue association - Cultural Promotion Fund - The Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Technique of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand (SUPPORT Foundation) - Lek - Prapai Foundation (support for local museum) - Luang Pradit Phairoh Foundation (support for Traditional Music) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation - Korea Craft and Design Foundation - National Intangible Cultural Heritage Association - Korean Traditional Performing Arts Foundation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter Mountain Peoples' Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT Association (support for Inter Mountain People) - Arts Association for Youth in Office of National Cultural Commission (AAYONCC) 	
Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Supreme Artist Hall - National Museum Bangkok - National Gallery - Ratchadamnoen Contemporary Art Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Palace Museum of Korea - National Folk Museum of Korea

Source: * Jihon Kim and Sungtae Nam. National Response to International Conventions: The Case of the 2003 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and the New Korean Legislation. Journal of International and Area Studies.

ICH Domains

The below table shows the ICH domains according to Convention and the ICH domains in Thailand and the Republic of Korea.

2003 Convention	Thailand	Korea
<p><u>5 domains</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage 2. Performing arts 3. Social practices, Rituals and festive events 4. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe 5. Traditional craftsmanship. 	<p><u>6 Domains</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Folk literature and Languages 2. Performing arts 3. Social practices, Rituals and festive events 4. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe 5. Traditional craftsmanship. 6. Folk Games and Sports and Martial Arts 	<p><u>7 Domains</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional performance & Arts 2. Traditional skills concerning crafts, art, etc. 3. Traditional knowledge concerning Korean medicine, agriculture, fishery, etc. 4. Oral traditions and expressions 5. Traditional ways of life concerning food, cloth, cultural space, etc. 6. Rituals and Ceremony 7. Traditional Games, Festival and practical and Martial Arts

Referring to the Convention, ICH in each country is not mandatory to classify domain according to the Convention. Each country can categorize ICH domains depend on its own circumstances.

In fact, a single ICH elements can be classified for multiple domains; for example, Khon, a Royal

drama dance in Thailand. It also integrates several performing arts including traditional music, dances, songs, clothing and martial art. So, it is not fixed that one item should be classified in the same domain or element in another location. Although, a traditional community ceremony is perceived as a form of ritual; in another community it may be perceived as a form of song. Thus, the boundaries between domains are extremely fluid and often vary from community to community. That is why each country can set a different system of domains (UNESCO, 2018).

ICH Inventory System

According to the Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act, Thailand has implemented Inventory from the local level. 76 Provincial Cultural Offices and Bangkok Metropolis together with Cultural Councils in each province will make a preliminary listing of ICH. Also, it is stated in the Regulations of Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH on Criteria for Preliminary Listing of ICH 2017 that these local organisations shall work with communities and or people involved in surveying the ICH for a preliminary listing of ICH. The survey of ICH according to the Form mentioned in the regulations shall be at least conducted to obtain information as follows;

- (1) Nature of the ICH
- (2) Brief details about the ICH
- (3) Practice area of the ICH
- (4) People practising and carrying on the ICH
- (5) Status of the persistence of ICH

(Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act and Regulations of Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH on Criteria for Preliminary Listing of ICH, DCP, 2017)

Further, the preliminary listing of ICH will be submitted to the DCP. The DCP by the ICH

Sub-Committees (consist of experts in each domain) will screen and review the list before endorse to the Promotion and Preservation of ICH Commission for final consideration. The criteria for the national ICH according to the Regulations of Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH on Criteria for consideration of the National list of ICH, 2017 are as follows;

- (1) ICH Characteristics according Declaration of Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH on Characteristics of ICH, 2017
- (2) Practice area of the ICH in the territory of Thailand
- (3) Outstanding Identity of local community or the nation
- (4) Continuous in practice and transmission or at risk
- (5) Historical, academic, artistic, moral, creative values or deserve for preservation

(6) Significant evidence of the ICH

(7) Consent of the local community

In fact, the National ICH will be classified into 2 specific categories which are representative and urgent lists Regulations of Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH on Criteria for consideration of the National list of ICH, 2017 DCP, 2017).

For the Representative list, the criteria are as follows;

(1) ICH Characteristics according to Declaration of Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH on Characteristics of ICH, 2017

(2) The element will benefit and help in cultural learning and exchanging, reflect the diversity of culture and creativity of the nation

(3) Measures provided for the transmission and safeguarding

(4) Widest participation of community, groups and individuals

(5) Listed in the current preliminary listing that can identify location, area, involved community.

For the Urgent list, can be classified into 2 cases

(1) The element that is urgent to safeguarding due to at risk situation, but still protecting by the community, groups or individuals

(2) The element that is urgent to safeguarding due to encounter threatening and it will no longer exist if there are no safeguarding measures.

For the Republic of Korea, the typology of inventories in Korea is a two-tiers system. One is the national Inventory which is designated by the state. It is called "Important Intangible Cultural Properties". This Inventory is managed by the central government by the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA). The second one is city and province Inventory which is designate and managed by local authorities. For the national level, there are two ways of national Inventory-making; (1) the local government will send obligation to the state government request for ICH Inventory conducting or; (2) the central government itself recommend the element to be registered. In both cases, the state government will send researchers to conduct and survey the element and report to the committee for final consideration.

According to the Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage [Enforcement Date 21. Jun, 2017.] [Presidential Decree No.27992, 18. Apr, 2017., Partial Amendment], The criteria for national designation are as follows;

a) Historic Value

b) Academic value

c) Artistic value

d) Technical value

- e) The representativeness of Korean traditional culture
- f) The maintenance from generation to generation without harming its authentic value

Korea also pays attention to ICH holders or bearers as successors. They are three levels of successors including a holder, assistant instructor of successor training and certified trainee. The national ICH holders will be awarded as "master living human treasure".

Though Korea has classified ICH into 2 levels which is good for administration and coordination of works between the central and local governments. However, it seems that national ICH is preferential benefits. It means the government tend to value and prioritize activities to national ICH (Jihon Kim and Sungtae Nam, 2016).

Status of National ICH Elements

Thailand has inventoried in 2009 before ratification of the Convention. The establishment of the ICH Inventory is determined to ensure adequate safeguarding of national ICH. However, due to the amendment of the ICH law, it caused a short break during 2016-2017. According to the DCP, until now, Thailand has 336 elements that are registered as National ICH.

The Republic of Korea has inventoried since 1964. Until now, there are 140 elements for the Important Intangible Cultural Properties (NIHC, 2018). The following tables are the details of both Thailand and Korea current status of National ICH:

Referring to the Convention, ICH in each country is not mandatory to classify domain according to the Convention. Each country can categorize ICH domains depend on its own circumstances.

In fact, a single ICH elements can be classified for multiple domains; for example, Khon, a Royal drama dance in Thailand. It also integrates several performing arts including traditional music, dances, songs, clothing and martial art. So, it is not fixed that one item should be classified in the same domain or element in another location. Although, a traditional community ceremony is perceived as a form of ritual; in another community it may be perceived as a form of song. Thus, the boundaries between domains are extremely fluid and often vary from community to community. That is why each country can set a different system of domains (UNESCO, 2018).

The designation National ICH in Thailand, as of April 2018

Domains/Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2018	Total
1. Folk literature and Languages	-	15	5	14	9	10	5	1	59
2. Performing arts	12	6	5	13	15	10	6	3	70
3. Social practices, Rituals and festive events	-	-	5	7	10	8	6	5	41
4. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe	-	-	5	11	9	10	4	3	42
5. Traditional craftsmanship.	13	3	5	11	10	10	5	3	60
6. Folk Games and Sports and Martial Arts	-	1	5	8	6	10	4	3	37
7. Languages (<i>merged with Folk literature since 2018</i>)	-	-	-	6	9	10	2	-	27
Total	25	25	30	70	68	68	32	18	336

Source: Department of Cultural Promotion, 2018

The status of National ICH Element and Successor, as of April 2018

Type		Category	Traditional Performance & Art	Traditional Craftsmanship	Traditional Way of Life	Ritual & Ceremony	Traditional Games & Martial Arts	Traditional Knowledge	Oral Tradition & Expression	Total
		Designated	Element	39	51	5	15	16	2	-
	Sub-element	46	51	7	18	16	2	-	140	
Successor	Holder	66	66	4	15	18	-	-	169	
	Assistant Instructor of Successor Training	173	49	1	37	28	-	-	288	
	Certified Trainee	4,470	620	31	480	588	-	-	6,189	
	Total	4,709	735	36	532	634	-	-	6,646	
	Group Holder	32	1	1	18	14	-	-	66	
Honorary Holder		5	5	-	3	3	-	-	16	
Successor Scholarship Recipient		16	51	-	-	1	-	-	68	

Source: National Intangible Heritage Center, 2018

Communities involvement in Inventory - Making and Designation Process

Referring to the 2003 Convention preamble, it is stated that "*communities, in particular indigenous communities, groups and, in some case, individuals, play an important role in the production, safeguarding, maintenance, and re-creation of the intangible cultural heritage, thus helping to enrich diversity and human creativity*" (UNESCO,2003). In Addition, Community involvement in the documentation or Inventory process of ICH is highlighted in Article 11, paragraph (b) of the 2003 Convention. It reflects that in the process of ICH Inventory making and documentation, it is strongly suggested to involve ICH bearers and community members in the field, including groups and individuals to brainstorm rather than undertaking the work by a few academicians or experts in an office. The Convention, thus, encourages each country to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain, and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management. (UNESCO, 2003).

Communities are regarded as beneficiaries; thus, communities should be involved as owner of ICH. Communities will help in safeguarding ICH as living heritage. Although the community involvement varies from country to country; common community involvement according to UNESCO's guideline should include the following actions:

- Fully informing the community concerned before and during the Inventorying process
- Obtaining the consent of the community concerned for each major step in the Inventorying processes
- Ensuring data collection is conducted by the community, or at least including practitioners and other community experts as equal partners in documentation teams;
- Taking decisions about the archiving of and access to data collected; and
- Establishing and implementing Inventory monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, including the updating of Inventory entries (UNESCO Capacity-Building Workshop on Community-based ICH Inventory, ICHCAP, 2018)

Thailand and Korea have the same process of community involvement. As the community has the sense of ownership of their ICH, so the researchers or government officers need to have a tight relationship with the community. However, the central government may not contact the community directly but will have the intermediate groups that are in charge to deal with the community. In the case of Thailand, the provincial cultural officers and cultural associations will be the groups that have a close relationship with the community. Whereas Korea, researchers in that specific element will work on the field and report back to the central government.

Community in Thailand/Korea involve in various activities in ICH safeguarding from documentation, Inventory-making, designation and nomination process. One of the most important

activities is to provide safeguarding measures for ICH in their communities. Ultimately, consent of the community is the vital agreement needed in all activities.



Example of ICH Elements in Thailand and the Republic of Korea

Thailand: Khon, Mask dance drama of Thailand

Khon is a highly-refined performing art that combines multiple artistic elements: musical, vocal, literary, dance, ritual and handicraft. It may have combined features of ancient genres: court ritual, martial art, and the shadow play. Thus, Khon can be categorised into various domains such as oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events and traditional craftsmanship

Khon tells the story of Ramakien - the localised Thai version of the Ramayana epic. There are many episodes depict the life of Rama, his journey in the forest, his army of monkeys, the fights with the army of Thosakan (Ravana), king of the giants, and his final victory. The dancers wear elaborately embroidered costumes. The giants and monkeys all wear masks that cover their entire head. The colours and shape of each mask are unique to each character.

Khon is well-known and recognised as a sophisticated dramatic genre all over the country. However training, performance, and artistic excellence are located mainly in Bangkok. Traditionally Khon was transmitted in the royal or princely courts, and households of dance masters. The



copyright@ Department of Cultural Promotion

transmission today takes place mostly in education institutions.

In recent years, Khon has become more widely known after Her Majesty Queen Sirikit began to sponsor a revival of the highly refined style of Khon, and its related arts. It creates a venue for old masters to train young dancers and musicians to perfection.

Khon performances under the SUPPORT Foundation premiered in 2007 and scheduled more than 50 shows annually. These performances foster greater interest and public support for Khon. The Queen's Khon has inspired more young people to become part of the Khon community.



copyright@ Department of Cultural Promotion

Ministry of Culture inscribed Khon as intangible cultural heritage on September 19th 2009. It is also contained within the intangible cultural heritage Inventory of the Promotion and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act, B.E. 2559 (2016) which was announced in the Government Gazette in 2016. Moreover, Researchers, scholars, artists, and relevant groups have attempted to bring Khon to national and international awareness and recognition. In 2017, Thailand nominated Khon for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. (Khon information from the DCP, Nomination file No. 001385 for inscription in 2018 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity)

Republic of Korea: Arirang, lyrical folk song in the Republic of Korea

Arirang is a popular folk song beloved by Korean people that even include expatriate Koreans around the world. Koreans can sing Arirang as it inhabits a special place in their culture and community life no matter where they live. Arirang is a Korean ICH which involves in 2 domains including oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage and

performing arts. Arirang is essentially a simple song, consisting of the universal refrain Arirang, arirang, arariyo, and lyrics that have developed differently from region to region.

The most typical lines express a universal sentiment: Experts estimate the total number of folk songs



copyright@ Korean Traditional Performing Arts Foundation

carrying the title "Arirang" at some 3,600 variations belonging to about 60 versions.

The lyrics were not created by any particular individual, but an outcome of collective contributions made by ordinary Koreans through generations. They convey joys and sorrows of common people arising from love, parting with the beloved, troublesome in-laws, or national struggle against foreign invaders. The song helped relieve the strain of labor on steep slopes, and added joy to the swaying

shoulder at parties. Arirang became a way to express the hardship and relieve the stress. The song contains the emotional landscape of the people who live in poverty but always maintained hope.



copyright@ Korean Traditional Performing Arts Foundation

Most Koreans learn Arirang from the cradle, but its widespread popularity as the nation's most representative folk song is also due to its consistent presence in their everyday lives and extensive public education programs.

Arirang in pre-modern times conveyed the joys and sorrows of commoners in traditional society. During the colonial period, it gave expression to personal and national sufferings of Koreans and fanned hopes for independence in their hearts. Those hopes and aspirations, carried on the wings of a people's song, ensured the transmission of Arirang from generation to generation as a living cultural legacy.

Today, Arirang serves to unite Korean people. The unified team of South and North Korea sang Arirang as they marched together in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The "Red Devils," passionate supporters of the Korean national football team, sang it day after day during the 2002 Korea-Japan World Cup. Arirang has thus been perceived as an evocative hymn with the power to unite the Korean people in moments of vital national significance.

In doing Inventory for designation of Arirang, a team of seven experts in Arirang, all members of the Korean Folk Song Association, was entrusted with writing up the nomination based on their research results as well as reports and related resource materials offered by safeguarding groups and citizens. From August to December 2011, the team held a series of meetings and interviews with concerned individuals and groups to discuss ways to present the current state of Arirang most clearly and efficiently so it can be easily understood by those without prior knowledge of the song.

Arirang was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2014. In nominating the file, letters of endorsement were received from the heads of 12 provincial and metropolitan governments as representatives of the residents in their respective administrative regions, and the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, as the supervisor of the nation's highest-level public institution responsible for cultural and arts administration.



copyright@ Korean Traditional Performing Arts Foundation

Each of these organizations offered reference materials about safeguarding and transmission activities for Arirang under their respective jurisdiction. In addition, letters of endorsement were also received from groups engaged in transmission and safeguarding of Arirang, research and education, as well as nationally and locally recognized "living human treasures" endowed with the responsibility to teach the song and pass it down to future generations. (Arirang Information from CHA, Nomination file no. 00445 for Inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2012, CHA)

Part III. Challenges and Future Efforts

In ICH Inventory making, designation process, Thailand has to overcome many challenges. Although Thailand launched the new ICH law to comply with the Convention, there is still a long way to go in comparison to Korea. It is not easy to achieve all the necessary information from any single organisation. So, it is always a great challenge to create partnerships amongst government organisation, communities, and stakeholders to manage and share information about the ICH element. The government should develop more linkage to the community by fostering a network through activities (both formal and informal), and, more on site activities.

Korea also amended the ICH in order to move forward in ICH safeguarding and expand wider channel and opportunity for ICH safeguarding. In fact, Korea has focused on holders of ICH more than Thailand has which can be seen from the systematic successor plan that is prepared for the future practitioners of ICH. The following table shows the SWOT analysis of the ICH safeguarding in both countries.

As Thailand only recently ratified the Convention, Thailand has planned the national roadmap for ICH safeguarding the future. By looking at the 20 years' Cultural Plan and the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021), Thailand has focused on the importance of raising awareness of local identity and value the wisdom of the nation. In addition, using culture and tradition to sustain and give value added to local products. Not only the Ministry of Culture itself but together with Ministry of Tourism and Sports and relegated agencies, synergizing in enhancement of the cultural creativities for the sustainability of the country. Currently, the Ministry of Culture has working on 4 years Strategy Plan for ICH safeguarding (2018-2021). Scholars and experts are cooperated in planning the future roadmap as well as public hearing and participation.

Regarding the Strategy Plan for ICH safeguarding, Ministry of Culture set the goals for the future development as follows (Chulalongkorn, 2018)

1. ICH of the country has continually registered

2. ICH holders (community) aware of the importance of continuing and safeguarding ICH
3. Cultural networks and associations cooperate in ICH activities
4. Cultural activities and procedures are more developed with the digital technology

SWOT Analysis for ICH safeguarding in Thailand and the Republic of Korea

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture diversity and security Thailand - New Amendment law - Cultural Networking and associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICH Database Thailand - Successor Plan/ Transmission Program - Money subsidy (very less budget but for wide area) - ICH team/organization (small group, diverse work, not only ICH work) - Lack of understanding of ICH domain and safeguarding process - No intermediate organization that coordinate among cultural agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Amendment law Korea - ICH Database - Successor Plan/ Transmission Program - People based designation /Inventory - Support the education/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICH hierarchy (provincial < national) Korea - administrative, budget burden - Focus on a small number of holders (decrease transparency of holders)
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Roadmap for ICH Thailand - Successor Plan/ Transmission Program - Area base Inventory - Value added for the ICH (products) - The education system (ICH experts as lecturers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Globalisation Thailand - Lack of ICH understanding and awareness of local wisdom - ageing population (practitioners will no longer perform its element)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government support in term of policy related to yearly performance or exhibition Korea - Expanding of categories of ICH (from Folk arts to Folk life) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Globalization Korea - Migration - aging population

From those goals, the DCP has set 5 strategies in accomplishing the tasks;

Strategy 1: ICH management

- Raise the understanding of ICH, Inventory and listing to the ICH holders and by having consent from the holders and stakeholders as widest as possible in every step
- Enhance the cooperation between cultural agencies
- Promote the information on ICH Inventory making and listing
- Study and Knowledge management on ICH, Inventory making and listing
- Provide the knowledge centre for ICH

- Workshop on ICH Inventory making and listing
- Support and promote the ICH listing at both national and international level

Strategy 2: ICH Safeguarding and Promotion

- Provide the cultural spaces for exhibition, workshop and cultural activities
- Raising awareness of the importance ICH in local communities
- Provide the cultural centre for transmission in local communities
- Rewarding system for good practices communities or organisations
- Exchange program and promotion plan for ICH

Strategy 3: ICH Networking

- Cultural network and associations conference and meeting
- Cultural exchange program among associations at regional and national levels, ICH safeguarding activities in communities
- Public participation/hearing activities

Strategy 4: ICH Digital Technology Development

- Enhancement of cultural service quality (Ex. E- library/exhibition)
- ICH database development (for digital Inventory/listing)
- Web application for access to ICH information

IV. Conclusion

It is undeniable that the first step we should take into account in safeguarding ICH is Inventory making. Inventories either at national or provincial levels will record the history and background of ICH which reflects the wisdom and identity of the nation. Inventory making is therefore the essential activity that is required to be completed at the earliest phase in ICH safeguarding within each country as it is mentioned in the Convention.

In doing such thing, community, groups and individual related to those activities should be involved in every step, in the widest way possible in order to collect the maximum amount of information. Strong partnership between local communities, groups and government agencies can support the sustainability of ICH safeguarding. In Bridging the gap between governments and communities in safeguarding ICH, NGOs in some situations can be useful links for interactive communication and ICH safeguarding. In fact, those organizations may possess better operational capacities in the field to interact with ICH

communities. In addition, they may be more specialized and motivated to carry out the work in the field. Thus, government could work together with these organizations as bridges for communication with communities.

Working with communities to Inventory and safeguard cultural practices will unavoidably have to deal with the complexity of cultural expression in their local contexts, and may lead to misunderstanding of ICH interpretation between government and local communities. Thus, it should involve widest participation of communities group and where appropriate, individuals that own the notions of heritage in order to determine what aspects of ICH are significant and worthy for documentation and transmission.

Lastly, for Thailand, ICH Inventory database is now crucial for safeguarding ICH in the future. However, raising awareness of the importance of ICH within local communities is the crucial factor to promote at the earliest stage.

Bibliography

- Act on the safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage Act No. 13248, Mar. 27, 2015.
Amended by Act No. 14434, Dec. 20, 2016
- Act on the safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage [Enforcement Date 21. Jun, 2017.] [Act No.14434, 20. Dec, 2016., Partial Amendment]
- Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage [Enforcement Date 21. Jun, 2017.] [Presidential Decree No.27992, 18. Apr, 2017., Partial Amendment] 문화재청 (무형문화재과)042-481-4995
- Chulalongkorn University, Research for Thai Cultural Roadmap for ICH safeguarding for the year 2018-2021.
- Cultural Heritage Administration, The Republic of Korea. www.cha.go.kr
- Culture360.asef.org (2018). Retrieved from <https://culture360.asef.org/resources/cultural-heritage>.
- Department of Cultural Promotion, Ministry of Culture of Thailand. www.dcp.go.th
- ICHCAP (2014). Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in Thailand 2014-15 Edition.
- ICHCAP (2014). Research Reports of CPI Participants Cultural Partnership Initiative Program.
- ICHCAP (2017). Intangible Cultural Heritage Sub-Regional Network Meeting in South Asia. Expert Report from Korea "The Status of Korean Intangible Cultural Heritage Act and Inventory-Making" by Mr. Yang Jinjo.
- ICHCAP (2018). UNESCO Capacity-Building Workshop on Community-based ICH Inventory, 23-27 July, 2018, Jeonju, Republic of Korea.
- Jihon Kim and Sungtae Nam. National Response to International Conventions: The Case of the 2003 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and the New Korean Legislation. *Journal of International and Area Studies*. Volume 23, Number 2, 2016, pp 39-59.
- Khon information, Nomination file No. 001385 for inscription in 2018 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Matija Dronjic (2017). An Outline of the Republic of Korea's Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Framework.
- Michelle L. Stefano, Peter Davis and Gerard Corsane (2012). Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. Acquiring the tools for Safeguarding Intangible Heritage: *Lessons from an ICH Field School in Lumphun*. Thailand by Alexandra Denes. pp 165-176.
- UNESCO (2018) "Text of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage". Retrieved from <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention#art2>. Accessed August 10 2018
- Yang, Jinjo, The Status of Korean Intangible Cultural Heritage Act and Inventory-making, National Intangible Heritage Center, interviewed on September 2018.

