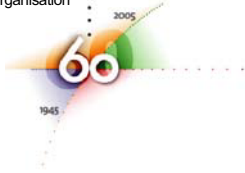




Culture Sector
Division of Cultural Heritage
Intangible Heritage Section



Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards the Implementation of the 2003 Convention

13-15 March 2006, Tokyo, Japan

REPORT

Organisers

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

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Organisers' Presentations and Meeting Outcomes

Mr Rieks SMEETS (UNESCO)

- UNESCO's Presentation (ppt)

Ms OHNUKI Misako (ACCU)

- ACCU's Presentation (text)
- ACCU's Presentation (ppt)

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. INTRODUCTION

Twenty experts from eighteen countries attended the meeting, which was co-organised by the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO and the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU).ⁱ

They discussed in three successive sessions three subjects concerning community involvement in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH):

- the definition and identification of communities and groups,
- the involvement of communities in inventorying their ICH, and
- the involvement of communities in preparing nominations to the Representative List.

The need to involve communities, groups and, sometimes, individuals in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage is based on several articles of the Convention:

- article 2.1 requiring the recognition of the ICH by the communities, groups, and when appropriate, individuals;
- article 11 requiring their participation in identifying and defining their ICH;
- article 12 linking the identification and the inventorying of ICH;
- article 13 encouraging States Parties to ensure access to ICH while respecting customary practices;
- article 15 calling upon States Parties to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, when appropriate, individuals in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage.

The fourth session was dedicated to international cooperation, in particular at the regional level.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Smeets, chief of the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO, and Mr Kono, professor of the Kyushu University in Japan. Mr Arantes, professor at the State University of Campinas, Brazil, was elected as rapporteur. Before the meeting, the experts had been asked to provide the organisers with short written contributions on the subjects of the meeting, which were distributed among them and included in the meeting's proceedings.

The debate of each of the sessions was briefly introduced by one or two experts. After each session, a small group of experts was asked to prepare recommendations to be discussed in the final debate. For each session the drafting group had a different composition. The presentations for launching the debates were given by Ms Diana Biard N'Diaye and Ms Margaret Florey (1st session), Ms Harriet Deacon and Mr Ahmed Skounti (session II), and Ms Kristin Kuutma and Mr Philippe la Hausse de Lalouvière (session 3); the following experts formed part of the groups that prepared the draft recommendations and conclusions: Ms Janet Blake, Mr Garrett Kam, Ms Kim Lawson, Mr Thabo Manetsi, Mr

ⁱ A list of participants is attached to this report in annex 2.

Adam Nayyar, Ms Faustina K. Rehuher, Mr Vellorimo Suminguit and Mr G. Venu. Their conclusions and recommendations were further developed and adopted during a collective editing session on the last day of the meeting. They are attached to this report as annex 1.

All the debates took into account that:

- ICH safeguarding is to focus on practices and processes rather than on products,
- the practitioners and custodians of ICH must play a central role in safeguarding measures,
- the Convention allows for different manners of inventorying ICH,
- active collaboration is needed between different stakeholders,
- top-down and bottom-up approaches are equally indispensable for designing and implementing measures at the national and the international level.

2. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was opened by Mr Nakanishi, Director General of ACCU, who gave a brief overview of ACCU's programmes in the field of intangible heritage and showed his gratitude to UNESCO for co-organising this kind of meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Mr Smeets, UNESCO, outlined the meeting orientation based on the "background paper" that had been submitted to the participants prior to the meeting, followed by a presentation by Mr Iwahashi, Director-General of the Cultural Properties Department of the Japanese Agency of Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho), who presented Japanese policies in safeguarding intangible heritage since the 1950's. The next speaker, Mr Saito, Director of the Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed the experts about the relation of his country with UNESCO and about the many UNESCO projects that are financed through Japanese Funds in Trust.

After the opening speeches, Ms Ohnuki, (ACCU), gave a presentation to introduce the activities of ACCU in the field of intangible cultural heritage since its inception in the 1970s, and Mr Smeets (UNESCO) provided latest information on activities carried out by UNESCO to prepare the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

3. THE MEETING: Definition of communities and their involvement in safeguarding ICH

3.1. Defining and identifying communities and groups as mentioned in the 2003 Convention

The Convention does not provide with a definition of communities and groups, although it suggests a hierarchy between communities, groups and individuals, which are always mentioned in this order. The experts therefore decided not to consider communities and groups as equivalents, and set out looking for features

that might distinguish them. The participants suggested focusing on the ICH as the common element for defining *community*, *group* and *individual* for the purposes of the Convention. The resulting definitions were to be flexible tools.

A distinction was made between those that directly practice ICH, those that facilitate the enactment of ICH, and external stakeholders. While some experts proposed that the definition of community should focus on the practitioners of the ICH, others suggested that it should also include those who are connected to the ICH but are not active practitioners. It was agreed that a sense of belonging together, or a sense of identity, based on shared ICH, should be included in the definition of community, which led to the use of the expression “rooted in the community”, rather than the expression “transmitted from generation to generation,” which seems to exclude elements of the ICH that were or are interrupted.

It was generally agreed that a group could be considered as a subset of a community that is characterised by the practice of a specific ICH which is not necessarily shared, or not shared in the same way by the whole of the community. For describing the relation of a group to a community the term *network* was preferred to *subset*, which was conceived as static. The experts fine-tuned the concept by stressing that a group is composed of people in a community that perform specific roles in the practice and transmission of ICH such as tradition bearers, performers or custodians. They also included *apprentices*, to stress the importance of sustainability. Moreover, as certain elements of ICH cut across communities, possible belonging of groups (and, for that matter, individuals) to more than one community was emphasized.

The drafting group of the first session also elaborated a definition of *individuals* which is largely based on the definition of *group*.

The experts agreed on the following definitions:

- **Communities** are networks of people whose sense of identity or connectedness emerges from a shared historical relationship that is rooted in the practice and transmission of, or engagement with, their ICH;
- **Groups** comprise people within or across communities who share characteristics such as skills, experience and special knowledge, and thus perform specific roles in the present and future practice, re-creation and/or transmission of their intangible cultural heritage as, for example, cultural custodians, practitioners or apprentices.
- **Individuals** are those within or across communities who have distinct skills, knowledge, experience or other characteristics, and thus perform specific roles in the present and future practice, re-creation and/or transmission of their intangible cultural heritage as, for example, cultural custodians, practitioners and, where appropriate, apprentices.

3.2. The involvement of communities and groups in inventorying ICH

States are given considerable freedom in drawing up their inventories within the framework set up by the Convention. However, two articles of the Convention explicitly require the involvement of communities and groups in the identification and definition of their ICH.

The experts acknowledged that governmental control and guidance are involved in inventorying and listing ICH, both at the national level, where States are required to draw up one or more inventories of their ICH, and internationally, when ICH is nominated for the Representative List established by article 16 of the Convention. The experts debated therefore on the ways that States Parties could satisfy the requirement of the participation of communities, groups, and NGOs in the identification and definition of ICH present in their territory, and on the involvement of non-community members. They felt that procedures should be established that would follow the spirit of the Convention by excluding exclusive top-down approaches, and by

- requiring proper identification of communities/groups and their representatives,
- ensuring that only ICH that is recognised by communities and groups is inventoried, or proposed for listing,
- ensuring that the permission of communities and groups is obtained for inventorying,
- ensuring the prior consent of communities when involving non community members,
- respecting customary practices governing the access to ICH,
- ensuring the free, prior and informed consent of communities and groups for nominating their ICH for the lists of the Convention.

The identification and definition of ICH for the purpose of inventorying was seen as a negotiation process between different stakeholders, in which the approach indicated above should be considered at all levels. The experts also agreed that a bottom up approach might be furthered by actively involving local or regional administrative levels. In order to structure the negotiations, some experts suggested drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding. For different reasons, the experts considered that the involvement of outsiders could also benefit the inventorying process, but they also warned that conflict could arise among the different players, both among and between insiders and outsiders to the communities. A Code of Ethics was thought to be required. The procedures to be developed should take into account the lessons learnt from best practices worldwide.

The experts recommended the elaboration by States Parties of appropriate institutional arrangements for involving communities in the inventory making process. Such arrangements might include the establishment or designation of intersectoral administrative bodies for assessing relevant existing legislation, institutions and traditional safeguarding systems, as well as for identifying best practices and areas for improvement. Such bodies would be in charge of drawing up inventories of ICH, developing safeguarding policies, developing initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of ICH and encourage public participation in inventorying and safeguarding ICH. The administrative body should also, where necessary, develop appropriate safeguarding measures for inventoried ICH.

In addition, the experts proposed the establishment of advisory or consultative bodies that would comprise practitioners and other tradition bearers, researchers, NGOs, civil society, local representatives and relevant others, as well as the establishment of local support teams including community representatives, cultural practitioners and others with specific skills and knowledge in training and capacity building. They also suggested developing a method for inventorying ICH that should be carried out in steps and that would include the identification of all relevant stakeholders and their involvement in the process. Potential consequences of inventorying should also be identified, and free and prior informed consent by the communities for the ICH to be inventoried should be ensured. The suggestion was made that procedures could be established, if possible in the form of protocols, to ensure an ethical relationship between stakeholders, and that customary practices, governing access to the ICH, should be identified and recognised.

3.3. Nomination to the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity

The initial presentation distinguished three types of communities: the well identified and organized community, that is already managing its ICH and is ready to be involved in the nomination procedure, communities whose ICH is identified and managed by outsiders, and communities that are becoming conscientious of sharing and being identifiable by ICH thanks to external factors, such as the recognition on the national level, or the proclamation of a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

The process leading to external recognition is often initiated by local activists who start recognizing the community's ICH, raise awareness among the community, and seek for cooperation with external agents, such as governmental bodies. Such advocates have a difficult task in communities that have a low degree of self-recognition; moreover, since communities as a rule are not homogenous, they may not represent all the members of the community. The experts suggested that the communities should be asked to identify their representatives, both from among traditionalist and non traditionalist members.

The experts suggested that the Operational Directives that will guide the implementation of the Convention should contain guidelines on how to select the ICH to be submitted for inscription in the Representative List, and how to collect information within a community. The preparation for formulating proposals for inscription should be used to review national safeguarding procedures and to identify best practices, while applying the criterion of representativeness both at the national and at the international level, which would mean that the ICH proposed for inscription on the List of the Convention should be representative for the community and for the creativity of humanity worldwide.

The process for inscription on the Representative List is also to be linked to the elaboration of safeguarding plans, based on best practices, and elaborated with strong participation by the tradition bearers. The experts considered that, since practitioners best understand the transmission processes of their ICH, the community should be provided with the means to elaborate safeguarding measures aiming at maintaining or improving their capacity of transmitting their ICH, rather than having plans elaborated by external experts in the first

place. Free, prior and informed consent of the community was considered to be necessary to ensure that the community is actively involved in the process of listing their ICH. The experts also considered the possibility that a community does not wish that a specific element of their ICH be proposed for listing internationally, which should be respected.

The experts agreed that the international listing system should not become a repetitive and static encyclopaedia of intangible cultural heritage and suggested including time limitations, both at national and at international level. At international level, the experts proposed the use of a sunset clause in order to limit the period of inscription on the Convention's List. At the national level, the regular updating of the inventories, as required by the Convention, may bring along the idea of limitation in time. The experts also thought that the existence of a safeguarding plan at local or national level should be a prerequisite for a proposal for inscription on the Representative List. In this sense, a best practice in safeguarding ICH could be a criterion for selecting ICH for submission for inscription.

It was agreed upon by the experts that community involvement is best ensured when the proposal for nomination comes from the community, to be later supported at State level. Awareness raising campaigns by governmental and non-governmental organisations might trigger such initial proposals.

Many elements that should form part of the submission files were discussed, among them extensive proof of community involvement, a description of the identification process, indication of previous inclusion in a national inventory, proof of free and prior consent of communities for documenting ICH, a description by the community of the significance of their ICH, a protocol concerning ethical conduct, a sustainable safeguarding plan, the level of endangerment, if any, and a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Projects –SWOP–assessment. The future Committee should only consider for inscription on the Representative List elements of ICH which have been properly identified and inventoried, which are being safeguarded using best practices, and which are considered to contribute to the diversity worldwide of the Representative List.

The ICH elements proposed for nomination to the Representative List should not only be taken from a national inventory as referred to in article 12 of the Convention, but should – according to the experts - also have been previously included into a national tentative list. National tentative (or: national representative) lists are not mentioned as such in the Convention.

4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: Cooperation in and beyond the Asia-Pacific Region in the field of the safeguarding of ICH

On the morning of the third and last day of the meeting, a special session was organised on international cooperation, in particular at the regional level, for safeguarding ICH. The theme was introduced by three speakers, followed by a general debate.

The first speaker was Mr Smeets who explained that UNESCO has developed new rules and procedures for cooperating with international institutes and centres, categorising them in three types: institutes that are institutionally and financially part of UNESCO (category I), centres that are institutionally and financially independent but are granted the auspices of UNESCO for supporting UNESCO's programmes and can use its logo (category II), and a third category that includes other relationships. In February 2006 an agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Government of Peru for the establishment of a category II Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latin America (CRESPIAL), in Cuzco, Peru. UNESCO is supportive of the establishment of such centres expecting that they will contribute to the implementation of the 2003 Convention, in close cooperation with the Organisation.

Mr Arantes then provided information on the functioning of specialised national institutions in the field of intangible heritage, and on the establishment of the Cuzco Centre. Several regional meetings have been organised in order to determine the objectives, scope and working methods of this Centre. Active participation of non-governmental organisations and civil society, in particular indigenous communities, is required to ensure the effective support for UNESCO's activities in the field of the ICH. These regional centres may also serve as clearing houses of ideas for countries that share the same or identical ICH and/or similar problems, and can be instrumental for establishing synergetic relations within the Region and among regions. Similar to institutes like the Brazilian IPHAN at national level, the Cuzco Centre may be instrumental in advising intergovernmental organisations and their networks at regional level.

Finally, Ms Ohnuki presented ACCU's programmes for the promotion of safeguarding ICH, especially in the Asia-Pacific Region, and focused on the Centre's action plan that started in 2002. She stressed the importance of sharing information with and among experts from the whole world, like in this meeting, for the implementation of ACCU's medium term strategy. This strategy is based on three priorities: (1) networking and information sharing for the empowerment of people, (2) inventorying intangible heritage and (3) the development of material for young people. Capacity building, the establishment of networks and the development of educational programmes are major actions oriented to empower communities that will facilitate the drawing up of inventories and ensuring the viability of their ICH. From this point of view, ACCU stresses the importance of developing materials for youngsters who have less interest in their ICH. At present, ACCU intends to publish a book with accompanying DVDs to raise awareness among young people about the wealth of intangible cultural heritage. The target group are above 14 year olds including their parents and teachers. A master version will be prepared that can be translated and adapted to other countries.

During their interventions all the experts commended ACCU for having developed and sustained excellent initiatives in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, in particular for the development of training material for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The experts stressed:

- The need of raising awareness about the existence and functions of ICH and of building capacities for defining ICH, as well as for developing and managing safeguarding measures, especially among young people, taking into consideration that youngsters often are interested in ICH, but cannot find the necessary information;
- The value and benefits of preparing materials and developing policies, as is done by UNESCO and agencies such as ACCU, in order to support the development of safeguarding policies at the national level, bearing in mind that lack of financial means for developing the necessary infrastructure and policies in the field of intangible heritage is often a main problem;
- The importance of appropriate public institutions and specialised NGOs that should cooperate with them, and of networks to ensure the sustainability of activities aiming at promoting and protecting ICH;
- The need to establish international cooperation not only at the institutional level but also, wherever appropriate, at the level of communities in order to develop joint activities, such as international meetings or roundtables for community members/activists to exchange and discuss their experiences in transmitting and safeguarding ICH (experienced organisations like ACCU, which have developed a good network and acquired confidence, could play an important role in this respect);
- The need to use IT technologies for the dissemination of training materials, as well as to dedicate a training workshop on developing digital databases and on the use of IT for disseminating ICH ;
- The possibility to add ICH safeguarding tools to training materials that until now have been focussed on the preservation of tangible heritage;
- The possibility for ACCU to also consider language programmes, since attention for language as a vehicle of ICH is indispensable for ensuring the transmission of ICH.

5. CLOSURE

The conclusions and recommendations summarising the different debates were elaborated and adopted by the participants during most of the last day of the meeting. They are attached to this report in annex 1. Following the report by the rapporteur, the meeting was closed by speeches of Mr Nakanishi, ACCU's Director-General, and Mr Smeets, chief of the Intangible Heritage Section, UNESCOⁱⁱ. Mr Smeets expressed his appreciation to the experts for their intense commitment and great contribution to the meeting, as well as to ACCU for co-organising this meeting, and he expressed his wish to continue cooperation with ACCU for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage within the framework of the implementation of the Convention.

ⁱⁱ Mr Smeets' opening speech and closing speech are attached in annex 4.

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ANNEX I: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

UNESCO-ACCU Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Tokyo, Japan, 13-15 March 2006

Conclusions and Recommendations

We, the experts attending the UNESCO/ACCU Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter “the 2003 Convention”);

Acknowledging with thanks the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) for their excellent organisation of the meeting;

Expressing our satisfaction with the interest shown by UNESCO’s Member States in developing policies and activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), which is reflected in the fast ratification of the 2003 Convention;

Taking into consideration that the 2003 Convention will enter into force on 20 April 2006 and that its implementation will have to be ensured, among other things, through the preparation of a set of Operational Directives by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter “the Committee”);

Aware of the importance given by the 2003 Convention to the involvement of communities, groups, and where appropriate, individuals and/or non-governmental organisations in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;

Suggest that the Committee take into account the following definitions and considerations in the preparation of the abovementioned Operational Directives:

Definitions

- 1. Communities** are networks of people whose sense of identity or connectedness emerges from a shared historical relationship that is rooted in the practice and transmission of, or engagement with, their ICH;
- 2. Groups** comprise people within or across communities who share characteristics such as skills, experience and special knowledge, and thus perform specific roles in the present and future practice, re-creation and/or transmission of their intangible cultural heritage as, for example, cultural custodians, practitioners or apprentices.

3. **Individuals** are those within or across communities who have distinct skills, knowledge, experience or other characteristics, and thus perform specific roles in the present and future practice, re-creation and/or transmission of their intangible cultural heritage as, for example, cultural custodians, practitioners and, where appropriate, apprentices.

Guidelines recommended to States Parties drawing up inventories of intangible cultural heritage

1. Create appropriate institutional arrangements as follows:
 - a. Establish or designate an intersectoral administrative body or bodies for the purposes of:
 - i. assessing relevant existing legislation, institutions and traditional safeguarding systems to evaluate their usefulness in inventorying ICH and identify best practice and areas for improvement.
 - ii. drawing up inventories of ICH and developing safeguarding policies;
 - iii. establishing a public process to raise awareness about the importance of ICH and to encourage public participation in inventorying and safeguarding ICH;
 - iv. ensuring and, where necessary, developing appropriate safeguarding measures for ICH listed in the inventory;
 - b. establish advisory bodies, comprising cultural practitioners, researchers, NGOs, civil society, local representatives and relevant others, for the purpose of consultation on inventorying and safeguarding ICH;
 - c. establish local support teams including community representatives, cultural practitioners and others with specific skills and knowledge in training and capacity building to assist in inventorying and safeguarding specific cases of ICH.
2. Develop a method for inventorying ICH, including the following steps
 - a. identify the ICH;
 - b. identify and inform all relevant stakeholders, foregrounding communities, groups and individuals, and including NGOs;
 - c. identify representatives of the communities and groups to ensure the involvement of the community in the process;
 - d. identify potential consequences of inventorying and obtain free and prior informed consent for the ICH to be inventoried;
 - e. establish procedures, if possible in the form of protocols, to ensure an ethical relationship between stakeholders;
 - f. identify and respect customary practices governing access to the ICH.

Guidelines recommended for nominations to the Representative List

Assuming that this List will be managed with the use of a sunset clause, it is proposed that

- ICH elements proposed for nomination to the Representative List should:

- emanate from a national inventory or inventories as referred to in article 12 of the Convention, and be included in a national tentative list;
 - be submitted with materials documenting the following –
 - the ICH has been adequately identified with the involvement of relevant communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals;
 - assessment of likely consequences for the ICH of inscription on the List and measures for mitigation of any negative impact,
 - free and prior informed consent by the community for the ICH to be nominated, e.g. in a “Memorandum of Understanding”,
 - involvement of relevant communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals in all phases of the process of documenting ICH,
 - description by the community of the significance of the ICH with support, where appropriate, from other relevant parties,
 - an explanation of the selection criteria and adjudication process used to determine the State Party’s nomination of ICH elements to the Representative list,
 - that ethical procedures and protocols, as identified in the inventory process, have been followed,
 - a sustainable action plan for the safeguarding of the ICH,
 - level of endangerment.
- The Representative List should be chosen from nominations of ICH that have been identified and are being safeguarded using best practices following an adequate sustainable safeguarding plan (under articles 13, 14, 16 and 18);
- The element proposed contributes to the diversity of the Representative List.

Furthermore,

Considering that, in order to further interregional cooperation and mutual understanding, in the spirit of the 2003 Convention, world-wide initiatives for regional cooperation between States, Centres and Institutions are to be encouraged in order to safeguard ICH,

Taking into account the significant and wide-ranging expertise of ACCU in the promotion and protection of intangible cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific, which makes ACCU an appropriate institution for furthering capacity-building and cooperation in the field of ICH safeguarding in general, and in that of inventory-making in particular,

Expressing their interest in continued cooperation with ACCU,

Call upon

ACCU to strengthen its interregional contacts and cooperation with institutions and experts in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond;

UNESCO to continue its cooperation with ACCU and to cooperate, when possible, in the

implementation of ACCU's 2006-2010 programme;

Other relevant bodies worldwide to develop the necessary expertise and structures to assist in the safeguarding of the ICH;

UNESCO Member States that have not yet ratified the 2003 Convention to do so.

This recommendation was adopted on 15 March 2006 at the UNESCO-ACCU Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Tokyo, Japan, from 13-15 March 2006.

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXPERTS

Mr Antonio ARANTES	Anthropologist / Professor State University of Campinas, São Paulo	Brazil
Ms Janet BLAKE	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran	UK
Ms Harriet DEACON	Consultant	South Africa
Ms Margaret FLOREY	Senior Lecturer Linguistics Program, Monash University	Australia
Mr Epeli HAU'OFA	Professor, Director of the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture (OCAC), University of the South Pacific	Fiji
Mr Garrett KAM	Curator, Documentation, Display and Exhibition, Neka Art Museum, Bali, Indonesia	USA
Mr KONO Toshiyuki	Professor of Law, Kyushu University	Japan
Ms Kristin KUUTMA	Associate Professor & Senior Researcher Department of Estonian and Comparative Folkloristics & Department of Communications Studies, University of Tartu	Estonia
Mr Philippe LA HAUSSE DE LALOUVIERE	Heritage Researcher	Mauritius
Ms Kim LAWSON	Archivist/Librarian Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs Resource Centre	Canada
Mr LUNGTEN Gyatso	Principal, Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan	Bhutan
Mr Thabo MANETSI	Manager, Living Heritage Division, South African Heritage Resources Agency	South Africa
Mr Adam NAYYAR	Director - National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), and Executive Director - Pakistan National Council of the Arts	Pakistan
Ms Diana Baird N'DIAYE	Center for Cultural Heritage Smithsonian Institution	USA /Barbados

Ms Faustina K. REHUHER	Director/Curator - Belau National Museum and President - Pacific Islands Museums Association	Palau
Mr Ahmed SKOUNTI	Anthropologist, Antenne de Marrakech, Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Marrakech	Morocco
Mr Vellorimo SUMINGUIT	Anthropologist/Consultant	Philippines
Ms TAN Huism	Deputy Director, Curatorial and Programmes, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore	Malaysia
Mr UEMURA Shozo	Special Advisor, WIPO (Geneva)	WIPO
Mr G. VENU	Director, Natana Kairali (Research and Performing Centre for Traditional Arts) Ammannur Chakyar Madhom	India

OBSERVERS

Mr ASANO Atsuyuki	Director, Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Properties, Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho), Japan	Japan
Mr SAITO Jun	Director, Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan	Japan
Mr MIYATA Shigeyuki	Head, Folk Performing Arts Section, Department of Performing Arts National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo	Japan
Ms KOBAYASHI Miho	Gender Equality Learning Division, Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	Japan
Ms Julia CORNETT	Research Assistant, Kyushu University	Canada
Mr Steven VAN UYTSEL	Research Assistant, Kyushu University	Belgium

COOPERATING ORGANISATIONS

Mr IWAHASHI Akihiko	Director-General, Cultural Properties Department Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho), Japan	Japan
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ORGANISERS

Mr Riëks SMEETS	Chief, Intangible Heritage Section	UNESCO
Mr Fernando BRUGMAN	Program Specialist, Intangible Heritage Section	UNESCO
Mr NAKANISHI Koji	Director-General	ACCU
Mr IIDA Kazuro	Managing Director	ACCU
Mr SUZUKI Yoshimori	Director, Programme Department	ACCU
Ms OHNUKI Misako	Director, Culture Division	ACCU
Ms TSUCHIYA Eri	Programme Specialist, Culture Division	ACCU
Mr KURIHARA Toshiaki	Programme Assistant, Culture Division	ACCU

ANNEX III. BACKGROUND PAPER

1 Operational Directives

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 17 October 2003, will enter into force on 20 April 2006, that is three months after the deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification by Romania on 20 January 2006. Consequently, UNESCO will organise in June 2006 the first session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention, to be followed in September 2006 by the first session of the Intergovernmental Committee. That Committee will have to elaborate, for discussion and approval by the General Assembly, a set of Operational Directives that will guide the implementation of the Convention.

The March 2006 meeting in Tokyo aims before all at contributing to the preparation of the implementation of the 2003 Convention, in particular through the provision of ideas and recommendations concerning the definition of “communities and groups”, as mentioned in the Convention, and the role of communities and groups in the identification and the safeguarding of their intangible heritage, as advocated by the Convention. This will be helpful for the drafting by the Intergovernmental Committee of some crucial paragraphs of the Convention’s operational directives

2 Some History

The 2003 Convention was not the first standard-setting text prepared by UNESCO in the field of the protection of the ICH: the year 1989 already saw the adoption of the *Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore*. That Recommendation proved to be less successful than hoped for in terms of follow-up activities in Member States. An obvious reason for this was its non-binding character. However, in the decade following its adoption, the text of the *Recommendation* was critically analysed. This resulted not only in a proposal to prepare an instrument of a more binding character, but also, while doing so, to rethink fundamentally goals, target groups, definitions and approaches.

It was specifically recommended that a new instrument would have to recognize the crucial role of the communities who are the bearers and transmitters of the traditions and expressions that are to be safeguarded, rather than focussing on documentation, research and researchers. The new instrument, in other words, would have to ensure the viability of – indeed - living processes as performed in situ by communities, rather than concentrating on documenting and archiving products of these processes ⁱ

UNESCO then, in the nineties of the last century, followed two lines:

(i) UNESCO created programmes aiming at the protection of ICH and at raising awareness about its importance, for instance by initiating in 1997 the programme of the *Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity*;

ⁱ Cf. Peter Seitel, 2001, *Safeguarding Traditional Cultures: A global Assessment*, Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, 2001, containing the proceedings of the conference “A Global Assessment of the 1989 Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore”, held in Washington, D.C. 27-30 June 1999; pp. 302-307 offer proposals for action.

(ii) after preliminary discussions at the 30th session of UNESCO's General Conference (1999), its 31st session decided, in 2001, that a new standard-setting instrument, preferably a convention, was to be prepared.

3 Communities and groups as reflected in the Convention

Communities and groups, and often also "individuals", are mentioned in consideration six of the Convention's Preamble and in articles 1, 2 11, 13 (d,ii: "customary practices"), 14 and 15 of the body of the text of the Convention.

The Convention does not define "communities" and "groups", although the Preamble makes it clear that the notion of "communities" includes "indigenous communities".

Consideration 6 of the Preamble:

Recognizing that communities, in particular indigenous communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals, play an important role in the production, safeguarding, maintenance and recreation of the intangible cultural heritage (...),

At the intergovernmental sessions during which the draft text of the Convention was prepared, the experts repeatedly underscored that the communities that are to be supported by the Convention, should be open communities and willing to share their cultural heritage with others. They also notified that one and the same person could belong to different cultural communities. No clues were provided for interpretations of the term "community" and "group".

In June 2002 a group of experts discussed, during a meeting organised at UNESCO's Headquarters, a set of definitions related to the safeguarding of ICH. At that time the text of the Convention started only to be drafted, which means that the definitions then developed have to be reconsidered. The experts adopted in June 2002 the following definition for "Community":

(def. 1) People who share a self-ascribed sense of connectedness. This may be manifested, for example, in a feeling of identity or in common behaviour, as well as in activities and territory. Individuals can belong to more than one community.

The following definition was elaborated for "Cultural community":

(def. 2) A community that distinguishes itself from other communities by its own culture or cultural design, or by a variant of the generic culture. Among other possible extensions, a nation can be a cultural community.

"Indigenous community" was defined as follows:

(def. 3) A community whose members consider themselves to have originated in a certain territory. This does not exclude the existence of more than one indigenous community in the same territory.

To finish this set of definitions it may be useful to remind the definition of "culture" that is most commonly used in the UNESCO context:

(def. 4) The set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or a social group, encompassing, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs.

and to paraphrase the definition of intangible cultural heritage as it was developed for the

purpose of the 2003 Convention (see article 2 of the Convention):

((paraphrased) def. 5) Intangible Cultural Heritage means:

(a) practices, (b) expressions and (c) representations,

as manifested in

- (i) *oral traditions and expressions,*
- (ii) *traditional dance, music and theatre,*
- (iii) *social practices, rituals and festive events,*
- (iv) *knowledge and practices regarding nature and the universe,*
- (v) *traditional craftsmanship,*

together with associated

(d) skills and knowledge and (e) objects and spaces

that

- (1) *communities and groups recognize as belonging to their cultural heritage,*
- (2) *are transmitted from generation to generation,*
- (3) *are constantly recreated,*
- (4) *provide communities and groups with a sense of identity and continuity*
- (5) *are compatible with international human rights instruments.*

4 Role of communities and groups

(i) Consideration 6 of the Preamble speaks about communities, groups and individuals who play an important role in the production, safeguarding, maintenance and recreation of the ICH.

(ii) Article 1(b) mentions as one of the purposes of the Convention: *to ensure respect for the ICH of the communities, groups and individuals concerned.*

(iii) Article 2.1 recognizes as ICH *practices, representations and expressions (...) that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.*

(iv) Article 11(b) stipulates that *each State Party to the Convention shall identify and define the various elements of the ICH present in its territory with the participation of communities, groups and relevant NGOs, activities that in first instance will lead to the establishment of inventories of the ICH, as mentioned in Article 12.*

(v) Article 13(d(ii)) refers to tradition bearers in an indirect way when it calls upon States Parties to endeavour *ensuring access to the ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of such heritage.*

(vi) Article 14 asks States Parties to endeavour *to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of the ICH in society, among other things through specific educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned.*

(vii) Article 15, finally, asks each State Party, within the framework of its safeguarding activities, to endeavour *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.*ⁱⁱ

Summing up the above, one can conclude that the ICH cannot be defined and identified without the participation of communities/groups/individuals concerned (Art. 2), that the ICH belongs (1(b)) to the communities/groups/individuals who create, maintain and transmit this heritage (Art. 15), or at least play an important role therein (Consideration 6) and they therefore have to participate widely in safeguarding measures and in the management of their ICH (Art. 15), while at the same time the customary access to this heritage has to be respected (Art. 13.d.ii).

5 Communities and groups and representativeness

In December 2005 UNESCO's intangible heritage section organised a first expert meeting about criteria for inscription of ICH elements on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity (art. 16). The generally shared vision was that representativeness had at least two interpretations: (i) representative for the creative diversity of humanity, (ii) representative (and distinctive) for the ICH of a given community (or group). The experts elaborated a draft set of criteria for inscription on the List in question.

All elements that are to be inscribed on this List should first meet two threshold requirements: (i) they have to fall within one or more of the domains of ICH as recognized by Art. 2.2 of the Convention and (ii) they must be compatible with international human rights instruments. After that, so the December experts proposed, proof must be given that the element submitted for inscription:

- (i) *is considered by the community, group or, if appropriate, the individuals concerned as part of their cultural heritage;*
- (ii) *provides the community or group involved with a sense of identity and continuity, based on shared experience and collective memory;*
- (iii) *is rooted in the community or the group in which it is continuously transmitted and recreated;*
- (iv) *would enhance, by being inscribed on it, the diversity of ICH on the List, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity;*
- (v) (...)

ⁱⁱ Article 3 of the Convention defines the term "safeguarding" as measures aiming at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage. Such measures are specified in great detail. They are said to include the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage. Article 15 asks for the widest possible participation of communities/groups/individuals in such measures.

(vi) *is submitted with the prior and informed consent of the community, group, or, if applicable, the individuals concerned and that it/they has/have participated at all stages of processes of identification, definition, documentation and nomination;*

(vii) (...)

Criteria (i) through (iv) were generally considered by the December 2005 meeting as, taken together, satisfying the requirement of representativeness.

The above proposal shows to what extent the December experts have taken into account the emphasis that is put by the Convention itself on communities and groups and the role they have to play in the safeguarding of their own intangible heritage.

6 “Individuals”

The term “individuals” as used in the Convention will also have to be interpreted by the Committee. Interestingly, the Convention always mentions communities and groups together, sometimes with and sometimes (art. 11(b), 14) without “individuals” added.

In many communities individual practitioners, or custodians of ICH, are easily identifiable, although such individuals normally interact with other, more or less active, members of the same community and are recognized, within the communities, as main bearers of practices and expressions.

The ICH, however, is prototypically collectively owned and recognized as belonging to the shared heritage of communities/groups. The suggestion has been made not to safeguard under this Convention individual representations by individual performers/artists that perform exclusively or almost exclusively under staged and/or commercial circumstances, without the interactive participation of an audience.

7 “Society”

Article 13 and 14 of the Convention introduce the notion of “society” - article 13, when it states that each state Party shall endeavor *to adopt a general policy aimed at promoting the function of the ICH in society*, article 14 when it stipulates that each State Party shall also endeavor to ensure recognition of, respect for, and enhancement of the ICH in society. It has been suggested to consider “society” as used in these two articles as meaning the totality of the population of a country. However ICH has specific functions in specific communities (see Article 13) and not necessarily for all of the population of a given country, and it can be enhanced, by non-formal means of transmission of knowledge only within the communities of tradition bearers (see Art. 14.a.iv).

8 “Multinational” and scattered communities/groups

Article 23 of the Convention mentions the possibility for two or more States Parties to jointly submit requests for international assistance for the safeguarding of the ICH present in their territories.

The Committee will also have to take into account, when establishing procedures for inscription of elements on its Lists, or when studying requests for international assistance, the special position and requirements of ICH elements that are representative of communities/groups that live, for instance,

- (i) in one contiguous area spread over two or more States Parties, or
- (ii) in non-contiguous areas in one or more than one State Party, or
- (iii) – due, for instance, to migration – in two or more non-adjacent States Parties, or – still more difficult –
- (iv) in several countries not all of which are States Parties to the Convention.

The experience of the Masterpieces Programme confirmed that a considerable part of the ICH of Humanity is not confined to one neatly definable geographical area within one single country.

9 Purposes of the meeting

- (1) To engage the participants in debate and to have them exchange opinions and concerns, based on their own experience and/or based on practices applied in their countries, or in countries they have studied, eventually leading to the elaboration of recommendations on such topics as:
 - ① the definition of communities and groups as figuring in the ICH Convention, taking into consideration – if appropriate – also individuals and societies;
 - ② the identification of and ways of establishing partnerships with communities/groups;
 - ③ the involvement of communities and groups in the definition, identification and inventorying of their ICH (Article 11 and 12);
 - ④ the widest possible participation of communities and groups in safeguarding activities and the management of their ICH (Article 15), also with a view on the enhancement of dialogue and confidence between authorities and communities, or among communities.

The expected outcome of this major part of the meeting will be a set of conclusions and recommendations, which may have to reflect a compromise between different approaches and experiences of different Member States, regions and disciplines. The debates and conclusions of the meeting are also intended to give guidance for the elaboration of thematic manuals on the safeguarding of the ICH. The identification of good as well as bad practices would also be of great help for further discussions.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱⁱⁱ In past safeguarding practices, inside as well as outside UNESCO, community involvement often has been less than optimal due to such factors as:

- lack of self-esteem/pride among communities/groups;
- absence of representational system within communities/groups;
- lack of interest and/or capacities of policy makers to identify ICH-relevant communities/groups;
- appropriation by authorities of ICH elements;
- complex relationships between central organizations and local communities/groups, or within communities;
- divergent visions within communities, or between community experts and academic outsiders;
- authorities taking decisions, or, for instance, creating inventories on the basis of outdated documentation or information collected without the prior consent of the communities/groups concerned.

(2) to inform the participants to the meeting about recent developments concerning the entry into force, the promotion and the preparation of the implementation of the 2003 Convention; they will further be informed about world-wide initiatives for regional cooperation, with an emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region.

(3) to introduce and discuss ACCU activities and roles for strengthening regional networks, for the effective implementation and promotion of ICH-Convention-related promotional and safeguarding activities in Asia and the Pacific.

10 Procedure of the meeting

The meeting will consist of four sessions, two of which will be devoted to specific community-related topics: (i) definition and identification of communities and groups and (ii) the involvement and active participation in identifying and defining the ICH and in other safeguarding measures. Both these sessions will start with a key-presentation of about 20 minutes by an invited speaker, who will be followed by a discussant for about ten minutes, followed by several hours of general debate. The short contributions that the participants are asked to send in, will not be read during the meeting, but distributed among the participants - if possible before the meeting.


During the last-but-one session the experts will be invited to formulate comments and proposals on ICH programmes initiated by ACCU, in particular, its strategic action plans to be undertaken in 2006-2010 in cooperation with State Parties and UNESCO.

Two rapporteurs will be asked to produce during the meeting, and to present at the end of the meeting, assisted by the UNESCO and ACCU secretariats, an analysis of the debates and a set of final conclusions or recommendations.

Rieks Smeets
UNESCO, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

ANNEX IV. ORGANISERS' PRESENTATIONS


ANNEX IV-1. UNESCO's Presentation



*Towards the implementation
of the Convention for the
Safeguarding of the Intangible
Cultural Heritage*

Rieks Smeets
UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section

Monday, March 13, 2006
UNESCO/ACCU Meeting
Tokyo, Japan



1

UNESCO

- UNESCO: founded 16 November 1945
- Mandate: contributing to international cooperation in Education, Science, Culture and Communication as a:
 - Laboratory of ideas
 - Clearing house
 - Standard setter

while promoting peace, preventing conflict and pursuing millenium goals

2

The Sector of Culture

- World heritage (monuments and sites)
- Intangible heritage
- Museums
- Cultural policies
- Cultural industries
- Development and follow-up of standard-setting instruments
- Priority 2006-2007: promoting cultural diversity, with special emphasis on the tangible and intangible heritage

Kabuki, Japan



3

Conventions and cultural diversity

- 1954: Convention for the Protection of Cultural Properties in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 1970: Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
- 1972: Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- 2001: Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
- 2003: Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)
- 2005: Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

4

Towards Recognizing ICH

- Bolivia's proposal, 1973
- Mexico City Declaration, 1982
- Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore, 1989
- Our Creative Diversity, 1996
- Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001



Itenon, Italy

5

Two lines of action

- Programmes
 - Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity
 - Traditional Music
 - Endangered languages
- Legal texts
 - Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore (1989)
 - Steps towards a new normative instrument, preferably a Convention (1997, 2001)

6

Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity



Zápapa People, Ecuador-Peru

- Created in 1997
- Proclamations in 2001, 2003, 2005
- 90 Masterpieces have been proclaimed in all
- No new Proclamations will be organised
- Masterpieces located in States Parties to the Convention will be inscribed in the List of the Convention

7

The Convention

- Adopted: October 2003
- Open for ratification since November 2003
- Ratified by 30 States: 20 January 2006
- Ratified now by 34 (37) States
- Entry into force: 20 April 2006



The Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah Epic, Egypt



Vietnamese Gung Music
Nha Khot



The Cultural Space of Soso-Bala in Nyagassola, Guinea

8

10 March 2006: 34 States Parties

Algeria
Mauritius
Japan
Gabon
Panama
China
Central African Rep.
Latvia
Lithuania
Belarus
Syria
Republic of Korea
Seychelles
United Arab Emirates

Mali
Mongolia
Croatia
Egypt
Oman
Dominica
India
Vietnam
Peru
Pakistan
Bhutan
Nigeria
Iceland
Mexico

Senegal
Romania
Estonia
Luxembourg
Nicaragua
Ethiopia

Expected:
Brazil
Bolivia
Cyprus
Turkey
Hungary
Belgium
Norway
Spain
...

9

Domains covered

- Oral traditions and expressions,
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship

The Traditional Music of Morin Khonor
Mongolia



10

Oral Traditions, including Language as a vehicle of the ICH



The Tenore Song, Italy

Oral traditions of the Aka Pygmies of Central Africa



Huhud Chants of the Ifugao in the Philippines



11

Performing Arts: traditional dance, music, theatre



The Space of Gong Culture, Vietnam
Art of Uyghur Muqam, China



Royal Ballet, Cambodia

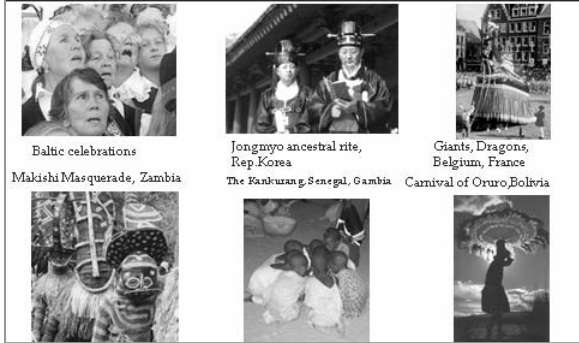


Kutiyattam, India
Kabuki, Japan



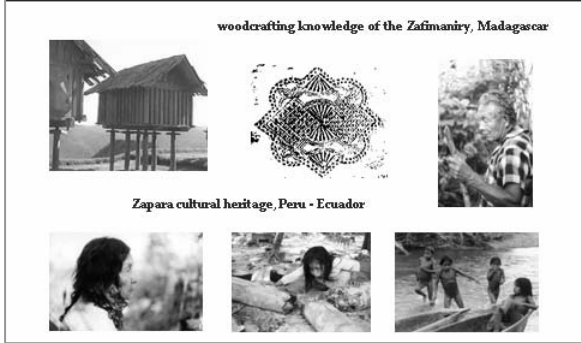
12

Social Practices, Rituals, Festive Events



13

Traditional craftsmanship



14

Knowledge about nature and the universe



15

Defining ICH: expressions and practices, knowledge and skills that

- are in conformity with human rights
 - belong to one or more of the relevant domains
 - are recognised by communities, groups, and in some cases individuals, as forming part of their cultural heritage
 - are living, rooted in tradition, and constantly recreated
 - are crucial for the sense of identity and continuity of communities, groups
- The definition also includes objects and spaces that are associated with manifestations of ICH

16

Goals

- Safeguarding ICH: ensuring its viability (continued enactment and transmission) within communities/groups
- Awareness raising
- Sharing and celebrating
- Dialogue, respect for cultural diversity
- International cooperation and assistance

17

Obligations of States Parties

- States Parties are committed to safeguarding the ICH present on their territory, starting by its identification, leading to one or more *inventories*
- Community, groups to be involved
 - Access to be regulated
 - To be regularly updated

18

Mechanism of the Convention

- General Assembly of States Parties
- Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
- List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
- Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

19

General Assembly

- Sovereign Body of the Convention
- Will meet in ordinary session every two years, or in extraordinary session
- Elects the members of the Committee
- Approves the Operational Directives
- Meets for the first time 27-29 June 2006



The Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah Epic, Egypt

20

Intergovernmental Committee

- 18 Members, 24 after 50 ratifications
- 4 year term, renewal of half of the members every 2 years
- Principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation (2+?)
- Members to send experts as their representatives

The Art of Ahyun, Kyrgyz Epic Tellers, Kyrgyzstan



21

Functions of the Committee



The Pansori Epic Chant, Republic of Korea



- Implement the Convention
- Prepare Operational Directives for the implementation
- Examine requests for
 - inscription on the Lists
 - international assistance
- Make recommendations on safeguarding measures
- Seek means of increasing its resources
- Examine periodic reports of States Parties

22

The Lists

- Representative List of the ICH of Humanity
- List of the ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding



The Garifuna Language, Dance and Music, Nicaragua

- Criteria for inscription
- To be prepared by Committee
 - To be adopted by General Assembly

23

The Fund: providing international assistance for

- Safeguarding of heritage inscribed on the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
- Preparation of inventories
- Programmes, projects and other activities in the States Parties (incl. capacity building)



Congos of Villa Mella, Dominican Republic

24

ANNEX IV-2. ACCU's Presentation

ACCU's Challenges on Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific – For the promotion of UNESCO's 2003 Convention

by OHNUKI Misako,

Director, Culture Division, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

URL:<http://www.accu.or.jp>, ICH Data Base: <http://www.accu.or.jp/ich/>

Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) was established in 1971 in Tokyo through joint efforts of both public and private sectors in Japan. Since then ACCU has been implementing various regional programmes in the field of culture, education and personnel exchange in close cooperation with UNESCO and its Member States in Asia and the Pacific.

Our culture programmes started in 1971, aiming at promoting activities for mutual understanding and safeguarding cultural heritage through various means, such as training for those who work in the field of culture and book development, concours for artists, and, production and promotion of publications in indigenous languages. Now the programmes on tangible cultural heritage are being covered by our branch office in Nara, the world heritage city in Japan established in 1999, and those on ICH by our Tokyo office. ACCU's main concern is not philosophical, but practical engagement in preparing and implementing programmes and projects for the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the region, in line with the mandates of UNESCO.

ACCU's regional literacy programme was launched in 1981, drawing upon ACCU's rich experience in the field of book development. Since the beginning, ACCU's literacy programmes have focused on the disadvantaged groups: those with limited education opportunities in the rural areas and among girls and women. Our aim is to contribute to the reduction of the illiterate population in Asia and the Pacific, and to reduce the gender gap and the rural-urban gap.

ACCU places its special emphasis on the programmes planned and implemented jointly by Asian and Pacific Member States of UNESCO. This joint programme scheme has been applied to its cooperative projects such as production of various materials of good quality for common use in order to encourage better understanding of diversified cultures in the region.

PART I

Review of ACCU's activities in the field of safeguarding and promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage (1970's-1990's)

1. Training Programmes for Capacity Building

Sending a Mobile Team of Experts to a National Workshop on the Documentation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Due to social changes, the rich and varied intangible cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific region is in danger of disappearing. One of the ways to preserve the heritage is to keep accurate records of it. In 1993 ACCU launched a new programme for sending a mobile team

of experts to national workshops on the documentation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage, coorganizing with a cultural institute in the host country. Since the beginning of this programme, ACCU has so far organized workshops in Pakistan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, and India.

The objectives of the series of Workshops are: (a)to provide knowledge and experience to personnel involved in documentation work on intangible cultural heritage, (b)to instruct the participants of the workshop how to record the intangible cultural heritage, (c)to promote awareness of the significance of preserving the intangible cultural heritage.

ACCU sends internationally recruited experts such as a cameraman, an audio specialist, a technical specialist, and a scholar, who are specializing in this field, to the workshops as lecturers in order to respond to the local needs. Basically, a selection of experts meets the requests and needs according to the situation in the host country as submitted by the coorganiser.

The following is brief information, titles of lectures and outputs of the workshops so far held:

- (1) Pakistan
Place and date: Islamabad, 6-14 February 1994
Joint organiser: Lok Virsa (National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage)
- (2) Thailand
Place and date: Bangkok, 12-23 December 1994
Joint organiser: Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Education
- (3) Viet Nam
Place and date: Hanoi, 10-19 January 1996
Joint organiser: Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studios, Ministry of Culture and Information
- (4) Lao PDR
Place and date: Vientiane, 6-16 January 1997
Joint organiser: Institute for Cultural Research, Ministry of Information and Culture
- (5) India
Place and date: New Delhi, 4-13 January 2001
Joint organizer: Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)

2. Materials Development

1. Asian/Pacific Music Materials Co-production Programme (MCP)

(1) Co-production of Music Materials

ACCU launched in 1974 the Asian/Pacific Music Materials Co-production Programme (MCP). Under this programme the materials listed in the table below have been produced.

MCP Materials	Number of materials		No. of Music Pieces	Participating Countries	Year
	Recorded	Guidebook			

		Material				
Series One "Folk and Traditional Music for Children"	Vol.1	3 LP Records	1	62		1975
	Vol.2	3 LP Records	1	69		1976
	Vol.3	3 LP Records	1	75		1977
Series Two "Instrumental Music of Asia and the Pacific"	Vol.1	3 Cassette tapes	1	74	21	1979
	Vol.2	3 Cassette tapes	1	70		1983
	Vol.3	3 Cassette tapes	1	64		1985
Series Three "Songs of Asia and the Pacific"	Vol.1	3 Cassette tapes	1	54	17	1980
	Vol.2	3 Cassette tapes	1	63		1981
	Vol.3	3 Cassette tapes	1	59		1982
Series Four "Folk Songs of Asia and the Pacific"	Vol.1	3 Cassette tapes	1	83	16	1989
	Vol.2	3 Cassette tapes	1	95	16	1991
Series Five "Musical Instruments of Asia and the Pacific"	Vol.1	1 Video tape	1	18	18	1994
	Vol. 2	1 Video tape	1	16	16	1997*
	Vol. 3	1 Video tape	1	17	17	1999
				(Musical Instruments)		
TOTAL		36	14	819		
Special Selection "Favourite Melodies of Asia and the Pacific" - for School Use		1 Cassette tape 2 Open reel tapes	1	39	18	1987
"Favourite Melodies of Asia and the Pacific" - for General Use		1 Cassette tape 2 Open reel tapes	1	31	18	1987

**Now ACCU is going to release the contents of them in our Website.*

(2) Dissemination Programme of National Versions of Asia/Pacific Music Materials Co-production Programme (MCP) materials.

In 1993 ACCU started a programme for disseminating national versions of MCP materials. Under this programme, ACCU assists two or three countries per year in producing national versions of MCP materials by providing financial assistance. So far, ACCU has assisted the following countries:

1993	Laos	"Instrumental Music of Asia and the Pacific" Series 2
	Pakistan	"Favourite Melodies of Asia and the Pacific" Special selection
	Viet Nam	"Folk and Traditional Music of Asia and the Pacific" Series 4
1994	Malaysia	"Songs of Asia and the Pacific" Series 3
	Sri Lanka	"Folk songs of Asia and the Pacific" Series 4
		"Favourite Melodies of Asia and the Pacific" Special Selection
1995	Philippines	"Favourite Melodies of Asia and the Pacific" Special Selection

2. Co-production of audio-visual materials (Cultural Kit)

ACCU organised an Asian/Pacific Co-production Programme of Cultural and Educational Audio-Visual Kits, comprising a set of colour slides and cassette-tape of narration and music

or a video-tape, designed to introduce visually rich and varied cultures of Asia and the Pacific. This Cultural Kit series was one of the materials produced through the collaboration of participating countries, and was well-received in the region.

The following seven volumes were compiled; (1)Music of Asia (187 slides), (2)Our Wonderful Cultural Heritage (273 slides and 1 video-tape), (3)Traditional Handicrafts (278 slides, video-tape in English and ten Asia/Pacific languages), (4)Looking Around Museums in Asia and the Pacific: from Archaeology to Telecommunications (240 slides), (5) Festivals of Asia and the Pacific (1 video-tape, 60 minutes), (6)Folk Dances of Asia and the Pacific (1 video-tape, 60 minutes), (7)Folk Dances of Asia and the Pacific 2 (1 video-tape, 46 minutes).

Cultural Kits (AVCP Materials)	Formats	Guidebook	No. of countries	Year
No. 1 Music of Asia	slides	1	18	1978-9
No.2 Our Wonderful Cultural Heritage	slides video	1		1981-2 1987
No.3 Traditional Handicrafts of Asia and the Pacific	slides video	1		1983 1988
No.4 Looking around Museums of Asia and the Pacific	slides video	1		1985 1991
No.5 Festivals in Asia and the Pacific	video	1	20	1988
No.6 Folk Dances of Asia and the Pacific I	video	1	14	1990
No.7 Folk Dances of Asia and the Pacific II	video	1	8	1992

3. Networking

1. Regional Seminar for Cultural Personnel in Asia and the Pacific

ACCU has been organizing regional seminars for training cultural personnel in the region, in close cooperation with countries in Asia and the Pacific. Since 1998, the focus has shifted from training to mutual cooperation and information exchange among experts. In response to the call to safeguard intangible arts which are on the verge of disappearing, the theme of recent years has been the preservation and promotion of intangible and oral heritage.

ACCU coorganized with UNESCO in March 2002 a workshop for cultural personnel to promote "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity."

The workshop provided participants with the latest information and the results of the first selection. They could learn about the selection procedure, and discuss ways to utilize this system to raise the overall awareness of the general public about the importance of intangible and oral heritage in the respective countries.

	Theme	Venue	No. of participants
Feb. 1998	Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Tokyo, Japan	20 participants from 19 countries
Feb. 1999	Preservation and Promotion of Traditional/Folk Performing Arts	Bangkok, Thailand	7 participants from 7 countries
Feb. 2000	Building a Network for the Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Performing Arts	Tokyo, Japan	21 participants from 19 countries

Mar. 2002	Promotion of "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity"	Tokyo, Japan	30 participants from 28 countries
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2. Joint Development Programme of the Data Bank on Traditional/Folk Performing Arts in Asia and the Pacific (<http://www.accu.or.jp/paap/>)

This databank comes in the form of a website as well as a 400-page printed directory. The print version was published in September 2000, as a fruit of the 1998-2000 Regional Seminars, followed by the digital version in March 2002. The reason it is named "A Basic Model" is that it is intended to demonstrate a possible methodology for archiving information on such arts, for future production of this kind in the region.

Contents:

- 153 traditional/folk performing arts from 18 countries
- 62 organizations / institutions engaged in preservation and / or promotion of such arts, from 19 countries
- National backgrounds of 17 countries

The objectives of the Data Bank are:

- to collect, share and mobilize information on traditional / folk performing arts in Asia and the Pacific for policy making, practical development of projects, research and education on traditional / folk performing arts.
- to enhance mutual understanding through traditional / folk performing arts.
- to foster the network of organizations and individuals in the field.
- to lay the foundation for a scheme for the future development of an Asia-Pacific archive of audio-visual documentation, in moving pictures and digital visual data, of traditional / folk performing arts.
- to encourage mutual contribution to the preservation and promotion of the traditional / folk performing arts in the region by raising international awareness of its importance.

In August 2005, the ACCU's databank was developed as "ICH Data Base" to provide extensive information and ideas on ICH. Though it is based on the "Data Bank" that ACCU developed in 2000 followed by the digital data in 2002, which included performing arts and related information from 25 countries in Asia and the Pacific, the newly developed database offers more contents for better understanding of ICH. In addition to the intangible cultural heritage section in which the "performing arts" section of the data bank remains as one of the categories of ICH, 4 sections and information are now available. "What is ICH?" explains intangible cultural heritage as described in UNESCO, and ACCU's approach in this field. To enjoy the sound, and moving pictures of ICH, streaming videos of performing arts in Asia were uploaded in 2005-2006. This databank needs to be revised regularly or have information added.

4. Others

1. Formal and non-formal education

Publishing educational books for children on Intangible Cultural Heritage in indigenous languages

As oral traditions in particular are often limited to a specific locality or **group of people**, these should be preserved through the written language and made available to a wider audience through publication. Also, materials relating to the traditional and contemporary intangible culture of the Asia-Pacific region are essential, with the particular emphasis on introducing these materials into school curriculum and general public print and broadcast media. ACCU has produced numerous books, including "Folk Tales from Asia", "Festivals in Asia" and "More Festivals in Asia" under the programme of ACP (Asian/Pacific Copublication Programme).

ACP is a programme jointly organized by ACCU and UNESCO Member States in Asia and the Pacific, started to co-plan, co-edit and co-produce low-priced attractive books and materials for children that would nurture mutual understanding and build pathways to promote cultural diversity in the region. Under this programme 29 titles have so far been produced.

Apart from the ACP, ACCU intends to publish books on "Intangible Cultural Heritage Around You" (tentative) for school children in the Fiscal Year 2007. ACCU hopes that this idea will also lead to encouraging the participation of traditional artists and local creators in identifying and revitalizing intangible heritage.

2. Animation Co-production Programme in Asia and the Pacific

Contained in the oral traditions and folktales, we can find abundant wisdom and knowledge that are extremely helpful to understand how to live harmoniously with nature and to consider directions for the future. Animation is one of the most popular techniques and it is also effective when important but rather technical or serious messages are being conveyed. This programme aims to share and promote oral tradition in Asia and the Pacific with people around the world, and to provide them with good quality materials in an enjoyable modern way. Selected tales from the six-volume series "Folk Tales of Asia" in the Asian/Pacific Co-publication Programme (ACP) were developed into animated cartoon videos. In this respect, it could also supplement the promotion of literacy and reading. The programme started in 1992 with the introductory video, "Once Upon a Time..." followed by three titles based on stories from three Asian countries which had been produced by studios in the respective countries by 1997.

Volume 1	"The Princess of Lotus Flowers" (China, Shanghai Animation Film Studio) 1993
Volume 2	"The White Elephant" (India, Ram Mohan Biographics) 1994
Volume 3	"The Dog Who Wanted to Be the Sun" (Thailand, Kantana Animation Co. Ltd.) 1996

ACCU, together with the studios in the respective countries produced the original English

Version master tapes in three video systems (PAL, NTSC, SECAM) and encourages production of local language versions.

3. Programme on Copyright Promotion

It is an important issue to protect the rights of those who express their own cultures, to encourage cultural and artistic activities from the legal angle and make these rights a priority within the cultural policies of Asian countries, which are now being involved in rapid globalization.

ACCU started a new programme on copyright promotion in 2004 so as to promote better understanding of copyright and to eradicate unauthorized exploitation of intellectual property in the region. A very basic introductory textbook for learners "Asian Copyright Handbook" was published in English, in November 2004. Now all the contents of the Handbook are being released in our APPREB¹ Website <http://www.accu.or.jp/appreb/>. For the effective dissemination of the handbook, ACCU holds national workshops to draft national versions with adaptation to suit learning needs and local situations, in two or three countries every year. So far the workshops have been organised in Viet Nam, Myanmar, and Indonesia in 2005-2006.

5. Conclusion

Traditional bearers or practitioners in the community are often the most important target for awareness-raising activities as they themselves are directly responsible for ensuring that transmission is actually taking place and enjoy the benefits of their ICH. In such a situation, the safeguarding of programmes involving intangible cultural heritage is closely related to the empowerment of the people, which could motivate the local people living under various circumstances to preserve, maintain and revitalize it.

It is recognised that economic development, eradication of poverty, conflict resolution (peace building) and disaster-resistant communities development are the first and most important priorities for countries like Afghanistan, Timor Leste, and other countries. How, therefore, can countries be persuaded to get involved in safeguarding of ICH as promoted in the Convention, while the current generation can hardly survive? We must see the reality of the Member States - it requires multifaceted approaches – there are so many hurdles, which are deeply and crucially rooted in issues like eradication of illiteracy, poverty, discrimination against women and minority people, and enhancement of basic education and so on. There are over 520 million people who cannot read and write in this region. The gender problem is also a big issue- **women** comprise two-thirds of the region's illiterate population. With ACCU's expertise over the past 30 years on non-formal education, ACCU can provide a programme to integrate ICH and non-formal education for those people likely to be socially, culturally, politically, and economically disadvantaged and oppressed, thereby contributing to the reinforcement of ICH activities.

¹ **APPREB:** Asia-Pacific Cooperative Programme for Reading Promotion and Book Development, which is a UNESCO network programme for stimulating the flow and exchange of information, and assists in the development of local initiatives. ACCU was chosen by UNESCO in 1993 as the coordinating agency for APPREB.

PART II Current activities (2000's-) [DAY 3]

Following the latest movements of UNESCO, we have been placing special emphasis on the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage by adopting an innovative and strategic policy since 2004, and have been working closely with UNESCO and its Member States in the region, on recording and documentation, transmission of ICH, and education and awareness raising, through various activities of human resource development, heritage management, and information sharing.

Title of the Meeting	Co-organizer	time	No. of participants	Recommendation/ declaration
Promotion of the "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity"	ACCU, UNESCO	12-16 March 2002	28	
Promotion of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage	ACCU In cooperation with UNESCO	Osaka, 26 Feb – 1 March 2004	27	
The Safeguarding of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards an Integrated Approach coorganised by UNESCO	ACCU, UNESCO , Bunkacho (Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan), and others	Nara, Japan 20-23 October 2004	47	Yamato Declaration
Workshop on Inventory-making for ICH Management	ACCU	Tokyo, 6-11 December 2004	12	Recommended approaches to Inventory-making and Some Examples of Inventory-Making Programmes and Methodologies
Sub-Regional Experts Meeting in Asia on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Safeguarding and Inventory-Making Methodologies	ACCU, ONCC	Bangkok, 13-16 December 2005	100	Practitioners, researchers, administrators shared expertise

UNESCO-ACCU Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Toward the Implementation of the UNESCO's 2003 Convention
13-15 March 2006, Tokyo

ACCU Presentation-1
13 March, 2006

OHNUKI Misako
Director, Cultural Division
Asia/Pacific Cultural
Centre for UNESCO
(ACCU)



What's ACCU?

- Non-profit organization
- Established in 1971
- Working for the promotion of mutual understanding and cultural cooperation among people in the region
- In line with the principles of UNESCO
- Implements programmes with UNESCO and its 43 Member States in Asia and the Pacific

1

2



What is ACCU doing to assist the Asian and Pacific countries?

- Human Resources Development
- Materials Development
- Information Exchange



Human Resource Development

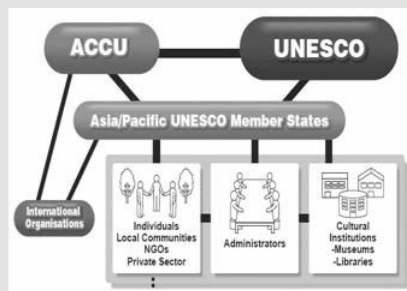


3

4



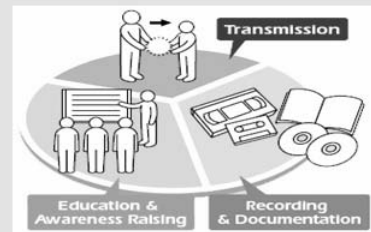
ACCU's Networking



5



Three Approaches to Safeguarding ICH



ACCU provides people in the region with forums and informational/educational materials on culture to help them plan and implement these approaches.

6

ACCU's Vision for the Near Future

To be presented on DAY 3



7

ANNEX V. MEETING DOCUMENTS

ANNEX V-1. General Information

UNESCO and the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) will jointly organize an **Expert Meeting on Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Toward the Implementation of the UNESCO's 2003 Convention** in Tokyo, 13 to 15 March 2006, in co-operation with Bunkacho (Agency for Cultural Affairs) in Japan.

1. Background

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 17 October 2003, will enter into force on 20 April 2006. UNESCO will organise on 27-29 June 2006 the first General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention, which will, among other things, select the 18 Member States of the first Intergovernmental Committee. That Committee will be in charge of the preparation of the Convention's implementation, in particular through the elaboration of a set of Operational Directives that will guide the implementation of the ICH Convention. The Intergovernmental Committee will meet for the first time in September 2006.

ACCU has been implementing programmes on the protection and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, jointly with Asian/Pacific UNESCO Member States, since its inception in 1971. In recent years, ACCU has been working closely with UNESCO and its Member States, paying special attention to intangible cultural heritage (ICH), in the fields of education and awareness raising, recording and documentation, and its transmission through training. In this context, ACCU organised five international meetings/workshops from 2002-2005, supporting UNESCO's active commitment to ICH and assessing the needs of the Asia-Pacific Region¹ :

- (1) Promotion of the "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" (12-16 March 2002), coorganised by UNESCO
- (2) Promotion of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (Osaka, 26 February – 1 March 2004)
- (3) The Safeguarding of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Towards an Integrated Approach (Nara, 20-23 October 2004), coorganised by UNESCO
- (4) 2004 Workshop on Inventory-making for ICH Management (6-11 December 2004)
- (5) Sub-Regional Experts Meeting in Asia on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Safeguarding and Inventory-Making Methodologies (Bangkok, 13-16 December 2005), coorganised by ONCC

The upcoming Expert Meeting forms also part of a series of meetings organised by UNESCO on core themes concerning the ICH Convention. Whereas earlier meetings, organized by UNESCO at its Headquarters, dealt with Inventorying Intangible Heritage (March 2005), Selection Criteria for inscription on the Convention's Lists (December 2005), and Documentation and Archiving (January 2006), this March 2006 Meeting will aim at providing the Convention's Statutory Bodies with views and recommendations of experts from different disciplines and regions on a central aspect of the Convention: the involvement of communities in identifying, defining and safeguarding their intangible

¹ This information has also been made available at the ACCU Website at <http://www.accu.or.jp/ich>

cultural heritage and on the role ICH plays or can play in development.

2. Objectives of the Meeting

This Meeting will in the first place aim at contributing to UNESCO's efforts to prepare the implementation of the Convention, in particular through the provision of ideas and recommendations that are intended to be helpful for the drafting of some crucial paragraphs of the Convention's operational guidelines. The participants will be provided with information on the current state of developments around the ICH Convention and will be asked to share their expertise and views on the way that communities and groups, cooperating with other stakeholders, can be involved in safeguarding their intangible heritage within the spirit of the Convention. The meeting is expected to also contribute to effective information sharing of ICH initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region, including the ACCU programmes, to be implemented in 2006-2010.

The meeting aims at satisfying the following objectives:

(1) To provide the participants with a forum to exchange opinions and concerns and to elaborate recommendations on topics such as:

the definition of communities and groups as figuring in the ICH Convention (Preamble para. 6, articles 1, 11, 13 (d,ii: "customary practices"), 15);
involving communities and groups in the definition, identification and inventorying of their ICH (article 11 and 12);
ensuring the widest possible participation of communities and groups in safeguarding activities (article 15);

(2) To provide participants with the latest information about the state of ratification and preparation of the 2003 Convention, and to discuss about ACCU activities and proposals for strengthening regional and sub-regional networks for the effective implementation and promotion of ICH-Convention-related promotional and safeguarding activities in the region.

**The secretariat will send meeting documents to all participating experts prior to the meeting, including the outcomes of some of the above mentioned UNESCO experts meetings, with the request to read them before the meeting.

3. Date and Conference Venue

Date: 13-15 March 2006

Venue: Tokyo Prince Hotel Park Tower

4-8-1 Shiba Koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 105-8563, Japan

TEL: +81-3-5400-1111, FAX: +81-3-5400-1110

Website: <http://www.princejapan.com/tokyoprincehotelparktower/>

4. Organizers

UNESCO

Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

5. Agenda

1. Defining communities and groups;

2. The involvement of communities and groups in safeguarding measures;
3. Preparing regional cooperation (incl. ACCU's role);
4. Conclusions and recommendations

6. Participation in the Meeting

In principle, organizers nominate participants from among experts all over the world who have been actively involved in past UNESCO and ACCU ICH Meetings. Also invited are experts from some countries that have already ratified the 2003 Convention. The experts do not represent their countries, but will be invited to talk on the basis of their own expertise in their own name, not bound by any mandate or political constraint.

7. Planned Programme (tentative)

Date		Activities
		Arrival of the international participants and experts
13 March	DAY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Ceremony • Adoption of Agenda and Participants Introduction • Selection of Officers • UNESCO Presentation by Mr. Rieks Smeets, Chief of the Intangible Heritage Section, UNESCO • Session 1: Defining communities and groups as mentioned in the 2003 Convention
14 March	DAY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 2: Community involvement in the planning and implementation of safeguarding measures • Session 2: (cont'd)
15 March	DAY 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCU Presentation • Session 3: Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region in the field of the safeguarding of ICH (ACCU's Roles) • Session 4: Adoption of Recommendation or Declaration, Action plans Closing

8. Requested preparation by participants

Experts are requested to submit papers/reports in one or two ways:

- ① short papers of no more than 750 words each, on two or all of the three following topics: (1) defining "communities", "groups" and "individuals" as used in the 2003 Convention; (2) the involvement of communities in defining, inventorying and safeguarding their ICH, and (3) the relation between ICH and community development,

and, if available

- ② copies of some of his/her recent research papers or essays in the field of protecting, safeguarding and promoting ICH related to community development, participation, and empowerment or, to community related issues concerning other conventions, such as Convention on Bio Diversity (CBD), and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)

The papers should be submitted to ACCU by 1 March 2006 at the latest so that the

organizers can process them for distribution among the participants, which will make it possible to reserve as much time as possible, during each of the sessions, for debate. The sessions will start with a brief presentation by an invited speaker.

9. Financial Arrangements

ACCU will provide each of the international experts with a round-trip air ticket (economy class) between the nearest international airport to his/her residence and Tokyo, with the most reasonable routing, and a daily subsistence allowance (DSA). The room charge includes room, breakfast and service charges, and will be deducted from your DSA in advance, and your lunch will be provided by ACCU during the Meeting. Please see the "Guide for Participants" for details.

10. Working Language

The working languages of the Meeting will be English and Japanese. Simultaneous translations of Japanese-English and French-English will be provided. Meeting documents will be in English only.

11. Correspondence

All correspondence concerning the Meeting should be addressed to:

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Chief of Intangible Heritage Section,
UNESCO

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**Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for
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cc: ohnuki@accu.or.jp
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ANNEX V-2. Opening and Closing Remarks

Opening speech by Mr. Rieks Smeets, UNESCO

Thank you Mr Suzuki for giving me the floor.

Dear participants,
dear experts, in the first place,

I would like to say thank you for having accepted our invitation to participate in this meeting and to let us profit from your knowledge. We are looking forward to the debates you are going to have among you.

I also want to thank the co-organizers of this meeting, especially Mr Nakanishi and Misako-san, who has done a lot of work together with her team in order to prepare the logistics and other aspects of the workshop, as well as Mr Suzuki - all of them from ACCU. We are grateful also to other institutions in Japan that have been behind the organization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Thanks also to Japan in general because, as you know, the intangible heritage activities at UNESCO headquarters have been profiting a great deal from Japanese moral and financial support for the last seven or eight years. The support has been tremendous in the form of Funds-in-Trust, and also through the organization of meetings like this one, where experts from all over the world are given the possibility to exchange their views.

For us this is the fourth meeting in the series of experts meetings we are organizing in preparation of the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. We are inviting experts from all over the World to discuss challenging issues concerning the interpretation of the Convention.

The text of the Convention, which is relatively short, 12-13 pages in the printed English version, is carved in stone and can hardly be changed. There is a procedure, of course, for changing it, but that is a very difficult one. The Convention cannot be implemented just like that; a set of operational directives is to be developed.

There will be two statutory organs, a General Assembly and an Intergovernmental Committee. The Intergovernmental Committee has as one of its initial tasks the preparation of the operational directives that are going to guide the implementation of this Convention, which have to be submitted to the General Assembly. The General Assembly, which is composed of all the States Parties to the Convention, as I will explain later on this morning, will have to discuss and approve them, hopefully already in October 2007.

There are many problematic issues as far as the implementation of the Convention is concerned. There is the question, for instance, of "authenticity", mentioned time and again during our meetings; there is also the question of level of endangerment: how to appreciate whether a specific intangible cultural heritage is endangered or not; and when, when we are confronted with an erosion process, should action be taken? Another issue concerns the role of communities, groups and individuals, or of communities and groups, as repeatedly mentioned in the Convention. How should they be defined in the first place; or do they not need to be identified, since the Convention does not do so? And the question is, should we

work towards one definition, taking communities and groups together, or do we need more than one definition: one for communities and one for groups; are definitions possible that take into account all the regional different approaches to communities and groups, or should we just be happy to identify certain elements that need to be satisfied when speaking about communities and groups in the context of this convention?

This meeting is not only about defining communities, but also about how States Parties should satisfy the obligation imposed by the Convention to involve communities and groups in defining and identifying the elements of their intangible heritage, and how to involve groups and communities in safeguarding measures and in the preparation of such measures concerning their own intangible cultural heritage.

You will be here, dear experts – and some of you have already heard me saying so in a previous meeting – speaking in your personal capacity, not as representatives of your country or the institution you happen to be associated with. So, please feel free to speak. We hope that yours will be an informal debate. We are a pretty small group, which I think gives the opportunity of getting to know each other pretty soon and to discuss in an open atmosphere.

The context in which we will be speaking is increasingly challenging, as Mr Suzuki already mentioned. Very soon we will have the first meetings of the Statutory Bodies of the convention: the General Assembly will meet at the end of June, and the Intergovernmental Committee will probably already do so in September. We hope that the Committee will work at a fast pace, and ask us to organise extraordinary working sessions, that will make it possible that the Operational Guidelines, and other documents that have to be prepared before this Convention can really be operational, will be finished before the end of 2007.

As far as the procedure of this meeting is concerned, the organizers from UNESCO and ACCU would like to propose that Professor Kono and I will be co-chairing, and that Mr Arantes, whom we have known as a very accurate rapporteur during some of the meetings that prepared the ground for the Convention, will act as rapporteur. In order to kick off the discussion in each of our four sessions, we will ask one or two experts from among you to give a very brief initial statement of about ten minutes, and we hope that the largest part of all the sessions, 90 percent let's say, can be devoted to debates. What we will try to do is to have ready at the end of this meeting, which is by Wednesday noon, a short report of about four to five pages with your recommendations that can then be presented and discussed. Later on, we will prepare a longer report that will of course be sent to all of you.

I almost forgot to say that we are very glad with your written advanced contributions, which most of you were able to send to us in spite of the short notice. I hope we will have a good meeting, and I'm looking forward to you sharing with us and among you your expertise and your opinions. I thank you for your attention.

Closing Remarks by Mr. Smeets

Experts, thank you a lot. You've done a great job. We've had many, many considerations, and we'll put them as much as possible in our report. Now you have already provided us with this very useful text, especially the definitions of groups and individuals, for which a definition in the context of the Convention had not been elaborated before. Of course, other recommendations are also important, in particular those concerning the role of the communities in inventorying their intangible heritage, and those related to the procedures for inscription on the List. I think they are very important texts, and we will bring them to the attention of the Intergovernmental Committee. So thanks a lot for your profound commitment, and for your far-going and deep-going remarks.

Thanks again to ACCU, to all people here present from ACCU, but especially to Ms Ohnuki, who did a great job in organizing this meeting together with her team. I also would like to thank Mr Van Uytsel and Ms Cornett who have done a great job in preparing the minutes of this meeting. Last but not least I would like to thank the interpreters for the great job they have done during these days. We have put them to a very difficult exercise, I would say, in speaking intensely and very long till late. Thank you a lot. Like ACCU, we also hope to be able to continue our cooperation. I wish you a nice evening and a safe travel back home. Thank you.

ANNEX V-3. Photographs



Experts, from various regions, engaged in active discussion throughout the Meeting.



Meeting Venue and the Organisers

(left)
Meeting Venue
at Tokyo Prince Hotel
Park Tower



(middle)
Chairpersons and
Ms Ohnuki (ACCU)



(upper right)
ACCU's presentation



(lower-right)
Mr Nakanishi (DG,
ACCU), Mr Arantes,
Mr Kono, Mr Smeets
(UNESCO), Mr Brugman
(UNESCO), Ms Ohnuki
(ACCU)