

IRCI 2014 GBM

Work plan for FY 2015

1. Activity Focus

The Medium-term programme (2013-2015) approved at the 2nd Governing Board Meeting on 21 October, 2013 specifies the following activity focuses:

- 1) Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH
- 2) Research for the Safeguarding of Endangered ICH

In FY 2015, five research projects are planned. Two new projects succeeding the current "Mapping Research" are proposed as activities in Focus 1. Three projects in Activity Focus 2 will be continued from FY 2013.

In anticipation of a new Medium-term programme (2016-2020) which will be submitted for consideration at the 4th IRCI Governing Board in 2015, the above projects are proposed for FY 2015, in a wider context of future Medium-term programme in its anticipated form.

In the wider programme, the new focuses will consist, subject to its approval in 2015 by the Governing Board, of

- I. Project for Enhancing Research and Researchers Community in the field of ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region
 - I.1 International Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (Organization of annual or biennial Forum)
 - I.2 Periodical Publication of Scientific Journal specialized in ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (publication of biennial or triennial scientific journal)
 - I.3 Mapping of existing research and researchers on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (Continued effort for collect and optimization of the use of data by researchers and ICH community, in close collaboration with sister C2 centers)
- II. Research for Safeguarding of Endangered ICH

Research on specific cases of safeguarding efforts in different sub-regions, and/or on specific elements of safeguarding such as legal systems, documentation, revitalization of community

2. New Research Projects

2.1. Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH

2.1.1 <Mapping Project 1> International Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (corresponding to I.1 and I.2)

Information of research activities pertaining to the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region is not effectively shared among ICH experts, which is limiting the development of productive discussions. This international forum aims to provide a commonplace for discussion for those researchers with different academic backgrounds and research. It also aims to instigate research activities for ICH safeguarding by fostering the development of mutual relationship among a plurality of

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ICH researchers.

With a view to preparing the ground for IRCI to embark in the following years in periodical publication of the scientific journal specialized in ICH Safeguarding, necessary analysis will be conducted on the needs and prerequisite conditions as part of the project.

Project period: FY 2015

Activity details:

- 1) Organize an international forum on specific topics related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 2) Publish papers presented at the forum.
- 3) Discuss and prepare for the future periodical publication of scientific journal specialized in ICH safeguarding

See attached PDM (Annex 2) for the detailed project design.

2.1.2 <Mapping Project 2> Research Data Collection on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region and Optimization of its Use (corresponding to I.3)

Systematic information on researches related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region is still limited and is not effectively shared among ICH experts. This database development aims to create a common platform for enhancing information sharing among ICH experts and institutions that are working for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, by strengthening the current database created by IRCI.

Project period: FY 2015 - FY 2017

Activity details:

- 1) Collect information related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, such as research papers and reports, institutions and researchers.
- 2) Expand and strengthen database functions, (a) by adding more entries collected in above activities, and (b) by collaborating with IT specialists (with additional external funds).
- 3) Hold constant review sessions every 4 months, for assuring effective data collection and optimization.
- 4) Release the refined database on IRCI webpage to be utilized by related institutions and experts.

See attached PDM (Annex 2) for the detailed project design.

3. Ongoing projects

The following three projects in Activity Focus 2 "Research for the Safeguarding of Endangered ICH" will be continued into FY 2015. These projects were approved at the 2nd Governing Board Meeting on 21 October, 2013, to be implemented within the framework of IRCI's medium-term programme (2013-2015).

3.1. A project with amendment

3.1.1. Study of Legal Systems related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region

Project period: FY 2013 - FY 2016

The project design has been revised to extend the focus to other countries in the Mekong region such as Viet Nam and Thailand, on top of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. With a new team leader and his strong leadership, more thorough comparative studies will be conducted. Specific activities are revised as follows:

- 1) Legal experts conduct the review of existing legal systems to safeguard ICH, which include laws and regulations as well as other mechanisms and arrangements in the Mekong countries.

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- 2) Hold a workshop/seminar, inviting legal experts/government officials, without excluding other stakeholders, to examine current conditions of the above mentioned legal systems related to ICH in the Mekong region.
- 3) Draft the final report including the result of workshop and recommendations.
- 4) Discuss possibilities of developing further programmes based on recommendations.

See attached PDM (Annex 2) for the detailed project design.

3.2. Other ongoing projects

These projects are making a constant progress to be completed in FY 2015.

3.2.1. Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)

Project period: FY 2013 – FY 2015 (final year of the 3-year project)

Activity details:

- 1) Extend research and traditional handicrafts data collection in northern, north-eastern, and eastern provinces in collaboration with Craft Revival Trust.
- 2) Conduct archival research on good practices of craft revitalization in other countries, for formulating action plans in cooperation with international experts.
- 3) Deliver the project report including the list of endangered traditional handicrafts and recommendations for further programmes for revitalising traditional handicrafts in the post-conflict situation.

3.2.2. Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing

Project period: FY 2013 – FY 2015 (final year of the 3-year project)

Activity details:

- 1) Hold a workshop in collaboration with VICAS, inviting practitioners, researchers and government officials to collect further information on the risk factors on transmitting ICH and to discuss the methodology for sustainable safeguarding in the community.
- 2) Researchers interview villagers to investigate the causes of the current endangered situation.
- 3) Publish the final report to present the researchers' papers as outcomes of the three-year research project. It is expected that the Dong Ho woodblock printing provides a methodology for implementing community-based safeguarding of endangered ICH.

4. Cooperation with Sakai City

4.1. A symposium on the integrated approaches for safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage

IRCI will cooperate with Sakai City who will organise the symposium in May 2015.

Theme: integrated approaches for safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage

Date: late May, 2015

Venue: TBD (Tokyo)

Organiser: Sakai City, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (to be confirmed)

Cooperating Body: IRCI (to be confirmed)