

Work Plan for FY 2017

1. Activity Focus and the Overview of Research Projects

Work Plan for FY 2017 is developed under IRCI's new Medium-term Programme (2016-2020), which was approved at the 4th Governing Board Meeting of IRCI (25 September 2015). 6 projects are planned for FY 2017: 4 projects under Activity Focus I, and 2 projects under Activity Focus II (see below, and Figure 1). While major projects presented here are ongoing (Ia.-Ic., and IIa.) from FY 2016, 2 new projects are proposed (Id. And IIb.).

Activity Focus I: Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

Promote research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, through conducting the following activities regarding the practices and methodologies of safeguarding, in cooperation with research institutions and researchers working in the Asia-Pacific region:

(i) Instigate research activities and develop the researchers' community through international conferences, experts meetings, and publications;

(ii) Examine and develop strategies for optimizing the use of research data, while collecting research information.

(Section III(1), Medium-term Programme 2016-2020)

- Ia. <Mapping Project 1> IRCI International Conference on the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Ib. <Mapping Project 2> Literature Survey on ICH Safeguarding Research in the Asia-pacific Countries
- Ic. <Mapping Project 3> Research Data Collection on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region and Optimisation of its Use
- Id. IRCI Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region

IRCI has been conducting since FY 2013 a project based on the collection and mapping of research information pertaining to the ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region. This "Mapping Project" aiming at instigating the research for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region through analysing current trends and challenges constitutes the core of IRCI's research activities. As of FY 2016, the Mapping Project has been implemented and managed as the integration of 3 sub-projects comprised of international conferences/experts meetings (<Mapping 1>), literature survey (<Mapping 2>), and optimisation of the use of research data with research database (<Mapping 3>).

In addition to Mapping Project, another line of activity for instigating and enhancing research is programmed as “Researchers Forum”. While Mapping Project centers on the identification and the analysis of the general trends of research for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, Researchers Forum is intended for more academic and inter-disciplinary discussions focusing on specific themes related to ICH safeguarding, whereby contributing to the enhancement of research and the development of researchers communities.

Activity focus II: Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

Conduct research on the current status and the cases of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region that are endangered by disasters such as natural hazards, as well as research on the role of ICH for disaster preparedness and in the post-disaster recovery process, in consideration of UNESCO’s focus in the Medium-Term Strategy (37C/4) on the response to post-conflict and post-disaster situations (PCPD).

(Section III(2), Medium-term Programme 2016-2020)

IIa. Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region

IIb. Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia

This focus has been devised in consideration of UNESCO’s concern on post-conflict and post-disaster (PCPD) situations as described in its Medium-term Strategy 2014-2021 (37C/4). It also reflects growing national and international interests on heritage management in the context of disasters¹. IRCI has already started in FY 2016 a project “Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region,” which primarily focuses on disasters triggered by natural hazards.

Following the completion of the project “Study of Legal Systems related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region” in FY 2016, IRCI proposes to add a new project “Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia,” to be implemented in the following 4 years. IRCI’s past project experiences, knowledge, and network in post-conflict countries such as Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste could be effectively incorporated into the implementation of this project.

¹ In Japan, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH), to which IRCI belongs, set up in July 2014 National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net).

Figure 1: Timeline of project activities in Medium-term Programme (2016-2020)

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY2019	FY2020
Activity Focus I				
Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH				
<Mapping Project 1> International Experts Meeting	<Mapping Project 1> International Conference	Experts Meeting/Conference		
<Mapping Project 2> Literature Survey on ICH Safeguarding Research in the Asia-Pacific Countries				
<Mapping Project 3> Research Data Collection on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region and Optimisation of its Use				
	Researchers Forum (IRCI-Minpaku Conference)	Publication of conference papers		
Activity Focus II				
Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region		Pilot project reflecting preliminary research; International workshop in FY 2018		
	Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia			
Study of Legal Systems related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region				

2. Individual Project Outlines

Activity Focus I. Promoting research for ICH safeguarding

Ia. <Mapping Project 1> IRCI International Conference on the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Period of implementation: FY2017

Geographic focus: Entire Asia-Pacific Region

Mapping Project started in FY 2013, reflecting the suggestions from UNESCO to understand the current states of research and challenges for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region. According to the recommendation of the 2014 meeting, IRCI started a literature survey on ICH safeguarding research in 2015, and the results have been discussed using a series of meetings (including the international experts meeting in FY 2016). The aim of the Mapping Project is to expand and strengthen the network of researchers related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as to enhance and promote research for ICH safeguarding, through mapping information of research related to ICH safeguarding. While <Mapping Projects 2 and 3> focus on systematically collecting information and making it available via IRCI's research database, <Mapping Project 1> is designed to be a place for intensive discussions and information-sharing on the important issues related to the research in this field.

The international conference in FY 2017 will be co-organised by IRCI and Center for Glocal Studies, Seijo University, Japan under the theme of the interface between local communities, researchers and the UNESCO Convention – viewed from Glocal studies. Since UNESCO's 2003 Convention places high priorities on community's involvement in ICH safeguarding activities, discussions focusing on this theme is crucial. It is expected that the discussions related to the communities and the Convention progress through the conference, while directions for the further development of the survey for Mapping Project is discussed.

Activity details:

The international conference is co-organised by IRCI and Center for Glocal Studies, Seijo University.

1. Center for Glocal Studies holds a preparatory meeting in FY 2016, to finalise the organisation and the programme of the conference.
2. The conference is held for 3 days in July 2017, at Seijo University Campus
 - a) The conference is comprised of a series of sessions, focusing on the theme of the interface between local communities, researchers and the UNESCO Convention– viewed from Glocal studies.

- b) The literature survey that has been implemented under <Mapping Project 2> is discussed at one of the sessions.
3. Conference proceedings are published, and edited for future publication.

Specific outputs:

1. Conference Proceedings

Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:

Tomiyuki Uesugi (Professor, Director, Center for Glocal Studies, Seijo University):
co-organiser and chair

See attached PDM (IRCI/2016/5GB/7/Annex 2a) for the detailed project design.

Activity Focus I. Promoting research for ICH safeguarding

Ib. <Mapping Project 2> Literature Survey on ICH Safeguarding Research in the Asia-Pacific Countries

Period of implementation: FY2015, FY 2016-FY2018

Geographic focus: Entire Asia-Pacific Region

The aim of the Mapping Project is to expand and strengthen the network of researchers related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as to enhance and promote research for ICH safeguarding, and the literature survey provides the basic information for this purpose by conducting systematic collection of information on existing literatures, research institutions, and researchers in cooperation with research organisations and researchers in the Asia-Pacific countries.

The literature survey on ICH safeguarding began in FY 2015, according to the results of the international experts meeting of the Project held in FY 2014 in Malaysia. The 2015 survey was conducted for 17 countries and provided valuable research information on ICH safeguarding, which subsequently led to the development of this 3-year project. Adding the ongoing survey in FY 2016, data collection covers a total of approximately 30 countries in the Asia Pacific Region. Project activities in FY 2017-2018 are executed after discussing and developing new survey guidelines. While countries that are not yet covered in the survey will be focused, some countries may be re-surveyed depending on the quality of previously obtained results. Methodology of the survey will be reconsidered so that a more detailed survey can be carried out.

Activity details:

1. Discuss strategies for further data collection at the international conference (<Mapping Project 1>) to be held in July 2017, and revise the survey

guidelines.

2. Conduct the survey according to the revised guidelines.
 - a) The survey on existing literatures related to ICH safeguarding research, and information on research institutions and researchers is carried out, principally in collaboration with local research institutions/researchers by signing contracts. However, alternative methodologies for collecting data are considered for effectively obtaining the required information.
 - b) The survey is carried out for at least 10 countries.
 - c) Analyse concepts, practices and methodologies for ICH safeguarding by country.
 - d) Each researcher under contract drafts a survey summary paper, and provide literature annotations following the format developed by IRCI.

Specific outputs:

1. Country reports (which will be compiled and edited in preparation for publication in the final year of the project)
2. Literature annotation sheets (which include literature information written in local languages with English summaries)
3. Collected information is made available through IRCI's research database

Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:

Researchers in the field of ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region
Research organisations and museums in the Asia-Pacific Region

See attached PDM (IRCI/2016/5GB/7/Annex 2b) for the detailed project design.

Activity Focus I. Promoting research for ICH safeguarding
Ic. <Mapping Project 3> Research Data Collection on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region and Optimisation of its Use

Period of implementation: FY2015, FY2016-FY2019

Geographic focus: Entire Asia-Pacific Region

The aim of the Mapping Project is to expand and strengthen the network of researchers related to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as to enhance and promote research for ICH safeguarding. This is done by systematic and functional management of information related to the research for ICH safeguarding with IRCI's research database.

"Research Database on ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region" launched in September 2014 as a by-product of the Mapping Project currently possesses approximately 1300 entries (as of March 2016). New entries have been added every year, reflecting the output of the literature survey (<Mapping Project 2>).

While providing useful information, IRCI also aims to review and refine the functions of database for facilitating more effective utilisation.

Activity details:

1. Add to IRCI's research database the new information found in the FY 2017 literature survey.
2. In order to make use of the information in the Research Database on ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region in the more effective and suitable way, ask the database users (literature surveyors, etc.) to share their opinions and demands for improving usability, and then analyse these findings.

Specific outputs:

1. Increased amount of information on research database
2. Database users' feedback regarding its usability

Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:

Undecided

See attached PDM (IRCI/2016/5GB/7/Annex 2c) for the detailed project design.

Activity Focus I. Promoting research for ICH safeguarding

Id. IRCI Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region

Period of implementation: FY2017

Geographic focus: Entire Asia-Pacific Region

In research related to the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia Pacific region, productive and practical discussions are not well advanced due to the limited interaction and communication among researchers. Aiming to create a place for academic discussions on research for ICH safeguarding, and to strengthen a network of researchers through these discussions, IRCI holds in FY 2017 a researchers forum on ICH safeguarding in the Asia Pacific Region in cooperation with National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) in Japan. Focusing on the case studies on the role of recordings for ICH safeguarding, researchers forum aims to deliver professional, inter-disciplinary discussions on theories and practical methodologies for ICH safeguarding, while encouraging practical cooperation and interaction among researchers to strengthen the foundation for ICH safeguarding research. It is expected that the discussions regarding the recordings are enhanced for effective ICH safeguarding.

Activity details:

The international researchers forum is co-organised by IRCI and the National

Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku).

1. Set up the planning committee to organise the forum.
 - a) The planning committee is responsible for the organisation and the programme of the forum, and is comprised of IRCI research staff and Minpaku researchers.
 - b) The forum is comprised of a series of sessions focusing on the case studies on the role of recordings for ICH safeguarding.
2. Hold the forum for 3 days in November 2017, at the National Museum of Ethnology (its link with the museum's 40th anniversary project is considered).
3. Publish conference proceedings.

Specific outputs:

1. Conference proceedings

Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:

National Museum of Ethnology

See attached PDM (IRCI/2016/5GB/7/Annex 2d) for the detailed project design.

Activity Focus II. Research on ICH and the Disaster Risk Management

IIa. Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region

Period of implementation: FY 2016-2017

Geographic focus: Asia-Pacific (with field surveys focusing on selected countries with higher disaster-risks)

Natural disasters are one of the factors threatening the viability of ICH. Since Asia-Pacific countries are frequently exposed to increasing numbers of natural hazards, assuring the safeguarding of ICH in the context of disaster-risk management (DRM) is a pressing issue. However, major efforts are centred on the protection/rescue of tangible elements and practical strategies for safeguarding ICH are not fully examined. As a preparatory phase to investigate this new subject, this 2-year project aims to collect the basic information on the actual impacts of natural disasters on ICH, as well as cases in which ICH played certain roles in disaster-mitigation/response. Further project plans are developed based on the results of the activities in the first 2 years.

In FY 2016, IRCI visits Bangladesh, Fiji, Myanmar, Philippines, Vanuatu, and Vietnam for collecting basic information through interviewing researchers and specialists in DRM and ICH, on the current situation of DRM activities and ICH safeguarding in this context, while establishing cooperative ties with key researchers and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. Working group sessions are

also programmed for obtaining inputs from DRM specialists. For effectively implementing the project, IRCI is in cooperation with National Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo.

Activity details:

1. Depending on the feasibility of the 2016 reconnaissance in Asia-Pacific countries, further field survey is conducted for collecting information through visiting disaster-affected areas and interviewing local people and ICH practitioners.
2. Hold constant meetings with National Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, for effective cooperation on the project activities.
3. Hold working group sessions inviting external researchers for discussing ICH safeguarding in the context of DRM.
4. Develop further project plans from FY 2018.

Specific outputs:

1. Project summary report, including project plans for FY 2018 onwards

Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:

National Institutes for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (project partner)
Selected institutions and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region (focal points and collaborators)

See attached PDM (IRCI/2016/5GB/7/Annex 2e) for the detailed project design.

Activity Focus II. Research on ICH and the Disaster Risk Management

I Ib. A Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia

Period of implementation: FY 2017-2020

Geographic focus: Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste

In countries affected by severe conflict such as Afghanistan, many international organisations including UNESCO are calling for the urgent need to safeguard cultural heritage. However, professional research and supports are mainly for tangible cultural heritage and not much has been done so far for ICH. Underlying this are various factors such as the change in the government involved in the drafting of the legislation, the higher interest in the recovery of tangible cultural heritage as symbolised by Bamiyan, and the insufficient involvement of ICH professionals. As a result, the actual situation of ICH after the war - what kinds of ICH elements are inherited (or disappeared), where, and in what form - remains largely unknown. It is also acknowledged that the post-conflict situations are the prolonged process of instability, which may necessitate the consideration of certain

protection measures under ongoing conflict.

This project, targeting selected countries in Asia that were affected by conflict, investigates the actual situation of ICH including internal and external factors threatening ICH, and identifies major challenges². It is expected that the project contributes to the enhancement of practical research related to the various measures for emergency protection of ICH in conflict-affected countries, while encouraging positive discussions on the urgent safeguarding list of the Convention and practical safeguarding plans required for the inscription. While long-term project plans are yet to be developed, activities in FY 2017 focus on collecting the basic information. After examining the current situations, further project activities focusing on specific measures are planned in consideration of country-specific conditions and priorities.

Activity details:

1. Conduct research on the current situation of ICH in conflict-affected countries, through questionnaires, interviews, and archival surveys. Project partners are identified in this process.
2. Set up an international working group for comprehensive analysis, and discuss and propose guidelines for further research activities and specific measures to be focused reflecting the country-by-country priorities.
3. Conduct further data collection in selected countries through field research, or by inviting relevant local individuals for discussions in Japan or elsewhere.
4. (In FY 2018) Determine specific themes/focuses of research for 2 countries based on the results of the 1st year, and execute practical research activities for urgent protection of ICH (as a 2-year project).

Specific outputs:

1. Detailed project plan from FY 2018

Project partners/cooperating researchers and organisations:

UNESCO Kabul Office (for Afghanistan), New Delhi Office (for Sri Lanka) and Jakarta Office (for Timor-Leste)

See attached PDM (IRCI/2016/5GB/7/Annex 2f) for the detailed project design.

² For this particular project, IRCI intentionally use the term 'protection' instead of 'safeguarding,' to emphasise the necessity of the very basic measures for rescuing existing ICH, before implementing measures for effective 'safeguarding.'

* The following project is also in consideration as a small project to be added to the proposed work plan. However, IRCI is still in the process of seeking external funding sources for the project. For this reason, this project is currently excluded from the proposed Work Plan for FY 2017. IRCI seeks the approval of the Governing Board separately at the later stage with appropriate documents including PDM, when the budget is secured for the implementation of the project.

Project title: The New Role of Museums for ICH Safeguarding

Brief description: There are not enough discussions or case studies conducted on the roles “museums” play or can play in safeguarding endangered ICH. In Japan and in various regions worldwide the role and situations surrounding museums are diversified, and community museums that form the centre of transmission of ICH such as craftsmanship and performing arts are also emerging. This study examines what role museums can play in safeguarding ICH and related problems, by sharing and examining the latest case studies and specific cases in the Asia-Pacific region through workshops. As preparation, information collection and network formation will be carried out. Meetings for examining case studies will be conducted in FY2017-2018, which will be concluded with final discussions at the ICOM Kyoto Meeting in 2019.

3. Cooperation with Sakai City

In accordance with its Medium-term Programme (2016-2020), and within the framework of its mandate as specified in Article 4 of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Japan, IRCI has been contributing to the projects carried out by Sakai City for promoting ICH to the general public.

In FY 2017, IRCI will collaborate with Sakai City on “The Tokyo Symposium 2017 on Cultural Heritage” with possible partnership with National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan (NICH).

Following the past two years, IRCI provides an updated panel display introducing the IRCI activities for ICH safeguarding. This activity will not only raise the public awareness of the importance of the ICH but also promote the visibility of IRCI to the large public in Tokyo.